



The Blarney

UPCOMING:

Monthly Meeting:

December 1st 6:00 P.M.

Chicago Speakeasy

1520 Euclid Ave.

Christmas Dinner

Next Meeting:

January 12th

6:30 P.M.

BOARD CONTACT INFO

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DECEMBER (NOLLAIG) 2025

BOARD NEWS

Our annual Christmas party is fast approaching this coming Monday December 1st. Attendance is limited to 66, and will once again be held at Chicago Speakeasy. Meal selections will be: Prime Rib, Pork Chop, Mahi Mahi, Ribs/ Chicken, Alfredo, any side, plus salad bar. Cost is \$40 per person and can be paid ASAP to Mr. Soliday. You can contact him at – 515-577-0990. Cocktail hour starts at 6:00P.M. with dinner and festivities to follow.

Sunday December 7th marks the countdown to 100 days until our BIG event. Mr. O'Connor is already busy making big plans for our annual holiday extravaganza (THE PARADE) If anyone has some ideas on how to make our pre-paddy party more spectacular, please let him know. Ideas are being tossed around, and we look for this year's party to be much bigger than last. But we all know mother nature will have a say in that. One other special item of note, our St. Patrick's Day raffle tickets are now available. We are busy checking out bands and other special events for that day.

Mentor Iowa had sent out an e-mail, but to all the wrong addresses. Hence, they filled a record order of helping children this year without our help. We will however be helping them to continue their great work.

Special thanks to Mr. Donnie Corben, and Mr. Jerry Von Sprecken, on their expertise in supplying us with their award-winning Chili. I heard there were no leftovers.

The board will be starting our Queen selection search, if anyone has a great young lady that will be a great representative of our club, please let a board member know.

Board news continued on page 3.

Presidents Pint of View



TO BUSY TO WRITE MY BROTHERS,

President

Adam McCarty

‘Beannachtaí séasúr’ to one and all!

That’s a Gaelic “Season’s Greetings,” friends! Wisdom may teach “Don’t look back, you’re not going that way,” but a little end-of-year reflection may well be in order.

*Annual
FJOSP Holiday Dinner
Monday December 1st
6:00 p.m. Cocktails
7:00 p.m. Dinner
8:00 p.m. Program
R. S. V. P.*

Board news continued –

A memo from the support your club department. – Dues are due at the end of the year, not St. Patrick's Day. So, remember to bring your membership fee with you to the Christmas dinner (still just \$50 for the year.) if you like. Be nice and not naughty and get it taken care of soon. Santa is watching!

Another big item of note, Board and officer elections are coming up. Up for nomination and vote are two board spots, as well as treasurer, and secretary. Nominations will start at the January meeting. Now's your chance to help the club continue to prosper by getting right in the middle of it all.

The board has been in discussion (especially T-Bone, bless his heart) on exciting new ways to drive our membership up. I have expressed it here more than once. Your Irish, your sons are Irish, your grandsons are Irish. The average age of our club membership is a barometer if we don't get 'young blood' in the club, what we all understand as a viable organization will cease, and sooner rather than later. **WE NEED IDEAS AND WE NEED YOUNG MEMBERS!**

The board is working diligently to set early dates for fundraisers and other various get-togethers, please take a look at the next page for what has been set up so far. Also please don't forget the Celtic Music association. They have some great music and events lined up.



FSOSP UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday December 1st, Annual FSOSP Christmas party

- Chicago Speakeasy
- Seating limited to the first 65 paid members and guests
- Menu: Prime Rib, Pork Chop, Mahi Mahi, Ribs/ Chicken, Alfredo, any side, plus salad bar

Saturday January 24th Bike Iowa Bike Expo

- Our annual foray into selling a large amount of raffle tickets
- See T-Bone if you would like to help in this one-day event, we have been very successful in our sales before.

March 6th – 8th Iowa Deer Classic

- We will be selling our pig raffle tickets at this event

Saturday March 14th, 2026. FSOSP Annual Pre-Paddy Party

- The Shop in Des Moines
- Time TBA
- Live Music
- Food trucks
- More to come

Tuesday March 17th, 2026. FSOSP Annual Parade

- Downtown Des Moines
- Parade starts at Noon sharp

Saturday June 13th, 2026. FSOSP Annual Leprechaun Open

- Toad Valley
- More to come

Busch Light Carnival – Mid July

- More to come

Celtic Music Association

2026 concert season

Dallahan - Sat., Jan. 17, 2026, 7:30pm

Runa - Sat., Feb. 28, 2026, 7:30pm

Tannahill Weavers - Sat., March 28, 2026, 7:30pm

See website: www.thecma.org for ticket outlets and prices

All concerts at Franklin Center: 4801 Franklin Ave., Des Moines

President's Notes - We have a great season lined up of our old favorites from past seasons. Our remaining concerts include: Dallahan, Runa and Tannahill Weavers. All concerts will be at the Franklin Event Center. Tickets are available through Eventbrite or through a board member, our ticket outlets or you can mail a check to our PO box. Jim Duffy at Vintage Cooperative of Beaverdale also sells tickets for us. Regular ticket prices have increased to \$35 in advance at our ticket outlets, or \$40 at the door, on the day of the show. There is no "Will Call" available. Tickets must be paid for before the day of the concert. Season tickets will be \$90 for the remaining shows (\$30 each). I will be selling them at Cooney's open sessions on Tuesday December 2 and 16th, 5:00 to 8:00pm. Or, you can text me at 515-771-2215 to arrange a time to meet. The Franklin Junior High building is now owned by New Plan Learning based out of Schaumburg, Illinois a non-profit that helps charter schools get started. They are fans of our organization and our mission to bring Celtic culture to central Iowa. The Event center will continue to host our concerts. Please consider making a donation as a friend of the CMA. We are a non-profit organization, barely covering our costs to bring you these concerts from all over the world. Please invite your friends to join us for these wonderful Celtic music concerts. We have plenty of room in the comfortable seating of Franklin Event Center. Beverages will be available at all events with a free will donation offering. Performance start times are 7:30 pm. Doors will open an hour before at 6:30 pm. We have a square reader to purchase tickets at the door and merchandise with a credit card. Also, a child under 12 is admitted free with a paying adult.

Slainte, Virgil Kleinhesselink, President

Kilts for Sale!

Custom-Made Iowa Tartan Kilt of approximately 7 to 8 yards of 12 oz. weight 100% wool with heavy metal buckles and black leather straps. Upper one third is lined; lower portion is unlined starting at opening of pleats. Construction is based on the traditional Scottish pattern. (Pleats continue the tartan pattern.) Colors are symbolic of Iowa and bright modern colors. Length is measured from waist to mid-knee. Dry clean only; leather straps hold up when dry cleaned Mint condition – no holes, stains, tears or defects visible. Diameter is adjustable by approximately 1¼ inches larger or smaller from measurements given. #1: Waist 27", Hip 36 ½", Length 20 ½" #2: Waist 29 ¾", Hip 38", Length 22" #3: Waist 29 ¾", Hip 37 ¾", Length 21 ½" #4: Waist 30 ½", Hip 39", Length 22" Remember: You don't have to have ties to Iowa to wear and enjoy this beautiful kilt! Price per kilt is \$150 not including shipping if required. Kilts are available for inspection in Waukee, IA. Please refer question to **Sue Seidenfeld at pipertoddia@gmail.com**

Irish History

Being what I consider still a 'Newb working on this to bring you a quality Blarney every month I always thought I would rely on my predecessor to help me out. From time to time, I used Mr. Kelly's humor to help the newsletter along. Sometimes because I was short on time, other times because I was short on humor, (plenty of sarcasm just not humor.) These next 2 pages are dedicated to Mr. Ed Kelly for his long and enduring work. I give thanks to you sir you are my English teacher.

The Irish Christmas Markets -

In the 18th and 19th centuries, The Margadh Mor ["the Big Market"] kickstarted the countdown to Christmas in Ireland. Its alternative name ["the Live market"] was perhaps a better description because this is where the fowl (turkeys, goose, hens) were sold alive. In the third week, the Dead Market took place. At this market, too, were bought new clothes, whiskey, sweets, tobacco and all the ingredients for a Christmas pudding. The latter, which bears little resemblance to the modern Irish plum pudding, was boiled on Christmas Eve after the home had been decorated with laurel, holly and ivy.

Roast Goose (25th December) - Goose was always the number one festive food for celebrations such as weddings and Michaelmas which were held between September and Christmas. Stuffed with herbs and fruit, it used to be boiled but by the 19th century it was roasted, stuffed with onions, bacons and potatoes, or with apples and potatoes. Roast turkey didn't become the first choice of Irish Christmas recipes until the 20th century. At least 1 lb. of uncooked weight was allotted per diner. Stuffing was usually potatoes, apples and onions with spices and excess fat had to be poured off 3-4 times while roasting to make it less greasy. Although not confined to Ireland's Christmas dinner table, baked ham is another dish often served with the goose. Three types of potatoes are quite likely to appear with Christmas dinner: roast, boiled and mashed, plus roasted parsnips, boiled or mashed swede, brussels sprouts and cabbage.

Plum Pudding (25th December) - Plum or Christmas pudding, half drowned in whiskey, is, of course, an essential part of the main family dinner on Christmas Day itself but may make a limited appearance on other days as well.

Spiced beef for St. Stephen's Day - Irish Spiced Beef is traditionally served on St Stephen's Day (26th December). This is the case in most of Ireland but in Co. Cork, it is not just one of the most popular Irish Christmas recipes, but also a dish served the year round. Although our ancestors would have prepared their own dish, and many families still do, you can find well-prepared beef joints, liberally covered in spices, in butchers throughout Ireland in the two weeks before Christmas. Preparing it was a long process. A middle rib of beef was boiled and then pressed between two heavy plates for 12-15 **hours**. The meat was then covered in a mixture of spices with salt, sugar and minced onion, and placed in an earthenware crock. Once a day, every day for a fortnight, the meat was turned and each time re-rubbed with the spice mixture.

Scones for Little Christmas (6th January) - On Little Christmas (6th January), the last official day of the season in Ireland, the feast consists mainly of baked goodies such as scones, cream, jams, gingerbread, iced sponge cakes and pots of tea. This tradition arose from the belief that women deserved a special day of their own after providing for their families throughout the festive period. The chosen foods were considered "dainties" but Spiced Beef still often makes an appearance, too. These baked goodies are enjoyed throughout the year, not just as part of an old-fashioned homely Irish Christmas.

Wearin' O' The Grin

- A Russian couple were walking down the street in Moscow one night when the man felt a drop hit his nose. "I think it's raining," he said to his wife. "No, that felt more like snow to me," she replied. President's Pint of View "No, I'm sure it was just rain," he said. Well, as these things go, they were about to have a major argument about whether it was raining or snowing. Just then they saw a Communist Party official walking toward them. "Let's not fight about it," the man said. "Let's ask Comrade Rudolph whether it's officially raining or snowing." As the official approached, the man said, "Tell us, Comrade Rudolph, is it officially raining or snowing?" "It's raining, of course," he replied and walked on. But the woman insisted: "I know that felt like snow," to which the man quietly replied, "Rudolph the Red knows rain, dear."
- I was in a Starbucks recently when my stomach started rumbling and I realized that I desperately needed to fart. The place was packed but the music was really loud. So, to get some relief, I timed my farts to the beat of the music. After a couple of songs, I started to feel much better. After I finished my coffee, I noticed everyone staring at me. I suddenly remembered that I was listening to my iPod. This is what happens when old people start using new technology.
- "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
- "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
- I find it ironic that the colors red, white, and blue stand for freedom...until they are flashing behind you.
Ed Kelly
- Money talks ... but all mine ever says is good-bye.