



Ancient Order of  
**HIBERNIANS**  
Irish • Catholic • American



# THE KELLY NEWSLETTER

Msgr. Charles A. Kelly, Jr. Division 44PO010007

June 2022 Edition Volume 13 Issue 6

2022  
Division President's Message

**Matt Dullaghan**



. Happy June! We'll soon be halfway through the year! My thanks to all of you for all we've accomplished so far. We're looking forward to wrapping up the year with some great programs.

The AOH National Convention will be held in Pittsburgh, PA, from July 13-16, 2022. While the deadline to be credentialed as a

delegate or alternate has passed, you can still register to attend, and book your hotel, through <https://www.2022pittsburghconvention.com>.

The organizers of the Central Virginia Celtic Festival & Highland Games had announced that the festival was back on for 2022, and back at the Richmond International Raceway. However, they have since posted on Facebook that RIR has signed "an exclusive deal for the food and beverage rights for all events," which means that the festival may be prohibited "from holding the ABC licenses of having our traditional food vendors at the games." As a result, they are "exploring our options both with RIR and other venues." I'll share as I hear of any more details.

And we plan to hold our annual Irish Heritage program in the fall. We are still at the planning stages, and the possible speakers have been open a number of topics in Irish history, mythology, and theater. Any other ideas from our members?

Until we meet again, Slainte mhaith agat!

For upcoming events::

*(Continued on page 4)*

## Business Meetings

Regular Monthly Business Meetings are held at 7 PM on the 2nd Thursday of the month. No meetings are held during July and August.

Meetings are held at:  
St. Joseph's Church  
828 Buford Road  
Richmond, VA 23235

### 2022 Business Meeting Schedule:

*Our next regular Division Meeting is September 8, 2022*

**Socials at O'Toole's Restaurant & Pub, 13919 Midlothian Turnpike, Midlothian, VA 23114 on the fourth Thursday of each month starting at 5PM.**

## Dues Notice

2022 Dues are now payable. Dues remain at \$40 and, if 75 or older, dues are \$20.

Please pay at Division Meetings or mail check payable to:

**AOH Msgr. Kelly  
Division**

at:

**Larry Kelly**  
120 Carriage Point Ln. Glen Allen  
Va. 23059

## A Bit of Irish History

The royal ringfort of Grianán Ailigh was known as the father of every building in Ireland by the Annals of the Four Masters, who also claimed it was first built in the year 1500 BC, in the time of the Tuatha Dé Danann! A mighty place of strength it is and was and may always be, one of the few locations in Ireland correctly marked on a map by geographer Ptolemy of Alexandria in the second century anno domine.

Known as one of the Dagda's seats, the Grianán like many ring forts was built near a Sidh or fairy mound, an ancient burial place for some of the first people of Ireland. It also stands over a sacred well, once circled by ten stones. Its name means "the great stone of the sun" and some speculate the old druids used to hold rituals to worship the daystar within its walls.

It has been known by many names over its long history – Aileach, Aileach Neid, Aileach Frigrinn, Aileach Imchell, Grianán Ailigh and Aileach of the Kings.

It stands atop the Greenan mountain at the western tip of the hills that stretch between Lough Swilly and Lough Foyle, commanding views over the counties Derry, Donegal and Tyrone, at the entrance to the Inishowen peninsula. The hill fort was once surrounded by three high and ancient earthen banks upon which warriors raised spear and shield to drive back attackers.

The Grianán's present circular shape may have been devised by the Northern Uí Néill in the sixth or seventh century when the Cenél nEógain won total control of the northlands and made it a symbol of his power. Its walls stand five meters thick and high, with three stepways within, and two long tunnels inside the walls themselves. Various buildings have been raised in the fort down through the centuries, some of wood, and some of stone.

A poem in the Book of Leinster tells that Frigrind was a famous builder who was given the ancient fort of Aileach for his dwelling-place. Here Frigrind built a splendid house of wood for his wife from red yew, carved and emblazoned with gold and bronze, and set it thick with shining gems – perhaps speaking of the glittering mica adorning it today.

It was once the seat of the Kingdom of Ailech, whose reign spanned six centuries, as one of the royal sites of Gaelic Ireland. Here they held their inauguration ceremonies and festivals and counted many famous Kings in their line. It is written in the Life of St. Patrick that Patrick blessed the fortress and left a symbolic flagstone there prophesying that many kings and priests would come from the place.

In 1006, Brian Ború marched through the territory of the Cenel

## News For the Division

.At this time, the Central Virginia Celtic Festival is planning the 2022 event for October. As of now, no dates are available.



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**The Grianan Ailigh Fort** *Continued from page 2)*

Conail and the Cenel Eogain and probably came to Aileach. In 1101, another king of Munster, Muirchertach Ua Briain, came and ravaged the area, destroying the Grianán of Aileach in revenge for the destruction and demolition of Kincora by Domnall Ua Lochlainn in 1088, after which it fell into disuse for a long time.

Reconstruction work on Grianán Ailigh took place in 1870 under the auspices of Dr Walter Bernard who did a clever job of rebuilding the fortress. He also uncovered many artefacts such as a large stone 40 centimetres across with a piece of wood in a hole in the middle and many animal bones including sheep, cattle, goats and birds.

He also found items including “sling-stones”, “warriors’ clubs” and a “sugar-loaf-shaped stone with a well-cut base” as well as a stone fidcheall or Gaelic chess board, described as “a slab of sandstone, chequered into thirty-six squares”.

The photo below shows interior staircases to an upper walkway that encircles the entire interior structure and may have been used as a defensive position.



**In Memorium**

*Paul McFadden of the Dooley Division in January 2022.*

*Some of you old timers may remember Paul as the actual creator of the Msg. Kelly Division back in 2010. He organized everything I can remember and helped recruit new members for us in the local parishes in our early days.*

*More information is in the Dooley Division website.*

**Prayer List**

**Brother Dan Harrington:** Being treated monthly for Lukemia., CKD, etc.

**Mike Dougherty** being treated for Crohn’s disease; also his wife, Diana, who is being treated for spinal stenosis; Mike’s brother-in-law James Cramsie with incurable leg infection

## **2022 Division Officers**

President-Matt Dullaghan  
[mdullaghan@comcast.net](mailto:mdullaghan@comcast.net)

Vice President- Dennis Mulligan  
[mullighan.dennis@yahoo.com](mailto:mullighan.dennis@yahoo.com)

Treasurer-John Frampton  
[firemedic45@comcast.net](mailto:firemedic45@comcast.net)

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[www.aohkelly.org](http://www.aohkelly.org)

*President's Message (Continued from page 1)*

June 9 Monthly membership meeting, St. Joseph's, 828 Buford Road, Richmond, VA 23235

June 23 Fourth Thursday, O'Toole's Restaurant, 13919 Midlothian Turnpike, Midlothian, VA 23114

July 13-16 AOH National Convention, Pittsburgh

July 28 Fourth Thursday, O'Toole's Restaurant, 13919 Midlothian Turnpike, Midlothian, VA 23114

In Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,  
Matthew Dullaghan, President  
Msgr. Charles A. Kelly Division,  
Ancient Order of Hibernians  
Div. No. 44P001

[MDullaghan@comcast.net](mailto:MDullaghan@comcast.net)

### **Our Division History**

The Msgr. Charles Kelly, Jr. Division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians was formed in December, 2009 and conducted it's first meeting on January 21, 2010 at St. John Neumann Church, Powhatan, Virginia. The next few meetings were taken up with election of officers and the many procedural items needed to get our group started.

Since that time we continue to grow, adding new members and supporting and donating to Catholic schools and Churches in the area, in line with our commitment to Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity.