

Leitrim Society of NY December 2019 Online Newsletter

Dear Member,

Thank you to everyone who attended our **Memorial Mass** and **Scholarship Dance**. It was a very enjoyable afternoon. Thank you to the new **Monsignor Pat Whitney** for the lovely mass and to Bernadette Dunleavy and her team for a job well done. Congratulations and every success to all the scholarship winners.

Our **December meeting** will be on **Friday December 20th at 7.30 PM** at **The Heritage Bar and Restaurant, McLean Avenue, Yonkers**. This is our **Christmas get together, refreshments will be served, so please forget about the shopping and come out and join the party**. As it is customary we will take up a collection at the meeting, proceeds will be distributed to a charity to be decided later. Please contribute if possible.

At the November meeting the following Officers were nominated for 2020/2021

President: Donal O'Connell

1st Vice President: Noreen Regan-Leggiero

2nd Vice President: Mary Callaghan

Corresponding Secretary: Anna Mulvey-Buggy

Financial Secretary: Neil Callaghan

Treasurer: Meg McKeon-Baker

Recording Secretary: Aileen Kilcommons

Sergeant At Arms: Seamus McGovern

Trustees: Noeleen Bohan-McGovern, Pat Murray, Dessie McWeeney

Auditors: Frank Brady, John Maguire, Bernadette Dunleavy

Installation of Officers will take place on Sunday January 12th, 2020 at The Fairways, Dunwoodie Golf Club, 1 Wasylenko Lane, Yonkers, NY 10701 from 1-5pm. Music will be provided by Gerard Corbett and Susan Gillespie. For information please contact Meg McKeon Baker at 917-294-2931. Your support will be greatly appreciated.

Payment of dues for 2020 can be paid at this meeting or by mailing to the Financial Secretary at the P.O. Box address above. Dues are \$20.00 per person or \$30.00 per couple.

Our congratulations go out to a great lady and member **Mary Kelleher** who just celebrated her **100th birthday**. Mary is aunt to Aileen Kilcommons and cousin to Bernadette Dunleavy. Mary Ellen (nee Flynn) was born in Drumkeerin, County Leitrim. We wish Mary continued good health to enjoy life.

The **Leitrim Society will celebrate 125 years in 2020**. To celebrate this great milestone we will honor a special group of people at our St. Patrick's Day Dinner Dance. Full details will follow later.

Our **Distinguished Service Recipient** is Bernadette Dunleavy. Bernadette is currently Chairperson of the Scholarship Committee and Past President of the Society in 2014-2015. Bernadette was born in the Bronx, NY to the late Mary Cullen (nee Flynn) who was raised in Drumkeerin, Co. Leitrim and Tommy Cullen from Arigna, Co. Sligo. Bernadette is married to Tony Dunleavy from Mayo and they now reside in Yonkers. They have three children, Gerard, Anne and Marie. Bernadette has worked as a School Nurse with New York Department of Education for the past 14 years. Bernadette is very active in all Society events and fundraisers including the Annual Memorial Mass and Scholarship Dance. We congratulate her on being selected for this award and look forward to a great dance. Full details will follow later.

Congratulations to our member and Past President Helen McAlinden (Lavin) on her recent promotion to **CEO and President of Homes with Hope**. Helen has worked for 17 years with The Connection Inc, Connecticut's largest social services provider, most recently as Director of homeless outreach and development. She will assume her new role on January 6th. We wish Helen continued success as she assumes this great position. We are very proud of you Helen.

Trip to Leitrim 2020 – Further to what we stated in our October newsletter, we have shortened the trip from 10 days to 3 days of sightseeing tours, places of interest, music and shopping etc. Airline tickets are at the travelers own expense, as is accommodation for those not having a home, relative or friends with whom they can stay. The tour bus will depart each morning from a pre-arranged location. It is up to each person if they would like to participate or not. There will be further discussion during the coming months.

Your prayers are requested for our sick members especially Aileen Kilcommons, Lisa Cullen, Eddie Verheyen, Gerry Gilheaney, Margaret Mitchell-McManus, Ollie Cox, Damien Murray, Margaret Devine-McTernan and Maureen Halligan. Wishing them a full recovery.

Please remember our deceased especially Jim Beirne (brother to Eileen Healy). May he and all our deceased Rest in Peace.

Finally a look back as my time as President of the Society comes to an end. My term brought me into contact with many great Leitrim people who departed their native county many decades ago. I refer not just to the wonderful members of our Society here in New York but also to the members of the Leitrim Association in London, the Leitrim Association in Luton, Leitrim Supporters Club in Dublin and the Leitrim Society in Boston. Despite being many years since most of those left county Leitrim their commitment, continuous work effort and dedication to promote, foster and preserve Leitrim traditions far and wide is to be admired and what they do is truly outstanding. I thank the officers of the Society for their work, help and support during my term. It was an honor and privilege to serve as President of the County Leitrim Society of New York and I thank you for placing that trust in me. I wish Donal O'Connell and the incoming officers every success and good luck as we celebrate our 125th anniversary in 2020. Long may our Society prosper and flourish. Wishing all our members, their families and friends a Merry Christmas and a safe, happy and healthy New Year.

Respectfully Yours,

Desmond McWeeny
President

Anna Mulvey Buggy
Corresponding Secretary