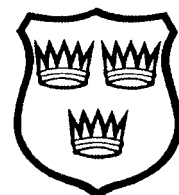




Foras Cultuir Gaeil Aontuighthe



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Volume XXXVI, No 1
January, 2005

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PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

“With our rediscovered ability to improve our economic order, we have set our feet upon the road of enduring progress.”

President Franklin Delano Roosevelt
Second Inaugural Address, 1/20/1937

While our current trials and tribulations at the Irish Center are minuscule in comparison to the harshness of the Great Depression, a parallel can be drawn from FDR’s message. We will revive the financial viability of the Irish Center by rallying together and entertaining the idea that change allows us to embark upon a journey to prosperity.

Discontinuing the daily restaurant and bar operation provided an essential opportunity to reevaluate the overall management of our facility including identifying proper staffing levels, creating additional volunteer opportunities, determining maintenance needs, developing better relationships with our vendors/service providers and gaining a stronger appreciation for our committee structure. Over the past two months, extraordinary things have taken place.

☐ As we shifted to a banquet only format, Staff has done a tremendous job of working together (with each other and with the Board), staying on task and embracing the changes. When adjustments have been needed, they are made with little fuss and morale appears to be at an all-time high. Thank you!

☐ Longtime members previously busy with outside activities are rededicating themselves to the Irish Center. Each day our volunteers answer phones (10am-4pm), operate the Library, act as hosts and work on committee assignments. Thank you!

☐ The Operations Committee is performing monthly plant walkthroughs. Items of concern are assigned to the appropriate person(s) and handled. Thank you!

☐ The Board and its committees are interacting in a professional and efficient manner, with little infighting and an overall “can do” mind set. Thank you!

☐ The Board and Staff now evaluate costs on an event-by-event basis to accurately assess whether or not to continue offering specific services. So far, the Sunday Brunch, the Thursday Lunch Bunch, the 3rd Thursday Dinners, the Wolfstones Concert and Thanksgiving Dinner have all been profitable. Thank you!

☐ The Membership Committee is in the process of updating our roster. They have done a tremendous job in compiling the information and will be sending out a questionnaire. Thank you!

Your input is now needed to complete the project. Please provide the requested information ASAP.

These are significant accomplishments and must be recognized. Without individuals dedicated to the overall success of the Irish Center, we would not be able to keep the doors open. Thank you all again.

In his closing remarks, FDR stated, “... We all go up, or else we all go down, as one people.”

May God Bless and keep you and yours safe in the New Year.

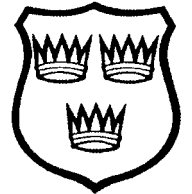
Bob Twomey, *President*

Purpose ~ Respect ~ Organization ~ Unity ~ Determination

THIS MONTH’S MEETING — THURSDAY, January 27, 2005, at 7:00 PM



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Volume XXXVI, No 2
 February, 2005

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PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

“Unity to be real must stand the severest strain without breaking” - Gandhi

As we trudge through the beginning of 2005, the Irish Center Community can be PROUD of the loyalty and dedication that pulls us together and allows us to tackle our challenges head on. A couple of important recent examples of cooperation and participation come to mind...

After co-chairing a successful New Year's Eve Celebration with Board Member Mary Kelleher, Margaret McAuliffe agreed to chair the Events and Promotions Committee. Board Member Bill Luqué will now assume the vital role of Secretary and maintain our official records.

Our Joint House Committee, consisting of all committee chairs and the Past Presidents Advisory Council, convenes monthly with the Board of Directors to coordinate UICC business including finances, operations and other programs. New chairpersons include Mary Slane (Finance), Martin Falvey (Maintenance), Sash Nagle (Outreach), & Karen Kinahan (Youth). This increase in communication has reduced committee overlap, increased our overall efficiency and allowed the Board to focus on developing plans for the future. Remaining committee opportunities include Silver Gaels, Bylaws, and Nominations. If interested, please contact me.

As our reorganization proceeds, programs and hours of operation are expanding. At the recent Monthly Membership Meeting (4th Thursday at 7pm), the following announcements were made:

- Club Meetings – NOW open Tuesday and Thursday evenings (prior notice appreciated).
- Mothers, Nannies & Toddlers - NOW available every Wednesday, 10:30am to Noon
- “Dillon’s Lunch Bunch” - NOW every Thursday, 11:30am to 2pm.
- “Friday Night Follies” beginning 2/11/05 w/ Comedy by our very own Meehan Brothers.
- “Saturday Night Live” - Dining and Music beginning 3/5/05 (reservations suggested).
- Sunday Brunch - NOW offered every week, 10am to 2pm (reservations suggested).
- “Sunday Bards and Cards” - story telling for children (Members Room) and card playing for adults (Emerald Room), beginning 2/27/05 after Brunch from 2pm to 4pm.
- Name the Main Bar Contest – Please submit your suggestions to my attention by 3/15/05.
- PLEASE SAVE Saturday June 4, 2005 for UICC’s STRATEGIC PLANNING DAY!

The overall support and guidance the Board and I are receiving from members is humbling. Please feel free to contact me and discuss your ideas, thoughts or concerns. Also, please remember to plan your St. Patrick’s festivities around the Irish Center. See our announcements in the Bulletin, Irish Herald (Page 8) & on the web at www.irishcentersf.org.

Bob Twomey, *President* (Bob2mey@yahoo.com or Telephone 415/793-5344)

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THIS MONTH’S MEETING —THURSDAY, February 24, 2005, at 7:00 PM



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Volume XXXVI, No 3
 March, 2005

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P R E S I D E N T S M E S S A G E

"Success depends above all, upon people. Build relationships, teams, partnerships -- and motivate people to contribute. Cultivate leadership, creativity, excellence. Listen; seek new ideas and advice."

— Ruth Scott

I am overwhelmed by the membership's response to our current challenges. On a daily basis, members give generously of their time and experience, openly sharing a deep felt faith that the Irish Center will not only survive, but also continue to prosper.

Examples that our success is built upon people:

The green awning on 47th Avenue was torn by heavy winds during a recent storm. Almost on cue, the Membership Committee received a \$2,000 check included with a completed Membership Questionnaire. The awning has already been replaced just in time for the St. Patrick's Festivities.

A member noticed the overgrown trees along the front and sides of the building and trimmed them back...again, just in time for Irish March Madness.

The Board has recently been holding our weekly meetings in the Library ...it seems appropriate to be surrounded by the rich history of the Irish People as we work through the day-to-day operations of the Irish Center and plan for the future. Recently, one of our volunteers shared this gem, an old typewritten cover letter (without a date) on fancy UICC Letterhead:

"The welcoming spirit pervades the whole atmosphere of the United Irish Cultural Center which is a club for the Irish people of the Bay Area, for their children and for their children's children. The club is member-supported and its beautiful building is unique in having been built almost entirely by volunteer labor. It was a true labor of love...It is a place where Irish People can meet friends...can have a meal, a drink, read the current Irish newspapers in the library, see a play, attend a history class, play cards...or just converse with friends...The welcoming spirit of "Caed mile failte" extends to all."

Please come out to the Irish Center on March 8, 2005 from 5pm-8pm and celebrate our 30th Anniversary with dancers, pipers and loads of fun. It's the perfect prelude to the Feast of St. Patrick.

Respectfully,

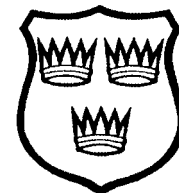
Bob Twomey, President
 Bob2mey@yahoo.com
 Telephone: 415/793-5344

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THIS MONTH'S MEETING —THURSDAY, March 24, 2005, at 7:00 PM



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Volume XXXVI, No 4
April, 2005

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PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

"IN UNITY AND NUMBERS THERE IS STRENGTH."

President Liam Speiers included this UICC motto with other comments made to the membership at the burning of the mortgage in March, 1984. During the recent Celebration of Saint Patrick, we experienced the unity of our membership by the strong numbers who turned out after the parade, during other special events and on St. Patrick's Day itself. Next year's music will ensure dancing into the early morning hours!

By now, many of you have received the recent Presidents Appeal Fund mailing. Your response has been strong, with over \$25,000 received in the first two weeks. Income and expenses for this Fund will be reported in each month's President's Message, beginning in May. To date, the only expenses have been for the awning and the dishwasher. A detailed statement will be available after April 1, 2005.

Many members received this letter several days after the cocktail party celebrating the date of our doors opening. While the reference in my letter was not intended to be the primary invitation to this event, I now understand it may have been the only information many members received regarding the party. The Board is planning similar celebrations throughout our 30th Anniversary and ample notice will be provided to members. Please check the Bulletin, the Irish Herald (page 8) and our website (www.irishcentersf.org) for announcements of all upcoming events at the Irish Center.

During March, the Irish Center opened the Dining Room for dinner and dancing on Saturday Nights. While we are unable to offer a full restaurant program, our banquet style menu and lively music has drawn great reviews! Please come out and support us. We are also open for Sunday Buffet Brunch and Thursday Lunch.

The Rose of Tralee Committee has scheduled the selection dinner/dance for June 18, 2005. This talented committee will undoubtedly make this year's event a huge success. Applications can be obtained by calling 415/820-3235.

There are a few 32/50 combinations available. As many of you know, this is a fun way to provide important support for the Irish Center. Please participate, as you are able.

Also, please save the following dates: 2nd Friday Comedy Nights (4/8; 5/13; 6/10; 7/8); Annual General Meeting (May 26, 2005); Strategic Planning (June 4, 2005). Comedy Night in April headlines Doug Ferrari (also Reannie Roads and Howard Meehan).

Thank you all for your continuing support.

Respectfully,

Bob Twomey, *President*

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THIS MONTH'S MEETING — THURSDAY, April 28, 2005, at 7:00 PM