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In Remembrance of Bill Hogarty

Gentlemen,

First of all, I sincerely hope and pray that this Shenanigans finds you all in good health and fine spirits.

Memories of passed members are vividly very alive in "Spirit" at our friendly family establishment, recently the Hogarty family suffered another loss as did we in a fellow brother, Passed President and loyal friend, Mr. Billy Hogarty. Billy passed away, March 13th, and was put to rest on a very special day in our Irish Heritage, St. Patrick's Day. Marie informed me at the Mass that Billy had been very sick for awhile but made it seem to appear that he fought bravely to hold on for this special day. Billy's humor and sarcasm at the Bar will be missed and his memory most definitely brings a smile to us all. God Bless and Rest in Peace my friend.

Our sincere condolences go out to Marie and the entire Hogarty family, please keep them and all our members who have lost loved ones in your thoughts and prayers, thank you.

Before I go any further, I would like to once again thank our outgoing Officers Jeff and Chris for all their time dedicated to the smooth running of our fine club and a very special thank you to one of my most experienced e-board members, Mr. Bobby Quinn, whose advice and guidance helped me tremendously throughout my first term. They say its a thankless job...but gentlemen...I "Thank You" ...very much.

And to our Bartenders Chairman, Kenny Brown, who has successfully selected the right men for the right job, thanks lad.

Well, March has come and gone, and boy what a fun filled busy month we had. On the 4th, we started the day off with a heart warming Mass celebration that included some very enjoyable Irish "Holy" humor thanks to Father Joseph Desmond. Hey, we even had our "Ashes" blessed...yes, I said ashes or maybe Father Desmond did...Hmm !! Then it was a delicious breakfast and finally onto the buses and off to the parade.

On the most positive of notes, let me say how proud I was of each and every one of you as we proudly marched down Main St. in Belmar displaying our "Sea of Green" leading the parade. You all displayed yourselves as proper true gentlemen by wearing your uniform smartly with pride and believe me it was extremely noticeable so "Thank You" all.

Our Annual Club Dinner Dance was as good, if not better, than last year's event as the Molly Pitcher out did themselves again with the food, drinks and service. The Jazz Lobsters had us all dancing the night away until our shoes became deheeled!!

Our Pipers and Drums performed and did us proud by piping in all your new upcoming Officers.

Our surprise Irish School of Dancers were a huge hit added to our entertainment for the night. So if you missed it, I'm sorry to hear that, but for those of you there, I thank you and hope you enjoyed your evening.

Many thanks to the Dinner Dance Committee (Scott, JohnnyD, David and Gary) for all your hard work to make this night affordable and possible.

Sooooo, what else happened in March?...Hmmm...wait... that's right...St. Patrick's Day !!

Boy they say that the Irish really know how to celebrate this day but I would go one step further and say that the Irish associated with the Friendly Sons of the Shillelagh truly know how to ring in this day with non-stop celebrations. Our club was the place to be from the early hours to the wee hours of the morning...the "Craic" was "Ninety". Oh that reminds me, you should have seen what happened when...wait stop...what happens at the Friendly Sons... stays at the Friendly Sons !!

Before I run out of space, it is of the utmost importance that I show my appreciation to the many ladies that dedicated their time to make March a Corned Beef success...Jane and her crew Dot, Mims, Barbara W, Barbara C, Cathy, Kathy, Mo, Janelyn, and the boys Walter, Jimmy, Bill, Butch and all the lads that helped out.

And to our Irish Soda Bread girls Mims, Zoe, Cathy, Jackie and Barbara and finally to the set up, clean up and bartenders, thank you all for being a major "March" part of our Friendly Sons Team of success...Happy Days :-).

Finally, before I say "Amen" to March, I would like to point something out that I have witnessed, observed and learned recently...

Quote, "you can please "some" of the people "all" of the time....

... "all" of the people "some" of the time...

...but no matter how hard you try...

...you cannot please "all" of the people "all" of the time !!

God Bless,
Cheers for now,
John.



Good and Welfare

We lost a fine man, Billy Hogarty, classic, poetic, tragic, Heaven is a better place now, we are left to remember.



Please always, take a moment to think of all our troops and support staff overseas, and those less fortunate than us.

Good and Welfare information should be given to Barney Shannon @ (732) 254-6153, or to any officer.

There's This Girl...

April Meeting - Thursday, April 12th 8:30PM

Widows Luncheon Sunday, April 29th
See inside.

Pancake Breakfast Sunday, May 13th
Treat Mom, or another special person in your life to the "Batter" experience of the FSOS

MS Bike Ride Saturday/Sunday, May 19th and 20th
See Donnie Bruchez for more. Details inside.

Coming up... The PIG Roast, June 2nd

"We have always found the Irish a bit odd. They refuse to be English."
- Winston Churchill

President's Joke of the Month: Who Says Men Don't Remember Anniversaries

A woman awakes during the night to find that her husband was not in their bed.

She puts on her robe and goes downstairs to look for him. She finds him sitting at the kitchen table with a cup of coffee in front him. He appears deep in thought, just staring at the wall. She watches as he wipes a tear from his eye and takes a sip of coffee.

"What's the matter, dear?" she whispers as she steps into the room. "Why are you down here at this time of night?"

The husband looks up, "Do you remember 20 years ago when we were dating, and you were only 17?" he asks solemnly.

The wife is touched thinking her husband is so caring and sensitive. "Yes, I do," she replies.

The husband pauses. The words are not coming easily. "Do you remember when you father caught us in the back seat of my car?"

"Yes, I remember," says the wife, lowering herself into a chair beside him.

The husband continues..."Do you remember when he shoved a shotgun in my face and said, "Either you marry my daughter, or I will send you to jail for 20 years".

"I remember that too", she replies softly.

He wipes another tear from his cheek and says..."I would have gotten out today!!"



FSOS Pipes and Drums

Anyone interested in playing Pipes or Drums, come down on Monday nights. - John Hatton

A Friendly Daughter



One cold winter's day, earlier this year, for reasons still unknown even to herself, the oldest (and arguably not the wisest) of Frank Collins' five daughters decided to take a second chance on romance.

Being of fine Galway and Cavan stock, she felt safe in accepting an invite from a gentleman whose surname involved a "Mc"...BUT...then came the invitation.

Would she be so kind as to "be his date at The Friendly Sons of the Shillelagh dinner dance."

She sat straight faced as he explained that the evenings proceedings would involve himself, an officer of the club...a secretary, but an officer...wearing a sash, being led by piper, onto a dance floor, with much fanfare, jokes only understood by the initiated or inebriated, followed by dinner and dancing with Jazzy Lobsters...she wasn't sure if they were the band or the caterers.

She politely declined, or laughed until he crawled away defeated, depending on whose story you believe. But this man was undeterred. He wined and dined the Irish stubbornness out of her, and with promises of a beautiful suite at the Molly Pitcher, the craic whore in her gave in...

So with her dancing shoes on, and her skepticism firmly in place off she went, expecting a laugh at the least.

What she got was an evening full of laughs, and hugs and kisses from brand new friends, some probably relatives, but isn't that bound to happen in a room full of Irish??

She laughed at herself for being so concerned about the man in the sash; she cried a little when the pipers played for those we lost on 9/11; she fell in love with a beautiful Polish girl named Margie (but she was told everyone does); she thoroughly enjoyed the step dancers, and being a former one, appreciated their loveliness even more; and she was happily surprised when President Sheridan himself cut in on her date on the dance floor to show her he "can still get down with his bad self."

She has since celebrated St. Patrick's Day at the club, paying homage to the beautifully restored map of Eire, and Mrs. Sheridan's dainty headwear; and she was seated on Pub Night, at what she was told was "a bad table"—but as far as she could tell, there is no bad table at the club, just good people...and possible distant relatives...you know who you are Mrs. Cummins.

She is no longer skeptical, she is still smiling, and she is hoping to be invited back time and again to the club...her hand still firmly held by the man in the sash.

She would be honored to be called a Friendly Daughter.

Some Reasons You Should Be Here



This is YOUR Club: Its health; both structurally and financially need your support. Come down to some work parties (SATURDAYS). It is staggering how much maintenance is needed just to keep the building sound and clean.

The PUB: Is one of the backbones of the Club. Lack of support for it drives up prices, and JEEZ, you are not going to drink cheaper anywhere.

Friday Night Dinners: The best way to start your weekend. Great food, at a great price, and you can bring the family.

Club Events: there is no reason for empty seats at parties and Pub Nights sponsored by the FSOS.

General Nonsense: WE laugh, complain, call each other vile names, what more could you want?

Please, support this Club, Your Club.



FSOS HIGHER EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP

Each year the FSOS Of Old Bridge awards scholarship funds to sons & daughters of members graduating from Old Bridge High School. To qualify for scholarship consideration your high school senior must...

- 1. Have a GPA of 3.0 or higher**
- 2. Be at least 1/8th Irish**
- 3. Plan on attending a 2 or 4 year college in the fall as a full time student.**

If your child meets these criteria and you would like to apply for the scholarship please submit an application letter to John Sheridan. There is no form to fill out, just a letter indicating your child's achievements in high school and involvement in the community. Letters can be emailed or dropped off at the club.

Closing date for applications: Saturday, April 14.

John P. Sheridan

President FSOS

MS BICYCLE RUN

Each year, several brave and determined riders from the FSOS participate in a heartfelt, grueling bicycle ride to aid in the search for a cure to this dreaded disease. This year's details:

This year's MS bike ride is May 19th and 20th The ride we take part in is 25 miles from Monmouth university along some beautiful shore towns and then back to Monmouth university. This is a fundraiser for multiple sclerosis. You receive a free t shirt for participating as well as a boxed lunch back at the college. Anyone interested in riding our team name is FSOS Riders. For more info please contact Donnie Bruchez at 9087054687. And the MS Society website :http://bikenjm.nationalmssociety.org/site/PageServer?pagename=BIKE_NJM_Detailscoast. Please lend a hand.



PANCAKE BREAKFAST Sunday May 13th, 10 am to 12 Noon.

Ok, you know the drill by now, the original, oft imitated, never equaled "Boys Of Batter" will once again serve up Pancakes, sausage, Coffee, Tea, and OJ. to warm you and your mother's heart's. \$5.00 per plate (note no Morgan jokes this year). Treat Mom, or your significant other mother to a breakfast worth remembering.



WIDOWS LUNCHEON

SUNDAY, APRIL 29th. 1 PM Our wonderful annual Widows luncheon. Invitations with food selections have been sent; please respond as soon as possible. There will be surprises for the ladies this year as well!!!! Please, if you are unable to drive, do not hesitate to invite a guest who can assist you.

As usual, Patrick Donnelly will provide the superb menu choices.

Former Presidents, please set aside this date and be sure to attend.

THIS IS OUR 25TH Year! HELP IS NEEDED!!!! – Bob Quinn.

Tongue in Cheek? - A smashing time at Pub Night, hadn't been in a few years, made me regret not going, however seeing the "pecking order" of table selection, stuck in the corner between the Kitchen and the ___ _ Hithouse, with a former president no less; my my, it was funny to see John and Dennis and Dave, trying to charge admission to the ladies room. We need a BIGGER hall. The company made the location moot however, cheers!

AD Book - #95, Bob Kelly

F.I.L.F.F.C: did not see from bed, but it smelled like Keegan

"I started with rock n' roll and...then you start to take it apart like a child with a toy and you see there's blues and there's country...Then you go back from country into American music...and you end up in Scotland and Ireland eventually."

– *Elvis Costello*



Membership News

Effective as of the **MARCH** meeting.

1st Reading: Ryan Jennings / Sponsor / Tom Jennings

2nd Reading: Craig Cohen, Dominick Ryan

New Members: Thomas Cleary WELCOME!



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