



Ancient Order of
HIBERNIANS
Irish • Catholic • American



THE KELLY NEWSLETTER

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

January 9, 2026 Edition Volume 16 Issue 1

President's Message January, 2026

Dennis J. Mulligan



President's Message

Worthy Hibernian Brothers

I hope each of you had both an enjoyable Christmas and a Happy New Year 2026 holiday with your family.

I would be remiss if I did not take a moment to say "Thank You" for voting in a strong slate of officers, and for voting me in for a 4th term as president. Our new officers will be formally installed in January 2026. I would hope to see all brothers at this important upcoming meeting for the Division.

sion. The core of our division is our members!

Let's help Past President Jack Simila in selling raffle tickets. Jack will also bring us up to date on current sales at the January meeting. Let us have more brothers help with our selling tickets.

[The Church Hill Irish Festival](#) is scheduled for March 21 and March 22. We will need help on Friday, March 20, to put up our booth for the festival and on March 22, we need help to take down the booth with Brother Larry Kelly.

Prior to the Festival, SIGN UP GENIUS will be emailed by Brother Dan Harrington to all brothers. We need volunteers to sign up to run the booth and to recruit new members and sell raffle tickets.

Our Meeting on January 15, 2026 will be held at St. Joseph's Church, 828 Buford Road, Richmond, VA. 23235 at 7pm.

President Dennis Mulligan
Msgr. Charles A. Kelly Jr. Division
Email:
mulligan.dennis@yahoo.com

In addition:

Please click below for additional info on ordering Irish attire similar to what Dennis wears to Division meetings.

[13Stitches](#)

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.

Next Division Meeting to be held on January 15, 2026.

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

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

2026 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:

MSGR KELLY DIV- AOH,

at:

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

Great News for This Year's Trip to Ireland Raffle Ticket Prize!

The Raffle Ticket winner will now receive \$7,500 this year! This increased prize will definitely boost your chances of selling even more tickets.

Use this [LINK](#) to make your winning ticket purchase.

Some History of The Irish in America- Building the Blue Ridge Tunnel

There's no denying the Irish are well represented throughout the world. In America, from the mid-1800's on, they emigrated to the United States for a better life and to escape famine, religious discrimination and lack of opportunity. For what other reasons? Well, jobs were available at the time, Europe was embroiled in political problems and America was considered more stable.

Earlier opportunities for the Irish in the US included low paying and dangerous heavy construction jobs, including building canals and railroads, to name a few. However, immigrants were considered poor and disease-ridden,

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**Congratulations and Best Wishes to
Newly Inaugurated Irish President
Catherine Connolly.**

Dear President Connolly,

On behalf of the Ancient Order of Hibernians in



America, I extend our warmest congratulations on your inauguration as the 10th President of Ireland. Your

resounding victory, winning 63.4% of first-preference votes, the highest share ever in a contested Irish presidential election, speaks to the deep confidence the Irish people have placed in your leadership. Ireland's exiled children in America celebrate this moment alongside our brothers and sisters in Ireland.

Sean Pender, National President of the Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH)

Ref: [National AOH](#)

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were Catholic and strained welfare budgets. Despite these obstacles, the Blue Ridge Tunnel, described below, describes one of the more dangerous projects built by Irish immigrants in the US.

The tunnel was the westernmost and longest of four tunnels engineered by Claudius Crozet to cross the Blue Ridge Mountains at Rockfish Gap in central Virginia.

Blue Ridge Tunnel Construction

The Blue Ridge Tunnel, (also known as the Crozet Tunnel), is an historic railroad tunnel built during the construction of the Blue Ridge Railroad in the 1850s. The tunnel was the westernmost and longest of four tunnels engineered by Claudius Crozet to cross the Blue Ridge Mountains at Rockfish Gap in central Virginia.

Crozet began the back-breaking work in 1850 with a crew of 800 immigrant Irishmen and 40 enslaved African-American workers, some 189 of whom died due to construction accidents, black powder explosions and a cholera epidemic.

Some of the working conditions and casualties included:

About 800 Irishmen and 40 enslaved African-American laborers worked on the tunnel and there were 189 recorded deaths during its construction including men, women, and children who died during a cholera epidemic in 1854.

When completed, the Blue Ridge Tunnel was the longest in the United States and one of the longest tunnels in the world, a remarkable feat of engineering. It opened to rail traffic in April 1858, and was considered to be one of the engineering wonders of the modern world.

[References on Line:](#)



[Thirteen Stitches](#)

For all your Irish clothing needs!

For more information, or to order,
call or email
Sally Hinski at:

Office: (804)739-8982

Cell: (804)402-9246

Email: thirteenstitches@outlook.com

Remember to mention Dennis Mulligan's name when you want to get information or to place an order!

Prayer List

Brother Dan Harrington: Being treated monthly for Lukemia, CKD, etc. Recovering from a heart catherization, followed a week later by a Pace-maker implant.

Brother Frank King: moved to Bickford Assisted Living and is on dialysis three times a week

Brother Ray Olson: and wife Loraine

Brother Mike McGee's son-in-law: Undergoing surgery this month for advanced bladder cancer.

Brother Jim Gallagher's Wife Bernadette, battling breast cancer.

Brothers, if you know more Division members or family members needing prayers, please notify the Newsletter Editor at (804)938-8238

Recent In Memorium

Christine Norton Spouse of Mike Norton

Helen Brennan Spouse of Rick Brennan-

Brother Charles Mulherin

Michael Manning-Nephew of Dan Harrington

Brother Ray Olson

Brother "Sonny" Dorish

IN MEMORIUM

JOYCE, SPOUSE OF BROTHER DANIEL HARRINGTON

IRENE, SPOUSE OF BROTHER MICHAEL MCGEE

BROTHER JAMES CALPIN

GLENDIA, SPOUSE OF BROTHER FRANK KING

BROTHER WILLIAM MURPHY

BROTHER GEORGE RODENBERG AND SPOUSE

BROTHER MICHEAL DOUGHERTY

BROTHER ROBERT CAVANAUGH

CHRISTINE, SPOUSE OF MIKE NORTON

HELEN, SPOUSE OF BROTHER RICK BRENNAN

BROTHER CHARLES MULHERIN

MICHAEL MANNING, NEPHEW OF BROTHER DAN HARRINGTON

BROTHER RAY OLSON

BROTHER "SONNY" DORISH



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2026 Kelly Division Officers

President-Dennis Mulligan
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Vice President- Kevin Purcell
bbrb19@comcast.net

Treasurer-John Frampton
firemedic45@comcast.net

Recording Secretary-Mike Norton
mnortonstn@aol.com

Financial Secretary-Larry Kelly
lkelly1@verizon.net

Standing/Compassion Comm.-Sonny Dorish
fmdorish@yahoo.com

Marshal-Mike Wanamaker
michaeljwanamaker38@gmail.com

Sentinel-Jim Dunn
Jimdunn367@gmail.com

Webmaster-Dan Harrington
joydan1073@verizon.net

Past Presidents

YEAR	NAME
2010	Mike McGee
2011	Mike McGee
2012	Mike McGee
2013	Frank King
2014	Larry Kelly
2015	Conor Shiel
2016	Matthew Dullaghan
2017	Matthew Dullaghan
2018	Matthew Dullaghan
2019	Jack Simila
2020	Jack Simila
2021	Jack Simila
2022	Matthew Dullaghan
2023	Dennis Mulligan
2024	Dennis Mulligan
2025	Dennis Mulligan
2026	Dennis Mulligan

Contact us at:

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