



History Report – March 2020 to April 2021

The Annual meeting of the All-Ireland Cultural Society was held via Zoom on April 18th because of the restrictions of the pandemic virus. After the members voted to approve the slate as presented by the Nominating Committee, the new board were excited about working together in the coming year.

President	Mary Sacksteder
Vice President	Jim O’Connell
Recording Secretary	Beth Settlers
Corresponding Secretary	Mary Rose Kerg
Treasurer	Julie O’Connell
Trustee (3 year)	Molly McGuire
Trustee (2 year)	Sam Keator
Trustee (1 year)	Dorothy Foley
Director (3 year)	Patsy Lee
Director (2 year)	Lois Delihanty
Director (1 year)	Brendan Kerg
Seanacháí Editor	Dorothy Foley

Membership dues were increased to \$35 for individuals and \$55 for families effective in January 2020.

Starting in September 2020, meetings and socials were via Zoom at 2 p.m. on the third Saturday of September, October, November 2020, and January, February and April 2021.

Standing Committees.

Sunshine – Patsy Lee

Communications– Mary Rose Kerg, Corresponding Secretary

History – Beth Settlers, Recording Secretary

Program – Jim O’Connell

Scholarship –Lois Delihanty and Jim O’Connell.

Genealogy – Don Anderson

AICS Cultural and Social Activities of the Past Year

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, all activities were cancelled. Namely, the St. Patrick’s Day Celebration on March 17, 2020, the Appreciation dinner in May 2020, the annual picnic in August 2020, and the Christmas luncheon in December 2020. Starting in September 2020, business meetings followed by short programs were held via Zoom.

September 2020

- This was our first get together via Zoom after the summer break so we spent time checking in and socializing.

October 2020

- Christina White was the beneficiary of the AICS Scholarship for 2020. Christina gave us an overview of her Irish dancing experiences from age five and showed us a clip of her dancing on stage at age seven. She explained the levels of dancing championships and showed us her collection of dance books and about creating new ceili dances for the Tir Eoghain Ceili Dancers.

November 2020

- A delightful show and tell.

January 2021

- Members drank their tea while they discussed the book club read of Patrick Taylor's book "An Irish Country Christmas."

February 2021

- Don Anderson gave a wonderful presentation on his experiences with genealogy and brought us up to date on how DNA testing is expanding.

March 2021

- The Gresham Chamber for the Arts partnered with the All-Ireland Cultural Society with a live Irish program on Monday, March 1 at 7 p.m. that was live streamed as part of Gresham's First Monday. Tim Birr played the bagpipes and Cary Novotny, Eddie Parente and Matty Sears trio played tunes and sang during the one-hour concert. Mary Sacksteder spearheaded this event and did a wonderful job coordinating with the musicians, the Center for the Arts and the studio personnel.
- See below for March 17, 2021

Wreath placed at Famine Memorial

On Memorial Day 2020, at 9 a.m., a wreath was placed at the Oregon Famine Memorial in Mt. Calvary Cemetery. Tim Birr played the bagpipes. This was possible since it was an outside event with limited participation wearing masks and keeping distance.

The Raffle

Aer Lingus gifted the All-Ireland Cultural Society with a round trip ticket for two from Seattle to Dublin to be drawn on March 17, 2020. The AICS added \$200 for travel to Seattle. Tickets for the raffle went on sale in November 2019 and continued right up to the time the St. Patrick's Day event was cancelled. So, the board decided to continue selling the 1,000 tickets and have the drawing at Montavilla Park in east Portland on Sunday, August 14, 2020. About 15 members and friends attended the drawing and the lucky winner was member Tony Ranft.

St. Patrick's Day, March 17, 2021

St. Patrick's Day celebration is our opportunity to share the Irish culture and it's our biggest fundraiser of the year. Since the pandemic is still raging, crowds were restricted from gathering. A small committee decided in January 2021 to host a virtual St. Patrick's Day concert – our first time ever. This turned out to be a highly successful event featuring four dance schools, four bands, sean-nós, set and ceili dancing, poetry, a song in the Gaelic language, Cappello songs, tunes on the concertina, fiddle and accordion and more. Penny's Puppets produced a 25-minute puppet show for the children. Anne Doherty's video of bread baking and

her recipe for her Irish Wheaten Bread had 355 viewers! The concert was about two hours long and went live on St. Patrick's Day until the end of the month on the AICS website, Facebook and YouTube. A big thanks to Christina White, the artistic director, and Mary Rose Kerg and to the technical crew of Ben Yarbrough, Brendan Kerg and Trent Martin and many others. This concert was free to viewers and all the performers were local talent. This was an extensive outreach effort. A committee of Rose Ann Ranft, Lois Delihanty, Molly McGuire and Mary Rose Kerg contacted activity directors at 60 retirement communities across Oregon and SW Washington apprising them of the program they might want their residents to view as part of their social time.

Review and upgrade AICS media

A committee of Mary Sacksteder, Jim O'Connell and Dorothy Foley worked with Guy Edwards of Brainjar Media to update the look and feel of the website and Facebook. This took months and was completed successfully.

The AICS website is found at www.oregonirishsociety.org. Facebook at www.facebook.com/AICSOregon and the e-mail at irishclubpdx@gmail.com.

Births, Marriages and Deaths in the last year

Donal and Sharon Brady became great grandparents.

Colleen Spiering married Larry Stanifer.

Long time member Mary Ellen Devenport and her husband, Wil, passed away. Una Ni Clain also passed away. May they rest in Peace.

Donations Made:

\$100 donation to the Gresham Chamber for the Arts.

\$100 to Meals on Wheels

\$500 to American Red Cross to help with fire relief to our neighbors in Oregon.

Scholarship Program

Christina White applied for the AICS Scholarship to attend extensive workshops on Irish Ceili dancing in Pennsylvania in February 2020. Christina was the Tír Eoghain Céilí dance instructor until the pandemic hit. She became a certified, qualified TCRG instructor in 2020.

Congratulations to Christina.

Advertisers

Thanks to our business supporters who advertised in the Seanacháí.

S & A Irish Events

Céilí of the Valley

Kiawe Island Bistro

Celtic Corner

Oregon Irish Dance Academy

Portland Story Theatre

Whelan's Irish Pub

ACN Office and Residential Computer Services

Beth Settlers

Recording Secretary

This History Report was approved unanimously by the membership at the Annual meeting on April 17, 2021.