

**National Constitution**  
**of the**  
**Ancient Order of Hibernians in America, Inc.**



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## **PREAMBLE**

It is hereby declared and decreed that the purpose of this Organization, the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America, Inc., is:

- (1) To promote Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity;
- (2) To foster and sustain loyalty to country and community;
- (3) To aid and advance by all legitimate means the aspirations and endeavors of the Irish people for complete and absolute independence, promoting peace and unity for all Ireland;
- (4) To foster the ideas and perpetuate the history and traditions of the Irish people;
- (5) To promote Irish culture;
- (6) To encourage civic participation;
- (7) To encourage an equitable U.S. immigration law for Ireland, and to cooperate with groups for a fair American Immigration Policy;
- (8) To accept and support, without prejudice, the concept of free expression of religious practice for the people of the world; and
- (9) To protect and defend all life, born and unborn.

## ARTICLE I

**NAME: Section 1** The name of this Organization shall be the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America, Inc.

## ARTICLE II

**PURPOSE: Section 1.** The purpose is set forth in the Preamble to this Constitution. It pledges to work in harmony with the doctrines and laws of the Roman Catholic Church, and to foster and sustain loyalty to country among its members. This Constitution shall be the Supreme Law of the Order.

## ARTICLE III

**ORGANIZATION: Section 1.** The basic units shall be Divisions of not less than fifteen (15) members. Each Division shall bear a number and may bear a designating name. Such name may be selected by each Division, with the approval of the National Board.

**GOVERNANCE: Section 2.** Subject to the control of each Division over its local affairs, the government of the Order shall vest in Division, County, State, District, and National Officers each exercising his prescribed function within the limits of this Constitution and each subject to the superior tribunal of Officers, in the order of subordination as follows: National Convention; National Officers; State or District Convention; State and District Officers; County Convention; County Officers; Division Officers; members. In those states where only one Division or one County Board validly exists, the President of such single Division or single County Board shall be included in all types and means of communication from and with the Officers of the National Board.

## ARTICLE IV

**MEMBERSHIP QUALIFICATIONS: Section 1.** Applicant must:

- A. Be a male residing in the United States;
- B. Prove his Irish ancestry or that he has been legally adopted by those of Irish ancestry, or be a member of the Catholic Clergy or be enrolled as a Seminarian regardless of ancestry if they meet all other requirements;
- C. Be a practicing Roman Catholic<sup>1</sup>;

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<sup>1</sup> The term "Roman" Catholic for purposes of AOH membership should be taken in an inclusive rather than exclusive sense. This means that the word "Roman" should be given a broad interpretation, meaning any Catholic who belongs to one of the Churches of Rites in communion with the Church of Rome with our Holy Father as the Supreme Roman Pontiff. There are about twenty-four different Rites in the Catholic Church. They are divided into Western and Eastern Rites. In the United States the most common Western Rite would be the Roman Rite or Latin Rite. The most common Eastern Rites in the United States would be the Byzantine Rite, The Ukrainian Rite, the Maronite Rite and Melkite Rite.

- D. Be of good character;
- E. Be not less than sixteen (16) years of age; and

**APPLICATION: Section 2.** Application must be made on a form approved by the National Secretary. Applicants shall be elected by majority vote. Each division, by by-law or otherwise, in a manner not inconsistent with this Constitution, shall determine the manner in which applicants are admitted to membership. An applicant who has been determined to be ineligible for membership by a division cannot be admitted to membership in another division without the written permission of the division from which he was previously rejected.

The proposer shall certify that the applicant is a practicing Catholic and worthy of membership or where circumstances warrant, a Catholic priest may certify as to the applicant's status as a practicing Catholic, on a form approved by the National Board.

**MEMBERSHIP SOLICITATION: Section 3.** No member, officer, Board or Division shall solicit membership applicants by offering any gift, object, money, prize or inducement.

**REGULAR MEMBERSHIP: Section 4.** Divisions may accept male persons, not less than sixteen (16) years of age, upon the payment of the required initiation fee, as regular members. Divisions may also accept Seminarians regardless of ancestry if they meet all other requirements. Seminarians shall be exempt from the payment of dues while they are in the Seminary. Regular members shall be entitled to hold all offices in the Order and vote on all matters. Regular membership is limited to one Division at one time.

**BENEFICIAL MEMBERS: Section 5.** Any subordinate jurisdiction may establish or maintain a program of sick and/or death benefits. Eligibility or loss of benefits shall be governed by the By-Laws of such subordinate jurisdiction, without incurring any liability on the part of any superior jurisdiction.

**NATIONAL LIFE MEMBERS: Section 6.** Life Membership may be conferred on a member of the Order who has performed outstanding and distinguished service to his state, county or division as well as having an impact on the National level, upon application of his Division to the National Board, provided:

- A. Division membership be given at least five (5) days written notice;
- B. Such application is approved by a 2/3 vote of members at a regular Division meeting;
- C. Same is approved by the respective County, State and District Boards, and National Board;
- D. All applications must be submitted on the current official form issued by the National Secretary's Office;
- E. Only one application for National Life Membership from each Division per year shall be considered;
- F. The outgoing National President shall be awarded National Life Membership upon the completion of his term;
- G. All forms submitted for consideration by the National Board must be postmarked

no later than midnight of the 30 day prior to the date set for (1) the Interim National Board meeting in conjunction with the National President's Dinner or (2) 30 days prior to the first business day scheduled for the National Convention. Copies of applications must be sent by the National Secretary to the voting National Board members at least 10 days prior to the vote;

- H. A properly executed application submitted by the division of the applicant accompanied by a \$50 check which will be refunded if the application does not receive favorable consideration by the National Board;
- I. Each recipient shall receive a permanent gold card, a framed citation and his choice of neck or lapel medallion;
- J. All nominees must have been a member for a minimum of 25 years and completed their major degrees.

No dues or assessments shall be required of a Life member. A Citation shall in no way alter his previous standing as a Beneficial Member. Life membership shall be continuous regardless of division affiliation of member concerned. Exclusive of the life Membership extended to the outgoing President by the provisions of F. supra, no more than ten (10) such Citations shall be issued by the National Board in one (1) year.

**DIVISION LIFE MEMBERS:** Section 7. Each Division by vote may establish a Life Membership. The amount to be paid by the member shall be set by the Division. Such Life membership is wholly the responsibility of the Division establishing such a plan and incurs no liability on any other Division or Board, including sick and death benefits that may be due.

**ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP:** Section 8. Divisions may confer Associate Membership, by a 2/3 vote of members at a regular meeting, on men who do not qualify for Regular membership, but who have demonstrated good will towards the Order, its aims and principles. Associate Membership includes all social privileges but does not include attendance at meetings or voting privileges. In jurisdictions where such membership is specifically forbidden by law, this section shall not be operative. Associate membership will at no time exceed ten percent of a division's Regular Membership. A division in excess of that number must gradually reduce their Associate Membership through attrition.

**HONORARY MEMBERSHIP:** Section 9. The National Board may confer Honorary membership on persons who do not qualify for Regular membership but who have rendered valuable service on the various levels of the Order. Nominations for Honorary Membership may be submitted to the National Board by any Division, County or State Board, and all prospective Honorary Members must be cleared at each of these levels.

**WITHDRAWAL CARDS:** Section 10. Withdrawal cards issued and signed by the National Secretary shall be given to members in good standing who resign from the order. Such a card will bear the member's name, Division, degrees received, dates of admission and withdrawal; and will be countersigned by the Division President and Financial Secretary.

**RE-ADMISSION:** Section 11. A former member lawfully in possession of and presenting a withdrawal card may be readmitted to membership in any Division, provided he meets the requirements described in Section 1 and 2 of this Article. He shall renew his pledge at a regular meeting.

**JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP: Section 12.** A male applicant must be not less than ten (10), nor more than sixteen (16) years of age, and otherwise qualified for membership.

## **ARTICLE V DIVISIONS**

**NEW DIVISIONS: Section 1.** A petition to organize a new Division must be made on an approved form issued by the National Secretary. This form must be signed by at least fifteen (15) new applicants as described vacancy in Article IV, Section 1; and presented to the County President. Where there is no County jurisdiction, the State or District President shall have the power to organize Divisions, with the advice and consent of his respective Board.

In the case of Junior Divisions, the form must be signed by at least five (5) applicants. The National President and the National Organizer are also empowered to authorize the establishment of new Divisions wherever they deem it necessary for the best interest of the Order; except that where a bona fide County Board exists, the recommendation of such Board must be requested in advance. The National Secretary shall furnish, without cost to new Divisions, the following supplies: One Charter, One Warrant Book, Six Manuals and Six copies of the National Constitution. County Boards, within their jurisdiction, have the power to organize Divisions as defined in Section 1, supra

**JUNIOR DIVISIONS: Section 3.** Junior Divisions may be organized under the same provisions as contained in Article V, Section 1. By-laws in conformity with this Constitution shall be adopted, subject to the approval of the National President.

**CHARTERS: Section 4.** Applications for Charters shall be made through the County and/or State Secretaries to the National Secretary on approved forms furnished by the National Secretary.

**AMALGAMATION: Section 5.** In counties where there are more than two Divisions, the County Board is vested with the power to amalgamate such Divisions on terms and conditions not in conflict with this Constitution. Members concerned shall be given at least five (5) days written notice, and a two-thirds vote of the members present at a regular meeting of each Division is required for approval.

**MEETINGS: Section 6.** Divisions shall meet at least once each month, between October 1 and June 30 of each year. Divisions shall not meet for any purpose in any place, under conditions or surroundings that would bring the Order into public disrepute.

**COMMITTEES: Section 8.** Each Division may have regular committees on finance, employment, entertainment, Irish history, sick, publicity, Catholic Action and such other committees as may be necessary, appointed by the President at the first regular meeting of his term, and removable by him at any time; and a standing committee of four (4), in addition to the Chairman, may be elected by the Division at its annual election, and as vacancies occur.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE: Section 9.** The Finance Committee shall at the last regular meeting in December and at such other times as may be determined by the President, render a written report of the financial condition of the Division and accounts of its officers.

**EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE: Section 10.** The Employment Committee shall render every possible help to unemployed members.

**ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE: Section 11.** The Entertainment Committee shall have charge of social and literary work of the division.

**STANDING COMMITTEE: Section 12.** The Standing Committee shall try all charges filed in writing against a member with the Recording Secretary of the Division and act as an Arbitration Board to settle and adjust all disputes and grievances arising in the Division and perform such other duties as may be assigned to it by the Division. The Standing Committee may perform these functions or a separate committee may be elected.

**IRISH HISTORY COMMITTEE: Section 13.** The Irish History Committee shall have charge of the study of Irish history and the history of those of Irish ancestry in America. It shall encourage its proper recognition in schools, academies, and colleges.

**COMMITTEE ON SICK: Section 14.** The Committee on Sick shall visit every sick member, and report at the next regular meeting of the Division.

**PUBLICITY COMMITTEE: Section 15.** The Publicity Committee shall keep the Division prominently and favorably before the public by obtaining publicity for Division activities and all matters affecting the Irish people and the Irish cause.

## **ARTICLE VI TRANSFERS**

**TRANSFER CARDS: Section 1.** A member shall not be in good standing if he previously resigned from another division while charges were pending against him until a final adjudication of those charges which absolve him of the allegations contained within the charge(s).

**TRANSFER INFORMATION: Section 2.** Said transfer card shall show all pertinent information including benefits if any.

**AUTHORIZED TRANSFER CARDS: Section 3.** Transfer Cards (obtainable from the National Secretary) shall be filled in as required and issued in duplicate. Within three (3) months after date of issue, the member affected shall deliver one copy to the Division (or County) President at his designation. The Division Secretary originating the transfer shall mail the second copy to the officer designated above.

## **ARTICLE VII DEFUNCT UNITS**

**DIVISION: Section 1.** Whenever a Division ceases to affiliate with the County Board or is suspended, all available property, books, records and funds shall vest in the County President who will take possession thereof and turn over same to the County Board. The Charter, if available, shall be returned to the State Secretary without delay. If not available, the charter shall be canceled by the National Secretary. Where no County Board exists, this authority is vested in the State President. Where no County or State Board exists, this authority is vested in the National President.

**MEMBER OF DISBANDED UNIT: Section 2.** Whenever a Division's Charter is revoked, a member in



good standing shall be assisted by the County President or the next higher jurisdiction in securing admission to another Division of his choice by transfer.

**COUNTY: Section 3.** Whenever any County ceases to affiliate with the State or District Board, or is suspended, all available property, books, records and funds shall vest in the State or District President who shall take possession thereof and turn over same to the State or District Board. Where no State or District Board exists, this authority is vested in the National President.

**NATIONAL SECRETARY, REPORT TO: Section 4.** Any action taken in connection with any section of this Article shall be reported, in writing, to the National Secretary within sixty (60) days.

### **ARTICLE VIII OFFICERS OF EACH JURISDICTION**

**NATIONAL: Section 1.** Elective: The following officers shall be elected: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and six (6) Directors.

**NATIONAL: Section 2.** Appointive by the President: Chaplain and two (2) Deputy Chaplains (subject to the approval of the appointee's Ordinary), Historian/Archivist, Organizer, Editor of National Hibernian Digest, Chairman of Freedom For All Ireland Committee, Chairman of Charities and Missions Fund, Chairman of Catholic Action, Chairman of Pro-Life, National Legal Counsel, Chairman of Political Education Committee, Chairman of Veteran's Affairs and Chairman of Immigration Committee. In addition, an "Oversight Committee" consisting of three past presidents will be assigned, consisting of three (3) past National Presidents, as appointed by the President. The President shall designate the respective Directors as Chairmen of the appointive committees for which (in his opinion) they are specifically qualified. All Chairmen serve at the pleasure of the National President. Past National Presidents are deemed to be National Board Members. The National President may appoint members to such other positions as he deems appropriate. These members shall not be voting members of the National Board. Expenses of these positions shall be subject to prior approval of the National President.

**STATE AND DISTRICT: Section 3.** Elective: President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer; and Directors, if provided for in By-Laws.

**STATE AND DISTRICT: Section 4.** Appointive by the President: Chaplain, (subject to the approval of the appointee's Ordinary), Organizer, Historian, Chairman of Catholic Action, Chairman of Charities and Missions Fund, Chairman of Freedom For All Ireland Committee, Chairman of Pro-Life, Chairman of Political Education Committee, Chairman of Immigration Committee and Chairman of Veteran's Affairs Committee. All are to serve at the pleasure of the State or District President.

**COUNTY: Section 5.** Elective: President, Vice-President, Recoding Secretary, Financial Secretary, Treasurer, Chairman of Standing Committee, Marshal and Sentinel.

**COUNTY: Section 6.** Appointive by the President: Chaplain, (subject to the approval of the appointee's Ordinary), Organizer, Historian, Chairman of Charities, Mission Fund and Chairman of Catholic Action, Chairman of Pro-life, Chairman of Political Education Committee, Chairman of Immigration and Chairman of Veteran's Affairs Committee.

A Freedom for All Ireland Chairman shall also be appointed by the County President and the members of the Committee shall be named by the Division Presidents of the County, pursuant to Section 8 of this Article. All are to serve at the pleasure of the County President.

**DIVISION: Section 7.** Elective: President, Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Financial Secretary, Treasurer, Chairman of Standing Committee, Marshal and Sentinel. Tenure of office shall be one (1) or two (2) years (as provided for in By-Laws) or until successor has been duly elected and qualified.

**DIVISION: Section 8.** Appointive by the President: Chaplain (subject to the approval of the appointee's Ordinary), Chairman of Charities and Missions Fund, Chairman of Catholic Action, Historian, Organizer, Chairman of Immigration Committee and a Chairman of Freedom For All Ireland, who shall serve on the County Committee pursuant to Section 6 of this Article. All are to serve at the pleasure of the Division President.

**IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENTS: Section 9.** Immediate Past Presidents, by virtue of their office, are members of the Board of Officers of their respective jurisdictions.

**SENIORITY OF OFFICERS: Section 11.** At all Hibernian meetings, masses, banquets, parades, social, and other affairs, officers are to be positioned according to rank as in Section 1, 3, 5 and 7 of this Article. This courtesy is due to the office that the brother represents. The Chaplain should occupy a place of honor at the right of the President.

**QUALIFICATION OF OFFICERS: Section 12.** No member of this Order shall be eligible to hold any State, County, District, or Division office unless he has been a member in good standing for a continuous period of six (6) months before election or appointment. In addition to being a member in good standing for a continuous six (6) month period, each State may require in its respective By-Laws that: (a) a candidate for State elected or appointed office has received the major degrees of the Order before election or appointment; (b) a candidate for County elected office must have received the major degrees of the order before election; and (c) a candidate for Division President or Vice-President must have received the major degrees of the Order before election, This section does not apply to the election of officers for a newly formed Division at organization, however, no member shall be eligible to hold any elected or appointed National office unless he has received the major degrees of the Order for at least one (1) year prior to election or appointment. All elected Officers of the National Board, and the Presidents of all State Boards, County Boards and Divisions are required to have receptive e-mail addresses available to the membership and regularly respond to e-mails. All Elected and Appointed Officers of each jurisdiction shall attend Conventions of their respective jurisdiction, unless excused by the President of that jurisdiction.

## **ARTICLE IX COMPOSITION OF BOARDS**

**NATIONAL: Section 1.** The National Board shall be composed of the National officers as named in Article VIII, Sections 1, 2 and 9, and the past National Presidents in good standing and is subject only to the power of the National Convention while in session. It is the supreme executive body of the Order.

**STATE: Section 2.** In States having bona fide Divisions in two or more Counties, State Boards shall consist of the State Officers, elective and appointive; National Officers, (as per Article VIII, Sections 1 and 2) who are bona fide members of the State; Immediate Past State Presidents, (as per Article VIII, Section 9); the County Presidents and such additional members as the respective States shall designate at the State

Convention. Where only One County is organized, no State officers shall be elected. The functions of the State Boards are to be performed by the respective County Officers. The District of Columbia is recognized as a State for purposes of this Constitution.

**DISTRICT: Section 3.** The District Board of the District of Columbia shall be composed of District and Division Officers, elective and appointive, and National Officers, (as per Article VIII, Sections 1 and 2) and Immediate Past District President (as per Article VIII, Section 9). The District Board shall have the same status as a State Board.

**COUNTY: Section 4.** The County Board shall consist of the County Officers, elective and appointive; National Officers, (as per Article VIII, sections 1 and 2) and State and District Officers, (as per Article VIII, Sections 3 and 4) who are bona fide members of the County; Immediate Past County President (as per article VIII, section 9); together with the President, Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Financial Secretary and Treasurer of each Division in the County, and such additional delegates as may be provided for by County Bylaws. Where two or more Divisions exist in a County or jurisdiction, a County Board shall be organized. Where only one Division exists in a County or jurisdiction, no County Board or County officer shall be elected. The functions of the County Board are to be performed by the respective officers of said Division and to be so recognized by the State, District, and National Officers. Cities with two Divisions or more, not located in a County, shall have the right to form County Boards.

**BOARD MEETINGS: Section 5.** State, District and County Boards shall meet from time to time as determined by their By-Laws. Meetings of the National Board shall be called by the President at least quarterly. Five days (5) written notice to all Officers and Directors is required, accompanied by a meeting agenda to all participants. The National Secretary shall call a Board meeting when he receives a written notice signed by a majority of elected members of the Board. Meetings of the National Board may be held either in person or by telephone or other electronic medium where the equipment used will enable each member to hear the entire proceeding simultaneously and allows each member the ability to speak to each of the other members and be heard. Notice of National Board meeting shall be published on the National Website five days in advance of the meeting, except in cases of force majeure. The National Board President may provide copies of the notice and agenda to the State Presidents.

**AUDITING COMMITTEES, COUNTY: Section 6.** Each County President may, during the month of December of each year, appoint as many Auditing Committees as may be necessary to examine and audit the books of each Division in his County. The Auditing Committees shall file a written report (signed by the committee members) with the County Board, showing the number of Division members in good standing, and financial condition, before the following February 15. The State President may do likewise for a single Division in a County.

## **ARTICLE X POWERS AND DUTIES OF OFFICERS**

**PRESIDENTS: Section 1.** Shall:

- A. Preside at all meetings of the Order in their respective jurisdictions;
- B. Be the Executive Officers of the Order;
- C. Appoint members to constitute Boards;
- D. Rule on questions of law under this Constitution;

- E. Appoint Committees for the good and welfare of the Order;
- F. Enforce the laws of the Order in their respective jurisdictions;
- G. Plan meetings and activities of the Order;
- H. Hold the several officers of their jurisdictions responsible for the activities entrusted to them;
- I. Sign all official documents and papers of the Order;
- J. Perform such other duties as are usually attached to the office of President; and
- K. Make a report to the membership at Conventions and meetings.

**VICE-PRESIDENTS: Section 2. Shall:**

- A. Perform all the duties of the President in the absence or disability of the latter;
- B. Be responsible for advancing and promoting the Degree work of the Order;
- C. Be the Director of Junior Divisions;
- D. Report their activities at Conventions and meetings;
- E. National Vice-President shall serve as Chairman of the John F. Kennedy Memorial Medal Committee and Sean MacBride Humanitarian Award Committee; and
- F. National Vice-President shall review, recommend and report on the Ritual Degree work of the Order to the National Convention and at the National Board Meetings.

**SECRETARIES: Section 3. National, State and District shall:**

- A. Attend all meetings of their respective Boards;
- B. Keep a record of the proceedings of the Order and Board meetings, and read those minutes at the following meeting. After minutes are read at a meeting, they shall be made available for review by any members in good standing upon request. Minutes may be made available on the internet accessible to members in good standing only. The copy and mailing cost shall be borne by the member making the request, and paid in advance;
- C. Conduct the correspondence of the Order;
- D. Notify the members of forthcoming Conventions and Board meetings;
- E. Receive and file reports of States, Districts, Counties and Divisions;
- F. Maintain an accurate membership roster;
- G. Receipt and record all funds received by them and remit to treasurers within ten (10) days;

- H. Render annual itemized accounts showing receipts and monies forwarded to treasurers, on approved forms; and
- I. The National Secretary's office shall be both equipped and staffed to handle the electronic transfer of membership information between his office, Hibernian Charities, Inc., and officers at the National, State, County, and Division levels of the Order.

**SECRETARIES, RECORDING, COUNTY AND DIVISION: Section 4. Shall:**

- A. Notify members of all meetings of the body he serves.
- B. Keep a record of the proceedings of the Order and Board meetings, and read those minutes at the following meeting: After minutes are read and approved at a meeting, they shall be made available for review by any member in good standing upon request. The copy and mailing cost shall be borne by the member making the request, and paid in advance. Minutes shall not be published on the internet. Minutes shall not be shared via email. The copy and mailing cost shall be borne by the member making the request.
- C. Countersign all lawful orders on the treasury.
- D. Notify applicants of their election and members of their suspension within one (1) week.
- E. Make detailed report of all facts regarding the unit he serves to the County, State, District, and National bodies on approved forms issued by the National Secretary
- F. Carry out all duties according to the By-Laws and as directed by the body he serves.

**SECRETARIES, FINANCIAL, COUNTY AND DIVISION: Section 5. Shall:**

- A. Keep an accurate record of the each member showing date proposed, date initiated and the dates he received his Major Degrees;
- B. Collect all dues, fees, assessments and fines and keep accurate record thereof on approved books and forms issued by the National Secretary;
- C. Pay to Treasurer all monies collected at the close of each meeting;
- D. Keep attendance record of all meetings;
- E. Make annual financial report; and

**TREASURERS: Section 6. Shall:**

- A. Be the custodian of all funds, bonds, securities and instruments held in the name of the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America, and deposit same for safekeeping

in a bank or savings institution within ten (10) days after receipt in the appropriate name of the Order and unit thereof;

- B. Keep a record of all monies received and disbursed on approved forms and books furnished by the National Secretary;
- C. Pay no money except on voucher signed by the President and countersigned by the Secretary on approved forms furnished by the National Secretary;
- D. Keep vouchers for all disbursements; and
- E. Present a financial report of their respective jurisdictions at all meetings and when ordered to do so by a higher authority. The National Treasurer shall have in place an accounting system of the AOH in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Procedures (GAAP). The National Treasurer shall provide annual reports to the National Board and the biennial National Convention the following detailed reports: Profit and Loss Statements and Balance Sheet. The National Treasurer shall close his books as of the last day of the month preceding the Biennial Convention. He shall submit a typewritten report of all monies received and disbursed during his term of office to the Convention. He shall submit a supplementary report immediately before adjournment of the Convention. State, District, and County Treasurers shall close their books fifteen (15) days prior to the convening of their respective Conventions and submit reports as may be required by the State, District, or County By-laws.

**NATIONAL CHAPLAIN: Section 7.** Shall: Be a Bishop or Priest of the Catholic Church, in good standing, appointed by the National President, subject to the approval of the appointee's Ordinary. The National President shall appoint two (2) Deputy National Chaplains. The duties of the National Chaplain and the Deputy National Chaplains, in addition to Subdivisions A and B of Section 8 of this Article, shall be to attend the Biennial Convention and all National Board meeting. The National Chaplain shall, between Biennial Conventions, call a meeting of all State Chaplains and maintain correspondence with Chaplains in promoting the work of the Order.

**CHAPLAINS: Section 8.** State, County, District, and Division Chaplains shall be a Priest or Deacon or a Professed Religious Brother and shall:

- A. Provide spiritual guidance for their respective jurisdictions;
- B. Advise on all matters pertaining to the welfare of the Order;
- C. Attend meetings and participate in discussions within their jurisdiction; and
- D. Be a member of the Catholic Action Committee of their respective jurisdictions.

**HISTORIAN/ARCHIVIST, NATIONAL: Section 9.** Shall:

- A. Promote, supervise and direct proper recognition of the study of Irish History in Catholic Schools and colleges and other educational Institutions;

- B. Prepare and distribute a bi-monthly bulletin to each State, District, County and Division Historian; said bulletin shall also be published in each issue of the National Hibernian Digest;
- C. Administer, and/or appoint a committee to administer, the Order's participation in the annual National History Day competition, and to encourage State Historians to support National History Day;
- D. Provide for the storage and organization of documents, records, and objects deemed to be, in the opinion of the Archivist, of historical value to the membership of the Order; and
- E. Report to the National Convention and National Board Meetings.

**HISTORIAN, STATE, DISTRICT, COUNTY AND DIVISION: Section 10.** Shall:

Cooperate with National Historian, act under his advice, direct the aforesaid movement in his jurisdiction, and perform such other duties as may be required by State, County or Division By-Laws.

**EDITOR, NATIONAL HIBERNIAN DIGEST: Section 11.** Shall:

- A. Edit and publish the official publication as prescribed in Article XXI;
- B. Be Chairman of National Publicity;
- C. Be under direct supervision and control of the National President;
- D. Submit reports at all National Board Meetings;
- E. Appoint Associate Editors; and
- F. Report to the National Convention and National Board Meetings.

**ORGANIZER, NATIONAL: Section 12.** Shall:

- A. Conduct Organization Department;
- B. Recommend to the National President, for appointment, such assistants as may be necessary to carry on the organizational work of the Order;
- C. Encourage the organization of new divisions, especially in Counties, States and Districts where no division exists;
- D. Report to the National Convention and National Board Meetings; and
- E. Assign duties to assistant organizers and, in his discretion, remove any assistant organizer for inactivity. Expenses for such operations shall be paid from the monies for organizational purposes provided for in Article XI, Section 4, and in Article XIV, Section 1.

**ORGANIZER, STATE, DISTRICT, COUNTY AND DIVISION: Section 13. Shall:**

Direct organizational work within their respective jurisdictions and perform such other duties as may be required by the State, District, County or Division By-Laws.

**NATIONAL DIRECTORS: Section 14. Shall:**

- A. Form a National Program Committee;
- B. Be charged with the duty of arranging suitable programs of a nature that will attract, and be of interest especially to, young Americans of Irish ancestry;
- C. Advise and assist State, District, County and Division Officers in promoting programs in their jurisdictions; and
- D. Report to the National Convention and National Board Meetings.

**CHAIRMAN, FREEDOM FOR ALL IRELAND COMMITTEE: Section 15. Shall:**

- A. Be the Convention Freedom for All Ireland Chairman and appoint six or more members (with the approval of the National President) to serve in the interim between conventions;
- B. Support and inform the membership on all legislative action for the abolition of the Partition of Ireland;
- C. Prepare and submit an article on the National and economic aspects of the unity of Ireland to the Editor of the National Hibernian Digest for publication in each issue; and
- D. Report to the National Convention and National Board Meetings.

**CHAIRMAN, CHARITIES AND MISSIONS: Section 16. Shall:**

- A. Make an annual appeal to the general membership of the Order, encouraging greater participation in the charitable works of the Order within their various jurisdictions;
- B. Collect and collate information on the charitable works and contributions on all levels of the Order, and cause the same to be published in the National Hibernian Digest; and
- C. Report to the National Convention and National Board Meetings.

**CHAIRMAN, CHARITIES AND MISSIONS, STATE, DISTRICT, COUNTY AND DIVISION: Section 17. Shall:** Cooperate with and assist the National Chairman and report all contributions made to him.



**CHAIRMAN, NATIONAL CATHOLIC ACTION COMMITTEE: Section 18. Shall:**

- A. Develop a nationwide program for Hibernian participation in Catholic Action.
- B. Appoint deputy Chairmen - one for each State or District with approval of the respective President.
- C. Report to the National Convention and National Board Meetings.

**NATIONAL LEGAL COUNSEL: Section 19. Shall:**

- A. Be a lawyer admitted to the Bar of a State, or District;
- B. Be responsible for the handling of all legal matters that involve the National Board of the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America, Inc.;
- C. Provide legal advice to the National President;
- D. Shall serve as the Constitutional Committee Chairman, and appoint six (6) members to his committee, all of whom have received their major degrees and the approval of the National President.
- E. Receive and study the By-laws of subordinate bodies. When required he shall forward his recommendations to the National President;
- F. Secure from State and District President or ranking officer of the various jurisdictions, at least sixty (60) days prior to the National Convention, any recommendations or suggestions, affecting the Constitution (in accordance with Article XXVIII, section 3);
- G. Call a meeting of the Committee at least once a year;
- H. Secure from each National Officer (sufficiently in advance of the Convention) any recommendations affecting the Constitution which he intends to make in his report to the Convention;
- I. Report to the National Convention and National Board Meetings; and
- J. The National Legal Counsel, with approval of the National President, may appoint up to four Deputy Legal Counsel as need arises.

**PRO-LIFE CHAIRMAN: Section 20. Shall:**

- A. Appoint a Deputy Chairman for Pro Life in each State or District with approval of the respective President;
- B. Develop a nationwide program for Hibernian participation in Pro Life activities on a National, State, County and Division level. The program is to be coordinated and supervised in each state by the deputy Pro Life Chairman; and

- C. Report to the National Convention and National Board Meetings.

**POLITICAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN: Section 21. Shall:**

- A. Appoint a Deputy Chairman for the Political Education Committee in each State or District with approval of the respective President;
- B. Develop a nationwide program for Hibernian participation in Political Education Committee on a National, State, County, and Division level. The program is to be coordinated and supervised in each state by the Deputy PEC Chairman; and
- C. Report to the National Convention and National Board Meetings.

**VETERANS AFFAIRS CHAIRMAN: Section 22.** Shall: Serve to provide information and advice for members of the Order who currently serve, or who have served, in the United States military. The chairman shall focus primarily in areas pertaining to Veteran's benefits, advocacy, and the development and maintenance of a historical record of Hibernians that have served. The individual appointed to this position shall be an honorably discharged veteran of the United States Armed Forces or an active duty member of the United States Armed Forces.

**OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE: Section 23.** The National President shall, within a month following the National Convention, appoint an Oversight Committee whose duty shall be to review and report on the National Charity, National Credit Card Program, and the Investment of the Funds of the Order. The Committee shall be composed of three (3) National Officers and, where possible, these officers shall be Past National Presidents. The Committee shall render a report at the National Board meeting held in conjunction with the National Presidents Dinner and at the National Convention. The committee may render additional reports at other times that they feel are appropriate. The committee is not intended to perform the functions of the Audit Committee appointed at the National Convention. The committee, once established, shall continue on a permanent basis with members serving at the pleasure of the National President.

**CHAIRMAN, IMMIGRATION COMMITTEE: Section 24. Shall:**

- A. Be the Convention Immigration Chairman and appoint six or more members (with the approval of the National President) to serve in the interim between conventions.
- B. Support and inform the membership on all legislative action for Improved Immigration between the U.S. and Ireland. Promote such actions in the U.S. and Ireland.
- C. Prepare and submit an article on the current immigration issues with Ireland and submit to the Editor of the National Hibernian Digest for publication in each issue.
- D. Report to the National Convention and National Board Meetings.

## **PROPERTIES, BOOKS, SURRENDER OF: Section 25.**

All officers must surrender to their successors or to those duly authorized to receive them, properties and funds of the Order that are in their possession at the expiration of their term, or when directed to do so by their superior officers. All officers, excepting the National Secretary, will bring all books, records, seals, papers and other miscellaneous properties used in their respective offices, belonging to the Order and in their physical and personal possession or under their custody and control, to the National, State, District, and County Conventions, or to the annual Division meeting held for the election of Division Officers, at which time and place the said properties will be impounded by the Presiding Officer, and held for examination and inventory, and to be thereafter delivered to the proper official elected or appointed to serve in each respective office. Failure to immediately comply with the provisions of this section shall constitute and be an indication that such an officer intends to convert same to his own use, and the Board of the unit or division concerned is hereby directed to take immediate steps to recover records and properties through all available lawful means. In addition, the Officer involved shall be charged with a violation of his pledge to the Order.

## **ARTICLE XI EXPENSES**

**NATIONAL OFFICERS: Section 1.** The National President shall receive the sum of \$4,800.00 per year for necessary and incidental expenses of his office. The National Vice-President shall receive the sum of \$3,500 per year for necessary and incidental expenses of his office. The National Secretary shall receive the sum of \$5,600.00 per year for necessary and incidental expenses of his office. The National Treasurer shall receive the sum of \$3,500.00 per year for necessary and incidental expenses of his office. The Editor of the National Hibernian Digest shall receive the sum of \$1,800.00 per year for necessary and incidental expenses of his office.

**TRAVEL EXPENSES: Section 2.** Each member of the National Board shall be allowed the cost incurred by him for transportation to the National Convention or any National Board Meeting or any other business on behalf of the National Board where such travel is approved by the Board or the National President. In addition, each Board member shall be allowed the cost for rooms, meals and incidental transportation. All such expenses, including transportation costs shall be paid at a rate consistent with the guidelines established by the U.S. Government for travel cost reimbursement to its civilian employees.

**BUDGET: Section 3.** The National President shall, within seven (7) days of the beginning of his term of office, establish a subcommittee of the National Board on Budget and Finance. This committee shall include the National Treasurer and three (3) of the elected National Directors. It shall be the duty of the committee to prepare an annual budget based on the anticipated annual income of the Order. The budget shall not exceed anticipated income and shall be approved by the National Board. The committee shall also be responsible for any other duties assigned to it by the National President.

**MONIES FOR ORGANIZATION PURPOSES: Section 4.** There shall be appropriated for organization purposes the monies provided in Article XIV, Section 1. Payments shall be made by the National Treasurer on approved vouchers issued and signed by the National President and National Secretary for bills submitted.

**MONETARY RESTRICTIONS: Section 5.** The attendance of National Officers as such at State, District, and County Conventions, State and County Board meetings, shall be without cost to said Conventions and Boards.

## **ARTICLE XII CONVENTIONS**

**NATIONAL: Section 1.** A National Convention shall be held every even numbered year except in a National Emergency. With the approval of the National Board, it shall convene on a date to be determined by the Convention City Committee, between the third week of June and the last week of August. The Convention date shall be announced within sixty (60) days after the adjournment of the selecting convention. The two days following the adjournment shall be reserved for the National Board to organize and form future programs and policies. Localities seeking to host the next convention shall submit a written application to the National President not later than January 15 prior to selecting the National Convention. The National Convention Site Selection Committee shall consist of the National President, National Vice President, National Secretary, National Treasurer and the President of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc., who shall investigate, negotiate and select potential convention site(s), and recommend to the convened Delegates, who will vote to select the next two convention sites. In the event a change is required in the site chosen by the National Convention, the National Board is empowered to select the new site. The Ladies National President will be notified of this action.

**OFFICIAL CALL: Section 2.** The National Secretary shall prepare the Official Call for the National Convention and forward copies on May 1 of a Convention year to all concerned.

**DELEGATES: Section 3.** The National Convention shall be composed of the following delegates:

- National Officers;
- Past National Presidents in good standing;
- State and District Officers (except directors);
- County Presidents;
- Division Presidents.

However, each County shall also be entitled to an additional delegate for each 100 members or major fraction thereof in excess of the first 100 members, based on the membership reported December 31, preceding.

**ORDER OF BUSINESS: Section 4.** The business of the National Convention shall include:

- Preliminary proceedings;
- Calling of Convention to order;
- Verification of membership, appointing one assistant secretary, official stenographer, doorkeeper and auditing committee for the Convention;
- Prayer by the Chaplain;
- Reading of the Call of the Convention;
- Appointing of the Committee on Credentials, to consist of the Secretaries, or their alternates, of the various State and District and Boards;
- Reports of Committee on Credentials;
- Appointment of committees on finance, constitutional amendments, resolutions, grievances, and such other committee as may be necessary;
- Reports of Officers;
- Reports of Committees;
- Nomination of Officers;
- Nomination of cities for next National Convention;
- New Business;
- Election of Officers and selection of site of next National Convention; and
- Adjournment.

**RULES OF ORDER: Section 5.** All meetings shall be governed by Roberts' Rules of Order in all matters not satisfactorily provided for herein.

**CREDENTIALS: Section 6.** At least twenty (20) days prior to the National Convention, the State, District, County and Division Secretary of each respective jurisdiction shall forward to the National Secretary a list of the duly elected delegates and alternates from each respective jurisdiction which shall be the official list for the use of the Committee on Credentials and for proceedings in the National Convention.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS: Section 7.** Reports of Committees to the National Convention shall be typed in triplicate, on 8.5 by 11 inch plain paper, two copies to be filed with the National Secretary, one copy to be retained by the Chairman of the Committee. It is permissible to invite members of the public to any installation.

**APPOINTMENTS: Section 8.** At each National Convention, the National President shall appoint an Assistant Secretary, an official Stenographer, an Auditing Committee, Doorkeeper and such other assistants as may be necessary to carry on the work of the Convention. Compensation for the above will be fixed by the National Board.

**NATIONAL CONVENTION CITY COMMITTEE: Section 9.** The National Convention City Committee shall be subject to the National Board. Schedules and fees will be set only after approval by the National Board. Convention minutes and reports on events should be filed by the Committee with the National Secretary within ninety (90) days after the Convention concludes, and monthly reports thereafter until the final report is filed and accepted by the National Board.

**STATE AND DISTRICT: Section 10.** A State or District Convention shall be held in each State or District in odd numbered years between the dates of May 1 and October 31. The State, or District Convention shall be composed of the following delegates: State, or District Officers, County Officers; National Officers (as per Article VIII, sections 1,2, and 9) who are bona fide members of the State or District; Division Presidents, and such additional delegates from Divisions as the State, or District Convention may determine on a proportional basis; delegates and alternates to be regularly nominated and elected at a meeting prior to the State, or District Convention. The State or District shall determine the length of time a delegate must be a member of the Order. Any member of a Division duly qualified will be eligible as a delegate with the other officers. A State, or District Convention may permit Past State, or District Presidents who are members of the Order in good standing to attend State, or District Conventions as delegates. In the event a State, or District Convention confers this privilege upon Past State, or District Presidents said representation shall be in addition to the other delegates already provided for in this section.

**OFFICIAL CALL STATE AND DISTRICT: Section 11.** State, or District Secretaries shall prepare the Official Call for the State, or District Convention and forward copies to all concerned not less than sixty (60) nor more than ninety (90) days prior to the State, or District Convention.

**COUNTY: Section 12.** A County Convention shall be held in each County not less than thirty (30) nor more than sixty (60) days prior to the convening of the State, or District Convention. The County Convention shall be composed of the following delegates: County Officers; the eight (8) elected Officers of each Division, National Officers (as per Article VIII, sections 1, 2, and 9), and State Officers (as per Article VIII, Sections 3, 4, and 9) who are bona fide members of the County, and such additional delegates as may be provided for by the County By -laws.

**OFFICIAL CALL - COUNTY: Section 13.** County Secretaries shall prepare the Official Call for the County Convention and forward copies to all concerned not less than thirty (30) nor more than sixty (60) days prior to the convening of the County Convention.

**SPECIAL CONVENTIONS: Section 14.** Special Conventions may be called in any jurisdiction by the President thereof, with the consent of a majority of his fellow officers.

**ALTERNATES: Section 15.** Each jurisdiction may elect an alternate for each delegate or officer entitled to a seat in the Convention.

**QUORUM AT CONVENTIONS: Section 16.** For the purpose of transacting the business at National, State, District or County Conventions, one-third of the delegates duly elected to any of said Conventions shall constitute a quorum.

**POWERS OF CONVENTIONS: Section 17.** Conventions in sessions shall exercise complete legislative and judicial power over the affairs and funds of the Order within the jurisdiction of the Convention, subject to the purpose of the Order as set forth in the preamble and the limits of this Constitution.

**MEETING PLACE: Section 18.** Conventions shall select the meeting place. State and County Conventions may delegate the selection of the convention city to the State and County Boards.

**REGISTRATION OF DELEGATES AND GUESTS: Section 19.** No delegate or alternate to any convention shall be permitted to register unless he has properly identified himself with his current paid-up Membership Card issued by the National Board or other proof of identification. Visitors, upon proper identification, shall be entitled to register as guests and receive guest badges.

**SEATING DELEGATES: Selection 20.** Delegates will occupy seats in a section reserved exclusively for them while the convention is in session.

### **ARTICLE XIII NOMINATIONS, ELECTIONS AND INSTALLATION**

**NOMINATION: Section 1.** Candidates for office shall be in attendance at the convention, or meeting, or if not present, shall signify their willingness to accept nomination and election, and shall be nominated from the floor as follows:

- A. National Officers -During Biennial National Convention at the time and in the manner specified by said Convention.
- B. State, District, and County- During their respective Biennial Conventions at the time and in the manner specified by said Conventions.
- C. Divisions- As prescribed by this Constitution and State, District, County and Division By-Laws.

**NATIONAL OFFICERS: Section 2.** President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and six (6) directors after nomination shall be elected during the transaction of the regular order of business of the National Convention. Installation shall be conducted prior to the adjournment of the Convention or at a public function in connection therewith. Tenure of office shall be two (2) years

or until their successors have been elected and qualified. No elected National Officer, except the National Secretary, shall be eligible to succeed himself more than once.

**QUALIFICATION FOR NATIONAL OFFICE: Section 3.** No member shall be eligible for election to National Office or appointed unless he has received all the degrees of the Order at least one (1) year prior to his election or appointment.

**ELECTION RULES, NATIONAL: Section 4.** Before balloting, each candidate shall name one Observer to ensure the integrity of the voting process. The President shall name one Judge of Elections who will oversee the entire voting process. The Judge and Observers together with additional election officials as the Convention may determine, shall constitute the Election Board. Balloting is to be by roll-call. Provisions for voting booths, ballots and ballot box shall be made by the National Secretary. A plurality of votes cast under the Australian system of balloting shall decide an election. Printed ballots, uniform in size and color, shall be used bearing candidate's name, city and state, office to which he has been nominated and a blank square at right of name for placing "X" to indicate an affirmative vote for the respective candidate. Ballots shall also be printed with the names of the cities nominated for the next National Convention. In the event any candidates or convention cities receive an equal number of votes, the winner shall be decided by a drawing out of one name from those tied, (under the direction of the Judge of Elections and the respective tellers). The results of the election at the time the Candidate's observers/clerks are dismissed shall be considered final and not subject to further change.

**DIVISION: Section 5.** Elective: President, Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Financial Secretary, Treasurer, Chairman of Standing Committee, Marshal and Sentinel.

**VACANCY: Section 5a.** In the case of the death, resignation or removal of any President, the Vice-President shall assume the office of President for the remainder of the term; all other vacancies of elected offices occurring in the National, State, County or Division Offices shall be filled by vote of the National, State, County or Division Boards respectively. All other vacancies occurring in Division offices, except appointive, shall be filled by an election at the meeting following the vacancy and all members shall be notified, in writing, not less than five (5) days before. All temporary vacancies resulting from the suspension or incapacity of officers shall be filled by the President.

**STATE AND DISTRICT OFFICERS: Section 6.** President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Directors (where provided for by State, or District By-Laws) shall be nominated and elected at the State or District Conventions. Installation shall be conducted prior to the adjournment of the Convention or at a public function in connection therewith. Tenure of office shall be two years or until their successors have been duly elected and qualified.

**COUNTY OFFICERS: Section 7.** President, Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Financial Secretary, Treasurer, Chairman of Standing Committee, Marshal, and Sentinel shall be nominated and elected at the County Convention, immediately after the transaction of the regular business. Installation must be conducted before the next State Convention. Where no State Board exists,



Installation must be conducted prior to the next National Convention. Tenure of office shall be two years or until their successors have been duly elected and qualified.

**DIVISION OFFICERS: Section 8.** President, Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Financial Secretary, Treasurer, Chairman of Standing Committee, Marshal, and Sentinel shall be nominated and elected annually between October 1 and January 1. Installation shall be conducted before January 31. Tenure of office shall be one (1) or two (2) year(s) or until a successor has been duly elected and installed. Division members in good standing must receive written notice at least five (5) and not more than fifteen (15) days of time and place of nominations and election.

**INSTALLING OFFICER: Section 9.** Where there is an organized County Board the installation of division officers will be the duty of the County President unless he delegates this duty to another. In counties where no County Board exists it will be the duty of the State or District President to perform the installation ceremony unless this duty is delegated by him to another. State and District officers will be installed by a member of the National Board, if present, unless this duty is delegated to another by the member of the National Board concerned. Where two or more National Officers are concerned, this duty will fall upon the ranking senior officer.

#### **ARTICLE XIV INITIATION AND REINSTATEMENT FEE, DUES, ASSESSMENTS AND SUPPLIES**

**INITIATION FEE: Section 1.** Initiation fee shall not be less than \$5.00 to be distributed as follows: Two dollars (\$2.00) to National Secretary for exclusive use of the National Organizer for the purpose of increasing membership, payable with Change of Status Form (FORM 40) or other notice of initiation as soon after initiation of a member as possible. Such money shall be maintained as a separate fund and shall not be integrated with the general funds of the Order. One dollar, fifty cents (\$1.50) to State or District Secretary for exclusive use of the State or District Organizer for the purpose of increasing membership. One dollar (\$1.00) to the County Board for the exclusive use of increasing membership. The balance is retained by the Division. Newly organized Divisions shall be exempt from above on members initiated during first sixty (60) days of existence. Duly ordained priests and members of religious congregations, college or high school Divisions are exempt from provisions of this section.

**ASSESSMENTS, NATIONAL: Section 2.** The National Board shall levy an annual assessment on all Divisions not to exceed twelve dollars (\$12.00) per year, for each member in good standing as of December 31 preceding, payable with annual report and corrected membership roster on or before February 15. Newly organized Divisions shall pay an assessment of one dollar (\$1.00) per member for each month the Division has been in existence during the year in which it was organized. This may not exceed twelve dollars (\$12.00). Divisions shall be exempt from payment of the above on, National Life Members, duly ordained priests and deacons and members of religious congregations; and members on active duty in the Armed Forces provided names, dates of induction and military addresses are furnished with Annual Report and corrected membership roster.

**REINSTATEMENT: Section 3.** Each Division shall have the right to determine the reinstatement fee for re-entry of suspended, resigned or expelled member, provided that the reinstatement fee shall not be less than five dollars (\$5.00). When a member is reinstated the sum of one dollar (\$1.00) shall be forwarded to the National Secretary from the reinstatement fee together with the required Change of Status (FORM 40) or similar notice as soon after the reinstatement as possible.

**MEMBERSHIP ROSTER: Section 4.** The National Secretary shall forward with each Division's Annual Report blanks, a complete roster in quadruplicate of the membership of the Division as reported for the previous year and as corrected during the year by Change of Status (FORM 40) or other notice. The membership roster, in quadruplicate, after corrections and changes, is to be filed by the Division with its Annual Report forms, on or before February 15, as follows: One copy each to the National, State, or District and County Secretaries, with the Division retaining the fourth copy for its files.

**CHANGE OF STATUS FORMS (FORM 40): Section 5.** Financial Secretaries will report to the National Secretary all initiations and reinstatements, deaths, expulsions, suspensions, resignations, transfers, change of address, etc. on Change of Status or other approved forms, immediately following each meeting so that the Division membership roster and the mailing list of the National Hibernian Digest can be kept current at all times. In the case of new or reorganized divisions, complete roster will be forwarded immediately following formation or reorganization.

**MEMBERSHIP CARDS: Section 6.** The only authorized membership card will be the one issued annually by the National Secretary in the name of each member. In addition to the regular code, Major Degrees Members' cards will be designated by the letters "DGR". This card is the only authorized membership card issued. Distribution is determined by the National Board. One card for each member in good standing will be forwarded to the Division Financial Secretary unless the State, District or County Secretary shall advise the National Secretary that State, District or County reports have not been submitted in which case the cards will be sent to the State or District Secretary to hold until the County and/or State, or District reports have been submitted. In the case of new or reinstated members, upon receipt of the Change of Status (FORM 40) or other form and the required fee, a membership card will be issued by the National Secretary. These cards must be countersigned on the front and proper dues entry made on back by Financial Secretary before issuance. The member should sign his card in the presence of the Financial Secretary or upon receipt.

**STATE AND DISTRICT ASSESSMENTS: Section 7.** Each State and District Convention shall have the power to levy and collect from each division on a per capita basis, a sum necessary to defray the legitimate expense of the State or District Board, and the expenses of the State or District Officers who attend State, District and National Conventions as delegates.

**COUNTY ASSESSMENTS: Section 8.** Each County Convention shall have the power to levy and collect from each Division within the County, on a uniform per capita basis, such sums as may be necessary to enable the County Board to carry on its work and meet its lawful obligations.

**DIVISION DUES: Section 9.** The officers of each division shall have the power to levy and collect dues from each member. Dues shall be not less than the sum total of assessments per member.

**DIVISION DUES, FINES AND ASSESSMENTS: Section 10.** All dues, fines and special assessments must be paid at the first regular meeting of each month on which the same falls due.

**TRANSMISSION OF ASSESSMENTS: Section 11.** Each Division shall promptly transmit to the County, State, District and National Secretary respectively, all assessments due and payable to each respective jurisdiction on or before February 15 of each year.

**SUPPLIES: Section 12.** The National Secretary shall keep in stock and be prepared to supply all branches of the Order with approved books, forms, blanks, stationery and other supplies, which will be sold to the respective branches at a minimum cost.

## **ARTICLE XV REPORTS AND ACCOUNTING**

**UNIFORM SYSTEM: Section 1.** There shall be a uniform system of accounting and reports covering all financial transactions of the Order in the manner and form prescribed by the National Board.

**BLANKS AND BOOKS: Section 2.** The National Secretary shall prepare the necessary approved forms, blanks, books, etc., for use by all financial officers in keeping their accounts and making reports.

**ANNUAL AND BIENNIAL REPORTS: Section 3.** Division Financial Secretaries shall make annual reports in quadruplicate on the blanks furnished together with corrected membership roster, send one copy to the County, one to the State or District Secretary, one to the National Secretary, and retain the fourth copy for records and file. County Secretaries shall make biennial reports in triplicate on the blanks furnished, send one copy to the State or District Secretary, one to the National Secretary, and retain the third copy for records and file. State or District Secretaries shall make biennial reports on the blanks furnished in duplicate, send one copy to the National Secretary and retain the second for records and file.

**FILING PERIOD: Section 4.** The Annual Report of Divisions must be in the hands of the National, State or District and County Secretaries not later than February 15. County Biennial Reports must be in the hand of the National, State or District Secretaries not later then fifteen (15) days after the adjournment of the County Convention. State and District Biennial Reports must be in the hands of the National Secretary not later than fifteen (15) days after adjournment of the State or District Convention.

**CONTENTS OF DIVISION REPORT: Section 5.** Each annual report shall show the number of members on the Division Roll, date of report, number admitted since last report; number lost by death, by resignation, by expulsion, by suspension, by transfer; receipts from initiations, from dues, from fines, from assessments, from donations, disbursement for salaries, for rent, for entertainment, for sick benefits, for funeral expenses, for charity, for dues, for all other purposes; and such statistical information as the National Secretary may require and call for in the blanks furnished by him. Each annual report shall show the names of all officers and chairmen of committees required by this Constitution.

**CONTENTS OF STATE, DISTRICT AND COUNTY REPORTS: Section 6.** Each biennial report shall show the number of counties in the State; number of counties in which the Hibernians are organized; number of counties organized as of December 31 of the year preceding; number of counties organized since the last State Convention; number of counties dropped since last State Convention, total counties organized as of December 31 preceding; number of Divisions on December 31 preceding; decrease of Divisions since last State Convention; and total Divisions in State as of December 31 preceding. It shall show receipts from assessments on Divisions; interest and other sources; cash balance on hand at termination of last Convention; and total receipts. It shall show expenditures for contributions, benefits, maintenance, and all other expenses; cash balance on hand; monies invested in US Savings Bonds; other negotiable assets; total assets; personal property (flags, banners, etc.); and grand total assets. Each biennial report shall show the names of all officers and chairmen of committees required by this Constitution.

**PENALTY FOR NOT REPORTING: Section 7.** Any financial officer in the Order failing or refusing for a period of sixty (60) days to make and forward his Annual Report, shall be suspended by the National President on the report of the Secretary to whom such report is due, and shall forfeit any salary due or accruing to him during his default and suspension.

## **ARTICLE XVI CORPORATION OR BUILDING ASSOCIATIONS**

**REAL ESTATE HOLDINGS: Section 1.** It shall be unlawful for any jurisdiction of the Order to own, lease, manage or operate a clubhouse or hold real estate in the name of the jurisdiction or the Order. Any jurisdiction that owns, leases, manages or operates a clubhouse or holds real estate must form a separate legal entity under the laws of its respective State for such purposes. This includes, but is not limited to business corporations, not-for-profit corporations and limited liability companies. The jurisdiction prior to establishing the entity must submit its articles of incorporation and corporate by-laws or similar organizational documents to the National President for review. The National President shall review the organizational documents for the sole and limited purpose of insuring that the entity formed is a legitimate and bona fide legal entity, entirely separate and apart from the jurisdiction and the Order. The elected officers of the jurisdiction which forms the entity under this Article shall be responsible for compliance with all the conditions for incorporation herein, and shall insure that the corporation formed is and remains a separate entity from the jurisdiction of the Order in level activities in their own states.

**CORPORATION OR BUILDING ASSOCIATION INSURANCE AND INDEMNIFICATION: Section 2.** A clubhouse or social hall owned or operated by an entity formed under this Article shall not be permitted to use the name AOH, Hibernian Hall, or any similar variation without the written approval of the National President and upon proof that the entity, at its own expense, has named each superior jurisdiction of the Order as an additional insured on its liability insurance policy.

The approval of a corporation to use the name AOH, Hibernian Hall or other similar variation under this Article shall continue so long as the entity submits to the National President annually written proof that each superior jurisdiction continues to be named additional insured on its liability insurance policy.

**RECORDS: Section 3.** The entity formed under this Article shall file annual tax returns in its own name as may be required by law, and shall keep books and records separate and apart from the books and records of the jurisdiction of the Order.

## **ARTICLE XVII IMPROPER CONDUCT AND PENALTIES**

**Section 1.** Any member found guilty of joining the Order under false pretenses which affect his eligibility for membership shall be expelled, and any dues paid prior thereto shall be forfeited.

**Section 2.** Any member found guilty of divulging any business discussed at a Hibernian meeting, to anyone not a member of the Order or to a member not in good standing, may be expelled or suspended for a period not exceeding twelve (12) months, and any dues paid prior thereto shall be forfeited.

**Section 3.** Any member found guilty of unauthorized use of a membership card will be subject to expulsion or suspension for a period not exceeding twelve (12) months and any dues paid prior thereto shall be forfeited.

**Section 4.** Any member who seeks legal redress in any court of law or equity, or before any quasi-judicial body or administrative agency, for any grievance or alleged violation of the National, State, County or Division Constitution or of the By-Laws of any of these bodies before first exhausting his remedies in all the tribunals of the Order shall be expelled, or suspended for a period not exceeding twelve (12) months, and any dues paid prior thereto shall be forfeited.

**Section 5.** Any member convicted of a felony or a crime of moral turpitude may be expelled. The procedures for expulsion under this section shall be the same as provided in Article XVIII of the National Constitution.

**Section 6.** No member, Board or Division shall support or oppose any person for public office in the name of the Order. Any violation of the provisions of this section shall require expulsion, or suspension for a period not exceeding twelve (12) months, and any dues paid prior thereto shall be

forfeited. A presiding officer who fails to bring charges against any violator of the foregoing provision shall himself be subject to the penalties set forth above, and in addition, shall be removed from office and may not resume his seat during the balance of his term. Nor shall any member make a statement(s) clearly supporting or opposing any political party or candidate, either while present at AOH meetings/gatherings, or elsewhere in the name of the Order.

**Section 7.** Any officer or former officer, of the Order, who after due process has been found guilty of violating his oath of office including, but not limited to, withholding funds and/or property belonging to the Ancient Order of Hibernians, shall be disciplined, up to and including being expelled.

## **ARTICLE XVIII HEARINGS AND SUSPENSIONS**

**PROCEDURES: Section 1.** No member shall be required to appear in any tribunal under the jurisdiction of this Order to answer a complaint of a violation of a provision of this National, State, District, or County Constitution or their respective By-Laws, unless he has been served with written charges, setting forth the time and the place of the alleged misconduct. Service of charges may be made on the accused by any member of the Order by certified mail, (restricted Delivery), for which a return receipt has been requested and received. Refusal of service or acceptance of article shall be presumptive of service of charges. The charges should be of such specificity as to give the accused a reasonable opportunity to provide a defense. The accused may ask for a bill of particulars if the charges are not sufficiently specific. If such is requested, all hearing time limits shall be considered as an amended service of charges and not new charges.

**Section 2.** Charges must be served within sixty (60) days of discovery of the infraction by a member of the Order.

**Section 3.** Hearings of the charges shall commence within one hundred twenty (120) days of the service of charges unless the accused consents to further delay. Notice of the hearing must be given by certified mail at least sixty (60) days prior to the hearing date.

**Section 4.** The member complained against, if he chooses, may be represented by counsel of his choice from within the Order at the hearing of the charges. The accused shall have the right to introduce evidence, examine and cross-examine witnesses and to argue the matter, either in person or by counsel.

**Section 5.** All hearings may be adjourned from time to time by agreement of both parties, until completed. It shall be improper to unreasonably delay the conclusion of any hearings.

**Section 6.** If an accused member fails to appear for a hearing at the appointed time and place, and no satisfactory explanation for his absence is provided to the tribunal, he may be tried in absentia or if the accused shall not appear and defend himself with a satisfactory explanation for his

absence, the accused may be defaulted and the charges be taken as confessed. A permanent record will be kept of all the above proceedings.

**Section 7.** The tribunal in which the charges are heard shall record all evidence and any objections to the admissibility of evidence shall be noted in writing and the grounds for their objection(s). The tribunal in which the charges have been tried must decide the issue within sixty (60) days after taking of evidence has been completed and immediately notify the member in writing of the results thereof by certified mail, return receipt requested. Simultaneously a copy of said decision shall be forwarded to each superior jurisdiction.

**TRIBUNALS: Section 8.** For the hearing of all charges, suspensions, removals and controversies, the following tribunals are established:

The National Board shall have the original jurisdiction of all hearings in which National, State or District Officers or National funds are involved; and appellate jurisdiction over all appeals taken from orders or decisions rendered by State Boards. The State or District Boards shall have original jurisdiction over all hearings in which County Officers or State or District funds are involved; and appellate jurisdiction over all appeals taken from orders or decisions rendered by County Boards. County Boards shall have original jurisdiction over all hearings in which Division Officers or County funds are involved; and appellate jurisdiction over all appeals taken from orders of decisions of Divisions. In all counties where there is but one Division the jurisdiction herein vested in the County Boards shall be exercised by the State or District Board. The National President shall have original jurisdiction to decide questions of law under this Constitution arising in the general conduct of the business of the Order; and appellate jurisdiction to hear all questions of law appealed to him from the orders and decisions of State or District Presidents in the administration of the duties of their respective State or District. The State or District President shall have original jurisdiction to hear and determine all questions of law arising under this Constitution within the State or District jurisdiction; and appellate jurisdiction to hear all appeals and such questions of law from the orders and decisions of a County President. The County Presidents shall have original jurisdiction of all questions of law arising under this Constitution within the County; and appellate jurisdiction to hear appeals taken from Division Presidents on all questions of law. Division Presidents shall have jurisdiction to decide all questions of law arising under this Constitution on all matters within the jurisdiction of the Division, and their orders on questions of law in their jurisdictions shall be final unless reversed on appeal, taken under provision thereof.

**PRESIDENTS: Section 9.** The President shall appoint a committee of impartial members from the Board over which he presides, whose duty it shall be to hear all questions of fact coming before said Board to appeal or otherwise, and report its conclusions of fact and its decisions, with its digest of hearing testimony, to said Board. The decision of said committee may be reversed, modified or approved as rendered on such report and when reversed, modified or approved the decision of said Board shall be final unless reversed on appeal.

**OFFICERS: Section 10.** It shall be the duty of National, State, District or County Presidents to suspend from office any officer under his respective jurisdiction, upon satisfactory proof in writing

that such officer has failed or neglected to perform his duties or has committed any offense which tends to bring discredit upon or injure the Order, and upon such suspension to appoint an acting officer in his stead. It shall be the duty of the President to notify, in writing, a suspended officer, immediately, of his suspension, advise him of the reason for his suspension and of his rights as provided in Article XIX of this Constitution. It shall further be the duty of the President to also notify, in writing, the Board of the suspended officer and all superior Boards within fifteen (15) days of such suspension.

**DIVISION: Section 11.** It shall be the duty of the County President to suspend any Division on satisfactory proof that it has violated this Constitution or State or District By-Laws, or has failed, for a period of three (3) months, to pay its National, State, District or County assessments. Within thirty (30) days after suspension, he shall report same to the County Board with reason for such suspension, whereupon the County Board shall, after notice to said Division and investigation, affirm or reverse the same; where there is but one Division in the County, the State or District Officers acting in place of the County Board, shall instruct the State President to make such suspension.

**DIVISION OFFICERS: Section 12.** The County President may suspend from office any Division Officer on satisfactory proof that such Division Officer has failed or neglected to perform his duties or has committed any offense which tends to bring discredit upon or injure the Order, and upon such suspension to appoint a Division member within fifteen (15) days to act in his stead. Within thirty (30) days after such suspensions, the County Board shall, upon notice to such officer and investigation of suspension, affirm or reverse the same; where there's but one Division in the County; the State or District Officers acting in place of the County Board, shall instruct the state President to make such suspension.

**MEMBERS: Section 13.** The Division President may suspend a member of any Division who fails to pay his dues, fines or assessments for a period of three months, and he shall be duly notified by the Financial Secretary of his indebtedness in writing and asked to appear at the next regular meeting to pay the same. On his failure to appear, the President of the Division shall appoint a committee of at least two members to personally contact the member to try to reclaim him if possible. After these two steps have been taken, suspension will be made if carried by a motion at a regular meeting. A member suspended under this section who fails to apply for reinstatement within the prescribed time shall not be admitted to membership in any other division until he pays the amount due the Division from which he was suspended. When a member is in arrears nine (9) months he is dropped automatically from the Division at the close of the meeting on which the ninth month expires.

**PROOF REQUIRED: Section 14.** No suspension, except for non-payment of dues and assessments, shall be made by the President while presiding in his own jurisdiction without charges having first been filed, to which the order of suspension must be attached. In case of suspension by the President while presiding, the fact must be entered in the minutes and the grounds upon which the suspension is order ed set forth.



**SUSPENSION: Section 15.** A Division suspended under Section 11 of this Article, after a period of three (3) months, shall have its charter revoked, and the proper Officer shall proceed to take charge of its effects as provided.

**NON-ATTENDANCE, COUNTY AND DIVISION OFFICERS: Section 16.** When any Division or County Officer fails to attend three consecutive meetings of his respective Division or County Board, without just cause, his office shall be declared vacant by the Presiding Officer and said office filled by election in the regular manner.

## **ARTICLE XIX APPEALS**

**NOTICE: Section 1.** Appeals may be taken by either party from the decisions of any President or tribunal on all questions of law or fact, if notice of such appeal is served on the President of the jurisdiction from which the appeal is taken and filed with the President of the jurisdiction to which the appeal is taken. Such notice of appeal must be made within sixty (60) days of receipt of notice of decision.

**TRANSMISSION OF RECORD: Section 2.** Whenever notice of appeal is given, it shall be the duty of the Tribunal, Board or President from whose decision the appeal is taken to transmit the original complaint, transcript of testimony, all exhibits involved, and the decision, to the tribunal to which the appeal is taken, whose duty it shall be to hear the same within its jurisdiction, and render the decision thereon without any unreasonable delay, but not later than sixty (60) days after date of appeal.

**PROCEDURE: Section 3.** In decisions on appeal, the appellate tribunal is not bound by the record, but may take new testimony; findings, however, must be confined to the issues raised at the original hearing on the original charges.

**QUESTIONS OF FACT: Section 4.** Questions of fact on controversies arising out of the performance of the duties of a National Officer shall be heard, in the first instance, before the National Board, or a Tribunal chosen by it. There shall be no appeal from the decision of said Board or Tribunal. All questions of fact in which the rights of a member of a Division or the funds of a Division are involved shall be heard, in the first instance, before a standing Tribunal of the Division. Appeals from the decision of such Tribunal may be taken to the County Board, State or District Board, and National Board.

**QUESTIONS OF LAW: Section 5.** On questions of law involving the administration of the National Officers, the decision of the National President is final and cannot be reversed or overruled. All other questions of law in which the rights of a member of a Division or the funds of a Division are involved shall be tried, in the first instance, before the Division President, and from his decision appeal may be taken to the County President, State or District President, and National President, in that order. All questions of law must be decided within sixty (60) days from the date on which the member is notified in writing of such decisions.

**LIMIT OF APPEAL: Section 6.** No appeal may be taken by any member or officer from any decision in which he is involved after sixty (60) days from the date on which he is notified in writing of such decision.

## **ARTICLE XX BY-LAWS**

**BY-LAWS: Section 1.** Each separate jurisdiction and Board of the Order shall adopt such By-Laws to govern the transaction of its business not covered by the By-Laws of any superior jurisdiction, or this Constitution. Any provision of said By-Laws which conflict with this Constitution, or those By-Laws adopted by a superior jurisdiction, shall be void. Proposed By-Laws must be submitted, in triplicate, to the next higher tribunal for certification that no conflict exists with the By-Laws of the said next higher tribunal before same is forwarded, through channels, to the National President for approval. No By-Law shall be effective until approval is received from the National President. Refusal of the next higher tribunal to promptly certify any By-Law may be appealed as provided for in the Article on Appeals.

## **ARTICLE XXI NATIONAL PUBLICATION**

**NEWSPAPER: Section 1.** The National Hibernian Digest shall be the official publication of the Order, and its control, policy and management shall be vested in the National Board. It shall be sent to each member of the Order whose name and address has been filed with the publishers by the National Secretary, and there shall be a minimum of four issues per year.

**SCOPE: Section 2.** The National Hibernian Digest shall be devoted to the interests of the Order. It shall not support or oppose any person for public office, unless it shall be necessary to do so to carry into effect the purpose of this Order as set forth in the preamble to the Constitution or to advance policies that are set forth by the National Convention. All members of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc., shall be encouraged to purchase subscriptions to the National Hibernian Digest.

**Section 3.** No publication shall be allowed to officially represent or use the name of the Ancient Order of Hibernians or the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc., in the United States and any publication so doing shall be requested to cease and desist, and upon its failure to do so, the National President shall bring whatever legal action is necessary to enforce compliance.

**Section 4.** No publications sponsored or subsidized by any jurisdiction of the Ancient Order of Hibernians or the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc., shall print any article or letter which discredits the Ancient Order of Hibernians or the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc.; no unsigned or "nom-de-plume" articles or letters shall be permitted in such publications. The President of the jurisdiction responsible for an offending article or letter shall be held accountable to the President of the next higher jurisdiction.

## **ARTICLE XXII RITUALS**

**RITUAL: Section 1.** The secret work of the Order governing all initiations, installations, ceremonies and procedure shall conform to the ritual and rules furnished and prescribed therefore by the National Board.

**DEGREES: Section 2.** The secret work of the Order shall be exemplified according to the ritual at a time designated by the County President. Where there is only one Division in a County, the State or District President shall perform this function.

**DEGREES: Section 2A.** Degrees shall be held at the National Convention on the second day of said Convention at a time designated by the Convention Committee, but not before noon of the second day of the Convention.

**EXEMPTION: Section 3.** Any exemption from Section 2 must be applied for in writing to the County President, or the substituting State or District President; provided, however, that under no circumstances must any portion of the short initiation be omitted. If an Officer or President does so, his office shall be declared vacant by the County President or by the State or District President.

**DEGREE TEAMS: Section 4.** Degree Teams may be organized by every State, District, County or Division, wherever practical. The State, District, County or Division shall make every effort biannually to see that the members have an opportunity to receive the major degrees.

**DEGREE TEAM SECRETARY: Section 5.** Each Degree Team shall have a Secretary whose duty it shall be to keep an accurate record of the proceedings concerning the conferring of the Major Degrees. He shall, within ten (10) days after conferring the Major Degrees, submit a report to the National Secretary on forms furnished by the National Board, stating the time, place and the name of each member who received the Major Degrees, together with his Division, County and State, and such additional information as may be required by the National Board. The National Secretary shall notify the Division Secretary upon receipt of this information and the Financial Secretary will make appropriate entry upon the member's record.

**INSTALLATION, DIVISION: Section 6.** Immediately after the election of Division Officers, the Division Secretary shall forward to the County President the names of the newly elected officers; he shall also notify the County President of the time and place of the installation of said officers. All Officers of each Division shall be installed annually by the County President or a member designated by him to act as such installing officer in his place, but in no case shall any member act as installing officer unless authorized by the County President.

**OPEN INSTALLATION: Section 7.** It is permissible to invite the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc., and the public to any Installation.

**RITUAL COMMITTEE: Section 8.** The National President shall appoint a committee to be composed of members of Certified Degree Teams; said committee shall be chaired by the National Vice President. The committee shall:

- A. Submit to the National Vice President all proposed changes in the Ritual sufficiently in advance of any convention or National Board meeting;
- B. The National Vice President will review and submit said changes to the National Board at the National Convention;
- C. The Committee will prepare written descriptions and explanations of the symbols, rituals and emblems of the Order. These will be submitted to the National Secretary for inclusion in the procedures manual for the Order ("The Blue Book");
- D. In conjunction with the National Vice President, the Committee will certify all new degree teams, providing a written report to the National Board detailing the reasons for the granting or withholding of certification; and
- E. The Committee shall convene at least once a year.

#### **ARTICLE XXIII**

**EASTER COMMUNION AND NATIONAL HOLIDAYS HOLY COMMUNION: Section 1.** Every member must receive Holy Communion during Easter time.

**MEMORIAL SERVICES: Section 2.** All Divisions of the Order shall set aside as a memorial day such date as shall be specified by the National Chaplain for the annual Mass to commemorate the memory of the departed members of the Order, and for such other services as each division may deem appropriate after consultation with the Division Chaplain.

**NATIONAL HOLIDAYS: Section 3.** A day in August to honor Our Lady of Knock - Queen of Ireland; St. Patrick's Day; Easter Monday; the Fourth of July and Commodore John Barry Day, September 13, are the National Holidays of the Order, and they shall be celebrated in an appropriate manner.

**Section 4.** The National Board shall present, annually a commemorative to the members of the House and Senate of the United States Congress in honor of St. Patrick on St. Patrick's Day.

#### **ARTICLE XXIV DONATIONS AND CONTRIBUTIONS**

**DONATIONS OR CONTRIBUTIONS: Section 1.** No donation of \$500.00 or more shall be made by the National Board without the National Secretary first submitting the matter to a vote of all members of the National Board. (By a majority of the members of the National Board Voting). No request for charitable contributions shall be considered at the National Convention unless it is

first submitted to a committee appointed by the National President and received no later than thirty (30) days prior to the beginning of the National Convention. A vote of the delegates shall be required at a National Convention before any request for a donation or contribution submitted to it can be approved.

## **ARTICLE XXV SOLICITATIONS**

**Section 1.** It shall be unlawful to solicit aid directly or indirectly, for another Division or member in the same County without the written consent of the County Board; or for a Division or member in another County in the State or District, without the written consent of the State or District Board; or for a Division or member in another State or District without the written consent of the National Board; and it is the duty of members to report to the President all unauthorized solicitation.

**Section 2.** The names and addresses of the official membership roster of any Division; or County, State or National Board, may not be used by any member of the Order, not given to a non-member for any purpose, whether political, charitable, educational, informational, promotional or otherwise, that is not directly related to the purpose of constitutional functions and operations of the Order at the National, District, State, County or Division levels without the approval of a majority of the members of any such Division, County, State, or National Board present at a regular meeting.

## **ARTICLE XXVI JOHN F. KENNEDY MEMORIAL MEDAL PROGRAM**

**Section 1.** The Ancient Order of Hibernians in America shall award biennially, a gold medallion to be known as the John F. Kennedy Memorial Medal to a Catholic of Irish birth or descent outstanding in his or her field of endeavor.

**Section 2.** The medal shall be presented to the recipient at the National Convention.

**Section 3.** The National Vice-President of the Ancient Order of Hibernians shall be Chairman of the John F. Kennedy Memorial Medal Committee.

**Section 4.** It shall be the duty of the Chairman, in conjunction with the National Vice President of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc., or her representative who will serve as Vice-Chairman to arrange for the nomination and selection of the recipient of the John F. Kennedy Memorial Award.

**Section 5.** The following are eligible to nominate candidates for this award:

- A. All Officers of the Ancient Order of Hibernians & Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc., National Boards, elected and appointed;

- B. All Officers of the Ancient Order of Hibernians & Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc., State and District Boards, elected and appointed; and
- C. Divisions in meeting assembled.

**Section 6.** The following shall be eligible to vote and participate on the selection of the recipient of this award:

- A. All Officers of the Ancient Order of Hibernians & Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc., National Boards, elected and appointed, and
- B. Ancient Order of Hibernians & Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc., State and District Presidents.

**Section 7.** The Chairman of the John F. Kennedy Memorial Medal Committee, in conjunction with a representative of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc., shall, in the first week of November of the year prior to the National Convention, send to all Ancient Order of Hibernians & Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc. National Officers, elected and appointed; all Ancient Order of Hibernians & Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc., State and District Presidents, Division Presidents, a request that the aforementioned send to him, before January 15 of the following year, the name of the nominee for this award. The Chairman, in conjunction with a representative of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc., shall outline the requirements as indicated in Section 1 of this Article, and shall request that the nominator send a biographical sketch of his nominee, not to exceed 500 words and shall request that the nominator ascertain that the nominee, if elected, would be willing to accept the award at the time and place designated by the National Board. Nominators shall certify that nominees do not stand in opposition to the moral principles espoused by the Ancient Order of Hibernians.

**Section 8.** The Chairman, in conjunction with a representative of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc., shall mail to all Ancient Order of Hibernians & Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc., National Officers, elected and appointed, to Ancient Order of Hibernians & Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc., State and District Presidents, a ballot listing the nominees for the John F. Kennedy Memorial Medal whose nominators have complied with the rules. A letter shall accompany the ballot enclosing a copy of the biographies of the nominees, and stating that the elector must vote for three (3) candidates, listing a first choice, a second choice, and a third choice. The first choice will be worth six (6) points, second choice three (3) points, and third choice worth two (2) points. The nominee with the highest number of points will be declared the recipient of the award. Any winner who refuses to accept the award at the time and place designated by the National Board will be declared ineligible, and the award will go to the nominee with the next highest number of points.

**Section 9.** The Chairman, in conjunction with a representative of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc., shall complete the election on or before March 16, and they and the National

Presidents shall release the name of the recipient of the John F. Kennedy Memorial Medal at a time they consider most appropriate for the good of the Order.

**Section 10.** The Chairman shall send to the Editor of the National Hibernian Digest for publication a copy of his November letter, requesting nominees for the John F. Kennedy Memorial Medal.

**Section 11.** The personal travel and hotel expense for the recipient, and all other expenses incurred by this Committee, shall be paid equally between the Ancient Order of Hibernians & Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc., National Boards.

**Section 12.** The Chairman in conjunction with a representative of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc., shall publicize the selection and granting of this most prestigious award in all sections of the media including the National Hibernian Digest.

## **ARTICLE XXVII SEAN MACBRIDE HUMANITARIAN AWARD**

**Section 1.** To memorialize the Human Rights contributions made by Nobel Peace laureate, Dr. Sean MacBride and to recognize the efforts of others who make similar contributions in the cause of peace, justice and the economic well-being of the Irish people, the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America shall award biennially, at the National Board meeting a bust or likeness of Dr. Sean MacBride. The award will be conferred without regard to the nominee's race, creed, sex, religion, color or National origin.

**Section 2.** The award will be presented in the year between National Conventions.

**Section 3.** The National Vice President of the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America shall be Chairman of the Sean MacBride Humanitarian Award Committee.

**Section 4.** It shall be the duty of the Chairman, in conjunction with the National Vice President of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc., or her representative who will serve as Vice-Chairman to arrange for the nomination and selection of the recipient of the Sean McBride Humanitarian Award.

**Section 5.** The following are eligible to nominate candidates for this award:

- A. All Officers of the Ancient Order of Hibernians & Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc., National Boards, elected and appointed;
- B. All Officers of the Ancient Order of Hibernians & Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc., State and District Boards, elected and appointed;
- C. Divisions in meeting assembled.

**Section 6.** The following shall be eligible to vote and participate in the selection of the recipient of this award:

- A. All Officers of the Ancient Order of Hibernians & Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc., National Boards, elected and appointed;
- B. Ancient Order of Hibernians & Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc., State and District Presidents.

**Section 7.** The Chairman of the Sean MacBride Humanitarian Award Committee, in conjunction with a representative of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc., shall, in the first week of November of the year prior to the National Board meeting, send to all Ancient Order of Hibernians & Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc. National Officers, elected and appointed; all Ancient Order of Hibernians & Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc., State and District Presidents and Division Presidents, a request that the aforementioned send to him, before January 15 of the following year, the name of the nominee for this award. The Chairman, in conjunction with a representative of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc., shall outline the requirements as indicated in Section ~ of this Article, and shall request that the nominator send a biographical sketch of his nominee, not to exceed 500 words and shall request that the nominator ascertain that the nominee, if elected, would be willing to accept the award at the time and place designated by the National Board.

Nominators shall certify that nominees do not stand in opposition to the moral principles espoused by the Ancient Order of Hibernians.

**Section 8.** The Chairman, in conjunction with a representative of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc., shall mail to all Ancient Order of Hibernians & Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc., National Officers, elected and appointed, to Ancient Order of Hibernians & Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc., State and District Presidents, a ballot listing the nominees for the Sean MacBride Humanitarian Award whose nominators have complied with the rules. A letter shall accompany the ballot enclosing a copy of the biographies of the nominees, and stating that the elector must vote for three (3) candidates, listing a first choice, a second choice, and a third choice. The first choice will be worth six (6) points, second choice three (3) points, and third choice worth two (2) points. The nominee with the highest number of points will be declared the recipient of the award. Any winner who refuses to accept the award at the time and place designated by the National Board will be declared ineligible, and the award will go to the nominee with the next highest number of points.

**Section 9.** The Chairman, in conjunction with a representative of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc., shall complete the election on or before March 16, and they and the National Presidents shall release the name of the recipient of the Sean MacBride Humanitarian Award at a time they consider most appropriate for the good of the Order.

**Section 10.** The Chairman shall send to the Editor of the National Hibernian Digest for publication a copy of his November letter, requesting nominees for the Sean MacBride Humanitarian Award.



**Section 11.** The personal travel and hotel expense for the recipient, and all other expenses incurred by this Committee, shall be paid equally between the Ancient Order of Hibernians & Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc., National Boards.

**Section 12.** The Chairman, in conjunction with a representative of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc., shall publicize the selection and granting of this most prestigious award in all sections of the media including the National Hibernian Digest.

## **ARTICLE XXVIII AMENDMENTS**

**Section 1.** This Constitution can be amended only in National Convention by a two-third (2/3) vote of the delegates in session. Changes to the National Constitution, as approved at the most recent National Convention, shall be updated within six (6) months following that Convention, which shall then be made available "online" via the National AOH website. The term "in session" shall mean 2/3 of the 1/3 necessary to conduct business.

**Section 2.** This Constitution shall be in full force and effect from and after its adoption and all laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Constitution are hereby null and void.

**Section 3.** Amendments to this Constitution shall be submitted to the National Legal Counsel at least sixty (60) days prior to the National Convention for consideration and study. If deemed practical, these amendments will be included in his report to the National Convention. If an amendment has been rejected by the committee, it does not prohibit any delegate from making a direct appeal to the Convention.

## **ARTICLE XXIX PARADES, HIBERNIAN RIFLES AND PUBLIC EVENTS**

**PARADES, HIBERNIAN RIFLES AND PUBLIC EVENTS: Section 1.** It shall be lawful for any unit of the Order to organize and conduct a parade or other public event, or operate a Hibernian Rifles Division, subject to the conditions contained within this Constitution.

**CORPORATION: Section 2.** A unit of the Order seeking to organize and conduct any parade or public event for which authorization, permission, or license must be obtained from any governmental entity or authority must form a corporation, which corporation must be solely responsible for the organization and conduct of such parade or event.

**INDEMNIFICATION: Section 3.** Where a unit of the Order believes it burdensome or impractical to form a corporation as described in Section 2 of this Article, such unit must obtain authorization from the National or State President to conduct such parade or public event, or form a Hibernian Rifles Division in the name of the Order provided such unit shall first enter into an agreement, in form satisfactory to the President of each superior jurisdiction, whereby such unit

shall agree to indemnify and hold harmless all other jurisdictions of the Order for any costs, expenses and damages, including legal fees and expenses, and shall demonstrate to the satisfaction of each superior jurisdiction that the sponsoring unit has the resources and financial wherewithal to satisfy any claims which may be made against any jurisdiction of the Order.

**RECORDS: Section 4.** Records of corporations organized pursuant to Section 2 of this Article must be kept separate and distinct from those of the unit.

**LIMITATIONS ON SUBORDINATE UNIT: Section 5.** Each subordinate unit is required to comply with the following business practices:

- A. No subordinate unit has, or shall have, authority, apparent or otherwise, to enter into any agreement which binds the National Board, or any other superior jurisdiction.
- B. A subordinate unit shall disclose that it has no authority, apparent or otherwise, to enter into any agreement to bind the National, or any other superior jurisdiction. Said disclosure shall be made prior to entering into any agreement.
- C. Any agreement entered into by a unit shall be reduced to writing.
- D. Any such agreement shall contain the following language:

The Parties hereto, acknowledge and admit, that this Agreement is entered into solely by the Parties hereto and solely for the benefit of the Parties hereto. The Ancient Order of Hibernians in America, Inc. National Board or any other jurisdiction shall not have any obligation under this Agreement. The Parties hereto, agree that The Ancient Order of Hibernians in America, Inc. or any other jurisdiction, cannot be sued in any court, and shall not be subject to any arbitration, under any legal theory, including, but not limited to theories in equity, to recover for any breach or obligation arising from and/or in connection with this Agreement and/or the Parties course of dealing or conduct. Parties acknowledge no claims can exist against the National Board, or any other unit, and hereby expressly agrees not to sue the National Board or any other unit.

- E. Any proposed Agreement must be submitted to the unit at a regularly scheduled meeting and approved by the membership of the unit prior to the execution of the Agreement. The vote shall be included within the regular meeting minutes.

## **ARTICLE XXX**

## **ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS FOUNDERS DAY AWARDS**

**ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS FOUNDERS DAY AWARDS: Section 1.** The National President shall appoint a committee to establish the Ancient Order of Hibernians Founders Day Awards to honor and recognize the many individuals who have worked to promote, support and defend our faith, our heritage, and our Order. The Committee shall determine the time and place of presenting such award(s), and the criteria to determine worthy recipients.

**NATIONAL CONSTITUTION DISTRIBUTION: Section 2.** As a courtesy the National President will provide printed copies of the National Constitution no later than six months following the closing date of the National Convention to the national President of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc.

*This Constitution was revised, amended, and adopted by the National Convention in Atlantic City, New Jersey 2016. Included are the amendments adopted in St. Louis, Missouri 2014, Turning Stone, New York 2012; Cincinnati, Ohio 2010; New Orleans, Louisiana, 2008; Boston, Massachusetts 2006; Foxwood, Connecticut 2002; Baltimore, Maryland 2000; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 1998; and St. Paul, Minnesota 1996.*