



## September 2017 Club Newsletter

### President's Welcome

As the summer comes to an end, I would like to thank the Entertainment Committee, led by Kathy Hegarty, who worked diligently planning, organizing, and running numerous activities. We started the Spring/Summer season with a bang in May:

- Spring Golf Tournament that was held at Bayberry Hills Golf Course with 120 participants.
- Plywood Pony event, our equivalent to the Kentucky Derby, and the women get all dolled up in their Derby Bonnets.
- Healy Brothers Invitational Fishing Tournament. For the 21<sup>st</sup> year, this tournament was sponsored by long time Board member Gus Healy and his brothers in memory of their Dad, Paddy Healy. The Paddy Healy Memorial Cup was presented to this year's winner, Terry McCormack. The proceeds from this event each year are donated to a charitable cause. This year the proceeds went to Mike Quinn, a former Club member, who is paralyzed from the neck down, to aid in his rehabilitation expenses.
- This Summer, the Wednesday night golf league was in full force at the Bass River Golf Club. After golf, everyone gathered back at the Sons for pizza and a cold one.
- In August, the Club held a Comedy Night. This was a huge success and everyone was well entertained.

And amidst all these special events, our ongoing Irish Cultural Events continued. These included:

- Monday evenings: Children's Irish step dancing lessons
- Tuesday evenings: Traditional Irish Music classes and the Irish Ceili and Set Dance lessons.
- Thursday afternoons: Irish language classes. In the evening: the Cribbage League.

Now you may think that with summer coming to an end and businesses starting to prepare to close for the season, that the Sons would also be going into hibernation. **Wrong!** We have numerous events planned for the Fall and Winter. Friday and Saturday nights there will be food and entertainment. Every Patriots game will be shown on our TVs. The season opener will be Thursday September 7<sup>th</sup> in which our 5<sup>th</sup> Super Bowl Championship banner will be raised. Dinner will be served that night so come on down and cheer on the Patriots. On Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, the Patriots are on at 1. After the game, the Paddy Murphy Quartet will kick off our Half-Way to St Patrick's Day celebration. The kitchen will be cooking up pub food for this occasion.

There is no organized Golf League in the Fall, but members should feel free to form their own foursomes, play and afterwards, come back to the Club for a pint. The Cribbage League starts up again on Thursday evenings and welcomes new members.

On Wednesday, Oct 4 from 6 - 7 pm. Everett Johnson from the Cape Cod Genealogy Society will speak about "DNA testing and how to assist you in your genealogy research." This will be an interesting evening as we learn how to trace back our Irish heritagae. On October 28<sup>th</sup>, we will be having our Halloween Party. In November, we will discuss "Wills and Trusts." Both of these events are informational only, not sales pitches. Later in the Fall/ Winter seasons, we will be serving Thanksgiving Eve Dinner and entertainment. In December, Christmas parties for both kids and grown-ups will be held, and a New Year's Party featuring the Dublin Ball drop (7:00 pm, EST for us old folks who like to go bed early!) will be held.

To keep track of all of our many activities, please visit the SOECC website and check out its calendar of events ([sonsoferincc.org](http://sonsoferincc.org)). To add the Google calendar to your own personal calendar, all you have to do is click

on the Google Calendar Icon at the bottom of the calendar and accept to add it to the list of calendars that you can view (right along the Patriots and Red Sox season calendars!)

In all my years being a Club member and attending a large number of events, there has never been one event that was not a great time. So, get ready to come and have good times (**Craic Mhaith**) with good friends (**Cairde Maithe**). Keep an eye out for more details on all of these fantastic functions

### Committees

Since becoming President, I have mentioned on several occasions that we are a club comprised of members who volunteer their time to make the Sons of Erin CC a fun place to go and have a good time (**Craic Mhaith**) with good friends (**Cairde Maithe**). We need more members to step up and take ownership in the club by volunteering. I am not talking a lot of time but a couple of hours every month or two.

All of these committees need volunteers. The Greeting Committee, in particular, really needs volunteers to greet members at the door Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights. This would be one night every two or three months for three hours and is a great way to meet other members. I know some of you are saying I can't do that. Trust me you can and we will show you how simple it is. I also promise that you will have a fun time doing this.

If you are interested in any of the committee's listed below please send an email to [info@sonsoferincc.com](mailto:info@sonsoferincc.com) stating for what committee you would be interested in volunteering. I want to thank you in advance for helping out.

John

| Committee                         | Description                                                                                          | Committee Chairs  |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Greeting Committee                | Greet members entering the club                                                                      | Buzzy Barry       |
| Membership                        | Interview perspective members into club; organize the famous 'chip drum'                             | Sue Christiansen  |
| Entertainment /Events             | Plan, organize and implement SOECC club events                                                       | Kathy Hegarty     |
| Building                          | Spring/Fall Cleanups; annual cleaning of kitchen; painting when required                             | Ed Tierney        |
| Newsletter                        | Write articles, interview club members                                                               | Dianne Duffy      |
| Internet                          | Manage club web site                                                                                 | John Flaherty     |
| Kitchen Committee                 | Assist in preparing foods for special events i.e St Patrick's Day; manning buffet tables as needed   | Katie Fitzsimmons |
| Community Affairs                 | Assist at Community events such as the Seaside Festival; the Irish Cultural Center                   | Mike Regan        |
| St Patrick's Day Parade Committee | Work on the Club's float; march in the St Patrick's parade                                           | Ed Tierney        |
| Sunshine Committee                | Send get well or sympathy cards to members                                                           | Candice Flaherty  |
| Decorations Committee             | Decorate the club for holiday events: St Patrick's Day, Easter, Christmas                            | Sue Loughlin      |
| SOECC Scholarship Committee       | Read and judge essays by children and grandchildren of members applying for a scholarship from SOECC | Carmel Coughlin   |

| Committee           | Description                                                                      | Committee Chairs  |
|---------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Volunteer Committee | Volunteers for SOECC functions and community outreach events. All skills needed. | Katie Fitzsimmons |

## Guest Policy changes

Guest Policy changes Many members have expressed concern over the number of guests entering the Club and enjoying the benefits of membership while impacting the members' ability to get a table and to have their food served in a timely manner. Well, the Board has heard the members and has acted by approving the following:

- Effective **Thursday August 17th**, and on every night, year-round, in which food is being served, members will be permitted to bring **only 2 guests** into the Club (a spouse who is not a member, is considered a guest and will be counted as one of the two allowed guests; Children under the age of 21 do not count.)
- Upon entering the club, the member **must show** his/her key card and **sign in the guest**. Everyone has been issued new key cards so make sure you carry them. For members who have not yet picked up their key card, do so ASAP or send in a self-addressed stamped envelope and we will mail your card to you.
- The member must accompany the guest in the Club at all times.
- To get the food discount, members are required to show their membership card to the waitress. No exceptions!

A couple of reminders:

- Smoking is allowed only outside the back door; no alcohol is to be taken outside including the smoking area.
- We need volunteers at both doors on these nights to remind members to show their key cards and to sign in their guests. Buzzy Barry is responsible for arranging the coverage so please sign up and help

The Board also **voted to waive the \$75 initiation fee for spouses of existing members** to join the Club. This offer will expire on September 30th.

## Culture Corner: Focus Ireland



Due to their personal and professional experiences, Club members Jack and Paula O'Neil are very interested in making a connection between SOECC and Focus Ireland, an organization which works on the issue of homelessness in Ireland. A couple of years ago, Jack presented an idea for this connection to the Club's Board of Directors. He proposed helping a homeless organization in Dublin by donating to its cause. The Board was supportive of the idea, but suggested searching for a group which helps individuals throughout the country. Aided by the Lord Mayor of Dublin, Jack did his research and found a very worthy recipient: Focus Ireland.

Focus Ireland provides 70 services across Ireland and is seeking to expand to meet rising demand. The group's vision is four-fold: to prevent homelessness, to provide services to those who are homeless, to develop housing opportunities for the poor, and to promote government policies protecting people from becoming

homeless. According to the most recent data available, Focus Ireland helped 12,530 people in its FY 2015. That represented a 9% increase over the previous year, much of which resulted from increased demand for services. 90% of donations go directly to services for the homeless. More information on specific programs is available at Focus's website: [focusireland.ie](http://focusireland.ie).

How can the members of SOECC help? Right now, members can donate through the Club's website using the Focus Ireland button on the Payments and Donations Page. For those who would prefer to send a check, the donation can be mailed to the Club or left at the bar. Next year, the hope is to include a donation option on the annual membership renewal form. Like the Galway 2020 project highlighted last month, this is another opportunity for SOECC to preserve its Irish heritage by connecting with an important organization in contemporary Ireland. It is also a way to make a difference for those most in need in our mother country. As Jack said, "If everybody gave even just \$5.00, think of the substantial impact that would make."

Jack grew up in Fall River and later moved to Somerset, where he and Paula raised their three sons. He loved his career in law enforcement, first as a city police officer, and then as a member of the Bristol County Sheriff's Office. Currently, he keeps busy as a Special Investigator for the U.S. Department of State. Recently retired, Paula is an R.N., who worked as a Visiting Nurse for the last 20 years. Following in their father's footsteps, their three sons pursued careers related to law: John as a Special Agent for the IRS, Mike as a Detective Sergeant with the Vermont State Police, and Dick as a lawyer.

Both Paula and Jack have unusual Irish heritage stories. Jack's maternal grandfather emigrated from Ireland first to Scotland and then to the U.S. When he arrived in this country, his documents indicated that he was an immigrant from Scotland. Given the amount of discrimination against Irish immigrants which he witnessed upon arrival, he hid his Irish heritage until quite late in his life. Paula's great-grandfather was a Protestant bishop in Ireland, and her great-grandmother worked in service to his family. Her grandparents ran away to the U.S. to be married, and her grandfather was, as a result, disowned for marrying a Catholic! Jack and Paula appreciate their membership in the Sons of Erin, including the Irish music, the friendly members, and the Club's work to preserve and promote Irish heritage.

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## Upcoming events

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

### September

- 17th – **Halfway to St. Patty's Day** with the Paddy Murphy Quartet from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm. The kitchen will be serving Pub food on that night.

### October

- 4<sup>th</sup> – **Genealogy and your DNA**, from 6 pm – 7 pm with Everett Johnson of Cape Cod Genealogy Society

**Come join us for our new lecture series! We hope to offer a different topic each month.**

You have seen the ads offering DNA testing and have been wondering what it is all about. What do the DNA results tell me? How does my DNA help me research my Irish (and non-Irish) roots? Everett will discuss the various types of DNA testing sites and how you can use your results to better understand your family's history

- 28<sup>th</sup> – **Halloween party** from 8 pm until closing

Come dressed in your favorite costume! Terry Brennan will be the entertainment for the evening (as well as all the ghouls and goblins!)

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## 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.

## Dining Room News

Current hours are 5:30 pm to 8 pm, Thursday through Saturday. Prime rib is back on the menu on Thursday nights! A reminder that tables are to be cleared by Club members. However, that schedule is subject to change as of September 14<sup>th</sup> when we may stop serving meals on Thursdays. The Board of Directors are taking up this topic at their next meeting.

You are entitled to a **free** birthday meal the last Thursday (or Saturday if no meals are served on Thursday) of your birthday month!

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## 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.

### Cribbage League

Join us the starting September 14<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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 \$10 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

The multi-instrument class for intermediate or experienced players is 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.

### 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.

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## 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](mailto:Info@sonsoferincc.com)) to your contact's list or safe senders list.

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## 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](mailto:Info@SonsofErincc.com).

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## 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 not available on Friday nights and Saturday's are limited to 35 guests. Contact Katie Fitzsimmons at the Club to book the room.

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## Closing note

May the wings of the butterfly kiss the sun.

And find your shoulder to light on.

To bring you luck, happiness and riches.

Today, tomorrow and beyond.