



History Report – March 2022 to April 2023

The Annual meeting of the All-Ireland Cultural Society was held in person and via Zoom on April 16, 2022 to accommodate those who felt comfortable attending in person and those who did not. After the members voted to approve the slate below as presented by the Nominating Committee, the new board members were excited about working together in the coming year.

President	Christina White
Vice President	Samuel Keator
Recording Secretary	Dorothy Foley
Corresponding Secretary	Karol Burke
Treasurer	Mary Rose Kerg
Trustee (3 year)	Christine Seed
Trustee (2 year)	Brendan Kerg
Trustee (1 year)	Molly McGuire
Director (3 year)	Margaret Doherty
Director (2 year)	Beth Setters
Director (1 year)	Patsy Lee
Seanacháí Editor	Dorothy Foley
Librarian	Louise Martell

There are 88 paid members as of April 1, 2023. Membership dues are \$35 for individuals and \$55 for families.

Standing Committees.

Sunshine – Patsy Lee

Communications– Karol Burke, Corresponding Secretary

History – Dorothy Foley, Recording Secretary

Program – Samuel Keator, Karol Burke, Lois Delihanty, Beth Setters and Ed Curtin.

Scholarship – Samuel Keator, Jim O’Connell and Louise Martell.

Genealogy – Don Anderson.

AICS Cultural and Social Activities of the Past Year

The abatement of the Covid-19 virus allowed us to return to in-person events, a welcome relief from the previously required remote meetings and presentations. Following our hybrid April 2022 Annual meeting, the format of in-person and Zoom option meetings continued, allowing those with difficulties to participate, as well as those with remaining Covid concerns.

Appreciation Dinner: Closing out the 2021-2022 AICS activity year, the annual Appreciation Dinner for volunteers and members was held at the Stamp Society building on Saturday, May 21, 2022. Lasagna, salad, bread and wine were catered by the Olive Garden and dessert, tea and coffee were served. Anne Doherty chaired this event, presenting flowers and gifts to the attendees.

Placing the Wreath: On Memorial Day, May 30, 2022, at 9:30 a.m., a wreath was placed at the Oregon Famine Memorial in Mt. Calvary Cemetery. Tim Birr piped in the approximately 13 attendees, played selected tunes on the pipes and recited an appropriate reading regarding the famine experience.

Pub Social, June 27, 2022: The Dullahan Pub in Lake Oswego was the site of a social evening from 5:30 to 7:30 at this mythically named establishment. New members and old gathered for a bit of craic at this busy establishment.

The Picnic: The Annual picnic was held on Sunday, July 31, 2022, at St. Birgitta's Church Grove in Linton. Hamburgers, hotdogs and all the fixings were served compliments of the All-Ireland Cultural Society. Dancers from the Oregon Irish Dance Academy entertained us and a festive afternoon it was.

The Celtic Fantasy Faire: This annual event was held at Shute Park in Hillsboro on Saturday, August 20, 2022. The AICS had a busy booth at the faire, attracting numerous people who wanted to trace the county origins of their family names. The booth was set up, broken down and staffed by various members throughout the day including Christina White, Carol Cummings, Karol Burke, Sylvester De Bray, Dorothy Foley and J.J. Grealish.

September 17, 2022 Membership Meeting: Members enjoyed tea and a potluck while Gemma Whalen, former artistic Director of the Corrib Theatre, spoke about her new book, **Painting Through the Dark**, following the business portion of the meeting.

October 15, 2022 Membership Meeting: Erik Killops, founding member of the Irish traditional band Na Rosai, spoke to the membership about his study of Irish music and dance at the University of Limerick. Erik played a few tunes on the fiddle, giving the history and meaning of them.

Samhain Festival: Saturday, October 22nd Ceili of the Valley celebrated their annual Samhain Festival in Salem. AICS was a part of the celebration, hosting a booth for the day. Members Carol Cummings, Barbara Callahan and Dorothy Foley took care of AICS business, providing information about and encouraging membership in AICS.

November 19, 2022 Membership Meeting: David Ingerson discussed sean nos singing, like sean nos dancing, an older form of the art. David sang numerous songs, most in Gaelic, giving a history and the meaning of each song.

December 4, 2022, Our Christmas Luncheon: The annual Christmas luncheon was held at the Olde Spaghetti Factory on Bancroft Street in SW Portland. It was chaired by Mary Sacksteder and Rose Ann Ranft. The setting was lovely, right on the Willamette River, as was the food. Equally as enjoyable was playing the right/left game – something we haven't been able to do with the years' long lock down required by Covid.

January 21, 2023 Membership Meeting: Once again we were able to enjoy our Annual Tea Party, traditionally following the January membership meeting. Rose Ann Ranft chaired this sorely missed event, made even sweeter by the art presentation of Aislinn Adams. The road to becoming an artist both in Ireland and the US was recounted by Adams who displayed a selection of her work.

Pub Social February 5, 2023: Clancy's in Sherwood was the site of our second pub social of the AICS year. About 40-45 members and friends turned out between 5:30-7:30 pm to enjoy the evening. Tim Birr, our renown piper, was in attendance and graced us with a few pipe tunes. Back on his feet after surgery, Tim welcomed the practice for the upcoming St. Patrick's festivities. In addition, Cary Novotny and friends provided great tunes throughout the social.

February 18, 2023 Membership Meeting: Channing Dodson discussed and demonstrated the Uilleann pipes. Not to be confused with "the Scotch pipes" they have a different sound and a different method of play, relying on a bladder under the arm. Channing is proficient in both pipes and gave a detailed description of the construction of the pipes as well as bringing along some samples of older pipes and the woods used in their construction.

March 12, 2023 Shamrock Run: The Shamrock Run has taken place every year for the past 45 years. It is a charity event and since 2002 has raised over \$600,000 for the Doernbecher Hospital of the Oregon Health Services University (OHSU). Doernbecher is the highest rated pediatric hospital in Oregon. Kells Irish Restaurant and Pub has long supported the Shamrock Run, hosting a tent for runners, onlookers, dancers, musicians – anyone who wants to be a part of the scene. This year AICS was invited to set up a table at the Kells location and greet attendees, distribute information and literature and be a part of the Irish scene. Held on March 12th, dare we say as a warm-up to St. Patrick's Day, the AICS table was hosted by Molly McGuire, Margaret Doherty and Christina White.

Saint Patrick's Party, March 17, 2023: What a fabulous return to live programming!! We had record numbers of attendees and made a record profit. This wonderful production was largely aided by two generous grants, one from the Irish government and one from the Multnomah County Cultural Coalition and Oregon Cultural Trust, as well as sponsorships from the Neil Kelly Company, Ceili of the Valley, the Welsh Society and Gabrielle Maher Premier Property Group. As our first live St. Patrick's Party in three years, it was a wonderful come back and a step forward we're looking to follow in the future. Two scholarships were announced at our St. Patrick's Party – one for \$300 to study the ancient harp in Ireland and one for attendance at dance camp.

Jantzen Beach St. Patrick's Dinner, March 18: For the first time the Holiday Inn's Jantzen Beach Bar and Grill at the Columbia Waterfront location held a St. Patrick's Dinner. Three of our members were in attendance: Molly McGuire and Delia and Frank Rudiger. The Holiday Inn contributed a portion of the profits for the evening of the "Irish Drinks" selection and allowed us to publicize AICS. Well done all!

By-Laws Amendments: The April Annual meeting to be held on April 15, 2023 will focus on significant proposed amendments to our by-laws.

Grants Received

\$3,500 from the Irish Government Emigrant Support Program.

\$1,250 from the Multnomah County Cultural Coalition and Oregon Cultural Trust.

Donations Received

\$35 from Joan MacNeill.

\$5 from Sheila Redman.

\$15.79 from Kellie Raydon.

\$25 from Maureen Williams for the Scholarship Fund.

\$25 from James Turbin.

\$60 from the Jantzen Beach Bar and Grill at the Holiday Inn Columbia Waterfront.

Donations Given By AICS

\$250 to the Samhain Festival produced by Ceili of the Valley.

\$200 to the Corrib Theatre.

\$25 to the Maldon Meehan Fund.

\$150 to the Arnold Street Dancers.

\$50 to Celtic Light Orchestra.

Recent Acquisitions

30"x72" vinyl banner with AICS current logo.

Advertisers

Thanks to our business supporters who advertised in the Seanacháí.

S & A Irish Events

Céilí of the Valley

Oregon Irish Dance Academy

Dorothy Foley,
Recording Secretary

Approved by the membership on