



# The Blarney

## **UPCOMING:**

### **Monthly Meeting:**

**February Meeting: February 8<sup>th</sup>**

**6:30 P.M.**

**Mickle Center**

**Dinner:**

**Maid Rites, Fixins/ Chips**

**Dessert**

**Next Meeting:**

**March 8<sup>th</sup>, Mickle Center**

**6:30p.m.**

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### **BOARD CONTACT INFO**

**Pres. – Tony Schmid - 554-1107**  
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**Treas. – Josh Soliday – 577-0990**  
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**Blarney – Jeff DeMoss – 771-7070**  
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**Parade Chairman -**  
**Mike Dennis – 779-7026**  
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## **Presidents ‘Pint of View’**

This month I am coming to you with both good and bad news. I’m going to lead out by answering the big question everyone is asking.

“Are we going to have a parade in 2021?”

We have been holding off on making a final decision on the parade as long as we possibly could, due to a few major reasons.

One was in hopes of seeing this pandemic (and everything that comes with government mandates such as social distancing and group size restrictions) being brought under control.

A second is the financial situation our club and the parade has been facing for quite a while.

A third is that we want to continue to hold our spot as “THE downtown Des Moines St. Paddy’s day event”.

And lastly is that this club began as a group that helped our community and celebrated Irish heritage.

We need to make sure that we continue to be viewed that way by the general public and media.

So..... the bad news is that after weighing out the options that we are currently faced with, holding our “normal” parade this year would be impossible.

Now the good news!

Based upon the major reasons I discussed before, we are working towards trying to “re-imagine” our event this year rather than just cancel it completely like the 2020 parade.

We have been talking with the city and hope to put on an alternative event that would ensure the health and safety of our members/families/community, low financial cost to the club and an event that would be seen as positive by both the media and our entire community. The event we foresee would be a St. Paddy’s day “food donation drop-off” and would not include the usual floats, large groups of parade participants or a large celebration downtown as in past years but If it can be put together in the short amount of time we have available it would help promote our position as helping our community AND offer a chance to celebrate Irish heritage safely.

We will keep you updated as we have more info!

As always....

Your honored President, Tony “T-bone” Schmid

# FRIENDLY SONS OF ST. PATRICK

OF CENTRAL IOWA



We are installing several measures to the February meeting due to the COVID threat.

- Please do not attend if you are feeling sick in any way.
- We recommend wearing a mask to prevent the spread of airborne germs.
- We WILL BE serving a dinner.
- We will be providing beverages as normal.
- We recommend that everyone follow the current social distancing practices.
- We WILL BE having a Raffle we WILL NOT Raffle a whisky bottle.



## *BOARD NEWS*

Treasury update is that we have \$14,886.24 in the bank. Grant work is ongoing.

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The board is currently working on plans for spring fund raisers, with the Parade being cancelled. Our annual run, and the disc golf tourney all in the works. There is quite a bit of We are still making plans to do something that benefits the club with good exposure, as well as helping out those in need. If you have any ideas that you would like to present, please contact a board member.

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Don't forget to pick up some raffle tickets and get to selling them. This is our single biggest fund raiser of the year.

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## ***BOARD NEWS***

continued

Dues are now due \$50 cash is appreciated and the board has a onetime offer this year for \$65 and you get a free raffle ticket. These can be mailed in to FSOSP, The Mickle Center, #241.  
1620 Pleasant, Des Moines, 50314

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The Board received two bits of bad news in January.

As many of you already know, Mr. Leo Ward passed away on January 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Des Moines - Leo Ward, 91, of Des Moines died on January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021 at Unity Point Hospital where his Irish luck finally ran its course.

Leo leaves behind a whole bunch of stuff that no one knows what to do with but also a group of really sad family and friends. His daughters, Cathy (David) Utterson, Carole George, Sarah (Jeff) Horn, and Amy (Michael) Blair and daughter-in-law Susan Ward. While he tolerated his children, it was his 12 grandchildren - Andy (Sarah), Rob (Monica), Joe, Tristan, Hayden, JP, Daniel, Mary (Brandon), Matt, Rosie, Catey and Jillian - and four great grandchildren - Chloe, Nile, Zeni and Little Leo - whom he really loved. Leo also leaves behind his younger brother Bill Ward of East Moline, and his many nieces and nephews. He will be greatly missed by his girlfriend, Barbara Melcher and her children, Mary Jo Romano and Matt Melcher.

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Also, the board learned of the passing of Linda Porth on January 21<sup>st</sup>.

On Thursday, January 21, 2021, Linda Sue Porth, a loving wife, and mother of two children, lost her cancer battle. She is survived by her husband Gary, children Nathaniel and Tyler; four grandchildren Lindsay, Gavin, and Jack (Nathaniel's children) and Eden (Tyler's child), along with one great-grandchild, Violet (Lindsay's daughter), her brother, Gary Hayward, and sister, Shauna Kunkel, along with many cousins, nieces, and nephews.

Our hearts and prayers go out to both the Ward, and Porth families.

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Officer elections were conducted at the January meeting with the President, and Vice-President offices up for re-election. Nominations were made for Tony Schmid for President and Tim Schuck as Vice-President. No other nominations were proposed. A quorum was noted, with 23 members present. Vote was called for and passed for both.

## *Wearin of The Grin'*

- **Billy stops Paddy in Dublin and asks for the quickest way to Cork.**

**Paddy says: "Are you on foot or in the car?"**

**Billy replies: "In the car." "Well, that's the quickest way," says Paddy.**

- An Irishman goes into a bar in America and orders three whiskeys. The barman asks: "Would it be better for if I put all three shots in one glass?"

The Irishman replies: "No! I have two other brothers back at home, so every time I come into a pub, I order a shot for them both."

The following week, the Irishman orders just two whiskeys.

The barman asks: "Did something happen one of your brothers?" "Oh no," replies the Irishman. "I just decided to quit drinking!"

- **What's an Irish seven-course meal? A six-pack and a potato**



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