



WELL, THE HOLIDAYS ARE UPON US and winter is at our doorstep. Where has the time gone? It has been a busy year for the Sons and I look forward to reflecting on our year with you at our annual Christmas party at the “Top of the Tower.”

Although traditionally the winter months are a slow time for the organization, the board is still hard at work planning and reviewing our upcoming events and club activities. As well as planning our final donations for the year. Unfortunately, due to our current financials, we will not be able to make some of our regular end of the year donations. However, we intend on making said donations as soon as we are back in the position to do so, likely after March.

Not to sound like a broken record, but if you have any ideas on other events or thing we can do to help our cause, we on the board are all ears. Send us an e-mail or give us a call, we want to know what you think.

Or if you’d rather become a part of the action so to speak, there will be some board positions up for filling at the end of the year. If you know someone who is interested, or you yourself are interested let one of your current board members know.

Merry Christmas! ... and see you at the party.  
Stay classy sons.

*President Tim Schuck*

## Wearin’ of the Grin



Jane and Arlene are outside their nursing home, having a drink and a smoke, when it starts to rain.

Jane pulls out a condom, cuts off the end, puts it over her cigarette, and continues smoking.

Arlene asks, “What in the hell is that?”

Jane says, “A condom. This way my cigarette doesn’t get wet.”

“Where did you get it?” asks Arlene.

“You can get them at any pharmacy,” says Jane.

The next day, Arlene hobbles into the local pharmacy and announces to the pharmacist that she wants a box of condoms. The pharmacist, obviously embarrassed, looks at her kind of strangely (she is, after all, over 80 years of age), but very delicately asks what size, texture, brand of condom she prefers.

“Doesn’t matter Sonny, as long as it fits on a Camel.”

The pharmacist fainted.



### SIMPLE TRUTH:

When a lady is pregnant, all her friends touch her stomach and say, “Congratulations.”

But, none of them touch the man’s penis and say, “Good job.”

Moral of the story: Hard work is never appreciated.



# The Blarney

## Upcoming:

### CHRISTMAS DINNER

Dec. 11

“Top of the Tower”  
Holiday Inn Downtown  
1050 Sixth Ave.

### NEXT MEETING

Jan. 8



### Board Contact Info:

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



DECEMBER [NOLLAIG] 2017

## FSOSP Dinner Dec. 11

The chill of December means it’s time to seek warmth. There’s no better way to do that than to huddle together next week for our **Annual FSOSP Christmas Dinner in the Holiday Inn “Top of the Tower” this coming Monday, Dec. 11.**

Hopefully, you have arranged for tickets by now. Deadline for food orders is this midweek, but a quick, desperate call to Treasurer Mike Dennis might get a tardy couple in. Or not.

The line-up listed below is our traditional program. Some convivial imbibing and a little Christmas jazz from Kevin King and Dave Kobberdahl followed by a hearty dinner and more entertainment from the Foy Dancers makes for a full evening.

President Schuck will have some pithy remarks for us and then Mr. Dennis’ Superb & Stupendous Slide Show of the year’s highlights caps off the night.

To all our members, especially if we don’t see you at the Holiday Inn, have a warm, happy Christmas with those you love. An Irish toast from the board:

*May you never forget what is worth remembering  
or remember what is best forgotten.*

*Slainte!* 🍀



# O'Donnells bring joy to Mentor Iowa children



Each child received a London Fog winter coat, two outfits, boots, a toy and accessories.

How do they do it so well? Once again **Jim & Terrie O'Donnell** volunteered to make sure this Christmas was a happy one for 3 lucky kids. They bought gifts for three needy children aged 9, 6 and 19 months all assigned to the FSOSP as part of **Mentor Iowa's** holiday program. This non-profit, volunteer organization was started in 1974 by citizens and juvenile court professionals who were concerned about the growing number of children being served. MI provides trained volunteer mentors to abused, neglected and delinquent children who are under the jurisdiction of the court. Jim claims the shopping wizardry of his wife is what allowed them to purchase \$582 in value for \$231, mostly with coupons! Our club's efforts will make the season special for those kids at a holiday party this month. Thanks, Mr. & Mrs. Santa! Mentor Iowa's creed is "Every Child Deserves a Future." Learn more about this organization at: [mentoriowa.org](http://mentoriowa.org).

## Some pearls of Noel wisdom yule enjoy

No turkey ever voted for an early Christmas.  
Unknown

"On St. Patrick's Day I to pretend to be Irish.  
At Christmas I pretend to be good."  
Unknown

"I think after Christmas would be better for publication:  
I am hardly a Christmas present."  
Oscar Wilde

"There is a remarkable breakdown of taste and intelligence at Christmastime. Mature, responsible grown men wear neckties made of holly leaves and drink alcoholic beverages with raw egg yolks in them."  
P.J. O'Rourke

"I stopped believing in Santa Claus when I was six.  
Mother took me to see him in a department store  
and he asked for my autograph."  
Shirley Temple

"Our children await Christmas presents like politicians getting in election returns: there's the Uncle Fred precinct and the Aunt Ruth district still to come in."  
Marcelene Cox

"The Holidays are the one time you get to experience all the excitement of rush hour traffic in the mall parking lot."  
Melanie White

"The principal advantage of the non-parental lifestyle is that on Christmas Eve you need not be struck dumb by the three most terrifying words that the Government allows to be printed on any product: Some assembly required."  
John Leo

"Sending Christmas cards is a good way to let your friends and family know that you think they're worth the price of a stamp."  
Melanie White

"Once again, we come to the Holiday Season, a deeply religious time that each of us observes, in his own way, by going to the mall of his choice."  
Dave Barry

"There are 17 more shopping days until Christmas. So, guys, that means 16 more days till we start shopping, right?"  
Conan O'Brien

Zen Christmas: the gift of nothingness.  
Unknown

# Board News

Dues remain \$40 and will be welcome at any time in the coming months

Our coffers are running a bit low with bills still dribbling in, as far back as the run in March.

Your prompt dues payments will allow us to donate to many needy and appreciative organizations and fund our events.

Our annual December grants will be delayed for now.

Parade Chairman-for-life **Michael Dennis** is laser-focused on making our St. Pat's parade an even bigger success each year.

He says, "The 2018 parade is rapidly approaching. It belongs to all of us so many volunteers are needed. Typically it requires about 30 volunteers and last year there were 8 people that stepped up.

Please become a part of our largest event and let me know if you can help on Mar. 17."

Fire up and give us a hand! Contact Mike at 515-779-7026 or [mdennis1958@gmail.com](mailto:mdennis1958@gmail.com).

Raffle tickets for the parade are printed, so get a book or two and let's get a head start on sales. **T-Bone** will manage the ticket sales.

**Bob Fogarty** has stepped down from his post on the Prize Committee, effective this January. All of his fantastic efforts heading this fund-raising part of the monthly meetings are much appreciated.

He is planning to help with the transition to a new prize committee chair. So... Who's going to give it a shot? Let the board know ASAP.

Board Elections:  
The terms for **Mike O'Connell** and **T-Bone** are up and both will exit the board. Each will assist the club in many ways outside the board.

Two new members are needed. Look in the mirror...are you willing to donate some time/effort to help us out?

The inaugural **Bags Tournament** competition last month at Sully's Pub was held on a rainy afternoon, but it didn't deter dedicated cornholers.

In all, 10 teams competed on two sets of boards and the FSOSP netted \$300, easily a success. Plans are already underway to make this an annual outing.

*\*Anyone leave a green Sons jacket at the last meeting?\**

# BLARNEYBITS

## Nollaig as Gaeilge

Deasde na Nollag "Father Christmas" (dadjie na nollag)

Sleamhnán "Sleigh" (shleownawn)

Réinfhia "Reindeer" (raineeah)

Bronntanas "Present" (brontanas)

Cloigini "Bells" (clugeenee)

Ornaid "Ornament" (ornawdj)

Arán Síneir "Gingerbread" (arawn shinsheyr)

Carúl Nollag "Christmas Carol" (carool nollag)

Druailus "Mistletoe" (drooalus)

Tinsil "Tinsel" (tinshil)

Bloc Nollag "Yule Log" (bloc nollag)

Spideog "Robin" (spidohg)

Aingeal "Angel" (aingil)

Breith ár dTiarna "Nativity" (breith awr deearna)

by Kageria Stauffer for Irish Language Learners.  
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## Sully's upcoming events

- DEC. 3RD**  
ED "CEOLMAN" KELLY @ 8 P.M.
- 15TH**  
CHRISTMAS COSTUME PARTY  
Costumers get 2 for 1 drinks
- 20TH**  
TRIVIA NIGHT
- 24TH**  
CUSTOMER APPRECIATION PARTY  
Music by Mike Aceto
- 24TH**  
STU RYAN O'BRIEN IRISH SING-ALONG, 7 P.M.
- JAN. 3RD**  
TRIVIA NIGHT

## Also in December...

- 9TH**  
WYLDE NEPT @ WHISKEY HOUSE AT 9 P.M.
- 19TH**  
TRAD MUSIC JAM @ COONEY'S AT 7 P.M.-ISH