

## President's Pint of View



Well, thanks to you all for allowing me to serve as your president for the next two years. It's been a busy first month of my first term with the parade and the run on back-to-back weekends.

The local media were looking for some tidbits of information regarding both of these events. Through giving them interviews, I really gained a sense of pride about our organization, not that I wasn't proud of it before; I just hadn't had the opportunity to talk about the group's efforts in such detail and to such a broad audience. The Sons was just a part of my daily life.

However, as I iterated and reiterated facts about our club's existence, I realized we do a lot for this community. We put on one of the biggest parades in the Midwest; not the city...us! We raise over \$14 G's each year for local children's and veteran's charities. Combine that with parade costs and see we are raising around \$20-\$30,000 each year. Not too shabby gentlemen, not too shabby at all when you consider the very first year we decided we could afford to donate some money, we raised \$500 and it took us most of that year to do it.

As we embark on this journey together, I will do my best to represent our organization and all that we do. I look forward to seeing you at the next meeting. Stay classy, Sons.

*President Tim Schuck*

## Wearin' of the Grin

An Alabama preacher said to his flock, "Someone in this congregation has spread a rumour that I belong to the Ku Klux Klan. This is a horrible lie and one which a Christian community cannot tolerate. I am embarrassed and do not intend to accept this. Now, I want the party who did this to stand and ask forgiveness from God and this Christian Family."

No one moved.

The preacher continued, "Do you have the nerve to face me and admit this is a falsehood? Remember, you will be forgiven and in your heart you will feel glory. Now stand and confess your transgression."

Again all was quiet.

Then slowly, a drop-dead gorgeous blonde with a body that would stop traffic rose from the third pew. Her head was bowed and her voice quivered as she spoke: "Reverend there has been a terrible misunderstanding. I never said you were a member of the Ku Klux Klan. I simply told a couple of my friends that you were a wizard under the sheets."

The preacher collapsed, his wife fainted, and the congregation roared!



As I was getting in bed, she said, "You're drunk."

I said, "How do you know?"

She said, "You live next door."



# The Blarney

## Upcoming:

### Monthly Meeting

April 10 / 6:30 p.m.

#### Menu:

Corned Beef w/ Cabbage  
Potatoes, Carrots & Bread

### Next Meeting

May 8

### Irish Open Disc Golf

May 13

Grandview Park

### Leprechaun Open

June 17

Copper Creek in Pleasant Hill



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APRIL [AIBREÁN] 2017

## Our own 'March Madness' is a wrap

What a month! Finally the ruckus meter is back in the safe zone and we can breathe easy. The annual parade hoo-hah and rollicking hotel reception, along with the 34th edition of the 5K/10K are in the rearview mirror and we will soon turn our attention to other spring and summer events, but first let's bathe in the after-glow.

St. Pat's Day began with the flag-raising at Sully's (*right*) and the spirited celebration never stopped.

New to the parade reviewing stand this year, we invited Kevin Cooney to not only judge, but also announce the 80 floats as they passed for critical praise. It was a grand improvement that

will be continued.

He and the other judges acclaimed Melrose the "Best of Parade."

The mile-long parade began at noon sharp on that warm, breezy Friday and by 1 p.m. a rowdy but good-natured party was soon in full swing at the Marriott's second floor reception. Entertainment was the music of Kelly's Clan and a performance by the

Foy Dancers.

It was a banner day to be sure! Next year St. Pat's falls on a Saturday, so we expect and even bigger festive turnout honoring our Irish cultural heritage. Slainte! 🍀



### FLOAT TROPHIES

*Best of Parade*

\* Melrose \*

*Judges' Choice*

\* Hubbell Apartment Living \*

*Best Irish Theme*

\* Georgetown \*

*Best Irish Clan*

\* The Fitzgeralds \*

## 2017 AWARDS

### RAFFLE WINNERS

*Trip to Ireland ♦ Donna Timm*

\$500 ♦ *Beverly Molloy*

\$100 ♦ *Ed Ackerman, Jason Simpson, Doug Ruschill*

\$50 ♦ *Jim Daughenbaugh, Diane Kruse, Paul Moran & T-Bone*





## Congrats to our parade VIPs - Slainte!



Chief Dana Wingert  
Grand Marshal

**Y**ou must believe it was truly an honor to participate in the St. Patrick's Day festivities. When the Friendly Son's initially reached out to me, I said yes as fast as I could.

In addition to all the fun, fellowship and tradition associated with this event, the underlying charitable component is what makes it so special.

This is a group of good people doing great things in our community and, as a bonus, they have a lot of fun doing it.

A big shout out to the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick for all you do and a sincere 'thank you' for allowing me to be part of your wonderful event."



**I**t is an honor to represent the FSOSP as Irish Queen and celebrate my Irish heritage. Your values reflect my personal passions in life. My career goal is to work in the field of event management, especially with nonprofit organizations, and I admire FSOSP's support of local charities.

My ancestors were originally from Knocknagon, Co. Mayo and Co. Sligo and emigrated to Minnesota during the potato famine. I'm fortunate to have had the opportunity to visit Ireland on two occasions, where I toured the country and even had a chance to visit our family's pub in Dublin.



We could not have asked for a more beautiful St. Pat's Day! Weather was perfect and the crowd was big and excited which made it a blast to be in the parade. The party was such a fun time and I enjoyed meeting more members of the organization and their families. I look forward to the other events this year!"



Samantha Smith  
FSOSP Irish Queen

**O**ver the years that I have been a Friendly Son I have made a lot of friends that make coming to the functions enjoyable. This is why I show up and help whenever I can. To be recognized for that is icing on my cake. I gladly accept the recognition but know that is not the reason that I show up and do what I do. I hope I can live up to the responsibilities throughout the year."



Pat Rhoades  
Irishman of the Year

## Board News

**G**entlemen, please raise 'em high in a toast to welcome our newest board member, **Josh Soliday**, as he takes over the treasurer reins from **Mike Murphy**. Those will be big shoes to fill, Josh. Huzzah to Mike for his dedication and service to our organization.

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Kudos to our Parade Chairman for Life, **Mike Dennis**, as he once again corralled and branded all the wild dogies in our annual St. Pat's show to create a successful day:

"The parade has come and gone. Overall the event was successful with just a few minor glitches. The fencing wasn't placed correctly and it cause problems in the de-staging area, but nobody was hurt. The most troubling issue this year was the lack of volunteers. I would like to remind the members that this is our parade. Member participation with all of our events is necessary to help them be a positive experience for us and the participants. I hope to see a greater degree of volunteerism with all of our events in the future. There is more to being a good member than coming to the meetings," he said.

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Speaking of  
good members...



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Next up this spring is an outing at Grandview Park for the **Irish Open Disc Golf event on May 13**. All will get off to a flying start at 10 a.m.

Learn all about this year's plans at next Monday's meeting and try to recruit some of your fevered flippin' friends to sign up.

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The **June 17 Leprechaun Open** will again be held at Copper Creek Golf Course in Pleasant Hill.

You can count on 18 holes of hackers' hell, er, heaven to test your mettle with a steak dinner to follow. In addition to the raffle, trophies and the one-armed putting contest, our Premier Potentate **Brian Kreps** may have a few surprises in store.

Get your foursome together and look for a sign-up sheet at an upcoming meeting.



### Moving soon?

Please let the Friendly Sons know your new address, so we can ensure that you continue to receive your monthly copy of the Blarney.

## BLARNEYBITS

**A** group of enthusiastic Hibernophiles in Iowa dedicate their free time to organizing and teaching Irish classes and are holding an **Irish Language and Culture Weekend at Coe College** this summer, a two-day workshop with language classes at all levels. It's open to anyone interested in Irish, regardless of knowledge or experience.

The date is June 9-11 and the fee, which includes tuition and meals, is \$125. On-campus accommodation is available in the dorms for \$26 per night.

To find out more, contact John Gibney at 515-664-3096 or [gaeilgedm@yahoo.com](mailto:gaeilgedm@yahoo.com).

**A**n April tradition continues: Our own in-house brew mavens, **Don Hall & Ken Murray**, will treat us all to their latest delicacies at our upcoming meeting. Prepare to relish an Irish Red Ale and an Irish Stout...Slainte!

"I drink to make other people more interesting. Always do sober what you said you'd do drunk. That will teach you to keep your mouth shut." Ernest Hemingway

**O**ver 275 runners turned out for the **34th annual 5K/10K**. Despite overcast skies, it was a glorious spring outing for us.

Two DM-area track seniors received our \$500 scholarships, **Collin Day** (Valley) and **Vivian Broderick** (Dowling). They ran in the event and each won their division!

Collin is headed to either Wartburg or Loras College and Vivian will enroll at the University of Wisconsin at Madison.



## Upcoming events

**APRIL 19**

**STU RYAN O'BRIEN @ SULLY'S PUB, 7-9 P.M.**

**SING-ALONG TO CLASSIC IRISH TUNES**

**MAY 3**

**TRIVIA NIGHT @ SULLY'S, 7-9 P.M.**