



IRISH SPIRIT

The St. Patrick Society Quad Cities, USA

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Late Spring 2007

A picture perfect GRAND WEEKEND!

The 2007 Grand Weekend was truly a fine celebration of St. Patrick's Day and all things Irish. All the Society's events, including the Clan Luncheon, Grand Parade, Post-Parade Bash and Irish Heritage Day drew great crowds.

When the Grand Parade falls on THE DAY – St. Patrick's Day - it can't help but be extra special. Mix that with sunshine and perfect weather and it adds up to the largest parade attendance ever!

The Society thanks everyone who attended the weekend festivities. We would also like to thank our panel judges for the Irish Mother of the Year, Scholarships and Parade trophies, as well as Committee Chairs and event volunteers for organizing another top-notch weekend. Additional thanks to the Cities of Davenport and Rock Island, their respective Police Departments and the Centennial Bridge Commission for their assistance with the parade.



Mullane Dancers ignite the stage at Irish Heritage Day.
(Gerry Bade photo)

The Grand Parade Committee also extends its gratitude to all parade participants, and to Stern Beverage, JTM Concepts and Skeffington's Formal Wear for their contributions.



The Hughes Family Float
Gerry Bade Photo

Congrats to Parade Trophy Winners

Best Irish Family Walking Unit: The Hughes Family

Best Commercial Entry: WQAD TV

Best Irish Float: Duax/McAleer Family

Most Unique: Quad City Parrothead Club

Best International: Sons of Norway

Best School Group: All Saints School

Five Judges Trophies:

Blackhawk Pipe Band, Adrienne Reynolds Memorial, Davenport North ROTC, Kinney Clan, Trinity College Nursing



Past Irish Mothers and Grand Marshals gather for photos after the Clan Luncheon.



9-month old Caden Joseph, our youngest SPS member (joined July 2006), enjoys his first Bash on Grandpa Coyle's lap.



Longtime SPS volunteer, Kay Baggott, displays a special appreciation plaque at Irish Heritage Day. Her Irish Spirit is an inspiration to all of us.



Grand Honorees

The Society was again privileged to have two outstanding individuals presiding over the weekend. They enjoyed quite a week of fame as our local Irish celebrities, and were even featured in local newspapers. Congratulations to Rita Callahan, 2007 Irish Mother of the Year, and Judge Jeffrey O'Connor, 2007 Grand Marshal.



Rita Callahan, pictured with her children from left, Kathleen, Brian and Mary (Callahan) Thompson. Judge Jeffrey O'Connor (right), smiles after the Clan Luncheon.

2007 Scholarship Recipients

The Society was also proud to award two \$1500 scholarships to Kelsey Walter and Kevin James O'Brien. Kelsey, a Pleasant Valley High School senior, has studied Irish dancing with the Mullane Academy since she was six and has been active on the swim team, and as a member of the St. John Vianney Youth Group. Kelsey is considering social work as her field of study.



Kelsey and Kevin display their well-deserved scholarship award certificates.

As a senior at Assumption High School, Kevin's activities include Cross Country team captain, Varsity Tennis, School Newspaper and Yearbook Editor, as well as Parish Council Board member. He is considering broadcast journalism and international relations as his major. The Society wishes them great success in their bright futures.



2007 Gilhooly Award Winner

Maureen Corcoran Siegert was surrounded by a grand showing of the Siegert Corcoran Clan when she was recognized as the 10th Bernard A. Gilhooly Award recipient. A familiar face to many throughout the



Maureen and Family at Irish Heritage Day.

Dubuque and Quad Cities area, Maureen was honored for the numerous ways she has passed on Irish culture. From her early and ongoing support of the Mullane Irish Dance Academy, her success bringing Irish performing artists to our area via theater and annual hoo-leys, to her vision and leadership founding the popular Iowa State Feis Irish Dance competition. One of her nomination letters summed it up quite elegantly, "When Maureen does walk into Heaven, we believe that Bernie will be waiting to seat her at the table and pour the tea. She has truly carried out his vision of "passing it on."



2007 Election Summary

Annual Elections Welcome New Board members

At the Annual Meeting held on April 9, five new Board members were



Hello to new SPS Board members. First photo from left: Anne Maes, Bob Kelly and Julie Walton. Second photo: Denny Benes and Lorrie Beaman.

voted in. Please welcome Lorrie Ambrose Beaman, Denny James Benes, Robert Francis (Bob) Kelly, Ann Marie Maes, and Julie Ann Walton.

Lorrie will co-chair the Special Events and Culture committees with Leo Kilfoy, and Jim Gilhooly and Jan Foley respectively. Denny will join co-chair Jerry McCabe to oversee the Decorations/Flags committee. Bob and Ann will co-chair Public Relations with John Scally. Julie will co-chair the newly formed Irish Memorial Committee with John Scally, Pat Burke and Shelley Sheehy, as well as chair the Fund Raising Committee.

The Society thanks these members for stepping forward to share their time and talents to ensure the continued vitality of our organization.

Our gratitude also extends to those members leaving the board: Ryan Dye, Shelley Sheehy, and LeRoy Levis. Their service, insight and dedication is truly appreciated. Special thanks to Gail Levis who, along with husband, LeRoy, did an outstanding job on Public Relations for the Grand Weekend and Erin Feis over the past five years.

No changes were voted for SPS Executive officer positions. These continue as follows:

President- Pat Burke
Vice President - Kathy Douglas
Secretary- Jan Foley
Treasurer- Silia Smiley



2007-2008 Society Meetings Calendar

Mark your calendars with the following dates. Unless otherwise noted, all Board meetings are held at the Knights of Columbus in Davenport and begin at 6pm, with General Meetings at 7:30 pm. We encourage your attendance and involvement at our member meetings.

2007
August 6- General Meeting
Oct. 15- Board Meeting only
Nov. 12- Board Meeting only

2008
January 28- General Meeting
April 14 - Annual Meeting/
Elections



SPS Members ... You're Invited

Members are invited to mark their calendars and get together for some upcoming events.

June 10 - Traditional Irish Music concert on the River at LeClaire Park in Davenport. SPS members can meet by the chairs in front of the bandshell. Music begins at 7pm. Call 326-7766 for details.

September 22 - St. Ambrose vs. St. Francis football game. Brady Street Stadium at 1pm

November 11 - Veterans Day Parade in Downtown Davenport
Please call Leo Kilfoy at 391-6549 for more information.



SPS Memorial Project- honoring those who came before us

The St. Patrick Society and Quad City Arts have finalized a proposal for the facilitation of artist selection and design of a permanent outdoor memorial to be located at the intersection of 2nd and Harrison Streets in Davenport, Iowa. The memorial will honor those Irish men, women and children who settled in the Quad-Cities. The location is a highly visible and important corner of the downtown Davenport area, next to the new Figge Art Center and Mississippi River, as well the end point of the country's ONLY interstate St. Patrick's Day Parade.

To begin the artist selection and design process, the St. Patrick Society requests donations from Society members, Irish Spirit boosters and others. **We ask that we receive your contribution by early July at which time Quad City Arts will commence their work.** Donors of \$300 or more will be acknowledged as a lasting part of the memorial.

The cost of the memorial is projected to be in excess of \$100,000. Please forward your contribution to

the St. Patrick Society, PO Box 4487, Davenport, Iowa 52808 - Attn: MEMORIAL. Please make checks payable to the St. Patrick Society. Stock certificates or other negotiable instruments are welcomed as contributions. All donations are tax deductible. The St. Patrick Society is a 501 (c)(3) organization.

Questions regarding our memorial project may be directed to John Scally at (309) 788-2341 or Pat Burke (563) 359-8016. The unveiling of the memorial is planned within 12-18 months from now. Please be generous and spread the word about this unique opportunity to honor those Irish men, women and children who came before us.

Submitted by John Scally



2007 Erin Feis - Sunday, September 16, 2007

Committees are already hard at work planning our 23rd annual Erin Feis in the District of Rock Island. A Wednesday evening meeting schedule is set for July 11, August 6* and Sept. 12. (*part of General Meeting at Knights of Columbus, Davenport)

Besides Aug. 6, all meetings, will be at the Rock Island Brewing Company at 6pm. Our Committees are looking for energetic volunteers, so please contact Jan Foley at (563) 323-6046, Jolene Whittemore at (563) 391-1904 or Vic Quinn (563) 344-0600 if you would like to get involved. **This event helps fund the Grand Parade and Weekend. If you enjoy the Grand Weekend events each year, please do your part to support Erin Feis!**



Irish Sister City Delegates Visit QC

After arriving from their St. Patrick's Day visit in New York City, a group from Carlow, Ireland visited Davenport as part of its new Sister

City relationship. Visitors included Mayor Michael Abbey, Mayor Thomas Kinsella, Mayor Jennifer O'Connor and Clerk Joe Watters. Several St. Patrick Society representatives had the chance to meet the contingent during their stay to

exchange ideas, socialize and deepen friendships to further develop commerce and economic growth. Our Irish



Mayor Winbarn (right), with Mayor Michael Abbey and Mayor Jennifer O'Connor (seated).

guests were presented with SPS pins and 2007 Grand Parade posters, as well as personal invitations to attend our 2008 Grand Parade weekend.



Irish music & events this summer

Switchback - will perform Celtic Bluegrass on Friday, June 15th at 7 pm at the Lodge in Bettendorf. Info is available at www.celtichighlandgames.org/schedule.htm

Celtic Highland Games - August 25 at Mississippi Valley Fairgrounds. Visit website above.

Irish Hooley - August 25 at Alliant Energy Amphitheater in Dubuque. \$7 Admission. Call Shamrock Imports at 563-583-5000 for details.

Peoria Erin Feis - August 24-26. \$7 Admission. Visit www.stpatpeoria.com.

Milwaukee Irish Fest - August 16-19. Visit www.irishfest.com.



Special Thanks

The Society would like to extend its gratitude to the employees of IPCS Sprint in Geneseo for their generous donation, as well as Circle Computer Resources, Cedar Rapids, for hosting our website.