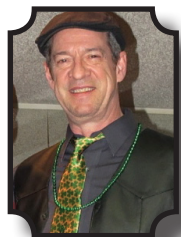


President's
Pint of View



It's finally here...March.

What we live for these other eleven months of the year. (And I understand there will be a parade.)

Hopefully, the first entry will not be needing snow shovels to clear the way, although I believe it would not be the first time. Ask Bill McCarthy for details.

An exciting time, as always, although this one is bittersweet for yours truly. This will be my last "Pint of View" as I hand the presidential reins over to the very capable Mike O'Connell on March 17.

This has been, at the same time, the longest and the shortest two years in memory. It has been a pleasure and an honor to serve such a noble and giving organization, and my sincere thanks to all of you that make the Friendly Sons what it is through your generous and fun loving spirit.

Then again, who would expect anything less from the Irish? Slainte!

President Bob O'Hern

Wearin' of the Grin

Wildlife researchers found over 200 dead crows near Chicago recently and there was concern that they may have died from Avian Flu. A bird pathologist examined the remains of all the crows and to everyone's relief confirmed the problem was definitely NOT Avian Flu. The cause of death appeared to be vehicular impacts. However, during a detailed analysis it was noted that varying colors of paints appeared on the bird's beaks and claws and analysis of the paint residues determined that 98% of the crows had been killed by impact with trucks while only 2% were killed by car impacts. An ornithological behaviorist was hired to determine if there was a cause for the disproportionate percentages of truck kills versus car kills. He very quickly concluded the cause: When crows eat road kill they always have a look-out crow in a nearby tree to warn of impending danger. They discovered that while all the lookout crows could squawk "Cah"...not a single one could screech "Truck."



A man received the following text from his neighbor:
"I am so sorry, Bob. I'm riddled with guilt and I have to confess. I've been helping myself to your wife, day and night when you're not around. In fact, I have probably been getting more than you. I do not get it at home, but that's no excuse. I can't live with the guilt. I apologize & it won't ever happen again."

The anguished man, feeling betrayed, went directly into his bedroom, grabbed his gun, and without a word, shot his wife dead. A few moments later, a second text came in, "Bloody Spell Check!! Sorry Bob, I was talking about "your Wifi".

Friendly Sons of Saint Patrick
The Mickie Center #241
1620 Pleasant
Des Moines, IA 50309



The Blarney

Upcoming:

Monthly Meeting
March 9, 6:30 p.m.
(@ Marriott w/cash bar
& no meal)

Queen Interviews
Mar. 6 (at Mickie Ctr.)
Parade Volunteers Meeting
Mar. 9 (after members' mtg.)
(@ Marriott)

St. Patrick's Day Parade
Mar. 17
Annual 5K/10K Run
Mar. 29

Next Meeting
April 13



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MARCH [MÁRTA] 2015

PUT YOUR PRIDE ON PARADE



1 On Friday night, this week, the board will be interviewing queen candidates at 6:30 at the Mickie Center. The lucky, lustrous lass chosen will be crowned by our (insert sigh) departing Queen Connie at our March members' meeting, which is...

2 Next Monday at 6:30 at the Marriott, somewhere upstairs. Count on a cash bar stocked with all your favorites. New board members and officers will be introduced, as well as our 2015 queen. At the conclusion of that night's events, a passel of...

3 All "day of" volunteers will gather with T-Bone and Schuck to get parade assignments. New this year: "Info Packs" for all so everyone can easily answer questions about entrant positions and the day's schedule. Next up will be...



4 Street painting, planned for Saturday, March 13.

Brooms? Check. Cans of neon orange paint? Check. A mileage marker wheel? Check. Cigars? Double-check.

Volunteers for this fun afternoon hike down MLK should meet at Exile Brewing by noon.

That chore will set us up for the coming Tuesday's lineup of...

5 7:00
FLAG RAISING (SULLY'S)
8:30
BREAKFAST (MARRIOTT)
10:00
STAGING BEGINS
& MASS (ST. AMBROSE)
12:00
START AT 15TH/MLK
1:00 - 4:00
RECEPTION (MARRIOTT)



Queen Connie bids us a fond farewell:

I don't even know where to begin. Well, first and foremost, thank you! It has been an honor to be your Queen and represent such a wonderful, merry band of gentlemen. I am grateful for all the memories I've made through this experience that I know I'll remember for the rest of my life. From this I have been constantly reminded how it truly is a blessing to be Irish. Again, thanks for the laughs, drinks and friendship that I'll never forget. You guys certainly are damn few! (and I still don't have a clue how to play euchre!) Slainte!"

May your days be many and your trouble be few. May all God's blessings descend upon you.

May peace be within you, may your heart be strong. May you find what you're seeking wherever you roam.

To be sure, the memories of this year's reign will remain indelible. Slainte to you, Connie! 🍀

Skywalk Golf 'links' warm & inviting on Sat./ Feb. 28

Hackers were everywhere last weekend, but it had nothing to do with the flu.

Young and old were challenged by the holes at the 30th annual Skywalk Golf event last Saturday morning, 9-4 p.m. But no denying the thrill there in Capital Square of any indoor fun these days!

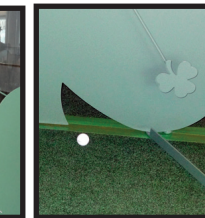
The FSOSP sponsored mini-hole #5 and the O'Donnell Clan carried on the tradition begun by their late father, Dan, in designing a grueling test for all comers, working to prep it from 7:30 till start time.

A giant steel shamrock with rotating clovers (think back to the classic dastardly evil mini-golf windmill) gave everyone the yips.

"We tried our best to represent our dad's legacy and it paid off. We won "best over-all hole design" and we'll bring the plaque to share with the club," said Jim O'Donnell.

A few practice putts gave the impression there would be rare successes...but begorra, the FIRST golfer at 9:01 put it in! And she wasn't even lucky enough to be Irish!

In addition to supporting this First Tee charity outing, yearly the Sons put our Irish pride on display for hundreds of participants. 🍀



32nd Annual 5K/10K Run

Lace up your Keds and plan to several hundred other runners for this outing on **March 29**, sponsored by our own super-marathoner, John Leonhart.

Runners will leave Sully's at 11 p.m., then course through WDM and arrive back at the start for a post-race party at the bar.

"We don't dare dream of 72 degrees like last year, do we? Ah, but the 50-60 range would be ideal," said Leonhart.

Two scholarships will again be awarded, one each to a senior boy and girl track athlete from a greater DM area school.

Yearly, runners find that the course, the Sons party atmosphere and the volunteer support are all pluses and keep them coming back for more. Step lively! 🍀

Requiescat in pace

Sadly, **Mary Ellen Murphy** passed away peacefully in mid-February.

She was FSOSP board member Mike Murphy's mother and member Craig Torkelson's mother-in-law.

Some members may have met her through her office work at St. Augustin Catholic Church.

Her family thanks the staff at Silvercrest at the Woodlands for their support and kindness.

The board sent a memorial and in case you also wish to contribute, a fund is being established in her name. Contact the family.

Board News

Donations this past calendar year totalled over \$14,000 and it's clear that our organization is yearly doing a lot for the community.

In January and February grants were made to the **DMARC Food Pantry** (\$1500), the **Challenger League** (\$500 for uniforms) and the **Ruby Van Meter Basketball Jamboree** (\$100 for tickets).

The Challenger Division was established in 1989 as a separate division of Little League to enable boys and girls with physical and mental challenges, ages 4-18, or up to age 22, if still enrolled in high school, to enjoy the game of baseball along with the millions of other children who participate in this sport. Today, more than 30,000 children participate worldwide.

□□□

Parade details were hashed out at the Feb. board meeting and a crack collection of cronies and cohorts, led by chairs T-Bone and Schuck, have all our ducks in a row.

We have designated a **Grand Marshal & Irishman of the Year**, both to be honored guests at the March 17 breakfast at the Marriott.

Carts, radios, tiaras and sashes, limos, porta-potties, raffle tickets, music, dancers...it's a long list, but everything looks primed to go.

Ah, but the weather gods (and Mother O'Nature) can always trump our parade hand. Wanna place odds, lads?

□□□

Out-going President O'Hern is dealing with health issues and has chosen to step down from the board. **Mike Dennis** has volunteered to fill that board position, providing the membership approves. That proposal will be on the agenda next Monday.

□□□

Know a young lady who would make a good **FSOSP queen**? Show them how to RSVP via our website, *friendlysonsiowa.com*, to make a last minute entry.

□□□

Got **Lucky Draw raffle tickets** to sell? Get crackin' and bring your money and stubs to the meeting next Monday. And grab some more books to sell! You can bring any unsold tickets to the reception on St. Pat's. We can usually sell all the remainders on site before the 4 p.m. drawing.

□□□

Yearly dues are expected this quarter. Two twenties, cash or check, are all you need to be "in good standing" with the group.

It'll be a furious, chaotic scene at the board table for this month's meeting, but marking down dues payments is a most pleasant chore. 🍀

BLARNEY BITS

The last **CMA season concert** is **March 14** and will be held at Hoyt Sherman Place, 8 p.m.

Dervish last played here in March 1998 and since then have cemented their position as worldwide ambassadors of Irish music.

"They have recently traveled with the Taoiseach (Prime Minister of Ireland) to perform for the Chinese government on a historic trade mission. They have represented our genre in over 40 countries throughout the world.

"Another remarkable feature is their longevity as last year they celebrated their 25th anniversary and have the same personnel that were here in 1998.

"Dervish is led by Cathy Jordan, singer and bodhran player from Co. Roscommon. The band has a distinct Northern Ireland sound and features many musicians from the Sligo area, including Shane Mitchell on accordion, Michael Holmes on Bouzouki, and Liam Kelly on flutes and whistles." CMA.org

St. Patrick's **Celebration at Sully's**:

Mar. 1- Mar. 13 Warm-up Prices

\$3 pints of Guinness, Smithwicks, Harp, Magners and \$3 Jameson & Fireball shots

March 14

7th Annual Pre-Patty's Pub Crawl

(register online at desmoinespubcrawl.com)

March 17

6 a.m. - Irish Breakfast

7 a.m. - Flag-raising with the FSOSP

3 p.m. - Bagpipers & Drums open the tent

(first 500 get free custom koozies)

3:30 p.m. - Music by ALT 106.3 (all night long)

Prizes / Giveaways / Corned Beef w/ Cabbage

all morning & day

Upcoming events

MAR. 13

CHIEFTAINS / @ STEPHENS AUD. IN AMES, 7:30 P.M.

MAR. 14

DERVISH / CMA CONCERT @ HOYT SHERMAN, 8 P.M.

MAR. 17

KELLY'S CLAN / @CONFLUENCE BREWERY, 7-10 P.M.

APR. 1

KELLY & FRIENDS JAM/ @SULLY'S, 7-9 P.M.

APR. 15

STU RYAN O'BRIEN SINGALONG/ @SULLY'S, 7-9 P.M.