



History Report – March 2017 to April 2018

The Annual meeting of the All-Ireland Cultural Society was held at the Stamp Society Building, 4828 NE 33rd Avenue in Portland on April 22, 2017. After the members voted to approve the slate as presented by the Nominating Committee, Shannon Doherty inducted the new board of directors into their positions:

President	Mary Rose Kerg
Vice President	Brendan Kerg
Recording Secretary	Julie O’Connell
Corresponding Secretary	Helen Grealish
Treasurer	Christine Seed
Trustee (3 year)	Colleen Spiering
Trustee (2 year)	Shirley Hahn
Trustee (1 year)	Tom Crowley
Director (3 year)	Caroline Fogarty
Director (2 year)	Patrick Seed
Director (1 year)	Louise Martell
Seanacháí Editor	Louise Martell

There are 68 paid members as of April, 2018. There were 78 paid members in December 2017. Membership dues were \$25 for individuals and \$40 for families.

Rent for the Stamp Society Building was \$65 a month for September, October and November 2017, and January, February and April 2018 (a total of \$450).

Standing Committees.

Sunshine – Patsy Lee

Communications– Helen Grealish, Corresponding Secretary

History – Julie O’Connell, Recording Secretary

Program – Caroline Fogarty

Scholarship –Bruce Kenny, Tim Birr and Debbie Timmins.

Genealogy – Don Anderson.

AICS Cultural and Social Activities of the Past Year

Following the **April 22, 2017** Annual meeting, Louise Martell led an “Irish Trivia game” that was a lot of fun. She had some challenging trivia and small trinkets for the winners. Julie O’Connell led the Book Club discussion of *The Lion of Ireland* by Morgan Llywelyn, a fictional history of Brian Boru.

Appreciation Dinner on **May 21, 2017** at the Old Spaghetti Factory was chaired by Debbie Timmins. It was another great event with terrific food and good friends.

The Annual picnic was held on Sunday, **August 27, 2017**, at St. Birgitta’s Church Grove in Linton, chaired by Patrick Seed. There were games, music, dancing, and a good time was had by all who attended.

September 16, 2017. After the business meeting, Rose Ann Ranft gave a presentation about Irish symbols.

October 14, 2017. A crew made up of JJ and Helen Grealish, Tom Crowley, Brendan Kerg, Mary Rose Kerg, and Rose Ann Ranft cleaned, organized, and inventoried our supplies at the shed at St. Birgitta’s Parish.

October 21, 2017. The program after the regular meeting was by Lynn Duddy and Lawrence Howard from Portland Story Theater. They each told us a story as an example of what they do – Lynn’s was a personal story from her childhood, and Lawrence told us a story about Finn MacCool (Fionn mac cumhaill) and the Salmon of Knowledge.

November 18, 2017. The program for November’s meeting was Bruce Kenny presenting a slide show about short Gaelic phrases and how to pronounce them, followed by the annual scholarship presentation. Louise Martell was this year’s recipient, and she then gave us a wonderful presentation about Irish writers and the women who influenced them.

December 2, 2017. The Annual Christmas luncheon was held in the Wahkeena Room of the Holiday Inn at the Airport from 12:30 pm to 2:30 pm. The event was chaired by Rose Ann Ranft and Mary Sacksteder. There were gifts, carols, and a lovely meal.

January 20, 2018. The annual high tea, chaired by Caroline Fogarty and Julie O'Connell featured the usual delicious teas, sandwiches and sweets. The tea began at 6:00 pm, followed by a presentation by Don Anderson on his book, *Paper and Spit*, and his journey to find his biological family using DNA testing. We concluded the evening with the general business meeting.

February 17, 2018. Following the business meeting and social time, Tim Birr gave an excellent presentation on Saint Patrick – comparing the myths to what we can document historically. We also drew names for the Shamrock Cruise raffle held to benefit the St. Birgitta's Parish (as a gift to thank them for our storage space). Winners were Bill Berry (cruise), Dawn Redman (AICS membership), Tom and Peggy Scheideman (pot o'gold cash and chocolates), Molly McGuire (bread basket), and Tim Birr (wine).

A social and successful 77th Annual St. Patrick's Day Celebration was held on **March 17, 2018** at Aquinas Hall, 340 NE Clackamas Street in Portland. Doors opened at 3:00 pm followed by continuous entertainment until 8:00 pm. AICS members now sign up for volunteer shifts online through SignUp.com, thanks to Brendan Kerg.

- Margaret Doherty read the Proclamation signed by Oregon Governor Kate Brown.
- Don Anderson and the Concords sang the National Anthems and also led a sing-a-long.
- Tualatin Valley Pipe and Drums were fabulous, as always.
- The marvelous Molly Malone and Yeates Academy Dancers were first up with Irish step dances.
- The group Bidy on the Bench charmed us with music and song.
- The Grand Finale was the Oregon Irish Dance Academy dancers.
- The children were entertained with a 50-minute puppet show by Penny's Puppets as well as face painting, coloring, story time and games.
- The raffle included "gold" (\$5 tickets) items and "green" (\$1 each, 6 for \$5) for items donated by local businesses and AICS members.
- Wine (2 cases) was donated by Owen Roe Winery. O'Hara's beer (9 cases) was donated from Paulaner USA. Guinness and Harp were also available and all alcoholic beverages were \$5.
- Meals were catered by DeAngelo's and were bangers and mash (\$13), hot corned beef sandwiches (\$9.50), banger on a bun with chips (\$9), and cold sandwiches (\$8.50). Bob's Red Mill donated Irish soda bread which was served with the bangers and mash. All hot meals were sold out by 6:00 pm.

- The Irish soda bread was sold in whole loaves (\$5) and slices (\$1). Cookies, chips, pop and water were also available; tea and coffee were complimentary.
- General Admission was \$12 for adults and \$4 for minors (3-18).

Our program of the year included the following pub socials:

April 30, 2017 – Rose and Thistle Pub, NE Portland

October 29, 2017 – McCool’s Pub, Clackamas

January 28, 2018 – Whelan’s Pub, SE Portland

February 25, 2018 – T.C. O’Leary’s Pub, NE Portland

The AICS Website

After much wrangling and huge amounts of time invested, Mary Rose Kerg has updated the AICS website. We are working on the ability for members to renew and pay membership online, as well as pre-order tickets for the St. Patrick’s Day Festival.

The AICS website is found at www.oregonirishsociety.org.

Outreach

The All-Ireland Cultural Society participated in the following festivals with information about the society, Ireland, genealogy and more. Festival folks entered a drawing, no cost, for a DNA Test Kit.

- Hillsboro Celtic Faire in Hillsboro on September 23, 2017, in Shute Park in Hillsboro. Mary Rose Kerg spearheaded the AICS booth, with help from Donal Brady, Brendan Kerg, Louise Martell, Colleen Spiering, Carol Cummings, Shirley Hahn, Sam Keator, and Anne Doherty. At least 100 people signed up for the DNA kit give-away.
- Céilí of the Valley’s Samhain Celtic New Year on October 21, 2017 in Salem. Mary Rose Kerg and Bruce Kenny manned the booth, and Bruce taught classes in the Irish language.

On Memorial Day, May 29, 2017, at 9 a.m., a wreath was placed at the Oregon Famine Memorial in Mt. Calvary Cemetery. Tim Birr played the bagpipes. Jim O’Connell and Mary Rose Kerg recited readings.

Scholarship

Louise Martell was the recipient of the All-Ireland Cultural Society’s Scholarship in November 2017.

New Acquisitions

A lockbox on the shed at St. Birgitta's.

Irish Nights

- The AICS participated in "Irish Night" on **November 25, 2017** for Corrib Theatre's "Belfast Girls", directed by Gemma Whelan.

Donations Made:

- \$200 to the An Dáire January 2018 Feis, as a sponsor to help alleviate the costs incurred to put on Irish Dance competitions.
- An AICS membership to the Genealogical Forum of Oregon raffle.
- \$75 to Corrib Theatre, and a membership for its founder, Gemma Whelan.
- An AICS family membership to Ceili of the Valley for their Christmas fundraiser.
- \$410 to the parish of St. Birgitta, proceeds from the raffle of two free Shamrock Cruise tickets provided by Sam Keator and Anne Doherty (S & A Irish Events).

Contributions Received:

- \$500 grant received from the Celtic Heritage Alliance to be used for the St. Patrick's Day Celebration. This resulted from the now defunct Newport Festival.
- \$100 donation from Legacy Health Systems on behalf of their employee, Shannon Doherty.

Administrative Changes:

- We continue to e-mail the minutes of business meetings to members a week before the next business meeting for members' review. This has kept the meetings to less than one hour.
- The payout for the "Sweeps" is set at \$20 each time.

Advertisers

Thanks to our business supporters who advertised in the Seanacháí.

S & A Irish Events
Celtic Corner
Céilí of the Valley
Portland Story Theatre
Oregon Irish Dance Academy
ACN Office and Residential Computer Services

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

All volunteers, especially those who served on committees, and to:

Tony Ranft for taking over the “Irish Sweeps” at the regular meetings.

JJ Grealish for ordering the Memorial Day wreath.

Don Anderson for keeping our Irish DNA Genealogy Project up and running.

Louise Martell for her excellent production of the Seanacháí newsletter.

Tom Crowley for organizing the pub socials.

Carol Cummings for her spectacular photos of the St. Patrick’s Day Celebration.

Bruce Kenny for picking up and returning supplies and equipment to the shed.

Mary Sacksteder for coordinating the donations from Bob’s Red Mill and the Organic Valley Dairy Products.

Rose Ann and Tony Ranft for procuring cold foods for the St. Patrick’s Day party.

Bruce Kenny for teaching us the Irish language.

Sam Keator for promoting Irish culture and organizing entertainment.

Victoria and Christina White and **Sam Keator** for keeping the Tír Eoghain Céilí group going.

Mary Sacksteder and **Rose Ann Ranft** for chairing the Christmas luncheon.

Kevin, Patrick and Christine Seed for chairing the annual picnic.

Debbie Timmins for chairing the Appreciation Dinner at the Old Spaghetti Factory in May.

Brendan Kerg for making it possible to use debit and credit cards at the St. Patrick’s Day Celebration, and for the beautiful table and stools for the raffle.

Mary Rose Kerg for her excellent organizational skills as President and head of the St. Patrick’s Day event.

Dorothy Foley for taking on the donor coordinator position for the raffle.

In Memoriam. Members, past and present, who we will remember always.

Bill Lewis

Joan Quigley

Noel Bisceglia

Helen Maguigan

Lois Hanson

Brother Eugene Traynor

Honorary Membership

Mr. Jack Crowley was granted an Honorary Membership at the St. Patrick’s Day Celebration 2018. He has been a long-time member who has served the society in many ways over the years.

Weekly Céilí Events

Tuesdays: Tír Eoghain ceilí class, 7:30-9:30 p.m. at St. Therese Multi-Purpose Center, 1260 NE 132nd, Portland, OR 97230.

Thursdays: Winds of Donegal, 7-9 p.m. at the Winona Grange, 8340 SW Seneca Street, Tualatin.

Monthly Céilí Events

Céilí Mor: 1st Friday of the month. 8-11 p.m., October through May at the Winona Grange.

Irish Jam Session: 2nd Sunday of the month, 3-6 p.m., Winona Grange.

Céilí of the Valley: 2nd Friday of the month. Lesson 7 pm., Dance 8-11 p.m. in Salem. Visit the website at www.ceiliofthevalley.org.

Julie O'Connell

Recording Secretary

Approved by the membership on April 21, 2018