



Muskegon Irish American Society

NEWS



Summer 2017

Enjoy our Summer Party



Join the fun for our summer barbeque at **Mona Lake Boat Club** on **Thursday, August 24**.

Enjoy a two meat buffet of grilled steak and chicken breast for \$18 per person. Dinner includes rolls, baked potatoes, tossed salad, and cake. Adult beverages will be available at a cash bar.

The entertainment for the evening will be the ever delightful Mona Shores Fiddlers! The Mona Shores Fiddlers is an extra curricular alternative styles ensemble, which performs throughout the Muskegon community, including at the *Michigan Irish Music Festival*. The MSF hosts an annual Fiddle Fest which has featured guests artists including Detour, Barrage, Finvarra's Wren, and The Moxie Strings. Mona Shores High School Fiddlers is under the direction of Mrs. Kelly DeRose. These young people will have us tapping our toes, slapping our knees and getting our 'celtic' on! You won't want to miss the fun!

To make your reservation please call Kathleen Marek at 759-7344 as soon as possible, but no later than **Friday, August 18**. If you do not make a reservation, we cannot guarantee you will get a dinner.

See you there!

New Member Recruitment

We are looking for new members! If you bring a prospective new member to the Summer Barbeque you will receive a free ticket for a chance to win a bottle of Jameson. If your guest chooses to join the Muskegon Irish American Society and pays their dues for 2017, they will receive their 2018 membership for free!

WHAT: Muskegon Irish American Society Summer Barbeque

**WHERE: Mona Lake Boat Club
372 Randall Rd.**

WHEN: Thursday, August 24

5:30 p.m. Social Hour

6:15 p.m. Dinner

7:00 p.m. Mona Shores Fiddlers

COST: \$18.00 per person

Reservations are required by **Friday, August 18** to Kathleen Marek at (231) 759-7344



Annual Spring Dinner





2017 Michigan Irish American Hall of Fame Inductees

The **Michigan Irish American Hall of Fame** has announced its 2017 class of inductees. The Hall recognizes Irish Americans who have made important contributions in various fields of life in Michigan. The honorees will be inducted in a ceremony at noon on Saturday, September 16, at the Michigan Irish Music Festival in Muskegon, on the Galway Stage.



Arts & Entertainment: J.P. McCarthy

Long-time Detroit radio star **J.P. McCarthy** will be honored in the category of Arts and Entertainment. He was raised in Detroit, was a U.S. Army veteran, and with his wife Judy was the father of 6 children.. Before his death in 1995, J.P. McCarthy for 30 years was known as the “voice of Detroit,” enthusiastically saluting his early morning audience with his signature greeting, “Good morning, World!.” J.P. McCarthy was not just an entertainment personality, to his listeners he was a family member. He interviewed prominent persons in many fields, as well as everyday people. Among his many interests, he was passionate about his Irish heritage, and his annual St. Patrick’s Day show was a “must” event for all of Detroit and beyond.



Public Service: Edward H. McNamara

In the field of Public Service, the inductee will be **Edward H. McNamara**, former Mayor of Livonia and Wayne County Executive Director. For 16 years he was Mayor of Livonia, where his leadership gained recognition of Livonia as a model city. He then led Wayne County for 16 years as the County Executive Director. Under his leadership, Wayne County’s \$135,000,000 deficit was eliminated, two stadiums were constructed, public parks were improved, the county jail was upgraded, and a new morgue was built. His crowning achievement was the Detroit Metro Airport, where the main terminal bears his name. Throughout his life he was very active in the Detroit Irish community. He died in 2006, and family members will receive his award.



Business & Industry: Brian Sean Dunleavy

Brian Sean Dunleavy is being honored in the category of Business and Industry. Brian is the son of an Irish immigrant and is a Detroit area native. Starting at the age of 8 years as a paper boy, he has always exemplified an incomparable work ethic. After graduating from St. Francis Cabrini High School, he was a route salesman for Pepsi and Vernors for 18 years, winning many top sales awards, and saving his money to achieve his dream of owning an Irish pub. In 1989 in Allen Park, he and his brother Tom opened Dunleavy’s Irish Pub, which has become one of the most notable Irish pubs in Michigan. Brian is an active leader in the Ancient Order of Hibernians, the Gaelic League/Irish American Club of Detroit, the United Irish Societies, and the Motor City Irish Festival.



Education: Edward J. Sullivan

In the field of **Education** the Hall of Fame is recognizing **Edward J. Sullivan** of Flushing. Edward is a Flint native and veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps. From an early age he was interested in Irish history and culture, and in his adult life he became active with the Sullivan and O’Sullivan Division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, where he has been Division Historian and held every elective office, including 3 terms as Division President and 1 term as AOH State Vice-President. He has been Grand Marshal of Flint’s St. Patrick’s Day Parade, and has chaired numerous Irish events. He has presented countless educational programs in schools, book clubs, and community events. He and his wife Caron own in Flushing the Irish shop named Sullivan’s Irish Alley and Travel Too, and they have guided groups on educational tours to Ireland more than 30 times. In addition, Ed has an impact in many young lives as a high school head wrestling coach.

Hon. Neil G. Mullally, Irish Person of the Year!

Hon. Neil G. Mullally was named the 2017 Irish Person of the Year at our Spring Dinner. Neil served 30 years in the Muskegon County Probate and Circuit Court. Neil is a past president of the Muskegon Irish American Society and now serves as the Program chair. He has served on various community boards and committees including Mediation & Restorative Services, the United Way, Catholic Social Services, the Grand Rapids Diocese Secretariat for Social Justice, the Muskegon Forum Committee, the YMCA, the Muskegon Museum of Art, and the Muskegon County Bar Association.

Neil and his lovely wife Diane recently welcomed their first grandchild, Ronan Drew Gall! They love this new role as first time grandparents and enjoy every moment they can spend with Ronan. Congratulations Neil and Diane!





In Remembrance

On July 13th our club and our community lost a stalwart supporter when Robert (Bob) Wright laid down his earthly burden and entered his eternal reward. We extend our deepest condolences to Bob's family.

Robert B. Wright

June 15, 1938 - July 13, 2017



Robert Beveridge Wright. A Life Well Lived.

Bob began his life in Dumfries, Scotland, an only child of Janet McArthur Marshall and Dennis Wright. He came to America with his family in 1969. He had a full life and a happy one with a wonderful family, and he never wished for more. Bob was our club's Irish Person of the Year along with his wife Terri in 2008.

So rest in peace Bob, the last few years were a long hard fight, well fought.

Annual Raffle



Our annual raffle will be held at our Pub Party in January 2018 at Hennessy's. This raffle is our major fundraising project for the year, and helps to support all our club's activities and the newsletter. This year's raffle prize has a value of \$850.00. It includes a year of monthly whiskey schools for two persons at Hennessy's, and a Waterford decanter and two glasses in the classic "Lismore" pattern. You will be asked to purchase or sell two raffle tickets, which are priced at \$10.00 each. Please watch your mail for tickets and instructions!



The Michigan Irish Music Festival, held at Heritage Landing September 14-17, will be bigger and

better than ever! Returning this year are Celtic Canines, featuring beautiful dog breeds from the Emerald Isle. The entertainment lineup is exceptional and will feature We Banjo 3, Lúnasa, Cara Dillon, Goitse, Stone Clover, and many more!

Don't miss the **Michigan Irish American Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony** at noon, Saturday, September 16, on the Galway Stage.

We hope to see you there!

2017 Dues

Just a reminder...If you are not current you may be dropped from the club roster!



2017 Annual Dinner

