



The Blarney

UPCOMING:

Monthly Meeting:

March 10th 6 P.M.

Windows @ The Marriott

Menu: No Dinner

Next Meeting:

General meeting April 14th

Mickle Center

6:00 P.M.

BOARD CONTACT INFO

Pres. – Tim Schuck –

515-778-8390

schuck.t@cmbaarchitects.com

Vice Pres. –Tony Schmid –

515-554-1107

bonetender@hotmail.com

Treas. – Josh Soliday – 577-0990

Jsoliday2323@gmail.com

Sec. – Jeff DeMoss – 771-7070

jjdemoss3@gmail.com

Parade Chairman –

Colton O’Connor – 770-2419

Migilly2010@gmail.com

Scott Tilton – 822-2342

Setilton13@gmail.com

Justin Dye – 641-757-2375

Justin.dye.23@gmail.com

Adam McCarty – 515-802-0141

amccarty2000@gmail.com

Donnie Corben -

515-205-0528

donaldduck1423@gmail.com



FEBRUARY (FEABHRA) 2025

Countdown to St. Pat’s

The board is excited to announce our first annual ‘Pre Paddy-Party!’ scheduled for Saturday March 15th. See the flyer on the inside of the Blarney.

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. Carts, radios, tiaras and sashes, limos, porta-potties, raffle tickets, music, dancers...it’s a long list, but everything looks primed to go. **VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!** There are other decisions for the parade and the club that you can help with.

2025 Irishman of the Year is none other than our very own Mr. Mike O’Connell, Mike is a past president that has always stepped up to the plate to help the club out.

2025 Parade Marshall is Andy Frantz. Andy is the Executive Director of Keep Iowa Beautiful. Frantz joined Keep Iowa Beautiful in 2022 after a long career with Principal Financial Group as Assistant Vice President. After his career at Principal Financial Group, Frantz joined Frantz Community Investors, a family-owned commercial real estate development company. Most recently he collaborated with his brothers, forming a new commercial real estate entity focused on restoration of historic hotels. Frantz graduated the University of Iowa with a degree in Economics and Sociology in 1985. Frantz lives in Pleasant Hill. He enjoys sports of any kind, exercise, outdoor activities and spending time with his family and friends.

Parade Entrant Meetings (all at the Marriott):

o Thursday 3/6/25 @ 7:00pm

o Sunday 3/9/25 @ 2:00pm



Presidents Pint of View

Well, it is time once again for me to say my goodbyes. I have had the honor of serving this club not once but twice as your president. In those times I have seen this club struggle, and I have seen this club thrive. Early in my first term it seemed, we were not sure we were going to be able to have a parade, let alone be able to move forward as a club. Now we are poised to do things better than we have been in a long time. I say this not to blow my own horn, but to recognize the efforts of this club's Board of Directors. The faces may have changed since my first term, but the heart, purpose and determination hasn't. These guys constantly have this club's back, volunteering at events, fostering new fundraising ideas, and challenging the ways things have been done, all with the intent of not only keeping this club going but making this club better. I believe this year will raise more money than we ever have and be able to give back to our community more than we have in many years.

I believe the incoming President (Adam McCarty) and Vice President (Justin Dye) are ready and able to keep this momentum going. I am confident in their leadership, and I look forward to seeing what they can do. Adam has been instrumental in securing donations to our club and Justin has been willing to step up and help us promote our club at almost every event, not only selling raffle tickets, but doing his best to recruit new members all while having one heck of a good time. Adam and Justin, cheers to you!

And then, there is my two-term VP; T-Bone. What can I say about this guy? Not nearly enough. There is a good reason he was your 2024 Irishman of the Year. There is almost nothing he wouldn't do for this club. He brings energy and enthusiasm to everything this Club does. He brought us through the pandemic, mostly unscathed. He has worked tirelessly to find new members, upgrade our presence at events, make us look good, back new ideas, help set up the parade, help build new connections, the list goes on. The amount of work he has, and continues to, put into this club in nothing short of amazing.

It has truly been my honor to serve you over the past two years! Thank you all!

Let's have an amazing St. Patrick's Day!

Until then, stay safe
President, Tim Schuck



Friendly Sons of St. Patrick
of Central Iowa



PRE-PADDY PARTY



LIVE BAND • FOOD TRUCK • CASH BAR

Saturday, March 15
2-6pm

The Shop DSM
901 Cherry St, Des Moines

Thank You to Our Partners:
The Shop DSM
Des Moines Firefighters Local 4
Off the Griddle Food Truck
Black Dirt Ramblers



Parade News continued.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY PRE-PARTY:

- Saturday March 15th at “The Shop DSM – Event Center” 2:00pm-6:00pm
- Partnering with Local four Des Moines Firefighters Union
- Band: Band Black Dirt Ramblers
- Food Truck: Off the Griddle will be selling food at the event
- Family friendly event. No entry fee only asking for donation at the door (will need 2 members to main the door).
- Whole venue opens for the event.
- Foy Dancers to perform.

Parade Entrant Meetings (all at the Marriott):

- o Thursday 3/6/25 @ 7:00pm
- o Sunday 3/9/25 @ 2:00pm

o Street painting will be **Sunday March 16th** with a rain date of Saturday March 15th.

Parade day will be challenging with staging set to be down the sides of Grand. Extra help will be needed.

Got Lucky Draw raffle tickets to sell? Get crackin' and bring your money and stubs to the meeting next Monday. And grab some more books to sell! You can bring any unsold tickets to the reception on St. Pat's. We can usually sell all the remainders on site before the 4 p.m. drawing.

Yearly dues are expected this quarter. \$50, cash or check, are all you need to be “in good standing” with the group. It'll be a furious, chaotic scene at the board table for this month's meeting, but marking down dues payments is a most pleasant chore.

Parade Day Itinerary –

Breakfast at 8:00 at Windows at the Marriott (\$10 a plate payable at the March meeting.)

Volunteers meeting after breakfast @ 8:30 – 9

Staging starts at 10:00

Parade goes off at high noon

After Party immediately following the parade at the ballroom inside the Marriott.

GO TO THE WEBSITE: <http://WWW.FRIENDLYSONSIOWA.COM> FOR ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR FORMS. ALL PARADE FORMS ARE ON THE SITE.



2025 FSOSP President Adam McCarty

I grew up on a farm in northwest Iowa and moved to the Des Moines area about 25 years ago. Currently, I live in Indianola with my wife, Nichole, and our 11-year-old daughter, Gwendolyn. I own a home inspection business, where I assist buyers and sellers in understanding the condition of their homes. Before starting my business, I worked as an electrician with the IBEW 347.

I have been a member of the club for three years and have served on the board for the past two. Over the last two years, I have managed our social media presence and this year, I have taken on the responsibility of organizing the disc golf tournament. I am very excited about the future of our club and where we can take it in the next two years.

One of my main goals is to expand our parade sponsorship program. This year, I have learned a lot about when and how to ask for sponsorships, and my aim is to double the amount we raise next year with everyone's help I am looking forward to celebrating St. Patrick's Day with all of you and seeing everyone at the Pre Paddy-Party.



2025 FSOSP Vice-President Justin Dye

My name is Justin, I've been with the Friendly Sons since 2018. Originally from Georgia but grew up in Iowa. Large family spread out all over. Learning about my family heritage is one of the things that brought me to the club. Really enjoy doing events that bring in folks from the community. I work in construction as an inspector/observer for Snyder & Associates. Work on a lot of different types of projects ranging from infrastructure to waterways and many others.

I Live in Des Moines. Family is a very mixed bunch and we get together quite often. I Really enjoy going to watch hockey.

As far as hobbies go. If it is fun, I'll probably do it. Not all that picky.

Irish History

Courtesy of Mr. Kelly –

St. Patrick's Day traditions

The 'Wearin' of The Green'

The tradition of wearing a shamrock to celebrate Saint Patrick seems to date from the seventeenth or eighteenth century. This was a very turbulent time in Irish history. The suppression of the Gaelic way of life by the ruling British invaders resulted in many aspects of the Catholic religion in Ireland being forced underground. Strict laws were enforced which prevented the Catholic population from attending schools so "hedge-schools" were operated in secret. These were schools run outdoors in secluded places (sometimes literally "under a hedge!"). The teaching of religion was also forbidden so it is only to be expected that teachers would use naturally available resources to inform their pupils. Thus, the shamrock plant was used to illustrate the message of the Christian Holy Trinity.

Saint Patrick was credited with using the shamrock in such a manner so the wearing of the shamrock by the oppressed Catholic population became a means of demonstrating their defiance to the ruling British class. It also imbued a sense of kinship among the native Gaelic people, differentiating them from their oppressors. Wearing a clump of shamrock is now a firmly established tradition throughout the world to celebrate not just Saint Patrick, but Ireland itself. The shamrock symbol is widely used by businesses seeking to associate with Ireland and, along with the harp, is perhaps the single most recognizable symbol of Ireland. It is a shame though that the shamrock is not a blue plant as the color originally associated with Saint Patrick was blue!

Parade

Saint Patrick's Day is unique in that it is celebrated worldwide. It is most unusual that a country has such an international celebration and is really evidence of the generational effects of emigration that has afflicted Ireland for centuries. After the 1845 to 1849 Irish Famine, emigration soared with as many as a million native Irish leaving their homes in the decades after the famine to settle in places like Boston, New York, Newfoundland, Perth, Sydney and beyond. The US Census Bureau now reports that over 34 million U.S. citizens claim Irish descent. Most emigrants like to commemorate their heritage and thus the Saint Patrick's Day Parade came into being. The earliest record of a Saint Patrick's Day Parade was in the year 1762 when Irish soldiers serving in the British Army held a parade in New York City. Earlier records suggest that the day was celebrated by the Irish in Ireland as early as the ninth and tenth centuries. Again, this was a very difficult time in Irish history with Viking raiders terrorizing the native Gaelic population. It is thus no surprise then that in times of strife the local population would turn to religion and to a commemoration of their own heritage and individuality, a practice that has been repeated by populations of troubled places since the dawn of time. The New York parade is now the longest running civilian parade in the world with as many as three million spectators watching the parade of over 150,000 participants. The first official parade in Ireland was in 1931. The 1901 law that copper fastened March 17 as an Irish national holiday was later amended to insist that public houses close down on the day. This restriction was later lifted in the 1970's.

(continued)

In the mid 1990's the Irish government really started to promote the event when it changed from a single day's parade into a 5-day festival attracting as many as a million visitors into the country. Parades are now held in just about every major city in the world with the biggest in several U.S. cities reaching epic proportions.

a Pint of Plain is Your only Man

The Irish association with drinking is well known and not always positive. Fortunately, there are plenty of examples of the appropriate use of alcohol and Saint Patrick's Day is one of them. It is a widely held tradition in Ireland that beer or whiskey can be taken on Saint Patrick's Day although native Irish pub-goers can only look on aghast as visitors top the heads of their creamy pint of Guinness with a shamrock design. Sacrilege! It is estimated that as many as 13 million pints of Guinness are consumed on Saint Patrick's Day, up from the usual 5.5 million per day!

Greening of Buildings and rivers

The use of the color green reached new heights (or plunged new depths) when in 1962 the city of Chicago decided to dye part of the Chicago River green. Since then, the campaign to have just about every possible landmark turned green for the day has taken off in earnest and in recent years has included the Irish Parliament building, the Sydney Opera House, the Empire State Building, Niagara Falls and even the Pyramids of Giza in Egypt.

Dressing up like a Leprechaun

The tradition of dressing up in Irish outfits is not just confined to participants in parades. Jovial creatures of Irish origin the world over use the opportunity of Saint Patrick's Day to dress up as a leprechaun or even as Saint Patrick himself. Kids love to wear the big green, white and orange hats and receive sweets thrown to them by similarly clad operators of the various parade floats.

St. Pat's Day dinner

Corned beef and cabbage is as traditional an Irish meal as you will ever find and it is often hauled out for Saint Patrick's Day. Traditional Irish music in the back ground and a family gathering are other Irish Saint Patrick's Day traditions that have been going on for centuries.





FRIENDLY SONS OF ST. PATRICK OF
CENTRAL IOWA PRESENT

HALFWAY TO ST. PAT'S DAY CHARITY CAR SHOW

SUNDAY SEPT. 14 2025



DJ.
FOOD.
TROPHIES.
VENDORS.

JOIN US AT
CHARLIE'S FILLING STATION
305 Grand Ave., West Des Moines

SPONSORED BY
FAREWAY
MEAT & GROCERY

\$25 DAY-OF REGISTRATION • CASH OR VENMO

REGISTRATION 11 A.M. — 1 P.M.
TROPHIES AWARDED AT 3 P.M.

QUESTIONS? CONTACT SCOTT@FRIENDLYSONSIOWA.COM

SCAN HERE
FOR DETAILS



WWW.FRIENDLYSONSIOWA.COM

The Friendly Sons of St. Patrick of Central Iowa are a merry band of gentlemen that enjoys gathering together to commune and celebrate our Irish heritage. We are also a benevolent organization. With the support of many sponsors & contributors we are able to raise money that is donated back to local organizations in need that we call our "Community of Caring."