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Dear Fellow Members,

During the holiday season many of us have plenty to be thankful for. I for one am thankful to Ray Costello and his family for organizing this years Thanksgiving baskets. What an unbelievable sight to see our members, their families, and many other volunteers come together unselfishly to help so many people in need. It was out of generosity that the club was able to help more families this year than ever before. On behalf of this fine organization which continues to prove itself time and time again thank you for your donations and efforts.

Kudos to the Dinner Dance Committee for hosting another successful NoctoberoctemberOctoberfest. Of course Chef De Maio outdid himself with his fine German cuisine. Many in attendance danced the night away with the dudes, the Voo Dudes that is!!! Gut Gemacht!!!

Ho! Ho! Ho! And there is still more to go. On Sunday, December 6th the club will be holding its annual Marine Corp. Toys for Tots event hosted by Gunny Dunn. Please come down and enjoy a day of football, fun, and food. To participate in the day please bring a new, unwrapped toy or a donation to have a new toy purchased.

I hope to see many of you at the Christmas party being held on Saturday, December 12th. John Sheridan has been busy planning the evening and it is guaranteed good time. Even the Little Shillelagh's have a chance to celebrate at Barney Shannon's Christmas party at the Strathmore Theatre on December 19th. Rumor has it that Santa may be there as well!!!

From my family to yours have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May God keep you happy and healthy. Please keep a prayer in your heart for the many in need as well as the men and women serving our fine country.

God bless and be well-

Mac





Good and Welfare

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.



Recovering The Satellites...

December Meeting -

Thursday, December 10th 8:30PM

Adult Christmas Party -

Saturday, December 12th 6:30PM

2 LIVE BANDS!

Children's Christmas Party -

Saturday, December 19th

STRATHMORE THEATER – MOVIE TO BE ANNOUNCED,
SEE BARNEY SHANNON, OR SANTA FOR MORE INFO

Entertainment Night -

Saturday, January 16th 8PM - ?

VINNIE AND EJ FROM THE BACKBEAT, ALL NIGHT

Mardi Gras -

Saturday, January 30th 8PM - 12AM

DO NOT EVER MISS THIS.

Pub Night -

Friday, February 6th 8PM - ?

SEE ANY BAND MEMBER FOR DETAILS,
MORE NEXT MONTH.

Comedy Night - Saturday February 13th

Club Elections/ Blood Drive -

Saturday February 27th

DETAILS ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE

Incoming - 1st Parade Fundraiser should be mid January at the club, and then, it's almost PARADE time (March 7th)

Shenanigans Online!

The Shenanigans is now available online. It will be on our website as well as e-mailed to all for whom we have addresses for. This is the first step in, hopefully, a fruitful transition. Comments welcome.



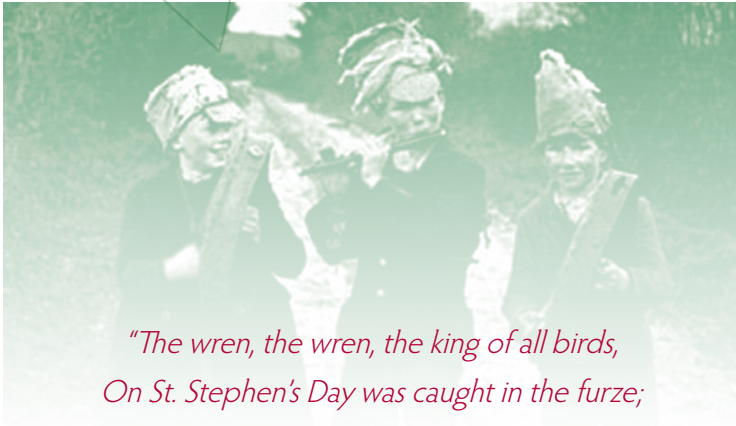
FSOS Pipes and Drums News

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



IRISH CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

Ireland, like most countries, has a number of Christmas traditions that are all of its own. Many of these customs have their root in the time when the Gaelic culture and religion of the country were being suppressed and it is perhaps because of that they have survived into modern times.



*"The wren, the wren, the king of all birds,
On St. Stephen's Day was caught in the furze;
Up with the kettle and down with the pan,
Pray give us a penny to bury the wren."*

– THE CANDLE IN THE WINDOW

The placing of a lighted candle in the window of a house on Christmas Eve is still practiced today. It has a number of purposes but primarily it was a symbol of welcome to Mary and Joseph as they traveled looking for shelter.

The candle also indicated a safe place for priests to perform mass, as during Penal Times this was not allowed.

A further element of the tradition is that the candle should be lit by the youngest member of the household and only be extinguished by a girl bearing the name 'Mary'.

– THE LADEN TABLE

After evening meal on Christmas Eve the kitchen table was again set and on it were placed a loaf of bread filled with caraway seeds and raisins, a pitcher of milk and a large lit candle. The door to the house was left unlatched so that Mary and Joseph, or any wandering traveler, could avail of the welcome.

– THE WREN BOY PROCESSION

During Penal Times there was once a plot in a village against the local soldiers. They were surrounded and were about to be ambushed when a group of wrens pecked on their drums and awakened the soldiers. The plot failed and the wren became known as 'The Devil's bird'.

On St. Stephen's day, a procession takes place where a pole with a holly bush is carried from house to house and families dress up in old clothes and with blackened faces. In olden times, an actual wren would be killed and placed on top of the pole.

This custom has to a large degree disappeared but the tradition of visiting from house to house on St. Stephen's Day has survived and is very much part of Christmas.

– DECORATIONS

The placing of a ring of Holly on doors originated in Ireland as Holly was one of the main plants that flourished at Christmas time and which gave the poor ample means with which to decorate their dwellings.

All decorations are traditionally taken down on Little Christmas (January 6th.) and it is considered to be bad luck to take them down beforehand.

– TRADITIONAL GAELIC SALUTATION

The Gaelic greeting for 'Merry Christmas' is:

'Nollaig Shona Duit'

...which is pronounced as 'null-ig hun-a dit'.

Nomination of Officers

Nominations will be accepted at the January Meeting for 2010 Elections.

Criteria as follows: "To be eligible to nominate or be nominated for any office in this organization, a member cannot be more than two months in arrears in the payment of dues and must have completed payment of the initiation fee as of the January meeting"

"To be eligible to vote for any office in this organization, a member must be not more than two months in arrears in payment of dues and must have completed payment of the initiation fee as of Election Day, the last Saturday of February." February 21st.

Remember: Your Dues responsibilities also include your Ad Book payments, as outlined in our By- Laws.



Club Elections and **Blood Drive** Saturday, February 27th

Blood Drive begins at 10AM. Please come down and have a pint drawn from you, and then we will draw a few pints for you. **Voting commences at 12 Noon through 7 PM.**

And be sure to come down to the pub election night to hear the results, welcome your new officers, and, well, get crapulous.



Membership News

Effective as of the November meeting.

1st Reading: None

2nd Reading: Owen Henry, Alex Lamb

New Members: None

Questions or concerns should be directed to Dennis Bohanan (732) 723-0776



FSOS - CHRISTMAS GIFTS: ALL CLOTHING WITH FSOS LOGO
SAT., DEC. 12th 10:00AM TO 03:00PM

BLACK FRIDAY'S OVER **GREEN SATURDAYS HERE!!!!**

WOMENS GEAR: SWEATERS/FLEECES/SWEAT SHIRTS

MENS GEAR: SWEATERS/ WINDSHIRTS/GOLF SHIRTS

IMPORTANT: WILL ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS (REALLY)



SERF 6th Annual Comedy Night at the Friendly Sons

Comedian: TBD

Where: FSOS Hall

When: Saturday, Feb 13

Evening starts at 7:00pm

Show starts at 9:00pm

Cost: TBD

Tickets: See Rich Casey

This is a night that always sells out, and for good reason, it's nonstop laughter from start to finish. The evening includes dinner, desert, coffee, draft beer, wine, soda and a seat at the show. And being as this night is dedicated to SERF, we're encouraging folks to bring along dried foods and/or toiletries. All will be appreciated.



THANK YOU A heartfelt thank you to all who stepped up, and out, and had our backs during the fundraisers this year. We are well on our way to another GREAT Dinner Dance! Cheers, John Sheridan

MARDI GRAS

Saturday, January 30th 8PM till ?

\$30.00 per person in advance, \$35.00 at the door
Music provided by THE VOODOUES!

DO NOT pass on this event, now a can't miss standard! Authentic Cajun Food, prepared by our real deal cooks, lead by Chef De Maio. Beads, brew, and dancing like how's your father and then some! There really are not words to describe just how good this night is, just come. See Le Captain, John Sheridan, for further details, or superstitious caterwauling. **Never trust the French, by the way**



The term “hillbilly” was first used in America to describe the immigrants from Northern Ireland, mostly Presbyterian, who came in the 18th century. The name had been attached to them back in Ireland since the 1600's, when southern Irish Catholics started calling Protestant supporters of King William “hillbillys” or “billy boys.”

An intelligent man is sometimes forced to be drunk to spend time with his fools.
– Ernest Hemingway

Leaving a mince pie and a bottle of Guinness out on Christmas Eve was once popular in Ireland. It was meant to be a snack for Santa Claus.

AD Book: #134 Eileen + Maryellen Murphy

Irish Naming Patterns

In case you're wondering which relative to name your kids after, here are the traditional naming patterns from old Ireland:

1ST SON: Named after father's father / 1st daughter after mother's mother

2ND SON: named after mother's father / 2nd daughter after father's mother

3RD SON: named after the father / 3rd daughter after the mother

4TH SON: named after father's eldest brother / 4th daughter after mother's eldest sister

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