

President's Pint of View



LAST MONTH'S HALFWAY TO SAINT Pat's Day bike ride was a tough one; we had only 32 paid riders and sold only 227 of our 500 raffle tickets. I know it's a busy time of year, but we have done much better. The bike ride helps us pay our yearly rent and helps with donations, so this is why we need to step up our organization of events.

Are we going to have to enforce that our members be a part of committees like our bylaws state? Our board does a wonderful job for nine guys, and we do have a dozen or so general members who always step up to help with our events, but, guys, we need more volunteers for our planning committees. We are in need of more ideas on how we run our events so we can keep on donating to charities.

This year the parade will cost us at least 18 grand and will eat into funds for donations. That is why I am asking everyone to think of an event you are willing to be a part of and join that committee. If we don't have money to contribute to charity and lose the parade, then what do we have left?

This month and from here on, I'm going to be pushing everyone to consider a committee they would like to be a part of, even if all you can contribute are ideas and moral support. Consider: the Skywalk Open in February, the parade and 5K/10K run in March, the disc golf tourney in May, the Leprechaun Open in June, and the bike ride in September.

Start considering which committee you would like to be a part of and let me know at the next meeting. See you Monday!

President Mike O'Connell

Wearin' of the Grin

A husband is at home watching a football game when his wife interrupts. "Honey, could you fix the light in the hallway? It's been flickering for weeks now."

He looks at her and says angrily, "Fix the lights? Does it look like I have GE written on my forehead? I don't think so."

Then the wife asks, "Well then, could you fix the fridge door? It won't close right."

And he replies, "Fix the fridge door? Does it look like I have Kenmore written on my forehead? I don't think so."

"Fine," she says, "then could you at least fix the steps to the front door? They're about to break."

"I'm not a carpenter and I don't want to fix steps," he says. "Does it look like I have Ace Hardware written on my forehead? I don't think so. I've had enough of you. I'm going to the bar!"

So he goes to the bar and drinks for a couple of hours. Then he starts to feel guilty about how he treated his wife and decides to go home. As he walks into the house he notices that the steps are already fixed and the hall light is working. As he goes to get a beer, he sees the fridge door is fixed.

"Honey, he asks, how'd all this get fixed?"

She said, "Well, when you left I sat outside and cried. Just then a nice young man asked me what was wrong and I told him. He offered to do all the repairs, and all I had to do was either go to bed with him or bake a cake."

He said, "So what kind of cake did you bake?"

She replied, "Helloooo..Do you see Betty Crocker written on my forehead? I don't think so!"



The Blarney

Upcoming:

MEETING

October 10

Menu:

Brats & Dogs

Granny Heddingers' Potato Salad

Beans, Kraut & Fixin's

30th ANNUAL

HCI HOSPICE BENEFIT

Nov. 4

CHRISTMAS DINNER

Dec. 12

NEXT MEETING

Nov. 14



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OCTOBER [DEIREADH FÓMHAIR] 2016

Annual Benefit Dance

Live music by **FreeStyle**
Iowa Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame inductee and central Iowa's favorite variety dance band!

**Friday, November 4
7-10 p.m.**
Holiday Inn Downtown @ "The Top of the Tower"

Live Music
Cash Bar
Dining Specials
Silent Auction (auction opens at 6 p.m.)
Casual Attire

Admission: \$10 Tickets & Information: (515) 577-3843

Proceeds benefit: HCI hospice Care Services, FRIENDLY SONS OF ST. PATRICK, ELKS LODGE #98

Come celebrate "Cheers to 30 Years"

Little did a small committee of Des Moines teachers know three decades ago that their efforts to throw a party and raise some money for a good cause would still be vital, alive and kickin' in 2016!

The annual **HCI Hospice of Central Iowa Benefit Dance** is **Friday, Nov. 4** at the **Holiday Inn Downtown "Top of the Tower," 6-10 p.m.**

Tickets are (still!) just \$10 and the variety band **FreeStyle** guarantees the dance floor will be full. A Silent Auction is a highlight of the evening and doors will open at 6 p.m. for early bidders. All bidding closes at 9 p.m.

It's an all-volunteer, all-profit, no-overhead, multi-hyphenated push to support HCI Hospice of Central Iowa and this year's goal is to surpass \$15,000.

"When an event celebrates its 10th year, it's become a tradition, but when you celebrate its 30th year, you know it's grown to become a heartfelt community movement. HCI Hospice Care Services is so incredibly grateful to the organizers of the Annual Benefit Dance for sharing our mission and supporting our patients' quality of life," said HCI CEO Tray Wade.

The FSOSP is a major sponsor of the event and we need some help in making this the best ever. So we're asking you to get in touch with **Secretary Ed Kelly** for:

- Silent Auction items...** got a connection with a local business or artisan to get something we can include?
- Donated bottles of wine**, any style/type valued at \$10 or more...for our "Wine Grab" where disguised bottles will be sold for a \$10 donation. Bring a donation bottle to the meeting this next week?
- Advanced ticket sales, reservations & donations.** Go to: hcicareervices.org and follow the links to the benefit dance. You can get more info on the evening and/or make a donation in honor, memory or support of someone. Or donate just to help us celebrate, even if you can't attend.

HCI Hospice is a local non-profit healthcare organization providing humane and compassionate palliative care to those who face serious health emergencies, as well as end-of-life ordeals. They clearly deserve all the help we can muster.

Giving will never seem so good. See you there!

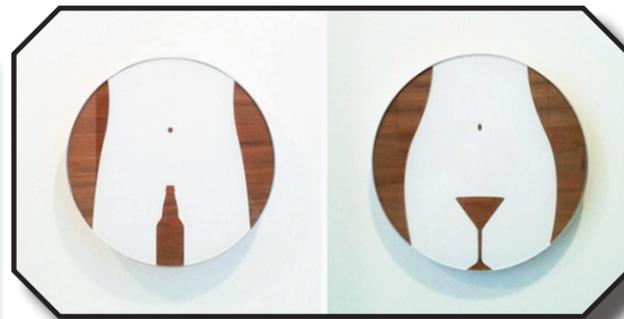
And now for some bathroom humor...

Surely, in your many travels, you've seen endless, witty takes on naming styling salons (Clippity Do-Da) and bars (LowBrau)? It's all about staying with the "theme" of the thing.

Many restrooms have signs like these: "Ladies, please remain seated for the entire performance. Gentlemen, stand closer; it's shorter than you think." Cute.

In addition, seemingly endless fun can be had with designating "loo" and "rest" spots. For instance, Flatheads bar in St. Anthony, Iowa, sustaining their fishing theme, has "out-boards" and "in-boards" on their bathroom doors. Nice.

Check out these other cute, gender-specific bathroom door designations:



Board News

Alas, the Sept. 17 **Halfway to St. Pat's Bike Ride** was a little under-inflated this year. Only 227 of our 500 raffle tickets were sold and just 32 riders were registered.

Our mission: to get a true committee, not just board volunteers, lined up next year to get the event back on track and increase the revenue we so badly need.

The day was a gloriously fine day for riding, however, and a few lucky souls received a bonus. Raffle winners were **George "River" Schmid** (\$500), **Sheila "Herself" Grady** (\$250) and **Theresa Christensen, John Molloy, Mike O'Connell & Mike Reiter** (\$50 each).

Spud & Spoon honors went to **Rick Dressler** and **Cindy O'Connell**, while **Maureen Molloy** had the "Best Irish Theme Bike."

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Donations:

Celtic Music Association - \$1,000

HCI Hospice of Central Iowa - \$1,500

Another donation, to Opportunity on Deck, is pending until later this year.

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Cooking update:

Efforts are still underway to release **Bill McCarthy** and his cohorts from their long-time unpaid servitude in providing our monthly meals.

Once again we ask: Will any cook(s) step up to "take the heat" in the kitchen?

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Parade news:

Operating costs for next year's St. Pat's Parade are expected to be about \$18 G's and revenue is sorely needed.

Paula Chizek has offered to help us secure some larger parade sponsorships and we await news on that front.

The board has expressed openness to offering naming of the parade to a single title sponsor (The FSOSP St. Patrick's Day Parade brought to you by...).

A minimum donation amount is still to be determined, but would be at least \$10,000.

Mike Dennis will be exploring this idea and has prepared an Official Parade Manual to be added to our SOP.

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T-Bone is revising the beverage list, mostly to accommodate members' changing tastes.

And he has volunteered to get in touch with Confluence and "research" the possibility of them sponsoring/providing a craft beer for meetings. If that doesn't work, he will continue to "research" other local breweries.

No mention was made of an expense account. (But it does seem like a good opportunity for a committee!) 🍀

BLARNEYBITS

The 25th anniversary season of **Celtic Music Association** concerts is upon us. This weekend, catch **Dallahan** at Holy Trinity Parish Hall at 8 p.m.



From the CMA website:

"Dallahan is one of the fastest rising forces on the international folk circuit; heavily rooted in traditional Irish music, but with hugely diverse backgrounds and influences. They call on their mixed Irish, Scottish and Hungarian heritage to create a unique and seamless musical montage, drawing in influences from jazz, funk, pop and classical music.

Dallahan will push and pull you along on a musical journey, artistically transcending from tender and delicate songs from Transylvania, to relentlessly punchy Irish dance tunes littered with funk grooves and everything in between." 🍀

Sully's in WDM has lots on their schedule for the next few weeks:

- Oct. 8 & 15 & 22
Hawkeye I-Club Game Watch @ 11 a.m.
- Oct. 19
Stu Ryan O'Brien Sing-along @ 7 p.m.
- Nov. 2
Trophy Husband Trivia @ 7 p.m.



Upcoming events

Nov. 7

**30TH ANNUAL HCI HOSPICE CARE SERVICES
BENEFIT DANCE**
HOLIDAY INN DOWNTOWN "TOP OF THE TOWER"
6-10 P.M. / DANCING & SILENT AUCTION