

President's  
Pint of View



With being in the middle of a campaign season, it makes me relieved that we don't have to run for office in our organization. I do wonder what that would look like, though.

Would we have more than a one party system, or would the first party do us in so we could never make it to the second party? Or would the first party suck and no one would want a second party?

Instead of kissing babies we would be kissing rocks after stumbling home from the first party, which once again, shouldn't have been running.

Then there's the stump speeches. If anyone can understand you after being hung over from the first party and having your teeth knocked out from kissing rocks, you'll make a fool out of yourself by showing everyone that you don't know what the hell you are talking about.

Do you see where this kind of thing would lead? I'm glad our forefathers had the foresight to avoid this. Speaking of not knowing what the hell I'm talking about, I'll see you at the next meeting.

*President Mike O'Connell*

## Wearin' of the Grin

"Poor old fool," thought the well-dressed Irish gentleman as he watched an old man fish in a puddle outside a pub.

So he invited the old man inside for a drink.

As they sipped their whiskeys, the gentleman thought he'd humor the old man and asked, "So how many have you caught today?"

The old man replied, "You're the eighth."



Three guys were working up on a mobile phone tower: Aiden, Michael and Clancy. As they start their descent, Aiden slips, falls off the tower and is killed instantly.

As the ambulance takes the body away, Michael says, "Well, for sure someone should go and tell his wife."

Clancy says, "OK, I'm pretty good at that sensitive stuff; I'll do it."

Two hours later, he comes back carrying a case of Guinness.

Michael says, "Where did you get that beer?"

"Aiden's wife gave it to me," Clancy replies.

"That's unbelievable! You told the wife her husband was dead and she gave you a case of stout?"

"Well, not exactly," Clancy says. "When she answered the door, I said to her, 'You must be Aiden's widow.' She said, 'You must be mistaken...I'm not a widow.'"

Then I said, "I'll bet you a case of Guinness you are."

Some guys are good at that sensitive stuff.



Paddy finally decided to chuck it all.

He said, "I'm going to retire and live off of me savings. Not sure what I'll do that second week."

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



# The Blarney

## Upcoming:

**Monthly Meeting**  
May 9, 6:30 p.m.

*Menu:*  
Steak & Baked Potatoes  
Salad & Bread

**Irish Disc Golf Open**  
May 14  
**Leprechaun Open**  
June 11

**Next Meeting**  
June 13

**23rd Annual O'Donnell  
& Friends Open**  
June 24

### Board Contact Info:

**President – Mike O'Connell**  
[moconn317@gmail.com](mailto:moconn317@gmail.com) ~ 271-0018  
**Vice President – Tim Schuck**  
[tschuck@smithmetzger.com](mailto:tschuck@smithmetzger.com) ~ 778-8390  
**Treasurer – Mike Murphy**  
[mikemurphy@ishsi.com](mailto:mikemurphy@ishsi.com) ~ 537-7699  
**Secretary – Ed Kelly**  
[jylleke@mchsi.com](mailto:jylleke@mchsi.com) ~ 577-3843

.....  
**Mike Dennis**  
[mdennis1958@gmail.com](mailto:mdennis1958@gmail.com) ~ 779-7026  
**George Hedding**  
[geohedd@aol.com](mailto:geohedd@aol.com) ~ 250-4220  
**Bill McCarthy**  
[mccar7660@aol.com](mailto:mccar7660@aol.com) ~ 975-5254  
**Tony Schmid**  
[fsosptony@outlook.com](mailto:fsosptony@outlook.com) ~ 554-1107  
**Bree Young**  
[breetattoo@yahoo.com](mailto:breetattoo@yahoo.com) ~ 720-2580

MAY [BEALTAINE] 2016

## Spring FSOSP events will match expectations

The 7th Annual Charity Disc Golf Irish Open made a brave move up the calendar to mid-May last year and is now only a short week or so away, coming up May 14. The planning committee feels we should have another fine outing.

*"Participation has gone up each year and we are looking forward to hitting 72 players at which point Mike O'Connell would like to stop registration. The final number, of course, depends on the weather that day," said committee chair Jerry Grady.*

Players will get a glow-in-the-dark T-Bird souvenir driver this year and Grady reports that there is a good volunteer list in hand, though a couple are still needed from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. A sign-up list will be at meeting desk next week.

As always, loyal sponsors help make our events a success and this year we have the support of Terry Taylor of State Farm Insurance and Consumer Credit of Des Moines. Many thanks to them! 🍀



**Friendly Sons of St. Patrick**  
**7th Annual Charity Disc Golf Irish Open**  
**Sat. May 14, 2016**  
**Registration 10:00 AM**  
**Shot Gun Start 11:00 AM**  
Grandview Disc Golf Course  
32nd and Easton, Des Moines  
**Cost: \$25**  
All registrants for this charity tournament will receive a souvenir disc.  
Contact Info:  
Jerry Grady: 515-554-3006  
Mike O'Connell: 515-271-0018  
[occonnell@mchsi.com](mailto:occonnell@mchsi.com)  
Sponsored By:  
Terry Taylor State Farm Agency  
Consumer Credit of Des Moines  
**\$200**  
**1st Place Prize**

You'll find a fresh challenge (and some friendly humiliation) hacking away at the holes of Copper Creek Golf in Pleasant Hill as the **Annual Leprechaun Open** makes its move to those new environs this year.

"The fee is the same and so is the challenge, my fine Irish friends. You're gonna need your 'A-game' to get your name on our trophy," says sponsor **Brian Kreps**.

Steak dinner will be available for non-players and you can sign up for that with or without the round at the May meeting. Playing fees climb to \$75 after June 1, so don't delay to get on board.

It'll all be there: One-arm Putting, raffle prizes, trophies...just be sure you are there, too.

Check out the details at right and plan to come "par-T" with other Jordan Speith wanna-bes on June 11. 🍀

The Friendly Sons of St. Patrick's  
**Leprechaun Open**

**Two Person Best Ball Golf Tourney**  
Saturday, June 11th  
Copper Creek Golf Course, in Pleasant Hill  
\$65.00 per person

Registration begins at 11:00 am. Shotgun start at 1:00 pm  
Includes 18 holes of golf, a cart & a steak dinner  
(Proceeds go to support local charities. Price raises to \$75 on June 1st.)

8 Pin Prizes   🏆 Trophies   8 Raffle Prizes

Also... One Armed Putting Contest  
Special "Talent" Awards for "noteworthy" play

Payment is Your Registration!

Send names of team members, phone numbers & checks made payable to:  
Friendly Sons of St. Patrick  
1620 Pleasant, Room 241  
Des Moines, IA 50314  
Call Brian Kreps at 515-469-2931 with questions



Anniversary of Irish revolt for independence/ freedom

No doubt you’ve been apprised that this past month saw the 100th anniversary of a famous early 20th Century Irish rebellion on the “auld sod,” what W.B. Yeats called the birth of “a terrible beauty.”

In celebration of the centennial of the **1916 Easter Rising**, the Keough-Naughton Institute for Irish Studies has produced a documentary narrated by Liam Neeson. Find it at **1916.nd.edu**. Powerful and dramatic, you should watch it.

In their promo words: *“This landmark documentary tells the dramatic story of the events that took place in Dublin during Easter Week 1916, when a small group of Irish rebels took on the might of the British Empire. The documentary – featuring a combination of rarely seen archival footage, new segments filmed on location worldwide, and interviews with leading international experts – also uncovers the untold story of the central role Irish Americans played in the lead-up to the rebellion. Although defeated militarily, the men and women of the Easter Rising would wring a moral victory from the jaws of defeat and inspire countless freedom struggles throughout the world – from Ireland to India.”*

A visit to **fsmitha.com**, **“Macrohistory and World Timeline,”** will provide a gripping, very detailed overview of the events and those involved.

A simpler synopsis of this historic event is easily available on Wikipedia:

“The Easter Rising, also known as the Easter Rebellion, was an armed insurrection in Ireland during Easter Week, April 1916. The Rising was launched by Irish republicans to end British rule in Ireland and establish an independent Irish Republic while the United Kingdom was heavily engaged in World War I. It was the most significant uprising in Ireland since the rebellion of 1798, and the first armed action of the Irish revolutionary period.

“Organised by a seven-man Military Council of the Irish Republican Brotherhood, the Rising began on Easter Monday, April 24, and lasted for six days. Members of the Irish Volunteers, led by schoolmaster and Irish language activist Patrick Pearse, joined by the smaller Irish Citizen Army of James Connolly and 200 women of Cumann na mBan, seized key locations in Dublin and proclaimed an Irish Republic.

“The British Army brought in thousands of reinforcements as well as artillery and a gunboat. There was fierce street fighting on the routes into the city centre, where the rebels put up stiff resistance, slowing the British advance and inflicting heavy casualties. Elsewhere in Dublin, the fighting mainly consisted of sniping and long-range gun battles. The main rebel positions were gradually surrounded and bombarded with artillery. There were isolated actions in other parts of Ireland, with attacks on the Royal Irish Constabulary barracks at Ashbourne, County Meath and in County Galway, and the seizure of the town of Enniscorthy, County Wexford.

“Germany agreed to send an arms shipment to the rebels, but the British had intercepted it just before the Rising began. Volunteer leader Eoin MacNeill had then issued a countermand in a bid to halt the Rising, which greatly reduced the number of rebels who mobilised.

“With much greater numbers and heavier weapons, the British Army suppressed the Rising. Pearse agreed to an unconditional surrender on Saturday, April 29, although sporadic fighting continued until Sunday, when word reached the other rebel positions. After the surrender the country remained under martial law. About 3,500 people were taken prisoner by the British, many of whom had played no part in the Rising, and 1,800 of them were sent to internment camps or prisons in Britain. Most of the leaders of the Rising were executed following courts-martial.

“The Rising brought physical force republicanism back to the forefront of Irish politics, which for nearly 50 years had been dominated by constitutional nationalism. It, and the British reaction to it, led to increased popular support for Irish independence. In December 1918, republicans, represented by the reconstituted Sinn Féin party, won a landslide victory in the general election to the British Parliament. They did not take their seats, but instead convened the First Dáil and declared the independence of the Irish Republic, which led to the War of Independence.

“Almost 500 people were killed in the Easter Rising. About 54% were civilians, 30% were British military and police, and 16% were Irish rebels. More than 2,600 were wounded. Many of the civilians were killed as a result of the British using artillery and heavy machine guns, or mistaking civilians for rebels. Others were caught in the crossfire in a crowded city. The shelling and the fires it caused left parts of inner city Dublin in ruins.”

Gents, lift a glass to the proud, fierce, nationalistic spirit of your forebears. Slainte! 



Board News

The Sons are in good shape this fine spring. On balance, bank balance, that is, we have almost \$40K in the coffers.

True, though, monies from the St. Patrick’s Day and 5K/10K Run events are still being sorted. Raffle prize checks are “in the mail” (for real), and, so far, the year has been a big success.

Upcoming outings for disc and regular golfers are designed to be self-supporting, so no financial backing is necessarily expected.



It’s no secret that we are mildly embarrassed by the ancient flier/brochure that has long been our only available table-top publicity at events.

*[Just WHO is that guy marching on the cover?]*

Board member **Mike Dennis** has submitted a revised & updated version for consideration. It met with approval by the board and is currently being tweaked.

We’ll get a version to the club for examination soon.



**Opportunity on Deck** is a United Way organization that provides low-income students in Des Moines with opportunities to participate in organized sports. With costs as high as \$650, many youngsters can’t afford to play in organized athletic leagues.

But that participation is meaningful and teaches students responsibility and teamwork, helps give them a purpose, and seeks to keep them out of trouble.

Learn more about the program at *opportunity on deck/ united way of central iowa*.


Our club’s charity donation will consist of purchasing T-shirts. Board member **Bill McCarthy** is currently getting possible designs lined up.



McCarthy will put out two dozen **new FSOSP ballcaps** for sale at the May meeting.

And Dennis will soon be making **new club patches** available. They will come with a green or orange border to suit whatever background clothing you put them on. The proposed cost is \$10 and models will be on display at next week’s meeting.



Expect a new look to the meeting room next week, also. **T-Bone** has the lead in buying some new tables to replace several damaged ones at the Mickle Center and he and **Tim Schuck** have conspired (er, collaborated) to re-imagine our monthly set-up. Walk into their brave new world next Monday night at 6:30. See you there! 

BLARNEY BITS

All of us, to be sure, take great pride in the efforts of **2016 Irishman of the Year Jim O’Donnell** and his clan in holding their annual golf outing. The **23rd Annual O’Donnell Open** is scheduled for **Friday, June 24 @ Toad Valley Golf Course**.

*“This year is ‘extra special’ in that we will surpass the MILLION dollar mark for fundraising for various charities in the Greater DM area. It has been through sponsorship support, like that of the FSOSP, that we have been able to help so many in a philanthropic manner for over two decades. Mentor Iowa is the selected charity this year. One hundred sixty golfers, approximately 150 sponsors, and about 40 volunteers are involved . Thanks to all who have contributed through the years to make this so successful for so many worthy charities,” said O’Donnell.*

Never a dull moment at **Sully’s Pub** in WDM. Owner **Amy Boggs** tells us that, in addition to music events (*see below*), you can find some other fun party opps in coming weeks.

**MAY 7 KENTUCKY DERBY PARTY:** Starts at 2:30 with free Mint Juleps, specials on Old Fashioneds and Stella Artois, free food & prizes for best hat and best dressed male/female/other.

**JUNE 11 DOG DAYS OF SUMMER PARTY & FUND-RAISER FOR FURRY FRIENDS REFUGE:** Starts at 6 p.m. with free hog roast. Your cost of entry is a donation to Furry Friends Refuge and a side dish.

Upcoming events

**MAY 1**  
**13TH ANNUAL MENTOR IOWA AUCTION**  
*HYPERION FIELD CLUB, JOHNSTON / 2 P.M.*

**MAY 4**  
**JAM SESSION WITH THE PIRANHA BROS.**  
*SULLY’S PUB, 7 P.M.*

**MAY 18**  
**STU RYAN O’BRIEN SING-ALONG**  
*SULLY’S PUB, 7-9 P.M.*

**MAY 14**  
**IRISH OPEN DISC GOLF TOURNEY**  
*GRANDVIEW PARK, DM*  
*\$25 / SHOTGUN START AT 11 A.M.*

**JUNE 11**  
**ANNUAL LEPRECHAUN OPEN GOLF OUTING**  
*COPPER CREEK GOLF IN PLEASANT HILL*  
*\$65 / SHOTGUN START AT 1 P.M.*