

## Our Loyal Hibernian Patrons

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Please Support Our Patrons

**To be Irish is a Blessing,  
To be a Hibernian is an Honor.**



**Ireland  
Unfree  
Shall Never  
be at Peace**

**ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS NEWSLETTER**  
**WILLIAM J. RYAN DIVISION 4**  
**PO BOX 532, LOCKPORT, NY 14095**  
**October 2017**

**FRIENDSHIP, UNITY & CHRISTIAN CHARITY**



Next Meeting is Thursday, October 5, 2017 , 7 pm at Elks

Visit our website: [www.lockportaoh.org](http://www.lockportaoh.org)

## Coming Events

**October 5, 2017** — Division Meeting at the Lockport Elks Lodge

**November 2, 2017** — Division Meeting at the Lockport American Legion. There will not be a travel meeting due to lack of interest.

**November 4, 2017** — State Board at Pearl River, NY Let me know if you want to go or want more information.

**January 13, 2018** — Holiday Party at the Elks Lodge, more information to follow.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We constantly need volunteers to work on committees, activities, and Division Events. We also are nearly always looking for new people to stand up as Officers in the Division. Please consider stepping up to make your Division a better, more active group. Some of us have been running the same thing for years and could certainly use a break. Many members have been asking about some of the activities of days gone by like ball game trips, summer picnics, etc. These are all certainly great ideas but they aren't going to run themselves. Please consider making a difference for your Division.

## Olcott Celtic Festival

I want to thank everyone who helped with this activity (one of our biggest fund raisers of the year). I will take the blame for the late planning. I assumed it was being taken care of and we all know what happens when we assume. I will not try to thank everyone who helped out as I always seem to miss someone. Please let me thank a few folks who saved the day. Dave Miller, in 8 days, collected most of the baskets for the raffle. Ed and Delores Tracy donated baskets and one of Delores' beautiful quilts. Corey Wright collected names, and made sure everyone who had signed up was on the list to get in, and he also worked both days. Rick, Steve, and Chris (Rick's wife) Long & Jim Langton. They were there from set up to take down, all 3 days. Thanks also to my wife (and LAOH President) Susan for help with getting all of the baskets to the right people. Lastly, thanks to all of the sellers who made our success possible. I must include John Stanistreet & John Sullivan along with Phil Russell & Christine Ashby and Jim Balcom & Sheila Tumulty for saving the 50/50. We sure could have used more sellers. The weather was great and we had no one to sell around the fires and concerts on Saturday evening. Maybe next year you will be able to give a few hours to help out.



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WILLIAM J. RYAN DIVISION 4  
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## PRAYER REQUESTS

Send your requests to me and I will add them. This month pray workers and the unemployed. Pray that all workers may receive respect and protection of their rights, and that the unemployed may receive the opportunity to contribute to the common good.

Have you heard about the Irish boomerang?

It doesn't come back, it just sings sad songs about how much it wants to.

## An Old Irish Blessing

May love and laughter light your days,  
and warm your heart and home.  
May good and faithful friends be yours,  
wherever you may roam.  
May peace and plenty bless your world  
with joy that long endures.  
May all life's passing seasons  
bring the best to you and yours!

### Lughnasadh or Lughnasa

(pronounced /'lu:nəsə/, *LOO-nə-sə*) is a Gaelic festival marking the beginning of the harvest season. Historically, it was widely observed throughout Ireland, Scotland and the Isle of Man. In Modern Irish it is called *Lúnasa*. Originally it was held on 1 August, or about halfway between the summer solstice and autumn equinox. However, over time the celebrations shifted to the Sundays nearest this date. Lughnasadh is one of the four Gaelic seasonal festivals, along with Samhain, Imbolc and Beltane.

Lughnasadh is mentioned in some of the earliest Irish literature. The festival itself is named after the god Lugh. It involved great gatherings that included religious ceremonies, ritual athletic contests (most notably the Tailteann Games), feasting, matchmaking and trading. According to folklorist Máire MacNeill, evidence shows that the religious rites included an offering of the 'first fruits', a feast of the new food and of bilberries, the sacrifice of a bull and a ritual dance-play in which Lugh seizes the harvest for mankind and defeats the powers of blight. Much of the activities would have taken place on top of hills and mountains.

Lughnasadh customs persisted widely until the 20th century, with the event being variously named 'Garland Sunday', 'Bilberry Sunday', 'Mountain Sunday' and 'Crom Dubh Sunday'. The custom of climbing hills and mountains at Lughnasadh has survived in some areas, although it has been re-cast as a Christian pilgrimage. The best known is the 'Reek Sunday' pilgrimage to the top of Croagh Patrick on the last Sunday in July. A number of fairs are also believed to be survivals of Lughnasadh, for example the Puck Fair. Since the late 20th century, Celtic neopagans have observed Lughnasadh, or something based on it, as a religious holiday. In some places, elements of the festival have been revived as a cultural event.

### Whiskey

Oxford dictionary definition: A spirit distilled from malted grain, especially barley or rye.

There is some dispute between the Irish and the Scottish about who invented whiskey, but the Irish are definitely responsible for the name. 'Whiskey' is the English interpretation of the old Irish name for the beverage, 'uisce beatha' – meaning 'water of life'. When a whiskey comes from Ireland or America, it is spelled with an 'e' before the 'y' (whiskey), while in Scotland, it is spelled whisky.