

# Shorenanigans



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE JERSEY SHORE ORDER OF  
THE FRIENDLY SONS OF THE SHILLELAGH

## January 2023 *Your President's Message*

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Brother Shillelaghs,

Happy New Year to you and your family!! Hope 2023 is a great year for everyone!

As we reflect on 2022, it was a great year for our club. We sit in outstanding financial shape, have returned to normalcy after the pandemic and continue to do great work helping those in need. The holiday season at the club was a lot of fun, as well, as the Jack Carr Taproom was as busy as ever as we enjoyed the company of Shillelagh Brothers and their guests.

Our Toy Drive this year raised over \$40k in donations and toys!! Thanks to all those that contributed to the success of our Toy Drive. Thanks to the Toy Drive Committee leaders John Carr, Kevin Giblin, and Eddie Hunter, who do an exceptional job every year. John has been involved in leading the Toy Drive since its inception over 20 years ago. John also spearheaded a fund-raising effort in partnering with The Dream Factory in Wall to send a cancer stricken young girl and her family to Hawaii. We were able to raise \$9,000 in this quest as we surpassed the goals established by John Carr.

The 2022 Children's Christmas Celebration took place on Saturday December 17th. More than 100 families signed up to have their picture taken with Santa and enjoy the festive banquet room. Thanks to Karen Smith and her group of elves: Sue Airel, Laura Bennett, Betty Lowrey, Robyn Magovern, and Mary Sue Moloughney. Also, thank you to our Santa's, Danny Reilly and Frank Lemkan for volunteering their time. Bob Airel also provided a Christmas train scene for the event that was extraordinary.

Our Irish New Year's Eve party was a great success as a huge crowd embarked on the club. Much food and drink was consumed and the Craic was outstanding! Our bartenders did an exceptional job of more than meeting the needs of the overflow crowd. We appreciate their efforts. Brian Gallagher and the Innisfree Band were outstanding too. Thanks to all those that brought food to the club as well.

The Belmar-Lake Como Parade Season got its start on January 8th as 40 Shillelaghs attended the first fundraiser at The Salty Whale in Manasquan. There will be fundraisers throughout the months of January and February to help fund the Belmar-Lake Como St Patrick's Day parade. Please support as many of them as you can. The club will also be hosting a parade fundraiser on Sunday, February 26th from 2-6pm. We will have the Pat Roddy Band for the event. More details to follow as we get closer.

The club's annual Super 50/50 drawing will be drawn at the club on Super Bowl Sunday, February 12th, right before kickoff. Contact Rosco Quirk and/or Snuffy Smith for tickets.

On Sundays, during the NFL Playoffs, the club will be selling food. Come out to the club to enjoy the games and the company.

Wishing you all the best in 2023 with many more special Shillelagh memories in the year to come.

Slainte'

Craig Coyle

President, FSOS Jersey Shore



# Events Calendar



- Sunday January 22nd • Devil's Bus Trip**  
**Thursday January 26th • Start of Dart League**  
**Wednesday February 1st • FSOS Monthly Meeting**  
**Friday February 10th • Valentines Bingo**  
**Sunday February 26th • Parade Fundraiser with Pat Roddy**  
Belmar FSOS Clubhouse  
**Wednesday March 1st • FSOS Monthly Meeting**  
**Saturday March 4th • Belmar/Lake Como St. Patrick's Day Parade**  
Investiture Mass  
**Saturday March 4th • Bantry Boys**  
**Sunday March 5th • Belmar/Lake Como St. Patrick's Day Parade**  
**Saturday March 11th • Carolina Shillelaghs St. Patrick's Day Parade**  
**Friday March 17th • St. Patrick's Day**
- 



## **Brotherhood:**

an association, society, or community of people  
linked by a common interest, religion, or trade

**In memory of our brothers who have passed.**

James McLaughlin



# Irish History #100

## The Irish Free State: a Nation, but not yet a Republic

The Irish Provisional Government came to an end and the Irish Free State (Saorstát Éireann) came into existence on December 6, 1922. That is the day the Irish Free State Constitution Act received Royal Assent. Also, that day, members of the Irish Dáil (Parliament) took the oath of allegiance that was required for them to take office.

A bloody civil war was raging in Ireland at the time because of the oath. Those in favor of the Treaty ending the Anglo-Irish War viewed the Treaty as a step toward full freedom from Great Britain. They accepted the oath of office as a necessary part of the journey to full Irish independence. The anti-Treaty side felt otherwise. For them, the oath was a reason to wage war against the Irish government.

The Irish Constitution was drafted primarily by Michael Collins. It was passed by the Dáil two months after his death. Article 17 of the Constitution set out the oath. "I \_\_\_\_\_ do solemnly swear true faith and allegiance to the Constitution of the Irish Free State as by law established, and that I will be faithful to H.M. King George V, his heirs and successors by law in virtue of the common citizenship of Ireland with Great Britain, and her adherence to and membership of the group of nations forming the British Commonwealth of Nations." The oath required swearing true faith and allegiance to the Irish Constitution first, followed by faithfulness to the King.

Eamon de Valera was one of the anti-Treatyites arguing for the violent overthrow of the government. Four years later, when he took his seat in the Dáil along with other members of his Fianna Fáil Party, de Valera changed his position on the oath. He now considered it a mere "empty formula." He said that he signed the oath to enter office "merely as a formality" and declared that "no other meaning is to be attached to what I am doing."

Although executive authority in Ireland - like in Canada - was still vested in the King, Article 2 of

the Constitution stated: "all powers of government and all authority, legislative, executive, and judicial, in Ireland, **derived from the people of Ireland.**" (Emphasis added). From the beginning, Ireland attempted to model America's representative form of government as much as possible by enshrining language in Article 2 similar to language in the U.S. Constitution's Preamble, which reads in part: "We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union . . . do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America."

Additional provisions of the 1922 Irish Constitution recognized individual rights we are familiar with from the U.S. Bill of Rights, such as freedom of religion and a prohibition against "endowing" a religion, freedom of speech, association, and assembly ("peaceably and without arms"), the right to a trial by jury and to the sanctity of one's home. The Constitution created an independent judiciary, and it empowered all citizens - male and female - who were 21-years of age to vote in Irish parliamentary elections that were held based upon "proportional representation."

Articles 70 and 72 made clear that no one could be tried "save in due course of law;" but cases involving charges for offenses under military law could be tried by a court-martial or military tribunal "authorized by law for dealing with military offenders against military law." More will be said about this shortly.

As mentioned, the nation's new government was embroiled in a civil war. The head of the Irish Free State - W.T. Cosgrave - referred to December 6th as "Ireland's most notable day, when our country has definitely emerged from the bondage under which she has lived through a week of centuries" (700 years). But the fighting cast a somber cloud over the milestone achievement. An Irish Times editorial noted that ". . . the land has been devastated by a cruel warfare. Freedom comes to us, not blithe or smiling, but with a countenance severe and even tragic."

More tragedy followed. Under the terms of the Anglo-Irish Treaty, Northern Ireland was to be “incorporated into the Irish Free State unless it opted out.” Now that the Irish Free State existed, the Northern Ireland (NI) Parliament, with only unionists in attendance, unanimously voted to opt-out of a 32-county Free State. On December 7th, NI Prime Minister James Craig travelled across the Irish Sea to ensure King George received the NI Parliament’s address on its vote as soon as possible. It read in part: “We, your Majesty’s most dutiful and loyal subjects . . . do by this humble address, pray Your Majesty that the powers of the parliament and government of the Irish Free State shall no longer extend to Northern Ireland.” Craig said it was important to act in haste, so that “it may not go forth to the world that we had the slightest hesitation.” Ireland had already been partitioned under the Government of Ireland Act 1920. NI’s opt-out closed one possible door to re-unification. The work of the Boundary Commission was now the last hope. That too would end in failure a few years later.

As we saw in Chapter 98, on December 8th the Free State government executed 4 anti-Treaty leaders who were involved in the takeover of the Four Courts. The men had been arrested in April and held in Mountjoy Jail since then. The executed men were not afforded any type of trial, whether before a court-martial or other military tribunal. They were shot in revenge for the death of TD Sean Hales without due process of law. As slavery was the original sin of the U.S. Constitution, these executions constituted an original sin of the new Free State government.

Clearly, the executions were contrary to Articles 70 and 72 of the Irish Constitution. Hales was assassinated in Dublin by anti-Treaty forces on December 7th. (Hales was there to attend a session of the Dail.) That evening, the four men - Dick Barrett, Liam Mellows, Rory O’Connor and Joe McKelvey - were given the following typed notice: “You are hereby notified that, being a person taken in arms against the government, you will be executed as a **reprisal** for the assassination of Brigadier Sean Hales TD . . . and as a solemn warning to those associated with you.” (Emphasis added). They were shot in

the prison courtyard the next morning. By killing these men, the government was sending a message to anti-Treaty forces about the fate awaiting them unless they laid down their arms.

The government sought to justify its action. Cosgrove said he knew there was a “diabolical conspiracy afoot” against the government and that the only way to deal with it was “to crush it.” In the Dail, Labor Party leader Thomas Johnson accused the government of killing “the new state at its birth.” Defending the executions, Minister for Home Affairs Kevin O’Higgins responded by saying: “There are no real rules of war . . . the safety and preservation of the people is the highest law.”

The debate over the due process-less executions continues today on the centenary of the events. Irish Supreme Court Justice and historian Gerard Hogan has described the Free State response during the Irish Civil War as verging “on wholesale departure from legality.” But he said it should be viewed in the context of what was “in essence, an attempt at an army coup de’etat.” To me, however, Irish Tanaiste (Deputy Prime Minister) Michael Martin got it right when he forthrightly described the executions as “murder by any definition.”

Despite the government’s deplorable handling of the Four Courts’ leaders, the Irish Free State did not die at birth. The government survived the Civil War. In time it thrived, becoming the Republic of Ireland in 1949. (The Republic of Ireland Act 1948 came into effect on April 18, 1949. It ended Ireland’s dominion status and membership in the British Commonwealth of Nations, as well as the last remaining functions of the King in relation to Ireland.) The Irish democracy is one of only two arising in the aftermath of World War I - Finland is the other - that has remained in continuous existence since that era. At 100 years old, Ireland has one of the world’s oldest democracies. It is far from the world’s oldest democracy, which belongs to the United States. Nevertheless, reaching the centenary milestone is cause for celebration tempered by the understanding that Ireland is not yet united.

The enmities and divisions caused by the Civil War drove Irish politics for most of Ireland’s existence.



That is not the case now. Last month, Fianna Fail leader Michael Martin and Fine Gael leader Leo Varadkar voluntarily switched places in their coalition government. Varadkar became Taoiseach (Prime Minister), and Martin became Tanaiste. The only way for the two civil war parties to maintain a hold on power in the face of Sinn Fein's ascendancy was to form a coalition government.

Ireland has another division to overcome - the partition of north and south. A recent Ipsos opinion poll showed that a majority of voters in the north and the Republic favor holding a referendum on Irish reunification in the next 5 (voters in the Republic) to 10 (voters in the north) years. So it's time to begin planning and preparing for a referendum, and to start working on persuading others to favor reunification.

In a postscript to Chapter 99, a British soldier was found guilty of manslaughter in the Belfast High Court for shooting Aidan McAnespie in the back in 1988 at a checkpoint in County Tyrone. The 23-year-old McAnespie was walking to his local GAA club when he was killed. The judge rejected the soldier's defense that the shooting was an accident because his hands were wet. The verdict, 34 years after the commission of the crime, marked the first conviction of a British soldier since the 1998 Good Friday Agreement.

Sources: Diarmid Ferriter, Between Two Hells, Penguin Books (2021), p. 92-93; Ronin McGreevy, "Execution of four prisoners by Free State government was 'murder' - Taoiseach," Irish Times (Dec. 2, 2022); Ronin McGreevy, "'The battle has been won, but at tremendous cost:' how the Irish State came into being 100 years ago," Irish Times (December 3, 2022); Barry Roche, "Execution of anti-Treaty leaders by Free State was illegal," Irish Times (Nov. 20, 2022).

Sláinte agus dia bless. EMN



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The Foundation of the Friendly Sons of the Shillelagh, Inc., is a charitable organization established and operated to benefit the public interest and is the club's only IRS designated 501C(3) charity and donations are tax deductible. Please help us help individuals in need. If you have any questions, please feel free to email us at [Info.fsosbelmar@gmail.com](mailto:Info.fsosbelmar@gmail.com).

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# The Pipes and Drums of the Jersey Shore - January 2023!!

Happy New Year!!! We wish all of you a happy and healthy new year!!!

We took a short break for the holidays and now we are back with rehearsals twice a week for parade season which is quickly closing in....

We have quite a few students that are close to becoming active members of the band!

Let me address some commonly asked questions/statements I have heard more times than I can count:

1. How long does it take to learn to play the bagpipes or drums?

It takes as long as it takes for someone to learn to play any of the instruments in the band. This is dependent on one person, you! Your efforts practicing at home and showing up for weekly lessons ultimately determines how "fast" you will learn. Everyone learns differently and at their own pace. We have had people pass their audition within a year, which is not that common. I would say it takes a solid two years to get to the point to be able to pass your audition. You will always continue to learn and improve your technique over time.

2. How hard is it to play the or drums? I will learn drums instead, it's easier.

In my opinion, it is not easy to play any instrument. Each have their own challenges and learning curve. Each require time which depends on you as explained above. Bass, tenor and snare drum are NOT easier to learn than bagpipes. Each are unique and contribute to the band sound and appearance.

3. I can't read music so I can't learn to play

That is incorrect! You can learn if you want to learn! I could not read music when I started. Some say I probably still can't! HA! We have had many people in the band over the years and 98.4% of them could not read music. Most learned along the way, just as I did .... eventually, you learn as you go along. For bagpiping there are just 9 notes to learn :) For drumming, there is a left and right hand so it's easier, right? We know already that is simply not true!

Learning to play an instrument is one of the most rewarding, frustrating at times, fun thing I have ever done. I am always learning... and will have fun along the way.

YOU CAN TOO!! How?

Tuesday nights - 6:30 upstairs at the club..... Show up, see what it's all about and give it a try!!!!

Growth is key for the band's future. The club is around 1400 strong..... it would be great to see more of you (and your families) join the band! The band is not just for club members and .....lessons are FREE!!!

This is a great way to be involved and do something fun! ANYTIME of the year is a good time to start learning!

All you need to do is show up on Tuesday evening and/or contact me 732-685-9232 so you can get started to become a bagpiper or drummer in the band!

If you already know how to play bagpipes or drums & want to join the band, just head over to practice on a Tuesday evening and check us out. Our email is band@jspipesanddrums.com which can be accessed by visiting our website at www.jspipesanddrums.com or talk to any band member for information.

Thinking of hiring a bagpiper, small group or the band to celebrate a promotion, have a backyard bbq or birthday party? We perform for all kinds of events: weddings, funerals, parties, grand openings, ceremonies, graduations, backyard bbq's and more!

For more info, please contact our Band Manager, Mark Mastowski (732-233-6136)

We always try to accommodate all requests. Remember that we, just like you, have family, job and other commitments/obligations (some beyond our control).

As always, we want to thank you all and we appreciate the continued support from all of you!!

Anyone with pictures or video of the band, please send them along to me pdjspiper@hotmail.com

Thank you!

Slainte,

Ray Spengler



## The Order of the Friendly Sons of the Shillelagh of the Jersey Shore

Dear Members:

The Friendly Sons of the Shillelagh of the Jersey Shore is requesting sponsors for the 2023 Newsletter and Website. We will also be sending out an email with the list of all businesses who would like to be a part of our Green Page listing that is sent out annually to our membership which is well over 1,200 members.

The Options that are available in 2023 are as follows:

**\$30** – Green Page listing that will list your business name, address, telephone number and email address will be emailed out to all our members with the December newsletter.

**\$250** – Business Card size advertising in the monthly newsletter, Business card size ad on the club's website, plus your business will be included in the Green Page email

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For those of you who have advertised previously, the club thanks you for your continued support

Thanks,

Craig Coyle

President FSOS Belmar

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# Upcoming Meetings

## Wednesday, February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023

### 7:30pm

Not receiving email or have contact information to update?

Contact Ned Barrett at  
nbarrett@deltec-ny-com

Have information on bereavement?

Contact Dan Reilly at  
Irish0361@aol.com

or

Ray Spengler at  
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**Have news to share in the newsletter? Contact [info.fsosBelmar@gmail.com](mailto:info.fsosBelmar@gmail.com)**

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