

## President's Pint of View



Spring has sprung the grass has frizz I wonder where the flowers is? Can you believe another year has flown by and it's once again parade time. We probably wouldn't be having a parade if it wasn't for those damn potatoes.

Here is some interesting potato history and facts.

Potatoes were originally grown by the Incans and used for a staple food, they had over 3000 varieties. The potatoes then migrated to Europe after the Spanish conquistadors conquered the Incan Empire in the 1500s. The English are suspected of stealing the tuber from the Spanish, not popular in great Britain the protestants rejected the potatoes because they were grown underground, Satan's realm. So they tested it in their original "colony" Ireland. The Irish Catholics figured if you plant your potatoes on good Friday then you could eat your taters with no remorse, only problem is they only had one variety of potato, the Lumper. Having only one variety of potato the Irish potato crop became susceptible to potato blight. In the 1840s a severe blight hit the potato crop causing almost one million people to die from famine and another half million people to leave the country mainly going to the United States. That is why I think if not for the potato there would be no St. Patrick's celebration.

One other tidbit of information the potato and the tomato are in the same family. This means you can graft a tomato plant on top of a potato plant and you have ketchup and fries. I know I left out a few of the facts, mainly political, but in a nut shell this is what happened.

In closing I would like to thank the Friendly Sons for there efforts during my presidency, it was an honor serve this organization and I know we will do the same for the next president. See you at the Marriott for our next meeting.

Mike O'

## celtic music association presents cherish the ladies

Irish-American super group formed in 1985, Cherish the Ladies are Grammy-nominated, have toured the world, have played the White House and the Olympics, and have recorded 16 outstanding albums, including "Irish Homecoming," a live recording of their Emmy winning Public Television Special that aired across the United States of America and Ireland.

Under the leadership of the dynamic and irrepressible flute and whistle champion Joanie Madden, these ladies create an evening that includes a spectacular blend of virtuoso instrumental talents, beautiful vocals, captivating arrangements, and stunning step dancing. Their continued success as one of the top Celtic groups in the world is due to the ensemble's ability to take the best of Irish traditional music and dance and put it forth in an immensely entertaining package.



Saturday, March 11 • 8:00 PM

General Admission

Advance Tickets: \$25 • Day of Show Tickets: \$30

Kevin Best  
214 38th Pl  
Des Moines, IA 50312-2818

Friendly Sons of Saint Patrick  
1620 Pleasant  
The Mickie Center #241  
Des Moines, IA 50314



# The Blarney

February 2017

## upcoming

Monthly Meeting  
March 13th  
@ Marriott  
(dwntwn. DSM)



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### Raffle Tickets:

Get your books of raffle tickets to sell!! It's what pays for the parade!! Pick them up from Mike Dennis, or give him a call or shoot him an email and he will get them to you post haste!! All his contact info is in the masthead.

### 5K-10K

Saturday, March 26th. Run starts at Sully's. Registration forms are on the FSOSP website. Or Sully's website at [sullysdesmoines.com](http://sullysdesmoines.com) if you're too inebriated to get to the Sons site. You can also register on the 25th at Sully's from 2pm to 5 pm. Excellent opportunity to "carb load" before the run. Registration is \$25 in advance and \$35 the day of the run. Don't forget to encourage your high school runners to apply for the FSOSP scholarship that the run sponsors. \$500 for both a male and female candidate. As always, huge thanks to John Leonhart for organizing one of the best runs in Des Moines!!

## it's parade time!!!

March Meeting: Second floor of the Marriott. No dinner and cash bar. With that in mind, eat first and bring lots of Guinness money. And your \$10 for the St. Pats Breakfast. And your dues of \$40 if not paid yet. They were due in January. Hence the name "dues". Talk to Mike Dennis about your volunteer duties for Parade day.

Anyone know anyone that would like to announce the Parade entries as they sashay past the judges stand? We have a PA available for any silver tongued devil that would like to volunteer.

### Parade info:

Street Painting: Saturday, March 11. Meet at Exile at 10:30 a.m.. Head out and street paint. Make sure you let Mike Dennis know you will be there. Rain date is March 12.

- Queen election March 9th. Who will it be??
- Flag raising at Sully's 7 a.m.. Limo will be available to take members from the Marriott to Sully's. Leaving at 6:30.
- Breakfast at 8:30 at the Windows on 7th at the Marriott. Cost is \$10. Please bring your money to the March meeting on the 11th so we can get a count.
- Mass is at St. Ambrose at 10:00. Rides are available at the Marriott. Let us know who needs them!
- Parade starts at noon sharp!! (sharpish).
- Reception on the 2nd floor of the Marriott in the Ball Room at 1 p.m. Sound stylings of Ed Kelly and the Boys.
- Raffle and awards at 4

## Fox Brewing – Drink for the FSOSP!

Fox Brewing is donating a portion of the proceeds from the sale of their Fox Tail Irish Red Ale. This promotion will continue until St. Patrick's Day. Pictured below is our very own Jack Blackford helping us out with every beer he drinks.



## Friendly Sons Golf Turney

A note from chairman Brian Kreps:

'Rory! Rory! Rory! Step right up. It's time to mark the date on your calendar for that ever important event you've been waiting all winter for... the Leprechaun Open of (golf) course. Copper Creek has again agreed to let us drive around their wonderful course to scavenge for balls in lakes & woods. Saturday, June 17th we'll be teeing off with a shotgun start at 12 o'clock noon. The Leprechaun Open is a two person "Best Ball" format and is open to members & non-members, gentlemen & ladies, golfers and "golfers" alike. More details to follow, but in the meantime line up a friend or three to enjoy a fun day of putts & giggles.

## wearin of the grí

Reilly is walking through a graveyard when he comes across a headstone with the inscription "Here lies a politician and an honest man." "Faith now," exclaims Reilly, "I wonder how they got the two of them in one grave."

O'Toole and his wife are in bed one night and they hear the neighbor's dog is barking its head off in the garden. Somewhat disturbed by the noise, O'Toole explodes, 'Botheration and that!' and storms off downstairs. He comes back upstairs five minutes later and his wife asks, 'What did you do, O'Toole?' O'Toole replies with a wide grin, 'I've put the dog in our garden so I did, now let's see how they like it.'

Donncha is shocked at finding out all his cows are suffering from "Bluetongue."

'Bejabbers,' Donncha murmurs, 'I didn't even know they had mobile phones.'

Gallagher is in Boston and he is waiting patiently, also, he is watching the traffic cop on a busy street crossing. The cop stops the flow of traffic and shouts, 'Okay pedestrians'. Then he allows the traffic to pass. He did this several times, and Gallagher is still standing on the sidewalk. After the cop has shouted 'Pedestrians' for the tenth time, Gallagher approaches him and says, 'Is it not about time ye let the Catholics across?'

'Why do you Irish always answer a question with a question?' asked President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

'Do we now?' came New York Mayor Al Smith's reply.

Finnegan sells Michael a donkey, some weeks later they met in a pub in Killarney and Michael says, 'Hey, Finnegan, that donkey you sold me went and died.'

Finnegan just sips his Guinness slowly and retorts, 'Bejabbers, Michael, it never done that on me.'

Murphy lost a hundred dollars on the Melbourne Cup, a famous Australian horse race. He also lost another hundred on the television replay.

Kieran O'Connor always slept with his gun under his pillow. Hearing a noise at the foot of the bed, he shot off his big toe.

'Thank the Lord I wasn't sleeping at the other end of the bed,' Kieran said to his friends in Donegal's pub. 'I would have blown my head off.'

O'Gara was arrested and sent for trial for armed bank robbery. After due deliberation, the jury foreman stood up and announced, 'Not guilty.'

'That's grand,' shouted O'Gara, 'Does that mean I get to keep the money?'

'Ah, that was a lovely dress,' announced Colleen, 'and it would have fitted me if I could have got into it, so it would.'

## Sully's Events

### Saturday March 11

#### Sully's Wild Irish Ride

To GEAR up for St. Patrick's Day, ride your bike to Des Moines' Premier Irish Bars and receive give-aways, drink specials and prizes for the top Irish costumes!

Starting Location is either Sully's (110 Grand Avenue) or Mickey Finn's at noon (7020 Douglas Ave). If starting at Sully's, leave at noon to ride to Mickey Finn's.

Party at Mickey Finn's until 2:00, then head to Ducktail Lounge, which is Irish for the day. Party at Ducktail until 4:00, then head to Sully's for the final party. Enjoy \$3 Pizzas at Sully's from 4-6pm. Prizes will be awarded for the top 3 costumes at 6pm!

All three bars will offer \$3 Fireballs, and \$3 16-oz Bud & Bud Light Aluminum cans, plus give-aways!

## St. Patrick's Day

**6am:** Doors open with an Irish breakfast

**7am:** Traditional Irish flag raising with the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick

**All Day:** drink specials, food, music, games, prizes & give-aways. Visit our new photo booth!

**3pm:** Heated tent opens with a performance from the Bagpipers and Drums! No cover! First 500 people in the tent receive free custom St. Pat's koozies!

**3:30pm:** Music with Alt 106.3 until midnight! TV's in tent for NCAA Game Watch. Tons of Give-aways all evening! Find a shamrock, get a free drink! Listen to Alt 106.3 Prior to St. Pats for a chance to win prizes:

King Kybo - your own private kybo for the day for you & your friends!

King Leprechaun - a pair of Green Day Tickets, free beer & a prize party-pack!

Cab stand available all day, courtesy of Yellow Cab  
More information on both events at  
[sullysdesmoines.com](http://sullysdesmoines.com)

## 7th Annual Irish Open Disc Golf Saturday, May 13th, 2017



- Entry Fee (includes a high quality disc) \$25
- Enter Early!
- 10 am @ Grandview Disc Golf Course
- Contact Mike O'Connell 515-277-0018 or Jerry Grady 515-554-3006
- Volunteer, play or do both. It's a great spring event!

**1st Place \$200**

**2nd Place \$50**

**3rd Place \$25**

