



Muskegon Irish American Society

NEWS



Spring 2016

Consul General of Ireland to Speak at Spring Event

Spring has arrived, and it's time for our annual educational dinner dedicated to our Irish history and heritage.

This year's guest speaker is Consul General of Ireland, Orla McBreen. McBreen was appointed Consul General of Ireland to Chicago in September, 2015. She is the first woman to be appointed as Consul General to the Midwest USA.



During the course of her assignment to Chicago, the Consul General will be working closely with the other Irish Government State agencies, focusing on strengthening Ireland-US economic, trade and investment links across the Midwestern states; supporting Irish communities across the Midwest, including Irish community efforts in relation to reform of US immigration legislation; and promoting Irish culture across the Midwest.

CG McBreen holds a BA in History from Trinity College Dublin and an MA in European Studies from the College of Europe in Natolin, Poland.

McBreen worked in Poland and Belgium before joining Ireland's Department of Foreign Affairs in 2000. She served as Deputy Director, Strategy and Performance, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade 2012-2015 and as First Secretary (Human Rights), Permanent Mission of Ireland to the United Nations, New York. 2007-2012.

For our dinner we return to the beautiful Century Club Ballroom. Musical entertainment will be provided by our fellow members Roy and Britta Portenga. A full course dinner will be prepared by Mike McGovern, with main entrees of swiss steak and chicken. If you wish to have beer, wine, or spirits, you must bring your own. For reservations, please call Kathleen Marek (231) 759-7344 by Thursday, May 5. In addition to our guest speaker we will announce our "*Irish Person of the Year*". This is an event you won't want to miss!

WHAT: Muskegon Irish American Society Annual Spring Dinner

WHERE: Century Club Ballroom, 356 W. Western Avenue, Muskegon, MI

WHEN: Wednesday, May 11, 2016

5:30 p.m. Social Hour with entertainment by Britta and Roy Portenga, with Scott White

6:15 p.m. Dinner by McGovern's

7:00 p.m. Program: Consul General Orla McBreen and MIAS Irish Person of the Year

COST: \$15.00 per person, Reservations are required by **5/5/16**, to Kathleen Marek (231) 759-7344

PLEASE NOTE: This a BRING YOUR OWN BEVERAGE EVENT. If you wish to have beer, wine or spirits, YOU MUST BRING YOUR OWN!



Mona Shores High School Marching Band Performs in Dublin, Ireland



Hundreds of thousands of people from around the world flock to the capital of Ireland to enjoy its St. Patrick's Day Festival. Among those were more than 60 students from the Mona Shores High School Marching Band.

Mona Shores was selected from a worldwide search to march in the festival's parade. This year's parade marked the 100th Anniversary of the Easter Rising and Irish independence. The trip is the latest in a long tradition of traveling trips for the school's band, orchestra or choir. Congratulations and GO Sailors!

100th Anniversary of the Easter Rising



The **Easter Rising** (Irish: *Éirí Amach na Cásca*),^[2] also known as the **Easter Rebellion**, was an armed insurrection in Ireland during Easter Week, 1916. The Rising was launched by Irish republicans to end British rule in Ireland and establish an independent Irish Republic while the United Kingdom was heavily engaged in World War I. It was the most significant uprising in Ireland since the rebellion of 1798.^[3]

Organized by seven members of the Military Council of the Irish Republican Brotherhood,^[4] the Rising began on Easter Monday, 24 April 1916, and lasted for six days. Members of the Irish Volunteers — led by schoolmaster and Irish language activist Patrick Pearse, joined by the smaller Irish Citizen Army of James Connolly and 200 members of Cumann na mBan — seized key locations in Dublin and proclaimed an Irish Republic. There were isolated actions in other parts of Ireland, with an attack on the Royal Irish Constabulary barracks at Ashbourne, County Meath and abortive attacks on other barracks in County Galway and at Enniscorthy, County Wexford.

With vastly superior numbers and artillery, the British Army quickly suppressed the Rising, and Pearse agreed to an unconditional surrender on Saturday 29 April. After the surrender, all of Ireland remained under martial law. About 3,500 people were taken prisoner by the British, many of whom played no part in the Rising, and 1,800 of them were sent to internment camps or prisons in Britain. Most of the leaders of the Rising were executed following courts-martial. The British response to the uprising succeeded in bringing physical force republicanism back to the forefront of Irish politics, and support for republicanism continued to rise in Ireland for the remainder of World War I, especially after the Conscription Crisis. In December 1918, republicans (by then represented by the Sinn Féin party) won a landslide victory in the general election to the British Parliament, on a policy of abstentionism and Irish independence. On 21 January 1919 they convened the First Dáil and declared the independence of the Irish Republic, which led to the Irish War of Independence.

Almost 500 people were killed in the Easter Rising. About 54% were civilians, 30% were British military and police, and 16% were Irish rebels. More than 2,600 were wounded. Most of the civilians were killed as a result of the British using artillery and heavy machine guns, or mistaking civilians for rebels. The shelling and the fires it caused left parts of inner city Dublin in ruins. SOURCE: *Wikipedia*



Annual Pub Party



St. Patrick's Day Parade



43rd Annual Flag Raising





Michigan Irish American Hall of Fame

2016 Nomination Process is Now Open



While in Muskegon for her sell-out concert with the West Shore Symphony Orchestra on January 15 at the Frauenthal Theater, Cathie Ryan stopped by Hennessy's to see the permanent Hall of Fame display. She was the first inductee in the Arts and Entertainment category, and the display had not yet been built in 2012 when the our club started the Hall of Fame. Cathie wants to thank our club again from the bottom of her heart for this honor, and she thanks us and Hennessy's for creating the beautiful permanent display.

We are currently accepting nominations for the 2016 class of inductees to the Michigan Irish American Hall of Fame. Nominations forms are available in an online version and a printable version on our website. You can find the forms and the process for nominating at: <http://www.michiganirishamericanhalloffame.org>

Nominations will be accepted for individuals of Irish American Descent, living or deceased, with substantial ties to Michigan who have made contributions in areas such as Public Service, Philanthropy, Business and Industry, Arts and Entertainment, Religion, Education, and Sports.

Nominees must have a meaningful connection to the state of Michigan, be of verifiable Irish ancestry, be a citizen of the United States and have made a notable contribution in one of the aforementioned areas.



2016 Raffle Winner Nancy Kohley

At our pub party in January, the winner of our annual raffle was MIAS member Nancy Kohley. Nancy is the proud owner of an Irish crystal decanter and matching pair of pub glasses, along with a year of monthly whiskey schools for two persons at Hennessy's. SLÁINTE!

2016 Dues Can Be Paid with PayPal

Just a reminder...your 2016 dues need to be paid as soon as possible! Our dues remain a bargain at \$20 per family, and are essential to support our club's programs and the newsletter. An added convenience, is the ability to pay your dues on PayPal. If you wish to use PayPal, go to our website and click on the "Members" section. There is an added service fee of \$1.50 to use PayPal. Payment by check is always welcome!

