



April 2017 Club Newsletter

Happy Spring SOECC Members

First and foremost, the SOE Board of Directors (BOD) would like to thank Dianne Duffy and Helen Niedermeier for volunteering their time to return our SOECC Newsletter publication. I'm sure we can all appreciate the time and effort it takes to gather all this information and compile it into a beautiful newsletter each month. Thank you from all of us!



More photos from the parade starting on page 6

Secondly, we'd like to say THANK YOU, THANK YOU to all volunteers who helped with the Annual Cape Cod St. Patrick's Parade on Saturday, March 3rd and our St. Patrick's Day Celebration on Friday, March 17th at the Club. Due to our volunteer marchers, decorators, musicians, door monitors, kitchen/bar staff, servers, we had another successful year of celebrations. In addition, we'd like to thank and congratulate our "Oscar Wilde" prize winners who volunteered their time to create a spectacular SOECC Parade Float especially Marty and Barbara Cushing, Carol Mills, Gus Healy and our SOECC Leprechaun Dee Petit.

Lastly, I would like to update you on some improvement initiatives the BOD have been working on this Winter. The Board approved a new card access system from Associated Alarms which is being installed as we speak. The new system is an internet based security monitoring system which will streamline the cumbersome process of adding and/or renewing membership access and security monitoring. Susan Christiansen can provide more details but it will be a huge improvement for the Club going forward.

We are also looking at a "Point of Sale (POS) software system" for our registers in the bar/food service areas to assist with streamlining cash reconciliation, provide up-to-date inventory tracking and point-of-sale control reporting. Utilizing the latest technology with these two initiatives will help decrease the ongoing day-to-day challenges our BOD and Bar/Kitchen Managers face in order to run our club efficiently and provide much improved inventory control management for the Club.

I'd also like to share some thoughts as we look forward to SPRING and rejuvenation at the Club. The BOD have met frequently the last couple of months to discuss opportunities to improve membership satisfaction. I'd like to invite **all** of our members into this discussion. We often times assume what members would like or provide anecdotal suggestions with little or no feedback from our most important participants – OUR MEMBERS. We would like to encourage more attendance at our monthly membership meeting so we can begin to have an open dialogue as to how we can work together to improve membership communication in a more **positive** way. I'd like you to consider (ponder) three questions which I will be posting at the Club for anyone who would like to respond.

1. What do you like best about being a member?
2. What would you improve or add to enhance your membership experience?
3. What can we do better to support our Club's mission?

We look forward to seeing everyone at our next Monthly Membership Meeting on Sunday, April 9th at 10:30 am so we can effectively work together to improve membership satisfaction.

Happy Spring and see you at the Club!

Elizabeth Lynch, Vice-President, SOECC

Volunteers Needed... that DOES mean you!

Our Club hosts several special events each year. While each event is unique and requires different types of volunteer activity and support, all of our events have one goal, and that is to benefit our Club. *Volunteers* are the backbone of events; large and small! Most volunteer opportunities require only an hour or two of your time. The following are some special committees that need a helping hand... or two!



Annual Road Race

Organizers are **needed** to plan this annual event. Pat Forrest has spent years organizing and running (yes he is an avid runner too!) this road race, but he cannot do it alone! He needs your help. The thousands of dollars the race has raised over the years has supported the charitable endeavors of the Club. Please contact Pat Forrest (paddy28@comcast.net) to help make the race a big success!



Events Committee

Are you great at working with and motivating people, solving problems, and generally helping people feel they are part of the team? The Events Committee is looking for Club members to volunteer to help plan, assist, and clean up events. The Committee meets every second Tuesday of the month at 6 pm at the Club. Need more information? Send an email to Kathy Hegarty at akoncc@yahoo.com.

Upcoming events

Watch the [website](#) calendar and upcoming newsletters for more information on these events.

April

- The Paddy Murphy Quartet will be performing on April 2nd from 4 pm to 7 pm. Pizza will be available for purchase!
- Easter buffet on April 16th from 1 pm to 3 pm. The buffet will be ham, lamb, or turkey for \$25 for adults and \$10 for children aged 12 and under. Advance sign up and payment is required by April 9th; pay at the bar. This buffet is limited to 120 people.
- Spring Golf Tournament is scheduled for Sunday, May 7th at Bayberry Hills Golf Course in West Yarmouth. Tee off is at 8 am. Cost is \$125 per person and is limited to the first 120 **paid** golfers. Sign up forms are available at the Club and checks can be made out to **SOE Golf** and mailed to the Club at P.O. Box 403, South Yarmouth MA 02664. Please include the names of your foursome and your email address for future contact purposes. You can sponsor this event. Sponsorship opportunities are \$100 a hole. Do you have something to **donate** for our prize raffle? Contact Ed Tierney at the Club.

May

- The Plywood Ponies are back! Join us on Sunday, May 21st, for a fun evening of horseracing. The plywood ponies races start at 2 pm and end by 5 pm.
- The Healy Brothers Invitational takes place on Sunday May 28th. Registration ends at 8:30 pm at the Sons of Erin on Friday the 27th. Weigh in is between 2 pm and 4 pm in the Sons of Erin parking lot on Sunday. Awards and food starts at 5 pm. Entry fee is \$20. No fishing experience is required. Every fee paid automatically assigns each entry for a possible prize. Contact Peter O'Sullivan or Gus Healy at the Sons of Erin Club for more information. This year's donation will go to the Michael Quinn rehabilitation fund.

Club Member Spotlight

Each month we spotlight a Club member. This month, we introduce you to The Irish Woman and Man of the Year: Sue Loughlin and John Flaherty:



Sue Loughlin became involved in the SOECC right at the beginning. It was geographically easy for her to get involved: the old Club building was right in her back yard. She is a frequent customer of SOECC, as that is the best way to get to know members of the community. An important part of her involvement has been volunteering to help with Club events. She has led the decorating efforts at each holiday, and has also been a member of the Events Committee.

Sue's decorating expertise comes from her long business experience in her family's florist shop in Newton. With her mother and sisters, Sue ran the shop for 25 years, until it was sold. Her two sons still live in Newton. While Sue bought her house on the Cape in 1999, she became a permanent resident six years ago. Since that time, she has increased her involvement with the Club and with the Irish Village.

Sue very much appreciated the honor of being selected as Irish Woman of the Year. While she felt that she did not need the title, she thinks that the honor is important for the community. She found her participation in the parade to be cold, but fun. Typically, she has marched in the parade; this year, she enjoyed riding in a car and waving at the spectators. Sue's Irish heritage is through her McCarron grandparents, while her father was of Scottish ancestry.



One of the things that Sue appreciates most about the SOECCC is the equality of membership for men and woman. It's important to her that the Club is not a men's Club with women as auxiliary members, as so often happens in other organizations. She encourages members to get involved by finding the volunteer tasks which match their interests.

Her buddy, who joined us at the end of the interview, described Sue as a "good friend, who would do anything for you." That aptly summarizes her involvement in the Club. What better description can there be for someone so deserving of the honor, Irish Woman of the Year?"



John Flaherty considers it a great honor to be associated with past winners of the Irish Man of the Year award, the men who founded the SOECC and who have worked so hard to make it the best Club on Cape Cod. These are the men who deserve all the credit for making the Club what it is today: Mike Shea, Big Mike Nicklaw, Gus Healy, Bob Bagge, Paul Bridgeo, Mike Regan, Ed Tierney, Papa Jim Washburn, Dennis Leary, and Ollie Kelley and now, he can humbly add his name.

In the six years as Membership Secretary, he created a system for cataloguing Club member information and managed the key card and chip systems. He interviewed hundreds of people who applied to be members and then saw them enjoy the many benefits of being a member. He served two years on the Board of Directors and filled in as the de facto Sergeant of Arms when the position was vacated. He has monitored the doors on St Patrick Parade Day, sold 50/50 tickets, and attended many of the social functions.



He proudly watched his family and friends cheer for him as he rode in Faith Hickey's Mercedes convertible down Route 28. It was the recognition for all the hard work that was put into the Membership position.

He is very proud of his Irish heritage. He has received his Irish citizenship. His family is everything to him; growing up in South Boston with his grandparents. On St. Patrick's Parade Day, all family members, no matter how distant, were welcomed by his grandparents into their home and served a corn beef sandwich or Shepherd's pie. The Irish culture and the values that are instilled in all Irishmen is what makes being Irish special.



He reminds us that the SOECC is our Club. It is not his Club, it is not the Founders Club, it is not the Board of Directors Club but it is the Club of every member of the Sons of Erin CC. He knows we are all busy, but to volunteer a couple of hours per year to the Club for things such Spring and Fall cleanups, decorating the Club for special events, covering the door on special days, helping Katie in the kitchen prepare meals, would be so beneficial and helpful. To members aged 50 and under, he has a special appeal: five to 10 years from now, most of the Board Members and the small group of volunteers who keep the Club going may not be able to physically do what they do today. It is up to you to step up and keep the Club going and to make the Sons of Erin CC even better than it is today.

SOECC Scholarships

Eligibility: All applicants must be the child, step-child, grandchild or step-grandchild of an active member of the SOECC. Applicants must be attending or be going to attend a 2 or 4 year college or 4 year university or some secondary work/study program that is comparable. Applications are available on the website and at the Club.

The full application is due by May 15th, 2017. Any applications received after May 15th, 2017 will not be reviewed. Scholarship recipients will be notified by the Scholarship Chair in June 2017 and announced in the newsletter. Awards shall take place at our June or July membership meeting.

Medal Donation



Pat Forrest was given two medals from Dick Hoyt who graciously donated his medals to the Club. Dick and his son Rick have competed together in various athletic endeavors and recently they participated in the Clonakilty Waterfront Marathon in Ireland.

One medal features John F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King, Jr. The other medal states "Together we are one. Be inspired".

We hope to have them properly displayed at the Club sometime soon!

Culture Corner

Tracing Your Irish Roots

There are 35 million people in the United States who embrace Irish ancestry. New services like [23andMe](#) and [Ancestry.com](#) have made finding out about your genetic heritage quite popular. You don't need to use one of these expensive businesses to research your Irish heritage. According to the website, [Ireland.com](#), there are increasing numbers of resources available, both online and from official organizations, to assist you in finding out about your Irish ancestry. These include:

1. The National Archives, which offers a free, short, personal consultation with professional genealogists.
2. The General Register Office registers all civil birth, adoption, death, marriage and civil partnerships in the Republic of Ireland. You can get copies of records at its Dublin office or online.
3. The National Library has a free walk-in advisory service, varied workshops and talks. It also has microfilm copies of most surviving Roman Catholic parish registers.
4. The Ireland Family History on Facebook page has regular Q & A sessions with genealogy experts.
5. County Genealogy Centers in many of Ireland's counties work with volunteers, local historical societies, local clergy and authorities, government agencies and libraries to build a database of genealogical records.
6. IrishGenealogy.ie is run by the Irish government and brings together church and civil records in one online, searchable and free archive.

Other sources are the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland, the Ulster Historical Foundation, the Glasnevin Cemetery Museum, and Military Archives. The Yarmouth Town Library has a Genealogy Club, which meets on the second Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm at the South Yarmouth Library. Some meetings feature guest speakers, and others are hands-on work sessions. For more information, contact Jane Cain, Library Director. For additional local resources, you can contact the Cape Cod Genealogy Club at <http://www.capecodgenealogy.org/> or at their office at the Dennis Public Library.

Keeping up with Club events

We recommend that you keep up-to-date with Club events by reading this newsletter but you can also visit our website (<http://sonsoferincc.org/>) or like our Facebook page (Sons-of Erin Cape-Cod).

Not receiving emails from us?

Email newsletters can be blocked or filtered to a spam folder. You may be unable to read certain email communications even if you have subscribed to receive them.

To avoid these situations, add our email address (Info@sonsoferincc.com) to your contact's list or safe senders list.

Club Merchandise

Club Gear is in the case by the front door. If we don't have your size, color or clothing you're looking for orders can also be placed with Katie Fitzsimmons by leaving a note at the Club or contact Info@SonsofErincc.com.

Dining Room News

Current hours are 5:30 pm to 8 pm, Friday and Saturday. Menu changes week to week.

A reminder that tables are to be cleared by Club members!

- Friday Night Fish Fry: Yummy fish and chips and something for the non-fish lovers too!
- Saturday Night: A great night to bring a guest or have a special dinner out with your special someone.

In April, we will start dinners on Thursday evenings, starting on Birthday Night April 27th!

Function Hall Rentals

To reserve the Function Room, you must sign a rental agreement, and a fee of \$100 and a \$50 security deposit are required for all rentals. If you need to use the kitchen to cook or heat food, you will be charged a \$50 non-refundable fee. The security deposit will be returned if the room is left in the same condition as it was found. The Function Room is limited to 35 guests. Contact Katie Fitzsimmons at the Club to book the room.

Ongoing Events

Be sure to check our Calendar of Events page on the website as well as the bulletin boards at the Club updated information on scheduled entertainment.

Irish Language classes

The Irish language class is from 2 pm to 3 pm every Thursday at the Club. It is informal, led by ourselves, where we listen to language tapes, study Irish language books, and practice conversing in Irish.

Cribbage League

Come every Thursday from 6 to 9 pm to play cribbage. This is a social league and if you haven't played in a long time, we'll get you back up to speed in no time. Don't forget to bring a \$1 for the skunk jar! For more information, contact Dianne Duffy at soe_733@comcast.net.

Irish Ceili and Set Dance Classes

No dancing experience necessary!! Classes are held every Tuesday from 6 to 7 pm; cost is \$8 a week. Dancers should wear comfortable clothes and footwear. Singles and couples are welcome.

You need not be a member of the SOE to join the dancing class.

Traditional Irish Music Classes

Tin Whistle classes for beginners are held every Tuesday from 5 to 6 pm. The whistle for the class is a "D" whistle, which is available at a number of locations on the Cape, as well as from the instructor.

The multi-instrument class for intermediate or experienced players is also held every Tuesday from 7 to 8 pm. This class is suitable for anyone who can play an instrument and wish to learn how to play traditional Irish tunes. Class members have the opportunity to play in a monthly session at the Club.

Classes are \$10 a week and you need not be a member of the SOE to join the music classes. For more information on the music and dance classes, please contact Sean Murphy at 1-508-790-0438.

Chair Plaques

We would like to remind Members that they can purchase memorial dedication plaques to be put on the back of a chair in the dining room, library or function room for \$100.

The spirit of the St Patrick's Day Parade

Courtesy of Bob Clare







Closing note

May the hinges of our friendship never grow rusty.