

Proceedings of the first Kansas Convention of the Ancient Order of Hibernians

2023 Kansas State Convention

Agenda:

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

Calling of Convention to order – Tom Kane, Secretary at 9:03 AM on September 1st, 2023 the First Convention of the Ancient Order of Hibernians of Kansas of the twenty-first century.

Preliminary remarks and housekeeping – Kansas State Board President, Andy Sprehe

Prayer by the Chaplain - Dave West led all of the brothers in prayer

Reading of the Call of the Convention - Secretary Tom Kane read the call to convention.

Reports of Committee on Credentials- Number of Delegates - Secretary Tom Kane indicated that of the 34 delegates requested the requirement for a quorum of 1/3 (12) was met by the attendance of 27 delegates.

Reports of Officers

President – Andy Sprehe

As you know AOH National allows the formation of a State Board once there have been 2 or more divisions launched from different counties.

We attempted a few years back to engage a few members in Lawrence with the assistance of our deceased brother Liam Riggs, along with John Pouy and Jacob Brensing. Their desire and efforts are not forgotten and yet Lawrence is still on the radar as a potential new division in addition to Wichita, Atchison, Topeka, and Salina.

Through the efforts of our AOH National, Member-At-Large program, we were able to recruit Ryan Harris in Hutchinson, KS. After Ryan and others recruited the necessary 15 members, the Fr. Sean O'Shea Division was formed. We now were able to install a Kansas State Board. This Board was set up as an interim Board until such time as the 2023 Kansas State Convention convened and a new Board would be elected to a 2-year term.

With that said the Board was formed, Bylaws were written and approved and away we went to our present organization.

The Kansas State Board's sole and complete initiative is to adhere to National mandates. The Kansas State Board formed all the committees as prescribed by National. Once this was accomplished it was now time to look at funding the Board and planning for a State Convention. The Kansas State Board's dual purpose is to nurture and support the divisions in the State of Kansas and to adhere to AOH National's guidance as set out by the National Bylaws.

The State Board's mission is to

Launch new divisions in the State of Kansas

Support each division with guidance as needed.

Act as a liaison between AOH National and our Kansas Divisions

Promote the Ancient Order of Hibernians as being the largest Irish Catholic American organization.

Promote our pillars of Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity

What is the identity of a Hibernian

What does Being Irish Mean?

To identify as Irish isn't a single, clear-cut definition. It has evolved over time, away from stereotypes of the past to the current evolving world we live in. Irish identity is what binds us together in the best and worst of times.

"In Ireland you are, on the whole a person, cherished for your uniqueness. After all, that's what you deserve because that's what you are. Unique. There's nobody quite like you; no story quite like your story."

Being Irish means our nationality is never a burden. It's the opposite. It lifts us up, it provides a sense of belonging and, in the darkest of times, it gives us a feeling of hope.

What does Being Catholic Mean?

Being Catholic is saying Yes to human life and dignity, justice, religious liberty, compassion, forgiveness, solidarity with the poor, beauty, love, the gift of sexuality, marriage, family, friendship, the arts and literature, the value of work, the flourishing of the common good.

We seek out like-minded people of catholic faith. We identify with each other as a group. We treat one another and how we think about the value of each person should reflect Gospel values. Being Catholic means being people for others.

Being Catholic is an attitude. Despite life's challenges, a Catholic turns away from despair and seeks comfort in the faith and the community. Knowing one

another and being there to encourage and support each other in difficult times reminds us that we do not journey alone.

What does Being American Mean?

While there are people that believe that being American means that they have to be a specific race, or look a specific way, which is obviously not true. If we look at the Pledge of Allegiance there are many important meanings to it, "I pledge of allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God indivisible with liberty and justice for all." (1882, Rear Admiral George Balch) This line represents what being American means because it means being equal, respectful to one another, and unifying for justice and liberty. The U.S stands for the United States, hint the word united meaning we are supposed to stand together to be better, to unite when we are attacked, and unite to be stronger together no matter what religion you are, no matter what race you are, it just matters that we come together as one when tragic happens.

WE ARE IRISH CATHOLIC AMERICANS

To Be a Hibernian we all must stand together to be true to our Irish ancestry, to love our Catholic faith unconditionally, and fight for our freedom as an American.

Thank you to all the Board Officers and Committee Chairmen.

Vice President – Denny Dennihan

Recognized AOH National Director Sean O'Dowd, AOH Director of Charities and Missions Pat Ryan and Division Presidents Charlie Rault and Ryan Harris.

Denny told story of looking back at first meeting he attended in 2004. That meeting was in a small room with a band of colorful characters exhibiting an extreme lack of decorum but with a passion for their Catholic, Irish heritage that was infectious. To see that evolve from a small band of knuckleheads to fraternity of 150 men and growing is truly rewarding and we're not finished.

We are now targeting Atchison and Wichita. Andy and Denny will be visiting Atchison in mid-September for an intro meeting with a very energized group of men. And in Wichita we have an announcement of an initial meeting in late October or early November in the Diocesan Newspaper and Bulletin announcements in all 23 Wichita metro area Parishes once the date is set.

By end of 24 will have 5 divisions and still targeting Topeka and Lawrence. In closing I want to recognize State President Andy Sprehe for what he's done.

Most of us know Andy as the class clown entertaining the crowds during parades but this brother has tirelessly thrown himself into advancing the AOH Brand in Kansas to become a multi-division state organization and lead the 1st

State Board. We are the AOH. This is our brand. We are Irish Catholic and committed to Unity, Friendship and Christian Charity. I am proud to be in this Brotherhood. I pray that you go back to your divisions with renewed energy and dedication to advance our AOH Brand.

Secretary – Tom Kane

Tom started with introductions so that the brothers who were not able to attend the Thursday Happy Hour or meet everyone before the convention convened. Names of attendees and their roles follow the proceedings.

Report:

The state board has met at least quarterly since it was formed in 2022 and the State Secretary has endeavored to communicate with the divisions and with the national secretary and directors and board so as to facilitate the creation and growth of the 3 Kansas divisions.

There have been challenges in getting started as the State Board is new, the 2 new divisions are inexperienced and the National Secretary was new and then ILL. Through all of this we have worked hard to accomplish what was required to get us this far and set the up Hibernianism in Kansas for continued growth.

As I'm not running for a board position in 2023 I'm looking forward to seeing what the new board does in 2024 and beyond. I plan to fulfill the requirements of Article 8 section 10 of the bylaws by creating and distributing a copy of the convention proceedings within 60 days.

Treasurer – Gerard Walsh

Profit and loss report. See appendix C below.

The state board has done fundraising and without it we'd have a deficit.

501c8 processing is still pending with IRS.

Denny initiatives of State Board - often mentioned that a low percentage of divisions contribute to NATL charities. Took \$500 of PickleBall to donate to 5 AOH national charities in 2023, those were AOH Freedom for All Ireland, AOH Hibernian Hunger Project, AOH Project St Patrick, AOH St Patrick's Ambassador Program and AOH General Charity.

Recommend divisions save out monies to donate to AOH National Charities.

Reports of Committees

Organizer Chairman Larry Shepard

We presently stand with three Divisions in Kansas: Fr. Donnelly in Overland Park with 105 members; Fr O'Shea in Hutchison with 26 members; and Fr. Butler in Leavenworth City with 21 members. State Board officers and the State

Organizer have been looking to start new Divisions in Atchison, Topeka/ Lawrence and Wichita. That is not to say that we would not refocus on other locations should local information indicate that there are better prospects elsewhere. Critical to the formation of new Divisions is the active leadership of one or two local men willing to assemble that 15 applicant critical mass required to start a Division. The State Board can and will provide assistance to these local contacts, but starting a new Division without strong local leadership is incredibly difficult. We are also working in parallel on other independent marketing strategies such as parish bulletin notices and proposing articles in diocese newspapers. Another avenue for recruitment is the national application program. Applicants can be forwarded to nearby Divisions by the State Board for consideration or remain as At Large members until such a time as a Division is formed closer to them. National AOH shares these names with the State Board and State Organizer which then reach out to establish interest and invitation to visit Divisions for monthly meetings when the opportunity presents itself.

I have been serving as the acting State Organizer but will be replaced by a new chair after our elections are complete. I pledge to assist that brother in the execution of these duties and I strongly encourage members of any of the 3 Divisions to volunteer to assist the State Organizer in this very important effort. The establishment of new Divisions is essential to growing Hibernianism in Kansas, but the process can stretch from months to years and everyone must be patient. Andy Sprehe and several others on the Board have provided us with great momentum so let's not sit back on our past achievements but continue to be vigilant for new members both within our own counties and in other counties, too.

Please reach out to our newly appointed State Organizer or to me with any ideas for advancing our organization across Kansas. Thank you for your support.

Andy - have at the tip of your tongue way to invite prospects.

Charities & Missions Chairman Bill Herdegen

Give 100 to each of the 5 AOH national char. \$xx to rose brooks. When O'Shea.

Ryan - spring of 22 had wildfires go thru Hutch. 24 people lost homes 2 lives lost. Community call to action. Generously raised \$1500 to help a local family. Charlie Rault - Donnelly division since 2016 has had core group of charities. SAFE - Surviving Spouses and Family Endowment. \$25k to family of first responders. From IRB. Duschene Clinic, Bishop Sullivan Center project Elder Cool. And sent to AOH National charities this year. Catholic Charities food bank. Food bank collections.

Ryan - in addition to wildfire, local parishioner had twin premature babies, lost one and other to children's mercy. gave \$500. Ulster project in Hutch in July were able to support them. Christmas appeal and Project St Patrick.

Ed Standish - Cinco De Mayo raised \$400. Working with Catholic Charities to hand out turkeys at Christmas or Thanksgiving. Talking about other types of fundraisers and charity events.

Andy - it's not just dollars. It's man hours, that's value that you're passing on to the community. It's also a recruiting tool. Denny amplified that. Promoting the AOH brand by saying how many hours we donate to the community.

Brian - worthy all-ya-all.

Pat Ryan - AOH National Charities and Missions Chair - Ambassador program for young college Hibernians to study in N Ireland in summer.

Irish study abroad program

Charity appeal, annual in the fall. Stickers or magnet. Please consider giving. Goes to support all of these programs. You need to do all your local things. But it enables us to support young Hibernians and other goes to Seminarians. Last year had less than expected support. 7.5% response rate, previously was 10%. Not looking for a big support, but many small gifts. What is the value of a donated hour \$31.80.

Use that as a tool.

Andy - if you go online to aoh.com there is a donate button. With 8 options that Andy mentioned.

FFAI is not a charity, but still an AOH thing.

Catholic Action Chairman Brian O'Laughlin

Continue to go to mass and convention.

Freedom For All Ireland Chairman Sean Reilly

Not present. - will send on to Div presidents what he gets from NATL.

Pro-Life Chairman Art Donnelly

Communicate pro-life info out to divisions and receive info from national.

Slightly out-dated from national. No chair within each KS division. Need a chair in each division. Pleasure serving and still not sure if will accept another term.

Andy mentioned the need for chairmen.

Political Education Chairman Craig Farewell - no report.

Immigration Chairman Jay Hodges - no report.

Veteran Affairs Chairman Joe Leary

According to our records the 3 Kansas Divisions have 21 veterans by latest count. Please update your records. VA - you may be eligible. This will be

means tested if you don't have a disability. May be able to use it for meds or something. The VA hospital was a mess when Joe went years ago. Yesterday went for a cat scan and was in and out in 11 minutes. So they are doing much better. There are locations serving our divisions. Don't neglect opportunities.

Who is the veteran? Did you serve overseas or in a combat zone? Vietnam vets can be recognized by state of KS.

12 veterans present at the convention raised their hands.

If you don't have your veteran pin - Andy has an order in for 12 pins to give to the division presidents to supply them to members as appropriate.

Hunger Project Chairman Gordie Grohmann

Collecting food at parishes after mass and sorting food at CC. Donating to turkey drive for KOC. Quarterly food sorting at CC. Did 800 meals last time they were there. CC food bank relies on AOH. During covid provided a large check to CC.

Andy:

Each division and the state board should have a public relations person designated to keep information such as this to send to Hibernian Digest.

Sean O'Dowd: Hibernian Hunger Project - looking for how many families that were touched. Submit to Bill Sullivan who is AOH National chairman. Can get grant from national. Can contribute to an existing group or start a new one. 500k people served by Hibernians across the country. Only 10% of divisions apply. Just fill out the form. It's the impact to the community that AOH is looking at. Percentage wide. Donnelly has been recipient of that grant at least once. Appreciate that National gives that assistance as well.

Patrick: keep the reporting of the numbers up. National would like us to report events.

Butler: Ed will bring it up at next meeting.

Project St. Patrick Chairman Jeff Deal (Hutchinson)

In early spring I processed the paper work National wanted on all the vocational directors contact information for each diocese in Kansas. Around March, I sent out letters encouraging every AOH division in Kansas to contribute to St. Patrick Project as part of their Easter giving. Shortly after Easter I sent to all the diocesan vocational directors the paper work and direction for making application to the National St. Patrick Project.

By summer I had not heard back from any diocesan, so I attempted to make contact with each director, I spoke to some very lovely secretaries, but had no contact with the directors themselves. Because of this I cannot report that any seminaries have made application to the grant program this year this year. Lesson learned: If I am retained in this position I will next summer try to make personal contact with each vocational director to insure them taking advantage of this program.

It was suggested that Father Riley of the Donnelly Division is Chancellor for Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas and may be a good resource.

Historian and Archive Chairman Sean Kane

Worthy brothers,

It has been my honor to serve the Kansas Hibernians as your state historian during this interim state board. I trust that if you find my services meet your needs that the next state board will ask me to continue in this service as your State Historian and as the web administrator for the State Board.

My goals as State Historian have been to set strong precedents for the collection and perseveration of any records of our proceedings. We are not the first Hibernians in Kansas, and I have strived to preserve our own history in a way which reflects my dismay at the lack of historical records and artifacts which survive from our Hibernian predecessors whose divisions existed in this state a century ago. To that end, and as the webmaster, I have collected rosters from all three current Kansas divisions and have them archived for future use. I have worked with the national historian, Daniel Taylor, to reprint his national History Bulletin on our State Board website each time it is published.

An early goal of mine in this role was to write a history of the Kansas Irish, as such a document to my knowledge did not exist which covered the entire state. The research for this history told me a great deal about the nineteenth-century Irish immigrants who came here to establish "colonies," in Fr. Thomas Butler's words, on the prairies. Our history in Kansas is as tied up with the history of this state's settlement as that of any other community, and the Kansas Irish have made their impact. The first recorded use of the term Jayhawk came from an Irish horse thief named Pat Devlin who worked in Miami County, and Irish soldiers like the Medal of Honor recipient Sergeant James Fegan made names for themselves here in skirmishes with bandits. We have a long history in this state, and I believe we can have a long future as well.

I continue to work towards improving our internet presence among the Kansas divisions, and I am happy and willing to help build the websites for the Butler and O'Shea divisions, if they so choose. I do ask that any new Kansas Hibernian websites follow the style guide which I have created for the State Board website to create a uniform web presence that will be recognizably Hibernian in this state, and Kansan among the national A.O.H. We need to appeal to younger members, and to keep building our ranks among my fellow

millennials if Hibernianism is going to have much of a future here in Kansas. I ask each of you in attendance today to consider how you can accomplish that in your own divisions and communities.

Thank you for your continued service to the Ancient Order of Hibernians here in Kansas, and a special thanks to our national officers who are in attendance today at the first State Convention of the Kansas Ancient Order of Hibernians in the twenty-first century. This is a moment of great historic importance, and I am sorry I could not be with you today.

Andy next time you see Sean give him a pat on the back.

Marketing and Public Relations Pete McCluskey

Pete: clear that can be most effective in facilitating communicating events before and after their occurrence. Internal and external. Marketing ourselves back to national. Exciting that we are gaining steam.

In Ireland on epiphany Sunday they celebrate woman's Christmas (nolig). Come Jan 6th roles are reversed. Rose Brooks Center is a women's shelter that helps families including the pets. Collect need items as well as having a silent auction. Raised \$5200 and collected a ton of need items. Annual event. Donnelly provided man hours and kilt crew for eye candy.

Friendship unity and Christian charity is the pitch.

Nomination of Officers

The proposed slate of officers was read:

President - Andy Sprehe

Vice President - Denny Dennihan

Secretary - Charlie Lamont

Treasurer - Gerard Walsh

A call was made for nominations from the floor for each elected state board position. It was repeated 3 times each and no names were proposed.

AOH National Director Sean O'Dowd directed the State Secretary to cast 1 ballot for each nominee for each post. This was done and the new board is now elected.

Nomination of host site for the 2025 Kansas State Convention

Andy read document about requirements.

Ryan Harris would like to nominate Hutchinson - 166% since this time last year.
Raised and dispersed close to 30k this year.
First Friday following Labor Day so can attend Kansas state fair.

Brian O'Laughlin - chose within 6 months?

Andy Sprehe - vote on it today.

Brian - nominate as second option OP KS.

Question: when does the convention need to occur?

Answer: between May 1st to oct 31st. but the AOH National president has testimonial dinner mid October. State Presidents go to this dinner. So it really needs to occur before the first week in October.

Charlie Roults - would like to nominate Topeka. As it is an easy drive for all.

Andy - keep in mind when we vote about the logistics of membership.

Emphasis of division in that area that will assist state board in recruiting in that location. Also economics of the it.

Motion on floor to postpone to after break/lunch.

Jeff Reilly - Emporia makes sense logistically and any other site may be a stretch for brothers in LV. They have plenty of hotels and motels and bars.

Paul - not sure how to propose this but instead of voting on a location for 2025 but vote on a structure similar to Johnson County this year and Reno next time then Leavenworth. This makes it easier to plan for and everyone knows. If there's another division(s) added then they are added. They would not need to have it in their local but they would be the supporting/hosting division in putting on the convention. They have autonomy to put on the event. Don't want it to be "where does the Donnelly Division want to go". They have the largest division so the most votes. We want it to be inclusive.

Andy: can you make a motion?

We have a motion on the floor. Motion was never re-opened for Emporia.

Need to withdraw other motions.

Ryan willing to amend? Yes

Brian willing to amend? Yes

Charlie willing to amend? Yes

Jeff will Withdraw Emporia.

Paul explained a motion:

In terms of state conventions we follow an order of founding in support for implementation/hosting of state convention counting this as year one. Reno

County in 2025 and Leavenworth in 2027 and then any subsequent new divisions come in after. No vote in 2025 as to where to hold 2027 convention.

Questions:

Charlie Rault: at what point might we re consider? Every convention.

Charlie Lamont: don't see the need to do this now.

Joe: can we make it subject to the approval at the convention what's happening in 2 years. Be re-approved.

Zach: this is the rotation that we ought to take. But should we just vote on a location.

Joe: This proposal sets a framework.

Close discussion

MOTION:

Set a structure of division rotation for host of state convention based on inception date to create the structure following guidelines that Andy read. It will be on the ballot every year for consent vote.

23 votes for the motion.

4 opposed, the aye's have it

Motion passes.

Sean O'Dowd

Look at it as a gentleman's agreement.

Formally the division will have to come in and say it.

If they don't think they have the manpower they can say so and it will be cared for.

It's a good thing to have it locally because you have the support.

2025 defaults to Hutchinson.

Congratulations Hutch.

National Director comments:

Thank you worthy president.

Gentlemen

Understand that when a meeting is running there is a certain decorum. Respect for one another.

On behalf of Danny O'Connell and rest of board:

Wish you a great convention.

NJ to Ed to

4 pillars

Membership

New membership and retention

Don't let them hear from you only when you need help or dues.

Magnet/decal - charities

Simplest way for you the member to contribute to AOH.

FFAI - contribute to groups in US and IRL.

Preamble 3 - points to FFAI.

Project St Patrick

O'Shea first contribution was 1200 to project st Patrick.

As of 2023 we had 67 grants for \$500. And sent 23 seminarians from IRL to Rome. \$90k.

state/county/division rosters. That we have your email address. The days of getting letter in the mail are over.

There's a litany of information that AOH sends out. If they don't have your email you won't get it.

Board positions, fill them out on form 9. People are already doing it. Give them the positions.

National knows what we are doing. 152 members, Wichita and Atchison are where we are looking.

One Kansan donated \$19.16. which shows that they are thinking about the Easter Rising.

If you're only seeing it when we are asking for money they you aren't listening. Danny O just sent something.

It's really hard for one guy to deliver all this information in a meeting. When you can bring in other members it lightens the load on the president.

You have people maybe drover 30 or more minutes give them something to come for and come back to and take away.

Pick up the digest. There's something there to share. The message is there to stay on point.

Per-capita - before feb 15 there is a \$4 discount.

National convention - aug 9-12 2024 in Orlando. We encourage members to attend. 6 members under 30 who are Hibernians will pay for registration and all 3 meals.

Will vote on 2 conventions coming up. Nebraska and KS/MO are going for future conventions. Still some work to be done. Important to get as many brothers there from the "west".

4 officers from west of the Mississippi. You can get on a national committee. Encourage everyone to step up and have a voice.

Questions?

National recognizes and loves all the work that you are doing.

Andy: it really really helps to have a Director like Sean O'Dowd.

Installation of officers

Sean O'Dowd and Patrick Ryan installed the new division board with Larry Shepard standing in for Denny Dennihan who had to leave before this could be completed.

Division President's report:

Fr. Donnelly Division #1, Johnson County – Charlie Roul, President: most has already been said. 105 members 20 year old division at over 100 for several years. Fundraising, IRB is our big money maker goes to SAFE and Duschene, scholarship committee. 6 1000 scholarships going to a catholic high school. 6th was named after Dr Liam Riggs in memorial. Ward HS scholar was a recipient. Hibernian Cup with \$1000 to each of 2 schools. Harp Guild extra dues to scholarships.

Catholic Charities. Working to increase recruiting. Andy's guide will be a good assist. Expectations: that in the next couple of elections there will be a mix of other divisions on the state board as they are eligible with 2 years of time as a brother. Looking to Andy to be a conduit from national. Look forward to working with new state board.

Fr. Sean O'Shea Division #1 Reno County — Ryan Harris, President: sincere thank you to Andy and the Father Donnelly Division for getting our division off the ground and installing our officers. Impressed by the true brotherhood that the

AOH provides. Thank you to Reno County board who supports him. Thank you to the 5 clergy in our division. Priests face a tough world good to have them as our brothers. Successful fundraising in 2023 raised \$4000. In August AOH sponsored golf tournament for deceased friend who was doing genealogy to become a member. Anticipate that to become annual.

Putt putt scramble with green jacket as a prize.

Retention, small enough and focused on growth.

Second initiation for new members on Sun Oct 29th for any brother who would like to attend.

We are 25 members strong as of today with members in Hutchinson, Wichita and Garden City

Have grown by 10 members since our installation last July.

We have been very successful in our fundraising- we have hosted 2 separate dinners as well as benefit golf tournament. St. Patrick's dinner in March raised 4k for our division; Benefit golf tournament netted 17k for our beneficiary.

Upcoming Fundraisers: March 16th St. Patrick's Celebration and April 13th- Hutch Putt Master's Scramble (Putt Putt Scramble with Tailgate)

No issues currently with retention- as always we must continue to grow- I challenged my group to grow by at least 5 more members before 25 Summer Convention. Holding our 2nd initiation Sunday Oct. 29th for any who would like to attend

Need the boards to continue to be our liaison to other divisions and to be our champion to national

Fr. Thomas Butler Division #1 Leavenworth County Report Ed Standish:

We are looking for a permanent site as we were booted out of their site. Back to the shanty. Fundraising: casino night and mouse races. Charity: turkey giveaway working with CC.

recruiting: discussing putting in church bulletins and ad.

Dave working on web and facebook page. Participating in LV St Pat's day parade. Working fast, but need to work faster.

Pat Ryan - National Charities: Sean O'Dowd is going to time out as national director. Pat is putting his hat in the ring to run as national director at large and would ask for our support.

Andy spoke of the reference material he provided for recruiting and fund raising.

IRB was pioneered in KC by Larry and it's been a godsend. Look for a niche or unique thing that will be a fundraising star to keep you going along. Will be working on more marketing and public relations.

Charlie thank previous board for putting on convention and wish luck to the new state board.

Andy, know with support of the guys here and divisions we'll be successful. Not here to compete but to be here to support the divisions. Open to all the divisions and helping them.

RS: Pray for Jerry Lonergan's wife who has cancer.

Break – 10:30 am

Adjournment – 2023 Kansas State Convention ends.

Appendix A

2023 Kansas AOH State Convention delegates and attendees

First	Last	Email	Division	Title
Dan	Barry	146s@sbcglobal.net	Fr. Donnelly Div.	Delegate
Matt	Bauer	mattcb66@yahoo.com	Fr. Donnelly Div.	
David	Blakeman	dblake-4@yahoo.com	Fr. Butler Div.	Delegate
Dan	Clancy	skiclancy@aol.com	Fr. Donnelly Div.	Delegate
Shaun	Cronin	pscronin@hotmail.com	Fr. Donnelly Div.	Delegate
Jeff	Deal	jeffdeal87@gmail.com	Fr. O'Shea Div.	Delegate
Denny	Dennihan	djdennihan@gmail.com	Fr. Donnelly Div.	Delegate
Kevin	Donnelly	kpdonnelly72@yahoo.com	Fr. Donnelly Div.	Delegate
Art	Donnelly	adgolfer70@msn.com	Fr. Donnelly Div.	
Pat	Doran	pdoran@everestkc.net	Fr. Donnelly Div.	Delegate
Kevin	Gantt	ganttk@outlook.com	Fr. Butler Div.	Delegate
Ryan	Harris	harris.ryan.rh@gmail.com	Fr. O'Shea Div.	Delegate
Tom	Kane	kanetomkane@gmail.com	Fr. Donnelly Div.	Delegate
Zach	Kittle	zachary.kittle@gmail.com	Fr. Donnelly Div.	Delegate
Charlie	Lamont	chas0717@aol.com	Fr. Donnelly Div.	Delegate
Joe	Leary	jpleary55@gmail.com	Fr. Donnelly Div.	Delegate
Gary	Long	garylongii@yahoo.com	Fr. Donnelly Div.	Delegate
Shad	Mallady	shadly@hotmail.com	Fr. O'Shea Div.	Delegate
Pat	Martin	pat@migagents.com	Fr. Donnelly Div.	Delegate
Pete	McCluskey	pete.mccluskey@att.net	Fr. Donnelly Div.	
Paul	McCorkle	rpaulmc@gmail.com	Fr. Donnelly Div.	Delegate
Kevin	Mooney	moonster133@gmail.com	Fr. O'Shea Div.	Delegate
Mike	O'Connor	irishmike4@yahoo.com	Fr. Donnelly Div.	Marshall
Sean	O'Dowd	seanodowd@aoh.org	AOH National Director	
Brian	O'Laughlin	olaughlinb@gmail.com	Fr. Donnelly Div.	Delegate
Jeff	Reilley	jmreilley@gmail.com	Fr. Donnelly Div.	Delegate
Charlie	Roult	routtc66@gmail.com	Fr. Donnelly Div.	Delegate
Pat	Ryan	patryan2@gmail.com	Fr. Donnelly Div.	Delegate

Patrick	Ryan	patrick@rivierstad.com	AOH Charities & Missions	
John	Schatzel	jschatz82@aol.com	Fr. Donnelly Div.	
Larry	Shepard	ljshepard@gmail.com	Fr. Donnelly Div.	Delegate
Andy	Sprehe	andysprehe@gmail.com	Fr. Donnelly Div.	Delegate
Ed	Standish	e.standish@yahoo.com	Fr. Butler Div.	Delegate
Gerard	Walsh	gjwalsh85@gmail.com	Fr. Donnelly Div.	Delegate
David	West	grandpadave454@gmail.com	Fr. Donnelly Div.	

Appendix B

This document was provided by Andy Sprehe to all Division Presidents before the 2023 convention.

2025 - AOH Kansas State Convention

Site Selection Criteria

Submission for site consideration must be delivered to the Kansas State Board President, 5 days prior to Convention. Representative of the host Division will need to deliver a 5 minute presentation at the Convention for a vote.

- Site location must be accessible to all Divisions and no more than 3.5-hour drive. Convention does not need to be in a Division city.
- Venue must have the following requirements:
 - Capacity up to 100 participants
 - Tables and chairs setup in a classroom configuration
 - Audio/Visual equipment must be provided.
 - Restrooms must be accessible from the meeting area.
 - The head table must be facing out to participants.
 - A sound system with speaker and microphone may be required.
- Beverages and snacks must be provided on the day of the Convention at the start of registration and the mid-morning break.
- Lunch will need to be served either on location or within 10 minutes of the Convention site.
- Hotel accommodation needs to be within 30 minutes of the meeting site unless a meeting is held within a hotel.
- Social hour venue will need to be selected and accessible within 30 minutes from the meeting site. Social hour will be held the day before the convention opening.
- The cost for the participants not to exceed \$50.
- State other activities, tourist attractions, sporting events, etc.
- If site selection cannot be determined on the day of Convention a committee will be formed and selection will be sent to Division's to vote based on their previous delegate eligibility. This selection will be made no later than 6 months after the conclusion of the 2023 State Convention.

Appendix C

Treasure's Report provided by Gerard Walsh

Ancient Order of Hibernians in America
Kansas State Board
Treasurer's Report

Profit since inception of the State Board (July 2022) is \$4,000
\$10,000 in receipts
\$6,000 in disbursements, which includes \$700 to AOH National Charities. \$200 in 2022 and \$500 in 2023, listed below:

Year Charity	Amount
2022 AOH Freedom for All Ireland	\$ 200
2023 AOH Hibernian Project	\$ 100
2023 AOH St Patrick's Project	\$ 100
2023 AOH General Charity	\$ 100
2023 AOH Freedom for All Ireland	\$ 100
2023 AOH St Patrick's Ambassador Program	\$ 100
	<u>\$ 700</u>

Bank balance as of 8/31/2023 is ~\$4,000

Outstanding invoices received and not paid yet total \$900

Invoices for remaining convention expenses have not been received yet

Net fundraising activities generated \$3,000 for the State Board

Excluding fundraising and contributions, we would be operating at a loss, so the fundraising was critical for us.

501c(8) status is still pending with the IRS

Filed in December last year, could take up to a year for final approval

Appendix D

Why choose Hutchinson

- Hutchinson is home to the fastest growing Division in the state. We have gained 10 members in the last year- growing from 15 to 25 or 166% year over year. We are still growing with no plans to stop. We have raised and dispersed close to \$30k already in 2023 and it is only August. The honor to host the convention would be recognition of all our efforts.
- I would like to propose a special and one of a kind opportunity for the 2025 Kansas State Convention
- Home of the Ulster Project of Greater Portadown/ Hutchinson- we are working toward a United Ireland

Strataca

- Imagine a 90 second elevator ride, down 650 feet underground, into an active salt mine. The mine is a constant, comfortable 68 degrees
- The private convention space accommodates up to 250 people, including tables, chairs, lighting, Wifi, and AV equip and catering options available
- A new Hilton Garden Inn is in the process of being constructed in Hutchinson, and will be operational in early 2025. A block of rooms can be secured for any travelling in.
- Prior to or immediately following our Convention we can set up tours for all members and guests to explore the mine
- Cost for the event space is currently \$21.50 per person- I am working to lock that cost in for '25- with a catered lunch we should be well below the \$50 cap



- I propose to host the convention on the 1st Friday following Labor day, all members and guests can attend the Kansas State Fair during the opening weekend-advance tickets can be secured for those wanting to attend

