



Muskegon Irish American Society

NEWS



Summer 2018

Enjoy our Summer Barbeque



Join the fun for a summer barbeque at **Mona Lake Boat Club** on Thursday, August 30

Enjoy a hearty meal of grilled burgers, potato salad, baked beans, coleslaw, and cake for \$15 per person. 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 the *Michigan Irish Music Festival*. The MSF hosts an annual Fiddle Fest which has featured guests artist 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 24. (If no answer, PLEASE leave a message!)** We need a reservation, otherwise we cannot guarantee you will get a dinner.

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 2018, they will receive their 2019 membership for free!

WHAT: Muskegon Irish American Society Summer Barbeque

WHERE: Mona Lake Boat Club
372 Randall Rd.

WHEN: Thursday, August 30

5:30 p.m. Social Hour

6:15 p.m. Dinner

7:00 p.m. Mona Shores Fiddlers

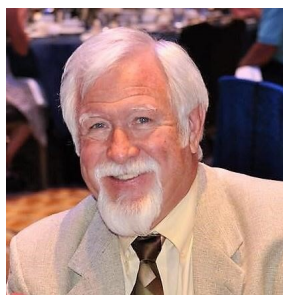
COST: \$15.00 per person

Reservations are required by **Friday, August 24** to Kathleen Marek at (231) 759-7344 (PLEASE leave a message!)



2018 Michigan Irish American Hall of Fame Inductees

The **Michigan Irish American Hall of Fame** has announced its 2018 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 15, at the Michigan Irish Music Festival in Muskegon, on the Galway Stage.



M.L. Mickey Knight is to be inducted in the area of **Public Service**. He has dedicated his life to public service as an educator, legislator, and lobbyist, always displaying integrity and professionalism. Mickey graduated from Adrian High School, where he excelled as a leading multi-sport athlete. He then attended Michigan State University, where he was a varsity baseball player. He also played for the Gold Medal winning American Exhibition Baseball Team at the 1968 Mexico City Olympics. After graduating from MSU with bachelor's and master's degrees, he served as a teacher, coach and administrator, primarily in the Muskegon Public Schools District. He is a lifelong member of the Muskegon Irish American Society. In 1978 he left education to work in economic development, and Governor Milliken appointed him to the Board of Trustees of Grand Valley State University. In 1980 he was elected as the State Representative from the Muskegon area, and he served in the Michigan Legislature for 12 years, where he earned respect on both sides of the aisle. Governor Blanchard appointed him to a special committee with Attorney General Frank Kelley that travelled to Ireland at the invitation of the Irish American Partnership, and for the next ten years Mickey assisted in fundraising activities supporting peace projects in Ireland. In 1993 he left the legislature and founded Knight Consulting, a multi-client lobbying firm based in Lansing. He remains involved in issues affecting the citizens of Michigan, and is especially endeared to the Muskegon area and its Michigan Irish Music Festival.



For nearly 50 years **John McMurray** was the meteorologist for Michigan's most powerful and popular radio and television broadcaster, WJR. He became a household name, and people from all walks of life started their day by listening to John McMurray. Many prominent businesses relied upon John McMurray to help decide when their goods and services should flow across Michigan. Long before radar and computers became common in weather forecasting, John McMurray earned his reputation as one of the best weatherman in the country. He still provides weather forecasting on the popular statewide radio program "Michigan's Big Show," hosted by radio personality Michael Patrick Shiels. He also continues to teach meteorology at Saginaw Valley State University. For his exceptional broadcast career benefitting the public, the Hall of Fame inducts John McMurray in the area of **Public Service**.



Muskegon native **Mark Martin** has been one of America's top professional sports fishermen for more than 30 years, and is to be inducted in the field of **Sports**. He is a former World Champion Professional Walleye Fisherman, is a member of the Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame, and in 2001 was National Angler of the Year. During his career he has participated in more than 200 fishing tournaments and won more than \$400,000 in prize winnings. He promotes the sport of fishing in Michigan, across the U.S, and in Canada, through television programs, outdoor sports shows, seminars, fishing clinics, and other events. He has introduced countless children to the lifelong sport of fishing through his children's fishing clinics. His upper Michigan winter ice fishing schools bring to our state some of our country's best professional fishermen and outdoor writers as instructors, and have spread Michigan's reputation as a year-round fishing destination. He is a prolific author of books and articles, and has been honored as a member of the Michigan Outdoor Writers Hall of Fame. He is a sponsored Pro-Staff member who represents and advises many sports fishing manufacturers and service providers.



2018 Michigan Irish American Hall of Fame Inductees



In her career spanning more than 40 years in communities across Michigan, **Shiela Dunleavy Mund** demonstrated an uncommon dedication to improving elementary and secondary education. As either a teacher or administrator in Berrien Springs, Tawas, Muskegon, Montague, Dearborn, and Detroit, she impacted generations of students with her passion for learning and achievement in students' lives. She has been recognized as a member of the Michigan Speech Coaches Hall of Fame, the Ford Motor Partnership-in-Education, the Michigan Champ Technology Team, and as a Teacher of the Year. She is also a Lifetime International Thespian Honoree. Throughout her life she has selflessly devoted herself to numerous charitable causes supported by Irish American organizations, such as the Catherine McAuley Ladies Order of Hibernians, the United Irish Societies, the Detroit Irish American Club, the Motor City Irish Fest, the Detroit St. Patrick's Day Parade, the St. Patrick Senior Center, and the Capuchin Soup Kitchen. The Michigan Irish American Hall of Fame is proud to induct Shiela Dunleavy Mund in the field of **Education**.



Patricia McCormick Baese, who will be inducted in the category of **Education**, has been a lifelong resident of the predominately Irish mid-Michigan village of Hubbardston. She graduated from Wayne State University with her degree in Education and Dance, and she taught middle school physical education and gymnastics in Montcalm County until her retirement. She then took Irish dance lessons and became so skilled that in 1998 she founded the Hubbardston Irish Dance Troupe. For 15 years this popular troupe of Irish dancers performed all across Michigan, and also travelled twice to dance at Disney World. In her small town she gave children the chance to learn Irish dance, and with pride her community saw their children learn a beautiful art form, and gain self-confidence and remarkable poise through performing before large audiences. The dance troupe has continued to prosper and grow under new leaders trained by Patricia. In 1990 she opened an Irish gift shop in Hubbardston, called the Celtic Path. Patricia's store is not only a fine source of Irish gift items, but has also become an Irish cultural center for the surrounding area.



In the category of **Arts and Entertainment** the Hall of Fame is honoring Michigan's legendary **Blackthorn Band**. For more than 30 years Blackthorn has pioneered and promoted traditional Irish music throughout Michigan and far beyond, and has earned an international reputation for performing at the highest levels of professional musicianship. The band's members, Richard McMullan, Dennis Green, Gary McMullen, Fred Klein, and David Mosher, have dedicated themselves to preserving the values of traditional Irish music, while also introducing their own unique instrumentals and vocals to their audiences. Comfortably performing at venues from grand concert stages to small pubs, Blackthorn is proudly Michigan's own premier Irish band.

The Michigan Irish Music Festival, held at Heritage Landing September 13-16, will be bigger and better than ever! Returning this year are Celtic Canines, featuring beautiful dog breeds from the Emerald Isle and the very popular Highland Games. The entertainment lineup is exceptional and will feature The Elders, Brother Crowe, Slide, The Boys from Belfast, Moxie Strings, Seamus Kennedy and many more!

Don't miss the **Michigan Irish American Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony** at noon, Saturday, September 15, on the Galway Stage.

We hope to see you there!





In Remembrance



O'Brien, James 6/13/1939 - 6/7/2018 *West Olive* James Richard O'Brien, born June 13, 1939, left this world gently with the support of his family on June 7, 2018. Partner and vice president of Carlon Meter Company, Jim also served on the boards of the Spring Lake District Library and the Friends of Ottawa County Parks. Jim was a long-time member of the American Legion, Muskegon Irish American Society, and Spring Lake Country Club. He leaves behind a large and loving family, including his wife Jeanne McKenna O'Brien, who loved him well throughout more than 60 years together. He is also survived by his children, Kathleen (Mark) Jones, Julie O'Brien, Christopher (Anne) O'Brien, and Amy (Jeremy) Lynch; seven grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and a host of friends and relatives. An Irish Wake and Celebration of Life was held at Spring Lake Country Club on Thursday, June 14.



Charron, Adolph 11/6/1919 - 6/13/18 *Muskegon* Adolph J. Charron, age 98, passed away Wednesday, June 13, 2018 at Mercy Hospital. He was born November 6, 1919, in Muskegon to Adolph J. and Amelia F. (Schuler) Charron. Adolph was the valedictorian of his graduating class at St. Joseph High School. He graduated from Muskegon Junior College. He then entered the U.S. Army having served in the Pacific Theater as a Technical Sergeant for the Medical Corps during WWII. On June 22, 1946, he married the former Elizabeth "Bets" R. Murray at Sts. Faith, Hope and Charity Catholic Church in Winnetka, IL, and she preceded him in death on August 6, 2008. He was a member of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, was a life member of the Muskegon Elks and a long-time member of the Muskegon Irish-American Society. Survivors include 5 children, 10 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren.

Our **annual dinner** was held at the Century Club ballroom on May 4, 2018. Special guests included three Hall of Fame members: our speaker Dr. Phil O'Dwyer, Kathleen O'Neill, and former Attorney General Frank Kelley.

