

President's  
Pint of View



Hope everyone is having an enjoyable summer; mine is going great. I want to thank everyone that helped out at the Kiwanis Miracle League on the 27th of June. If you haven't experienced a Miracle League game, please consider volunteering next June when we'll do this again. It is truly the essence of what we support. Lemonade break...

Ahh, that tastes good on a beautiful 4th of July, which got me thinking that there has to be an Irish connection to the holiday. And, of course, there is!

The original draft of the first Declaration of Independence was drawn up by Charles Thomson, the secretary of the First Continental Congress. Thomson immigrated to America from County Londonderry in 1739.

The document was taken to John Dunlap, a Philadelphia-based printer and a native of County Tyrone, who printed 200 copies, 26 of which remain. Dunlap is also remembered as the founder of the first daily newspaper in America, The Pennsylvania Packet.

I always thought potato salad was the connection! You know what that means, lemonade break...

See you at the July meeting.

President Mike O'Connell

Wearin' of the Grin

Two little boys, ages 8 and 10, are excessively mischievous. They are always getting into trouble and their parents know if any mischief occurs in their town, the two boys are probably involved. The boys' mother heard that a preacher in town had been successful in disciplining children, so she asked if he would speak with her boys.

The preacher agreed, but he asked to see them individually. The mother sent the 8-year-old in the morning, with the older boy scheduled to see the preacher in the afternoon.

The preacher, a huge man with a deep booming voice, sat the younger boy down and asked him sternly, "Do you know where God is, son?"

The boy's mouth dropped open, but he made no response, sitting there wide-eyed and frozen.

So the preacher repeated the question in an even sterner tone, "Where is God?!"

Again, the boy made no attempt to answer.

The preacher raised his voice even more and shook his finger in the boy's face and bellowed, "WHERE IS GOD?!"

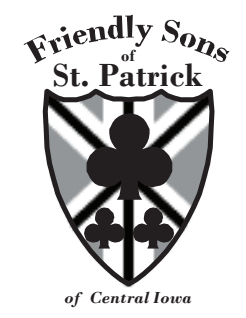
The boy screamed & bolted from the room, ran directly home & dove into his closet, slamming the door behind him.

When his older brother found him in the closet, he asked, "What happened?"

The younger brother, gasping for breath, replied, "We are in BIG trouble this time!"

"GOD is missing, and they think WE did it!"

Friendly Sons of Saint Patrick  
The Mickie Center #241  
1620 Pleasant  
Des Moines, IA 50314



# The Blarney

## Upcoming:

**Monthly Meeting**  
July 13, 6:30 p.m.

*Menu:*  
BBQ Pulled Pork  
Baked Beans / Potato Salad

**Annual Iowa Irish Fest**  
July 31-August 2

**Next Meeting**  
August 10  
"Friends of the Friends"



**Board Contact Info:**

**President – Mike O'Connell**  
moconn317@gmail.com ~ 271-0018

**Vice President – Tim Schuck**  
tschuck@smithmetzger.com ~ 778-8390

**Treasurer – Mike Murphy**  
mikemurphy@ishsi.com ~ 537-7699

**Secretary – Ed Kelly**  
yllleke@mchsi.com ~ 577-3843

**Mike Dennis**  
mdennis1958@gmail.com ~ 779-7026

**Bill McCarthy**  
mccar7660@aol.com ~ 975-5254

**Jim O'Donnell**  
jmodonnell@dsmairport.com~971-0781

**Tony Schmid**  
fsosptony@outlook.com ~ 554-1107

**Bree Young**  
breetattoo@yahoo.com - 720-2580

JULY [IÚIL] 2015

## Cedar Valley Irish Fest/ July 31-Aug. 2

A mere \$15 at the gate will get you a three-day weekend pass to take in all the Irish culture you can handle at the Cedar Valley Irish Cultural Association's fest in downtown Waterloo at the end of this month. Bringing kids? If under 12, they're free.

*"The 2015 fest is bigger and better than ever," says Entertainment Co-chair Greg Tagtow. "New this year: 2 new stages (a total of 6) for our 16 bands, workshops to track down your Irish ancestors put on by the Iowa Genealogical Society, Irish Storytellers, our first annual Rugby Invitational Tournament, expanded family area and much, much more. We will have our first ever wedding on the fest grounds as well as a brand new artisan area and market."*

And the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick are on board as new vendors this year. We'll man a table of merch and PR materials in beautiful Lincoln Park from 4-12 p.m. on Friday & Saturday that weekend, then until 4 p.m. on Sunday. You can sign up to be a volunteer at the meeting next week.

*"We're proud to host the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick to our fest this year and hope you enjoy our event," said Tagtow.*

Board member Mike Dennis is donating the use of his RV as headquarters for all of us who are there to help. He says if we "bring beer," it will be thanks enough.

The Irish Fest website, [iowairishfest.com](http://iowairishfest.com), gives a map of the downtown area where all the action is and you can check out all that the weekend offers.

\* \* \* \* \*

### HIGHLIGHTS

**Fifth Annual 5K Run/Walk** will be held on Saturday at 9 a.m.

**Family fun area** will include storytelling, contests of all kinds, music, face painting, inflatables and a climbing wall.

**Rugby tournament** on Saturday at 10 a.m.

**Whiskey tasting** all three days of the weekend fest. (Advance practice is surely not outside the bounds of propriety.)

**Soda bread & Irish stew competition.**

**Highland games**, including a caber toss (heaving a long pole), sheaf toss (bundle of straw pitchforked over a raised bar), stone put and a hammer throw & weight throw.

**Music on five stages**, plus at Jameson's.

Too many bands to mention, so check out the website schedule.

\* \* \* \* \*

As a bonus, those of us who have been to "W'aloo" for fun and games can tell you that a terrific Irish pub called Jameson's is just down a side street from the park. A festive time with our good buddies, Bushmill and Tullamore, will alone be worth the trip! 🍀



2015 golf outing a success

Hacker hopes were high at the Leprechaun Open on June 6 as 38 golfers hit Norwalk's Rolling Hills course for a beautiful day of sport.

The business is under new management, as eight regular players/friends recently joined together to lease the links from the owner. Though just in their first year, their efforts to improve things are noticeable.

*"It already looks better than any of the last 5 years and it's amazing. These guys on the new board really give a crap," said Jerod Davey, clubhouse manager.*

All were again impressed with the classy trophies made by Mike & Pat O'Connell. Many thanks!

In his first year as golf event chair, Grand Poobah Brian Kreps did a great job of organizing entrants and collecting raffle prizes. Huzzahs all around, Brian! 🍀

Link Associates grateful for O'Donnell Clan donation

Finding words to summarize the impact of a \$91, 027 donation should be easy right?

In reality, finding words to thank everyone who helped make the event for Link Associates possible is next to impossible. The money raised is amazing and life changing for those we serve. This gift will allow us to do things we could have never dreamed of before the O'Donnell and Friends Open.

What we can't measure is the impact the O'Donnell and Friends made in our lives. This event and those who make it a reality change everyone they touch. You can't walk away from this event without understanding the impact each individual person can have on the world around them if they give above self.

They demonstrate generosity beyond self, the power of working together toward a group goal and how giving from within impacts people across our community. You just don't see this anywhere else.

Patriarch Dan, looking down from Heaven, and matriarch Dee raised an amazing family that is a living example of what you can accomplish when you combine skills and abilities to take on a massive job with happiness and a positive spirit. They model the value of bringing all generations together to impact change and they live act of helping others.

From everyone at Link Associates, we can't thank all who made this dream a reality enough." Linda Dunshee 🍀

WINNER-WINNER  
CHICKEN DINNER  
**1ST PLACE: PAT & MIKE RHOADES (68)**

**2ND PLACE: LOU & MARK FERRINS (70)**  
**3RD PLACE: TOM MCCARTHY & ROB JACKSON (73)**

TALLYSHEET  
**ONE-ARMED PUTTING: TOM LEON (AFTER A PLAYOFF)**  
**LONGEST PUTT: BILL MCCARTHY**  
**LONGEST DRIVE: TOM MCCARTHY**  
**CLOSEST TO PIN: BILL GREEN'S GROUP**  
**INTO THE WOODS: BRAD MARTIN (10 BALLS IN / 2 IN A ROW)**  
**WATER BALL: COLTON O'CONNER (THREE)**  
**TAKE UP ANOTHER SPORT: JON GYLDENVAND**



Board News

Just takin' care of business is the name of the game during summer months.

The FSOSP treasury is now in the capable hands of Mike Murphy, bean-counter extraordinaire, who noticed that several items in the board's monthly report had ambiguous/duplicative names. He has tasked a "forensic accountant" (his wife?) with correcting the problems.

Alas, no additional monies will be accrued from the examination, just moved.

Our overall balance is just under \$20K in hand, a fine, healthy status, indeed.

At the June board meeting, donations were approved to buy fall uniforms for the Miracle League (\$500) and the July 16 Easter Seals Camp Sunnyside Regatta (\$500).

The Halfway to St. Pat's Bike ride on Sept. 19 is on the front burner now. T-shirts are being designed by our lovely ex-Queen Connie. The pre-ride festivities at Orlando's will follow past year's plan, with a "Best Theme" award given just before the start of the ride at noon that day.

Music, contests and raffle prizes are on tap for the Cumming Tap.

We may soon only be halfway there, but St. Pat's Day never leaves the board's agenda. Parade chair Mike Dennis has already handled contracts with the Marriott for our members' meeting, the parade entrants' meetings and the big day itself..which, don't forget, is now MARCH 18 next year, per our agreement with the city.

No news back from the city yet on what they will be doing to give the event a boost on social media and perhaps provide some cost-cuts.

As always, we are continually looking for sponsors. Should you know of anyone, please send their name to the board.

Dennis and T-Bone have been handling some odds and ends, as well. The sale of some unused office fans netted \$150 (thanks, Mike) and you'll soon see all the damaged and aging coolers replaced with new, wheeled ones at the monthly meetings (thanks, T-Bone).

In an effort to make the traditional pass-around of the whiskey bottle at the meetings a little more, shall we say, palatable, T-Bone will lay in a supply of small shot cups to be on hand.

BLARNEY BITS

Don't know how he is going to afford all the cigars he needs to bring us, but Tim Schuck became the father of twin girls on June 19!

The duo were due in August, but couldn't wait to get here. Here's a grand welcome to wee Nora May (2 lbs., 8 oz.) and Ava Ray (3 lbs., 4 oz.).

Slainte to you and your wife, Tim!

(Maybe you can find some tasty Cubans for us?) 🍀

The O'Donnell family did it once again. Sponsorship levels run from \$200 to \$1,000+ at the O'Donnell Open and on June 26 over \$91,000 was raised for Link Associates, this year's charity recipient. (See their thank-you note on the opposite page.)

This 22nd annual outing brought the total to just over \$959,000 raised for various charities in the greater DM area.

Next year's event will surely pass the one million mark.

Generous? Noble? Selfless? Magnanimous? Pick any of those words and it can hardly do justice to what Jim and his O'Donnell clan achieve. The Sons are mightily proud to be associated with them. 🍀



Upcoming events

- JULY 15  
STU RYAN O'BRIEN IRISH SING-ALONG / 7-9 P.M.  
SULLY'S PUB
- JULY 18  
FAT TIRE FUN RIDE / 12 NOON  
Bike ride heads from Sully's to Saints on 50th and back to Sully's.  
Riders have a chance to win a 2015 New Belgium Cruiser.
- JULY 31-AUG. 2  
IOWA IRISH FEST / DOWNTOWN WATERLOO, IA  
HOSTED BY CEDAR VALLEY IRISH CULTURAL ASSN.
- AUG. 21-22  
IRISH HOOLEY / DUBUQUE, IA
- SEPT. 4-6  
ANNUAL KANSAS CITY IRISH FEST  
CROWN CENTER SQUARE & WASHINGTON PARK  
FRI., 5-11 P.M. / SAT. & SUN., 11-11 P.M.

