



COMHALTAS CEOLTÓIRI ÉIREANN **Burke-Curry-Seery Branch**

From the Public Relations Officer,

This past October we held our Annual Membership meeting and elections. The branch officers for the coming year are as follows. Secretary Cynthia Prior, Treasurer Eileen Grabowski, Public Relations Stuart McEnerney, Auditor Terry Sullivan, Chaplin John O'Donovan, Irish Language John Feeney, Delegates Teresa Dorsey and Johannah Mackey, Alternate Delegate Mary Burke. You may have noticed that we do not have a Chairman or Vice Chairman on the board this year. If you are interested in taking on the role of either position please let one of the officers know. We will try to continue to function as a branch without these two important positions and activities will be limited.

Some of you may have seen the email that was sent out back in November by past Chairman Terry Sullivan and the article in the Irish Emigrant in regards to the future of our branch. I want to assure you we are a functioning branch but not as functional as we can be. Without the proper leadership and direction we will be a stagnant

branch. We have a great bunch of people in this branch that have many talents and resources, that if pulled together we can be one of the best branches in North America. We are the second largest branch in the North East region, with the Hannafin Cooley branch of Boston with the largest. We are financially sound as we have been for the past 2 years, but without activities to help fund our branch I do not know how much longer we will be.

This past year we have been to every Irish Festival in CT and were given our own tent to showcase what Comhaltas is all about at the Milford, CT festival. To this day I am still being told how wonderful of a job we did. We showcased our language class, our musicians, our dancing, and added in a little trivia to keep everyone on their toes. We also co-hosted the Echoes of Erin Concert Tour with the Milford Branch in October. It was a lovely concert and if you happened to follow the group to the Kings Court Restaurant in Milford you were treated to an additional two hours of music as the musicians played until they kicked us out at the legal hour. I have to thank the Milford Irish Heritage Society for all their contributions to making the concert a success. Without the help of their members we would have had 20 people sleeping in their tour bus. They were also very gracious to feed the Tour group before the show and even made a donation to St. Mary's Church in Milford for the use of their hall to feed them in.

This past year we also inducted two members of our branch into the Northeast Region Hall of Fame. This year's recipients were Johannah Mackey and John O'Donovan. Both were recognized for their contributions to the branch and keeping the Irish Traditions of Language and Music alive. We also recognized Mary Burke with the Bridge to the Future Award at the North America convention for her contributions to the branch back in the early stages of its formation.

As always if you have anything you would like to have announced or published in the newsletter please let me know.

Stuart McEnerney, Public Relations Officer

SAINT PATRICK'S FESTIVITIES

Saint Patrick's Day will be here before you know it. Here are some of the area parades that will be strolling through your neck of the State. March 7- Waterbury, March 14- Milford and Hartford,

March 15 – New Haven, March 17 -Bridgeport , March 21- Meriden, March 22 – Mystic. If you are in one of those areas stop by and have some fun.

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HALL OF FAME

Our Branch inductees for 2008 were our Branch Chaplin John O'Donovan and our newly elected Branch Delegate Johannah Mackey. We congratulate both of them and for their tireless effort in promoting the Irish culture.

2009 CCE NORTH AMERICAN CONVENTION

The CCE North American Convention will be held on April 17 – 19, 2009 in ST. Louis, MO. The CCE room rate is \$119 per night and is located next to Bush Stadium home of the ST. Louis Cardinals. Registration to the convention is \$175 for all the events from Thursday April 16 – Sunday April 19. Please see their website www.slia.org and follow the link to the CCE 2009 convention for further information.

BEGINNER IRISH LANGUAGE STUDY GROUP

Beginners' Irish language practice seisiun continues at the Irish American Home Society on the **3rd Sunday of every month**. Irish is not being taught at this time; rather it is a time to improve our conversational skills. The language seisiun starts at 1:30 p.m. and is followed by a music seisiun at 3:00

p.m. We are looking for experienced speakers willing to help us improve our speaking and comprehension skills. Any questions, contact Cynthia at (860) 995-4794 or Debbie at (860) 665-9013.



Hall Rentals
Meriden Ancient Order of Hibernians
 71 Melville Avenue Meriden, CT
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Are you looking for the perfect place to hold that special gathering, lecture, or concert at an affordable price? Call for more information.

IRISH LANGUAGE

Irish Immersion Weekend: Kingston, Ontario, Canada

3 - 5 April 2009

Cost: \$200 U.S. (or Canadian) including 2 night's accommodation and all meals Friday supper to Sunday lunch.

Venue: Peachtree Inn (<http://www.peachtreeinn.net/>)

Is deireadh seachtaine é seo lán de craic, ceol, damhsa, cairdeas, agus spréagadh - seans iontach chun bualadh le Gaeilgeoirí eile in atmaisféar breá compordach.

Further information (tuilleadh eolais): kenny-h@rmc.ca

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 phone: (613) 541-6000 ext 6042, fax: (613) 541-6040 freagraí as Gaeilge le do thoil, oiread agus is féidir.



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PRAYERS OF SYMPATHY

We send our prayers for the repose of the souls of our members Ann Jacksis and Michael Meehan. Mike Meehan was chairman of our branch for nine years and he was also CCE Tour Concert chairman on a number of occasions. Mike and his late wife Helen always hosted the seisiúns at the AOH club in Waterbury.

If any member has note worthy information they would like to have put in a newsletter, please email BurkeCurrySeery@comhaltas.net.



EMAIL / ADDRESS CHANGES

Our Branch email BurkeCurrySeery@comhaltas.net. Please make a note of it.

If you have an email address please let our Branch secretary know. We are able to update our members more quickly if we have your email address. Also, if you would like to receive the newsletter by email instead of by regular mail please let us know by contacting Public Relations Officer Stuart McEnerney at stumcenerney@sbcglobal.net. This

will also help reduce the cost of mailings and get the information to you quicker. If you change your email and/or home address please let our Branch Secretary know ASAP at (860) 995-4794 you do not want to miss getting your issue of Treior or any other important information.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are in need of Volunteers for regular branch functions. This is a great way to get involved with Comhaltas and your Branch. Meet interesting people, listen to good music and have fun spreading the Irish Culture. Some of the responsibilities are

working at Festivals, selling tickets for concerts, and handling raffles. If you can donate a few hours to your Branch, please contact a Branch officer or email us at BurkeCurrySeery@comhaltas.net

ADVERTISEMENTS

If you would like to have your business or service advertised in our newsletter for a reasonable cost. Please contact Stuart McEnerney via email stumcenerney@sbcglobal.net for further information. This is a great way to get your business flourishing as these newsletters are also posted on the internet via our website www.blarneystone.com/comhaltas. If your ad appears in this newsletter and wish to continue with advertising contact Stuart McEnerney at 203-235-6269 or email stumcenerney@sbcglobal.net.

AREA MUSIC EVENTS

Remember to join us at our area seisiúns held in several venues around the state of CT.

First and Third Sunday seisiúns at Glastonbury Irish America Home at 4pm.

Wednesday Seisiun with P.V. O'Donnell is now meeting at McKinnon's Irish Pub in Hartford at 7:30 pm.

Thursday seisiun at the Old Dublin in Wallingford at 7:30 pm.

Second and Fourth Sunday seisiúns at the New Britain AOH at 4pm.

Irish American Community Center in East Haven will be hosting a traditional concert Friday February 20th at 7:30 pm with Martin Hayes and Dennis Cahill.

Martin Hayes, a Connecticut transplant from Co Clare is said to be one of the most extraordinary talents in Irish Traditional music. Dennis Cahill, born in Chicago to parents from Co. Kerry is a master guitarist who has performed with such notable fiddlers as Eileen Ivers and Liz Burke. He and Martin met in Chicago in the 1980's and have been performing since, touring Ireland and as well as throughout Europe, Australia, Japan, Canada and the United States. This is guaranteed to be a sell-out performance, be sure to get your tickets (\$20 in advance/\$25 at the door) early by contacting John O'Donovan at 281-3563 or Pat Stratton at 248-8396.

Here's a great jig and march:

These original tunes were sent from member Tom Hanley of Vermont and can be heard on his band's

O'hAnleigh, new CD coming out soon. Check them out at www.myspace.com/ohanleigh

Deirdre's Jig © 2008 O'hAnleigh

The Fenian March © 2009 O'hAnleigh

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To: