



The Blarney

UPCOMING:

Monthly Meeting:

January 13th 6 P.M.

Mickle Center

Menu: Orlando's Cavatelli, Italian Salad, Bread/ Buter, Dessert

Next Meeting:

General meeting February 10th

Mickle Center

6:00 P.M.

BOARD CONTACT INFO

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JANUARY (EANÁIR) 2025

The Board wants to remind everyone that we have elections coming up this month. Up for nomination are the president, vice-president, as well as 3 board seats. If you or someone you know are interested, please let a board member know.

Mr. Soliday has applied for both the Prairie Meadows grant as well as the Polk County Grant, keep your fingers crossed.

New Year's Eve and 2024 are now in our rear-view mirror. Regrets or not, the new year is upon us, and resolutions are being sorted. One resolution that will be easy to keep is to renew your FSOSP dues. The meeting next week would be the perfect time to take care of that with cash or check. See Mr. Soliday at the front table. Another great resolution is to volunteer, we have many plans for 2025 with many committees being formed.

Countdown to St. Pat's

Yes, the news is true, there will be a parade this year! Our Parade Chairman for life Colton O'Connor is hard at work with plans moving forward both with the city and the Marriott. VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED! There are other decisions for the parade and the club that you can help with. The board is still going over lists for Parade Grand Marshal and Irishman of the year. If you have any ideas, please let the board know.

Queen candidates will be interviewed on February 16th 2:00 P.M. at the Mickle Center. Applications are available on the Son's web site.

One new event planned is 'The Flag Raising Gala' More information available at this month's meeting.



Presidents Pint of View

Happy New Year to all! Hard to believe 2025 is already upon us. Looking back, 2024 seems like a blur.

Speaking of blurs, as I am writing this there are only 70 days until St. Patrick's Day. Rest assured, our Parade Chairman for Life, Colton O'Conner, has things well in hand for this year's event. Things at the Marriott will be back to the typical arrangement with the parade after-party in the main ballroom with music and dancing and plenty of family fun.

A few things we are missing for the parade are a Grand Marshal, Irishman of the Year, and a Queen. If you know of anyone worthy of any of these honors, please let the board know. Of these three esteemed positions, only the Grand Marshal need not be Irish, and their obligation to the club typically ends on St. Patrick's Day. Think local celebrity, community leader, or someone that might bring a bit more attention to the club even if it is just for one day.

Also, board and officer elections will be held at this month's meeting. Please come prepared to cast your vote to keep our club moving forward. Up for vote are a couple of board positions and the offices of President and Vice President.

I know you all will miss me blathering on once a month, but it is time for me to step aside and let someone else run the show and see where they take us. We need at least 20 members present to hold a valid election, so please attend if you are able.

I hope your New Year's was safe & memorable.
And here's a toast to you all:

"May your pockets be heavy and your heart be light. May good luck pursue you each morning and night."

President, Tim Schuck



Mr. and Mrs. Colton O'Connor welcome the birth of their daughter, Frances Elizabeth December 17th. So, now all you fine lads know what Mr. O'Connor was up to last St. Patrick's Day!



A special congratulations to John Molloy who just celebrated his 100th birthday!



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Welcome to Season 2024-2025

All of this season's concerts will take place at The Franklin Event Center.

Our concert lineup for 2024-2025 season starts with One for the Foxes in November 2024, followed by The Bryne Brothers, Switchback, and The Jeremiahs in January, February and March 2025.

See our current newsletter with the information on the performers for this season's concerts.

The link below takes you to our website, from there you scroll down to the READ OUR NEWSLETTER box, open Summer 2024 to see the current newsletter. You may open any newsletters to see past information about previous concerts.

<https://www.thecma.org>

We held our annual meeting in July and re-elected officers to continue one more year. We would love for new people to join the board to help us continue our mission of bringing quality Celtic music to the Des Moines area. New email for information: info@thecma.org

Wearin' of the Grin

- An elderly couple had just learned how to send text messages on their mobile phones. The wife was a romantic type and the husband was more of a no-nonsense guy. One afternoon the wife went out to meet a friend for coffee. She decided to send her husband a romantic text message and she wrote: "If you are sleeping, send me your dreams. If you are laughing, send me your smile. If you are eating, send me a bite. If you are drinking, send me a sip. If you are crying, send me your tears. I love you." The husband texted back to her: "I'm on the toilet. Please advise."
- The lawyer says to the wealthy art collector tycoon, "I have some good news and I have some bad news." The tycoon says, "It's an awful day; give me the good news first." The lawyer says, "Your wife invested \$5,000 in two pictures today that she figures are worth a minimum of \$2 million." The thrilled tycoon says, "Well done, very good news, indeed! You've just made my day; now what's the bad news?" The lawyer answers, "The pictures are of you and your secretary at a hotel last night."
- I recently picked a new primary care doctor. After two visits and exhaustive lab tests, he said I was doing "fairly well" for my age. A little concerned about that comment, I couldn't resist asking him, "Do you think I'll live to be 80?" He asked, "Do you smoke tobacco, or drink beer, wine or hard liquor?" "Oh no," I replied. "I'm not doing drugs, either!" Then he asked, "Do you eat rib-eye steaks and barbecued ribs?" I said, "Not much, I know all that red meat is very unhealthy!" "Do you spend a lot of time in the sun, like playing golf, boating, sailing, hiking, or bicycling?" he asked. "No, I don't," I said. He asked, "Do you gamble, drive fast cars, or have a lots of sex?" "No," I said. The doctor paused, looked at me and said, "Then, why do you even give a damn?"
- Finnegan drunk as usual walks into the church confessional. The priest waits and waits for Finnegan to say something. Finally, the priest pounds on the wall of the confessional box. "Ain't no use in knocking," Finnegan yells back. "There's no paper on this side either."

Irish History

- Ireland's largest church is St Patrick's Cathedral in Dublin?
- The Popularity of Patrick as a Christian name in Ireland is due to the great 17th century general, Patrick Sarsfield, not our patron saint?
- The word *íochtar* (eek-tur) literally means lower part and is often used for the youngest child in an Irish family?
- George Bernard Shaw bequeathed one third of his estate to the National Gallery in Dublin, claiming that he received his education there?
- Guinness's fermenting vessel ferments 2,304,000 pints at one brewing?
- According to old custom, a piece of candle, a coin and a small quantity of wine or spirits should be placed next to someone who has died? The candle was to give the deceased light, the coin was to pay the fare over the river of death, and the liquor was to sustain him or her on their journey.
- Swallowing a live frog was an old Irish cure for a stomach ache?
- St. James's Gate Brewery is built on the site where, since medieval times, Dubliners held an annual drinking festival every 25th July to celebrate the feast day of St. James?
- Emmett Square in Birr, Co. Offaly, marks the centre of Ireland?
- Dublin was originally called *Dubh Linn* meaning Black Pool? The pool to which the name referred is the oldest known in Northern Europe and currently forms the centre-piece of the penguin enclosure in Dublin Zoo.
- Ireland's smallest church is at Portbraden in Co. Antrim? Only ten feet long by six feet wide, the structure is dedicated to St. Gobhnan - the patron saint of builders. (huh?!)
- Mulgrave Street in Limerick, which contains two hospitals, a prison and a lunatic asylum, is known as 'Calamity Avenue' by the locals.
- The sinister sounding Bloody Foreland in County Donegal owes its name to its magnificent sunsets.
- Every spring, more than twenty million eels swim into the River Bann to breed.
- In the village of Ballyporeen, Co, Tipperary, there's a pub called The Ronald Reagan Bar?
- Charles Stuart Parnell was known as the Uncrowned King of Ireland.
- Irish women received the right to vote before American women.
- A river called the Poddle runs under Dublin Castle.
- The largest town in Offaly is Tullamore.