Shorgnanigans

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MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE JERSEY SHORE ORDER OF THE FRIENDLY SONS OF THE SHILLELAGH

November 2019 Your President's Message

November 2019

My brother Shillelaghs,

Halloween has passed as we celebrated with our annual Scaryoke costume party on Saturday October 26. Congrats to the winners! Great time was had by all!!

I am pleased to announce that our generator will be installed weather permit on December 6. This unit will be able to power up our entire building in the event of a power outage. This obviously is important just for the fact that our sprinkler system will be protected during the winter months from freezing. But more importantly to most, the beer will remain cold!!

The holidays are fast arriving! Our annual Thanksgiving food drive is under way. You will find a sign up board in our lobby with a list of items that are needed and can be donated to the cause. Be sure to volunteer your time on Monday the 25th to help distribute over 200 baskets with turkeys and all the fixings to various places. Please see Dave Jaffe, Mike McCormick or Rich Hamolko with any questions. Also, remember to join us for our annual Thanksgiving dinner on Sunday afternoon the 24th. Please, members and their families only!

The Christmas Toy drive is also on the horizon. You will see all the significant dates via email. Again, we need volunteers to make this event a success! As with the Thanksgiving food drive, I personally can say what a gratifying feeling I get. Weather delivering the food baskets or a toy to an ailing child in the hospital, these are awesome events the FSOS orchestrates each year!

Thanks to Ryan Lavender and his team for a very successful Blood drive in October. Another one will be scheduled in the spring.

Special thanks to all our members who have served or are serving in our armed forces! Our Sunday November 10 Veteran Day celebration at halftime of the Giant vs Jets game brought over thirty names to our list of members to be honored! let's all take a moment, and be grateful for our veterans!! May God Bless!

Lastly, this time of year is meant to surround yourself with family and friends and to reflect on how thankful we all should be for our health and happiness! I wish everyone a safe and Happy Thanksgiving!! ENJOY

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President

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Saturday, December 7th - 4:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Belmar Police Officers Association Toy Drive, South end of the Belmar Marina.

Tuesday, December 10th - 6:00 pm
Wrapping the Gifts for the children's Christmas party, upstairs at the club.

Thursday, December 12th
Delivery to the 180 Turning Lives around.

Delivery to the 180 Turning Lives around

Friday, December 13th - 9:00 am

Toy Shopping- Volunteers needed to storm Walmart again. Meet at the club.

Saturday, December 14th

The Children's Christmas parties (3) at the club. Details to follow.

Monday, December 16th - 9:00 am

Toy Delivery Day. Meet at the club. Lunch/Cocktails for Santa and all helpers back at the club.

Friday, December 20th - 6:00 pm Collecting more Toys at Bar A with HOLME.

Saturday, December 21st - 6:00 pm

The Shillelagh Christmas Party and Super 50/50 drawing in the evening.

If you can help out with any or all of these events, just show up!

Or e-mail: fsossanta@gmail.com





November – check the foyer for info on the Thanksgiving Food Drive

December – Christmas Toy Drive- watch for info in your email

Wednesday, December 4th – Membership Meeting 7:30

Saturday, December 14th – Children's Christmas Party

Tuesday, December 31st – Irish New Year

Friday, July 24th 2020 - FSOS Golf Outing- Pebble Creek GC

Wednesday, January 8th 2020 – Membership Meeting 7:30

Any Questions, please email info.fsosbelmar@gmail.com







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The Order of The Friendly Sons of the Shillelagh of the Jersey Shore





about us:

We invite you to show your support, honor friends and family, to remember loved ones, or commemorate special occasions by purchasing tribute bricks to be placed in the walkway and landscaped area in front of The New Friendly Sons of the Shillelagh Clubhouse in Belmar. Best of all, your brick purchase will help the new FSOS clubhouse, which in turn helps the FSOS continue its mission of celebrating Irish- American culture and helping countless members of our community who are less fortunate or in need.

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For all questions, please contact

John Carr at fsospavers@gmail.com

The Pipes and Drums of the Jersey Shore – November 2019!

On behalf of the band, I want to wish you a Happy Thanksgiving!

The band is currently working hard on music for parade season. We have performed at a few events over the last month or two.

November brings our annual meeting and elections for the e-board where all positions will be voted on.

I want to personally thank the existing e-board for their dedication and service to the band over the past year! Each year the band grows musically and with our leadership!

For the first time in our 21-year band's history, we have started a competition band. Over half the band is interested! We are working on new music and plan to compete in 2020.

Our March Schedule is packed with a lot of parades and of course fun! We will be heading back to Savannah for the St Patrick's Day Parade! We have not been there since 2012. We have around 30 members attending this year and quite a few club members and band supporters will be there for some FUN!

We want to thank you all for your continued support for our Annual Golf Outing again this year!!

The Pipe Band continues to practice for the fall events and parade season in 2020.

DO YOU KNOW what TODAY is?

Today can be the day that you will always remember when you decided to learn to play bagpipes or drums!

What are you waiting for??????

Students are currently learning to play! They heard the Pipe and Drums calling and are well on their way to becoming pipers and drummers!

Maybe you know how to play already and want to get back into it.

Today can be the day you will always remember when you got back into playing again!

The Pipe Band's success partly depends on increasing membership and of course participation.

Learning how to play bagpipes or drums is a great way to be involved with the band, club, your Irish Heritage and of course to do something fun!

Give me a call (732) 685-9232, email me or the band or just stop by at a rehearsal to talk to one of us on any Tuesday evening upstairs at the club at 6:30pm for beginners and 7pm for band members. Come check us out!

Our email is band@jspipesanddrums.com which can be accessed by visiting our website at www.jspipesanddrums. com for more information to join or hire us. You can talk to me or any other band member for information.

We perform over 80% of the time for charities. The requests vary from a lone bagpiper to a small group or the entire band performing for local fundraisers, events and parades throughout the year from club members and the community. In addition, we perform at quite a few club events annually.

If you wish to have the band, small group or bagpiper perform for just about any event or perhaps perform in your living room or backyard bbq to let those neighbors know your proud of your Irish Heritage, please let our Band Manager Jim Dougherty or anyone in the band know.

We do our best to accommodate all requests. Please realize that Band Members, just like you and everyone else, have family, job commitments and other obligations along with circumstances that come up (some of which are beyond our control) that makes it impossible for us to accommodate all requests.

If anyone that has pictures or videos of the band, please post to our facebook page and/or email to us band@jspipesanddrums.com, thank you!

Slainte!!

Ray Spengler pdjspiper@hotmail.com



THE 2019 GREEN PAGES

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Irish History # 65 ~ De Valera's U.S. Mission (Part 2)

Eamon de Valera returned to New York City from Massachusetts just before St. Patrick's Day 1920. He stayed at the Waldorf-Astoria hotel in Manhattan and used it as headquarters. De Valera issued a forceful "call to arms" to Irish-Americans: "[T]hose of our race who are citizens of this mighty land of America, whose thoughts will help mold the policy of the leader among nations - how much of the world looks to you this St. Patrick's Day, hopes in you, trusts in you. You can so easily accomplish that which is needed. You have only to have the will . . . May God and St. Patrick inspire you to use it and to use it well."

Justice Daniel Cohalan, head of the Friends of Irish Freedom (FOIF) organization, was Grand Marshal of the NYC St. Patrick's Day Parade. He and de Valera set aside their quarreling for the venerable day. Cohalan gave de Valera the grand marshal's seat in the reviewing stand. Soldiers of the "Fighting 69th" Regiment responded to de Valera's call. Positioned as usual near the front of the parade, they marched behind a banner that read: "Uncle Sam Vindicate Your Dead! OK Irish Republic."

On the next day, "the U.S. Senate began its final debate on the ratification of the Versailles Treaty," ending World War I. Senator Peter Gerry of Rhode Island introduced a reservation to the treaty language being debated. It passed on a bi-partisan basis. The reservation was an Irish clause that read: "In consenting to the ratification of the treaty with Germany, the United Stated adheres to the principle of self-determination and the resolution of sympathy with the expectations of the Irish people for a government of their own choice."

For de Valera, its passage was cause for "jubilation," because part of his U.S. mission was to win support for Irish nationhood. (See Chapter 64) He sent Sinn Fein leader Arthur Griffith in Dublin a telegraph, heralding the achievement. The message said: "Ireland has been given her place among the nations by the greatest nation of them all." Unfortunately, within days, the Senate failed to ratify the treaty by the required two-thirds super-majority. The vote emasculated the Irish clause and blocked U.S. participation in the League of Nations.

Undeterred, de Valera secretly requested the Dail (Irish Parliament) to vote in favor of giving him up to \$500,000 to use "in connection with the election campaign for the Presidency of the United States of America." The Dail

approved the expenditure. In addition, the Dail authorized de Valera to spend up to 1 million dollars "to obtain recognition of the Irish Republic by the Government of the United States." De Valera's feud with Cohalan and John Devoy reignited, when de Valera attempted to gain control of the FOIF Victory Fund. De Valera unsuccessfully argued the "money morally belongs to Ireland."

1920 was a U.S. presidential election year. The Republican National Convention was held in Chicago. De Valera agreed that Cohalan "would advocate the adoption of a plank in the Republican platform recognizing the Irish Republic." But he arrived in Chicago before Cohalan and took personal control of the lobbying effort. Despite being told that it was "improper for him . . . to intrude upon the Convention" because such action would constitute foreign interference in an election, an undaunted de Valera went ahead - twisting arms, distributing leaflets, and holding parades. De Valera's suggested plank sought America's "full, formal, and official recognition" of "the elected government of the Republic of Ireland."

He also worked against Cohalan's recommended plank, which was similar but less stentorian. It asked the U.S. for "recognition of the principle that the people of Ireland have the right to determine freely . . . their own government institutions and the international relations with other states and peoples." The Republican platform committee rejected De Valera's plank by a 12-1 vote; the committee adopted Cohalan's plank by one vote.

De Valera protested the outcome, leaving the committee wondering what the Irish really wanted. In light of de Valera's dissatisfaction with the adopted language, the chairman of the platform committee reversed his vote. This negated the previously approved plank. As a result, Republican platform language did not include an Irish plank. On the front page of his Gaelic American newspaper, Devoy blamed de Valera's hubris for the reversal of fortune.

Democrats held their convention in San Francisco a month later. Cohalan did not go. Since the Easter Rising, Devoy and Cohalan tried to change Democratic President Wilson's position on U.S. relations with Great Britain, its close ally, on numerous occasions without any luck. They had nothing substantive to show for it other than raising Wilson's ire. So they did not expect to receive succor from Democrats. De Valera did go to the convention. He

pushed for a plank pledging "full, formal, and official recognition by the Government of the United States" of the Republic of Ireland. Once again, the plank was rejected. He responded to the loss by criticizing the Democratic Party for being out of step with the "public sentiment in this country behind the demand for justice in Ireland." In his biography years later, de Valera denied his efforts at the conventions constituted interfering in the U.S. election. Clearly, they did.

After the conventions, Ireland's status was not an issue during the presidential campaign. Gaelic American news stories turned their focus to the War of Independence. Devoy featured Collins in the paper, calling him Ireland's "Fighting Chief" and running a headline "Michael Collins Speaks for Ireland." Republican Warren Harding cruised to victory. He succeeded Wilson as President.

A few weeks later, Dublin experienced "Bloody Sunday." De Valera called the attack on unarmed people a "massacre." He said "[t]here is no comparison between the guilt of the British soldiers who . . . mow down unoffending civilians as they walk the streets intent upon their ordinary business or attend a football match . . . and Irishmen who kill these British soldiers engaged in an armed campaign of violent aggression against the Irish people's rights." He denounced the British for being "the root cause of all the bloodshed" in Ireland. In an editorial, the New York Times rebuked de Valera's vigorous defense of the Collins-led war effort.

Collins arranged safe passage home for de Valera and smuggled him onto a ship. Tom Cullen and Batt O'Connor met de Valera at the docks in Dublin just before Christmas. De Valera asked Cullen "how things were going?" Cullen replied: "Great! The Big Fellow [Michael Collins] is leading us and everything is going marvelous." De Valera responded: "Big Fellow! We'll see who's the Big Fellow."

De Valera's 18 month U.S. mission failed to win support for Irish nationhood. However, he generated publicity for the Irish cause and raised 5 million dollars in the bond drive. He left three million dollars of this money in the U.S., when he returned to Ireland.

The money sat there until 1927, when a judge ruled that bondholders were entitled to 58% of the face value of their bonds. Since the money had been subscribed "for the purpose of a Republican Government only," the Irish Free State government could not make a legitimate claim to it.

Bondholders received entreaties to make the money available a second time "for the benefit of Ireland." They also received a power of attorney form that assigned their right, title and interest in the Bond Certificate to Eamon de Valera. They were told proceeds from transferred

bonds would be used to start a newspaper - the Irish Press - that would "break 'the stranglehold' imposed on the Irish people by an 'alien press'" (i.e., British press). Bondholders responded positively, leading to incorporation of the Irish Press in 1928.

De Valera became the paper's controlling director with "absolute control of the public and political policy of the company and of the editorial management thereof." The newspaper's politics was the politics of de Valera and his Fianna Fail party.

De Valera had resigned from Sinn Fein and started Fianna Fail in 1926. Many Sinn Feiners followed him in the switch. In that year's Irish elections, Fianna Fail won 44 Dail seats. This made Fianna Fail the main opposition party to the government. But its Members of Parliament (MP's) were barred from sitting when they refused to take the parliamentary oath swearing faithful allegiance to the King of England.

The Anglo-Irish Treaty, which ended the War of Independence, required public representatives to take an Oath of Allegiance to the Crown. The Treaty split Sinn Fein, the IRA, and the Dail. After losing the Treaty debate in a 64-57 vote, de Valera resigned as President and led his supporters out of the Dail. What followed was civil war.

The IRA assassinated Irish Free State Justice Minister Kevin O'Higgins in 1927. One part of the government's response was legislation requiring candidates to sign an affidavit stating they would take both the oath and their seat if elected or otherwise be disqualified from running for office. It was at this point that de Valera decided the oath was merely "an empty formula" and taking it just "an empty formality." De Valera and Fianna Fail MP's signed the oath and took their seats.

During his five decade career in Irish politics, de Valera was known for "Machiavellian" traits. Those traits were on full display during his time in America. He schemed, manipulated and cheated. He did not tell the truth when truth did not suit his purposes. For de Valera, the ends always justified the means.

In the midst of debates between the de Valera-faction and Collins-faction about the Anglo-Irish Treaty, de Valera immodestly stated that "whenever I wanted to know what the Irish people wanted, I had only to examine my heart and it told me straight off what the Irish people wanted." It is more accurate to say his heart knew what it wanted, and he deceitfully used the guise of so-called insight into what the Irish people desired as a pretense for getting it.

by EMN

Main Reference Source: Tim Pat Coogan, Eamon De Valera, HarperCollins Publishers (1993)

Postscript:

When de Valera was Taoiseach (Prime Minister) in 1937, he introduced a new Constitution which the Irish people ratified. It laid territorial claim to Northern Ireland in Articles 2 and 3. De Valera was not in power in 1949 when Ireland became a republic. Under the Republic of Ireland Act, Ireland became the first country to leave the British Commonwealth. Ireland's transformation into a republic occurred on Easter Monday 1949.

On May 22, 1998, ninety-four per cent of the voters in the Republic approved the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement (GFA) ending the Northern Ireland Troubles. This vote also amended Articles 2 and 3 of the Irish Constitution, and renounced Ireland's claims to Northern Ireland. The GFA recognized "the right to self-determination," but stipulated it could only be exercised "on the basis of consent, freely and voluntarily given, North and South." Thus, the principle of consent provides the democratic roadmap for a united Ireland. (See https://irishcentral.com/opinion/others/may-22-1998-belfast-agreement) We wish all of our Shillelagh brothers and their families a Happy Thanksgiving.

Shillelagh Fall Class of 2019

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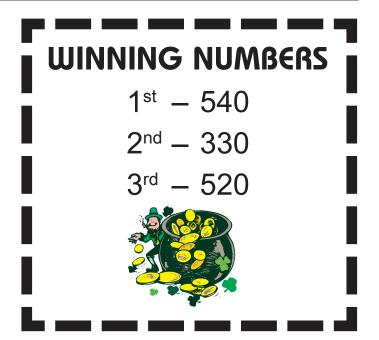
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Ray Spengler at PDJSpiper@hotmail.com

Have news to share in the newsletter? Contact info.fsosBelmar@gmail.com











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