Leitrim Society of New York December 2020 Online Newsletter

**Dear Member**,

 I would normally begin the December letter by thanking all those who attended our **Memorial Mass/Scholarship Dance**. Unfortunately, like all other events this year, it became a victim of the Pandemic. However, we did have a lovely live streamed ***Memorial Mass***, thanks to **Monsignor Pat Whitney** from his parish church in Patchogue, New York. ***Thanks*** to **Bernadette Dunleavy** for coordinating the event and to those members who attended in person and participated in the mass. I hope that some of you were able to attend virtually. After the mass we had the drawing for the raffle tickets. ***Congratulations*** to **Mary O’Keefe** who won the ***first prize of $300,*** and to **Miriam Mulcahy** who won ***second*** and ***third*** cash prizes. Mary is a worthy winner as she chaired the scholarship committee for many years. We wish her health and happiness in her new home in North Carolina. **Special** ***“Thanks”*** to **Marie Archibee,** **Pat Gallagher,** **the Cashin, Dolan, Ferguson, McKeon/Baker, Murray families and ‘the *Barney Ferguson Emerald Legacy Fund’*** for their most generous donations to our ***Scholarship Fund*** and to all those who purchased our raffle tickets. We are very grateful and indebted to all for your continuous generosity and support.

 Our **December meeting** will be conducted via ***Zoom*** on **Thursday, December** **17th, 2020 at 7:30pm**. If you would like to participate, please contact **Meg McKeon-Baker** at ***718-445-8365*** for details.

**At our November meeting, the current slates of Officers were approved for 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, Desmond McWeeney**

 **Auditors: Frank Brady, John Maguire, Bernadette Dunleavy**

 ***Congratulations* and wishing everyone well in 2021!**

 **Payment of dues 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.**

 ***Welcome*** to our ***newest member,*** **Sean O’Reilly** of **Herts, England**. We look forward to seeing you ‘***virtually’*** at an upcoming meeting or hopefully in person at an event down the road.

The ‘***Leitrim Guardian 2021’*** isthe ***53rd edition*** of one of the longest running county-focused publications in Ireland. This year they are honoring **‘*Persons of the Year from Home and Abroad’. Congratulations*** to a wonderful ***Yonkers*** couple, **Seamus and Caitriona Clarke** for their works here,and to at home recipients, **Andrew (Andy) McGovern** and **Peter McHugh.** ***The Society*** is very proud of Seamus and Caitriona for the tremendous inspiration and input they had this year in the formation of ***Slainte******2020*.** Your hard work and commitment has greatly helped to relieve the economic hardship endured by so many of our ***Diaspora*** as a result of the Covid Pandemic. This award is so richly deserved.

 ***The Society*** would like to bid a fond ***Farewell*** to one of our most beloved, valued and active members, **Mike Dillon**, as he departs to his new home in **Southborough, Massachusetts**. We will all miss you very much Mike, but will be calling on your advice and expertise from time to time. We wish you the very best of Health and Happiness in the future. Stay warm up there, thank you for all the great memories!

Please remember our sick members, **Aileen Kilcommons, Noreen Regan-Leggiero, Lisa Cullen, Ann Brogan, Michael O’Rourke,** **Anna Bohan and Bridie (Mitchell) Casey, *sister* of Cathy Miceli** and all who are ill. We also pray for those affected by the Coronavirus. We wish them all a complete recovery.

***Condolences*** to the ***family*** of **Frankie McHugh (Cloone**), ***cousin* to Cathy Miceli**, to the ***family*** of **Seamus Dooley**, well known **Past President of NY GAA,** to the ***family*** of **Ben McKeon, Bar Owner, Keshcarrigan** and to **Pat Gallagher** on the untimely death of his ***life- long friend,*** **Tony Ferguson**, **Kent, England**. We remember all deceased members of our families. 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. We also remember all our families in Ireland during these very difficult times. We hope that with the safe use of the new vaccines this virus will be eradicated in the very near future.

**Wishing you and your families a blessed Christmas. *BE SAFE AND BE WELL*.**

**Sincerely,**

**Donal O’Connell Anna Mulvey Buggy**

***President* *Corresponding Secretary***

***A Christmas message from our President …***

***Dear Members,***

*As Christmas approaches, let us put aside for a while the challenges of the past year.*

*We all deserve a time to relax. Stay in touch with our fellow member, especially our sick members. We all welcome a message of goodwill from each other at Christmas. We can watch Midnight Mass or on Christmas Day by Live-streaming it. We must enjoy the feast with our families. Thank God we belong to a Society that remembers our members throughout the year.*

*Wishing you all the best of Health and Happiness and May God bless you always.*

*Regards,*

***Donal O’Connell***