Leitrim Society of New York September 2020 Online Newsletter

**Dear Member**,

As this past ***Labor Day*** ***weekend*** with its warming rays of summer slowly fades to memory, I would like to ***‘welcome back’*** all our officers and members as we prepare to resume our society’s activities once again. I hope you and your families are all staying safe and well. Over the past six months we have experienced an unimaginable loss of human lives with a total upheaval to what we considered our ***‘normal activities’*** due to the global pandemic. The world around us looks and feels very different, and we continue to confront great challenges. Many things that we had always taken for granted, such as vacations, family gatherings, church services social activities and sporting events are now subject to harsh restrictions. Our children have had to adapt to new ways of learning. We must however rise up to the challenge and adjust as best we can, to persevere in the hope that this current situation is in our best interest, and things will return to normal soon.

Due to the ongoing precautions and in the interest of our membership’s safety, we will be conducting our ***September meeting*** virtually via ***Zoom*** on **Thursday, September 17th, 2020** **at 7:30pm**. If you would like to join in, please contact **Meg McKeon Baker** at ***718-445-8365*** for details.

In July we had to make the difficult decision to cancel our ***rescheduled*** **2020 St. Patrick’s** **Dinner Dance** **until 2021.** We hope and pray that by then there will be a vaccine and the virus will be eradicated. Regrettably, there was no ***Leitrim Weekend at Gavin’s*** this year, but we hope that next year’s will be bigger and better!

**Scholarship:** Due to the restrictions, and in the interest of transparency, we were not able to have the drawing for the scholarships in May. It was decided to postpone this until our September meeting. We wish all our applicants good luck. Scholarships will be presented at our ***Memorial Mass/Scholarship Dance* in****November**. Details will be published in our October newsletter. This is our only scholarship fundraiser so we are enclosing ***two books*** ***of raffle tickets***. Please return tickets and payment to **Bernadette Dunleavy, 238 Blackford Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10704 *before November 1st***. Checks should be made payable to ‘***County Leitrim******Society Scholarship Fund’****.* Your continued support is greatly appreciated. This year for college applicants, ***we will accept a Bursars receipt in lieu of student transcript.***

**Payment of dues** **for 2020 as well as for 2021** should be mailed to the ***Financial Secretary*** at the P.O. Box address above. ***Dues are $20.00 per person or $30.00 per couple***.

***Congratulations* to Detective Brendan Regan** on his recent retirement from the ***NYPD***, after 27 years. We wish you many happy healthy years and ‘***Thank You*** ***for your service’***.

Please remember our sick members, **Aileen Kilcommons, Lisa Cullen, Michael O’Rourke,** and all those who are ill. We also pray for those affected by the Coronavirus. We wish them all a complete recovery.

***Condolences*** to the family of **Joe Heron, (*Drumshanbo*) *brother* to Noel,** who passed away last week in ***New Zealand***, to the ***family*** of **John Dolan** (***past president 1962-64)*** who passed away in June at the age of **94 years**, to **Pat Murray** on the death of his ***cousin* Sonny Murray** in ***Ireland***, to **Rita Lydon Lenz,** ***President*** ***of*** ***the United Irish Counties Association,*** on the sudden death of her ***husband*** **Justin** in June, and to **Mike and Bridie Cassidy** (***New Haven***) who’s ***son*** **Stephen** died suddenly at the end of July. We also remember a ***Leitrim native,*** **Elizabeth Moran**, ***Woodside***, who passed away recently in her ***92nd year***. May they all ***Rest in Peace***.

Please continue to pray for all our ***first responders,******medical staff and all essential service employees*** who continue their heroic work on the **front lines.** We thank them for all they continue to do, and ask God to keep them safe and well.

Lastly as the ***19th Anniversary*** approaches, we remember the victims of ***9-11*** and their families. Let us also remember all those first responders on that day that have passed away as a result of work related illnesses. ***Always in our hearts but never forgotten.***

**Be safe and well and look out for each other.**

**Sincerely,**

**Donal O’Connell Anna Mulvey Buggy**

***President* *Corresponding Secretary***