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SHENANIGANS



All,

I hope this letter finds you well. March 5th, 2017 was a cold day, but it didn't deter us from marching in the Belmar/Lake Como St. Patrick's Day Parade. With all the crazy things happening all over the world, there was a heightened sense of security for the parade. Thank you to Homeland Security who made sure the day was safe for all to enjoy. It changed our timing a bit, but as usual (and expected), we marched and looked grand! What a proud organization; I am honored to be a small part of it.

After we marched, it was back to the club where we celebrated with family and friends. Of course the food, drink and service were off the charts. We had Irish Step Dancers in the hall, our very own Pipe Band played, and live Irish music in both rooms. It truly was a great day! I'd like to offer a heart-felt thank you to all who helped in the kitchen; behind the bar; the night before, cleaning the building; setting up the hall for Mass; putting up all the flags outside, cooking all week; setting up the continental breakfast; organizing the buses; changing over the hall from Mass, to a sign-up room for the parade; and the list goes on..... Finally, let's not forget those who came down the next day to Clean Up!!!! Yikes, what a mess we made.

Unfortunately, we had some sad news, as we learned of the passing of 2 long time members, John Lotti and John Connolly; both were waked on St. Patrick's Day. In true form, we had a fantastic showing by the membership at both wakes. I know the families appreciated the support. We also learned of the passing of Michael Donlon's wife (Laura). Please keep their families in your prayers. They will be missed!

We didn't escape March without one last blast of winter. Thank-you to Josh Lynne for plowing us out of the snow storm; turns out the big storm just missed us, but it still was enough to close the schools for 2 days.

I'd like to extend a thank you to Kenny Brown and Kevin Wyer for installing a new front door for us. You will no longer be able to extend the dead bolt from the inside and leave the door ajar. The constant slamming of the door against the extended dead bolt essentially broke the door locking mechanism. I suggest you keep your card keys on you.

The 2017 FSOS Dinner Dance was a blast. We changed it up a little bit this year by holding the event on a Friday night at the Battleground Country Club. There were 188 in attendance as we ushered in the new officers for 2017. We were entertained by our own Pipes and Drum Band, and then presented Rob "Mac" McKiernan with his Irishman of the Year award. Then we ate, drank and danced the night away.

What seemed to be a big hit was the outdoor patio where we had heated lamps; a cigar or two was smoked and enjoyed. A great time was had by all.

Looking forward, Patrick will continue with the Friday Night dinners up through Easter, and we will be having open shuffle board on Friday Nights for those who want to come down and play (see Gene O'Donnell and/or Dominic Ryan for more details). Lastly, we will try to get some light entertainment in the bar monthly, stay tuned for details.

Best regards,

Jeff Schuld



UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

Friday Night Dinners Continue
April 7, 14 & 21 @ 5pm

Saturday, April 8 - FSOS Easter Egg Hunt @ 11:30am
Bring the kids down and join us once again to hunt for "real" Easter Eggs; 11:30am sign up and 12 noon start. Hot dogs, soda, candy; prizes for various age groups; loads of fun and tons of sugar! See Marty Cameron for information, or the "yolks" on you!

Thursday, April 13 - Meeting Night @ 8:30pm

Saturday, April 15 - Monthly Work Party @ 9:00am

Saturday, April 15 - Application Deadline for (2) Scholarship Programs

Beginning this year, FSOS-OB will sponsor (2) H.S. Scholarship Programs:

I. Old Bridge H.S. Scholarship - open to club members' children or grand-children who are Seniors at Old Bridge High School only.

II. 1st Annual Barney Shannon Memorial Scholarship - open to members' children or grand-children who are Seniors at any High School, including Old Bridge H.S.

For either Scholarship, each candidate must submit to the club a detailed letter highlighting their academic achievements, and their involvement in community volunteer organizations and athletic achievements. Include your personal contact information; your High School name, address, and school contact information; and where you plan to attend college and your connection to The Friendly Sons.

Applications must be submitted before Saturday, April 15. Contact Jeff Schuld (732-261-8952) for details about both Scholarships.

Sunday, April 16 - EASTER SUNDAY

Friday Night, April 21 - Prime Rib Dinner @ 5pm and Live Music @ 8pm

Lent will be over, which among other things means, it's time for meat! To that end, Top Hat Catering will host a special Friday Night Dinner: Prime Rib as the main entrée; of course, there will also be a variety of other entrees available.

After dinner, remain in your seats for live entertainment beginning at 8pm and ending at Midnight. Or stop in for a drink or two, and listen to the live music.

Sunday, April 30 - Widows' Luncheon @ 1pm

30th anniversary of Widows' Luncheon. When you receive your invitation, please RSVP – ASAP, and include your meal selection. Please feel free to invite a guest to accompany you for this wonderful afternoon, as you renew old acquaintances and make new ones. We look forward to welcoming and serving you, and hope that you enjoy yourselves as much as we do. See Bob Quinn for details.

Friday, May 5 - President Hartwyk's Cocktail Party @ 7PM

Join us in honoring former President, Jim Hartwyk for his 2 years of dedicated presidential service, in addition to various e-board positions which he previously held. There will be a small admission fee of \$25 per person, which includes an Open Bar, an evening of continuous hors d'oeuvres, by Top Hat Catering; fun, jokes and stories galore; and live music (the talent crew is lining up suitable entertainment).

Saturday, May 6
5th Annual KENTUCKY DERBY Day @ 3pm

Laddies & Colleens: Join us for our annual "Run for the Roses" or a "Dash for a Pint", Derby Day get-together. No Entry fee and everyone gets a post position; the earlier you arrive, the better your position! Pools of various sorts will be run. The Derby Day drink special will be Mint Julep and bar snacks will be available, or bring your own finger food. Watch the 143rd Run for the Rose Race on six TVs, and at Post time, cheer your favorite equestrian on; screaming at the TV is encouraged at this event. The ladies are urged to come adorned in their finest, or craziest, Derby Hat as there will be a Ladies' Hat Contest with a bottle of Champagne to the winner (to drink, not bathe in). After the Races, celebrate your winning or sulk about your losses, but either way, stay.

Thursday, May 11 - Next Month's Meeting @ 8:30pm

Saturday, May 13 - Next Month's Work Party @ 9:00am

Sunday, May 14 - Mother's Day Pancake Breakfast – 10am 'til Noon

You know the grill, our "New Boys of Batter" will serve up a breakfast of Pancakes, Sausage, Eggs, Coffee, tea and OJ, for only \$7.00 per person. You even have a choice of one free Mimosa or Bloody Mary. Bring your wife; your mom; her mom; your mom's mom; her mom's mom; or a great-grand mom, to a breakfast worth remembering. Momma Mia, it'll warm everyone's heart.

(Continued inside...)

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER (cont'd)



Saturday, May 20

Annual Bike Fundraiser for Multiple Sclerosis

Sign up to be part of the FSOS bicycle team, and partake in the MS Society's annual 25-mile charity bike tour. It will be our 14th consecutive year participating in this ride, which begins and ends at Monmouth University. T-shirts are provided by the FSOS and MS Society, as well as soft drinks and a boxed lunch, free to riders.

All this benefits those stricken with MS, including our own Mike Eilers. Anyone interested in riding, or sponsoring one of our riders, please contact Don Bruchez at sndbruchez@msn.com, or call 908-705-4687.

Thursday, May 25

Irish Cultural Committee Book Signing @ 7:30pm

The Irish Cultural Committee (I.C.C.) will be hosting a book reading and signing by guest speaker Richard Daniel McCann. Mr. McCann is the author of two books which explore the immense contributions of Bishop John J. Hughes to New York's Irish and the Catholic Church. Admission is free and open to the public, with Teá, coffee and Irish soda bread being served; for information call John O'Keefe @ 908-705-1606.

Saturday, June 10 - Annual Pig Roast

Set aside this date for our greatest, annual, outdoor event. Details next month.

Sunday, June 11

Irish Festival at Monmouth Park Racetrack

The 47th annual Irish Festival begins at 12 noon. Eamonn Ryan of FSOS-Essex, will be one of the performers this year. More details next month.

Saturday, June 17 - Annual Atlantic City Bus Trip

Tropicana Casino here we come! Bus trip is open to members and one guest, at \$22 per person. All seats are currently reserved, but there is a waiting list on the bulletin board. If you are not paid by June 1st, you lose your seat(s). Make checks payable to FSOS, and place in an envelope and on the outside, write your name & 'AC Trip'; insert into safe. Contact Dave Delaney (848-391-2114) or Dennis Sullivan (732-238-1985).

Friday, June 23 - 2nd Irish Whiskey Tasting Night

Get ready to wet your whistle, again, because the Irish Cultural Committee will be hosting another Irish Whiskey Tasting event, this time with a steak dinner, under the Pavilion. Advanced reservations and pre-payment will be required! Sign-up sheet will be posted soon; look for more details in the next issue.

Building Fund Results

1st Prize: Jon Hayden - Ticket #496

2nd Prize: Kevin Ruffley - Ticket #238

3rd Prize: Marie Hogarty - Ticket #074

4th Prize: John McGuinness - Ticket #049

5th Prize: Pauline Matak - Ticket #212

6th Prize: Tony Gonzalez - Ticket #253

7th Prize: Jim Pinkiewicz - Ticket #293.

We are continuing the process of updating the Old Bridge Membership Database; see the Corresponding Secretary (Tom Jennings) to review your contact information.



SHENANIGANS IN SHILLELAGH LAND

2017 Belmar Day/Lake Como Parade recap:

- In preparation for the influx of cases and kegs of beer prior to parade day, Ray Costello and our new Steward Rick Dealy, were repositioning the kegs inside the walk-in cooler when Rick remarked that he was surprised at how little a keg of Miller Lite weighed, compared to the other brands. Raymond, in his quiet voice, replied "That's because your keg of Miller Lite is only half full". Make you think "Did he just say that"!
- Due to security issues this year, the buses had to leave the club an hour earlier. As the last bus turned onto Route 18, Rick Kyle was seen running down Route 18 chasing it, yelling "Wait for me! Wait for me"! He did make the bus;
- Our 2017 Parade Adjutant, Jim Sullivan, looked spiffy in his tuxedo and Sash, as he proudly led the membership down Main Street;
- Despite the brutal cold and the heightened security precautions this year, we had a great turnout for the parade, and were honored to have members from the Essex and Ocean Chapters joining us in the line of march;
- At the parade, there was a large dog and as the Pipe Band passed by, the dog began barking and barking. Coincidentally, the band paused in front of this dog, and the tune they were playing, ended. However, the dog continued to bark until the dog's owner calmed it down. At that point, president Jim Hartwyk turned in the dog's direction as yelled out "They weren't that bad"!
- Later that afternoon, FSOS-Essex member Eamonn Ryan provided us with several hours of live music singing Irish songs;
- Between the 2017 Belmar Day/Lake Como Parade and Saint Patrick's Day festivities, 1,150 pounds of Corned Beef, 80 pounds of Cabbage, 75 pounds of Carrots, 70 pounds of potatoes, and 110 loaves of homemade Irish Soda bread were cooked, sliced, and served by a small army of dedicated men, women and children of this fine club. There were so many volunteers, that in order not to offend anyone by missing their names, a BIG THANK YOU to each of you!
- The Monday night before The Blizzard of 2017, many businesses and schools closed in advance of the storm. So being off the next day my wife and I decided to go to the club and have a drink; well to our surprise, lots of other members had the same idea, so we had an unscheduled pre-blizzard party; lots of fun!
- The FSOS Pipes and Drums flew down to Savannah, GA. to march in its Saint Patrick's Day Parade. Surprising, Savannah had one of the coldest day on record as the day started off in the low 20's, but it gradually warmed up to about 65F by the afternoon. Tom Walker and Jim Feaster, proudly wore their full Club uniform as they carried the flags & banners, leading the Pipe Band;
- Ray Costello's personal gremlin was at it again: this time at a Dunkin Donuts drive-thru when Ray ordered a cup of tea. As he took it from the counter window, either the cup broke or the cover came off, spilling hot tea on his hand and stomach. He involuntarily stepped on the gas and almost caused a horrible mess. We are pleased to say that Ray is okay with a minor hand burn;
- Tom Keegan turned 90 years old, and he stayed awake for his entire birthday party which was held at the club. Rumor has it that if you look at a picture of The Last Supper, you will see Tom in the background as a waiter;
- **FILFC:** Joe Patterson
- **AD Book:** # 169011 – Mike Nugent.

NEWS ACROSS THE F.S.O.S. CHAPTERS

The 2017 Ball was held at Battleground Country Club and what a Ball we had: hors d'oeuvre's eaten; entrees delicately served and devoured; libations consumed (no signs of over-indulgence); the Pipes and Drums played; talkers gabbed, and once again the 'Phil Engel Band' rocked the hall, providing the attendees with great Craic!

Highlight #1 of the evening was the Induction Ceremony of the 2017 FSOS Executive Board Officers. It was steeped in Shillelagh tradition as our Master of Ceremonies, John DeMaio first introduced the 2016 Officers. Each officer, wearing their respective Club Sash, and accompanied by their wife or significant other, was piped-in by a lone piper. Next Mr. DeMaio introduced the newly elected 2017 Officers and, accompanied by their partner, they were piped-in. Finally, John the announced the changing of the guard by asking the outgoing officer to remove their Sash and place it on their successor. It was a peaceful transition of power.

Our new Treasurer, John O'Keefe, showed off at the Installation Dinner Dance, as he and his wife Pat, were piped-in by the entire pipe band, instead of a lone piper. It pays to have connections.

Highlight #2 of the evening was Larry McGrath's reading the biography of our

"2017 Irishman of the Year", and then introducing our honoree, **Mr. Robert McKiernan, Jr.**

Our new president, Jeff Schuld presented Rob with his award, and then "Mac" capped off the event with a great acceptance speech; Sláinte to "Mac" and his family.

2017 Shuffleboard Season

- The Friday Night Shuffleboard League season ended, and the members of the winning team are Dennis Pinkiewicz, Jr., Jeff Schuld, Dustin Schuld and Gregg Moench. The season was a huge success thanks to Cary Windisch, the league's organizer. Sign-up sheet for the 2018 season is on the bulletin board;
- The Sunday Afternoon Shuffleboard League also ended. The members of their winning team are David & Charlene Delaney and Dennis & Dot Sullivan. Dave & Charlene Delaney made it known that this was their last shuffleboard game, as they will be moving to Florida at the end of the 2017 school season, which is when Charlene retires. Best of luck to them. Thanks to Jim Sullivan for his continued dedication.

September 11th thru 21st - 11 Day Tour of Ireland & Northern Ireland

Take a fabulous trip to Ireland and visit Belfast, Derry, Galway, Connemara, Killarney, Kerry, Blarney & Dublin. Trip is being co-hosted by Michael Lee Foster but is not an FSOS sponsored event, so see Bulletin Board for details, or contact Michael Lee at 732-577-1234, 908-227-0227 or, michaelliefoster@verizon.net.

FSOS-ESSEX

Saturday, May 6 – FSOS-Essex Dinner Dance

This will be Essex's 49th Annual Dinner Dance, and it will be held at Mayfair Farms, West Orange, NJ; call FSOS-Essex at 973-325-9338 for reservations.

Sunday, June 11 - "Irish Sports Expo" @ 12noon 'til 7pm

FSOS-Essex is hosting an Irish Sports Expo, featuring Hurling & Rugby. \$20 cover charge (\$5 for those between 10 to 20) includes entry, food token, beverages and music. See our bulletin board; on Facebook: "2017 Irish Sports Expo"; on Twitter: #Irish Sports Expo, or call FSOS-Essex at 973-325-9338.

FSOS-Belmar has opened their new clubhouse, at the same address.

FSOS Pipes & Drums

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

Good and Welfare



Congratulations to Mr. James Sullivan our 2017 Belmar/Lake Como Parade Adjutant. Jim was selected to be this year's Parade Adjutant in honor of his many years of unending commitment to this club. Jim is well deserving of this honor.

GOOD:

- Jim Hartwyk became a grandfather, again: grandchild number 6;
- Congratulations to Kevin McFadden on his appointment to the Philadelphia Police Department Police Academy;
- A heart-felt thanks to every member who pitch-in daily to provide valuable help behind the bar; and to the men who help our Steward with their culinary skills during our monthly meeting, and other Club events.

WELFARE:

- It was a very difficult month of March, because we lost 2 members, John Connolly and John Lotti on the same day, March 15th. Strangely, both wakes were on Saint Patrick's Day, in the same Funeral Hall, at the same time;
- Mike Donlon's wife, Laura also passed away.
- Féadfaidh Siad Chuid Eile I Síocháin (May they Rest in Peace)
- Tom McGrath had a heart procedure;
- Keep Pat Carragher Sr., Charlie Donnelly, Jerry Kennedy, Bob McQuade, Ed "Butch" Konopka, Dennis Ryan, Kevin Wyer's mother, and other members and their families with on-going health issues, in your prayers;
- Plus, remember our FSOS families who have members in the Armed Forces, and all U.S. Troops stationed throughout the Globe; plus our Disabled American Veterans, Wounded Warriors, and Veterans;
- Please visit our Memorial Monument to remember our deceased members.
- Remember our Armed Forces members and support staff who are stationed throughout the Globe, as well as our Disabled American Veterans, Wounded Warriors, and Veterans.

Send Good & Welfare information to Jim Hartwyk, any Officer, or send it to news@fsos.com.
Provide member's full name; details of their issue, and if in the hospital, room and phone numbers.

- If you wish to electronically receive all Old Bridge notifications, as well as the newsletters from the other Chapters, submit your e-mail address to any e-board member, or send to news@fsos.com.
- All non-members who enters the bar MUST sign the Guestbook by the door; this includes your wife, girlfriend, friends or adult children.

Membership (As of Last Month's Meeting)

Membership committee: Dennis Bohanan,
Ben McLaughlan, Harry Humes & Joe Murray



APRIL Anniversaries

20 YEARS

RICHARD GREENE
EDWARD QUIGLEY
MICHAEL SULLIVAN JR

1st Reading: Aspiring Assets

John Murphy, Old Bridge
Daniel Wolff, Old Bridge

Sponsor

Mike Murphy
Dennis Pinkiewicz

2nd Reading & Vote: Assets in Training

Jerimiah Buller
Joseph Curran
Dennis Hennessey
Joseph Walsh

New Members: Affirmed Assets - None

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