



Muskegon Irish American Society

NEWS



Winter 2020

Conklin Ceili Band to Perform at 20th Annual Pub Party



It's time for our annual pub party at Hennessy's!

Join the fun on **Sunday, January 26 at Hennessy's Irish Pub & Restaurant, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.**

Wow! This is our 20th annual pub party! Back for this year's party is house favorite, Conklin Ceili Band! The festivities will begin with a warm welcome and music by our very own *Dynamic Duo*, David McIntire and MIAS President, Kevin Donovan. As usual, a great selection of Irish victuals and libations will be available.

There is no cover charge and reservations are **not** required. **MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW TO BE SURE YOU DO NOT MISS THIS GREAT TIME!** We hope to see you there!



In Remembrance



Mr. Roger Schlosser age 74 of Grand Rapids passed away unexpectedly on Saturday, November 9, 2019. He will be deeply missed by his family: wife of 51 years, Barb (Hansma) Schlosser; children, grandchildren, a brother and many relatives and friends. Roger attended Grand Rapids Junior College, Western Michigan, University of Wales and the University of Notre Dame. While teaching for over 40 years at Grand Rapids Community College he founded the Irish Studies program as well as led many foreign study experience programs throughout the world. On September 14, 2019 Roger was inducted into the *Michigan Irish American Hall of Fame*.



Joseph J. "Joe" Rahrig, age 75, passed away Thursday, November 28, 2019 at his home. He was born March 7, 1944 in Muskegon to Joseph F. and Mary (Rafferty) Rahrig and was a lifelong resident. Joe graduated from Muskegon Catholic Central High School Class of 1962 and attended Central Michigan University for 4 years. On May 20, 1967, he married Judith E. Drew, his best friend and wife for 52 years and she survives him, along with his three children, three grandchildren and 3 sisters-in-law. Joe was the owner and president of J & M Machine Products, Inc. where for the past 50 years he loved working with his team tackling projects and building strong relationships with his suppliers and customers. He was also a long-time member of the Muskegon Irish American Society.



Paul Roy, age 77, died unexpectedly early Christmas morning. He was born on December 18, 1942, to Paul & Harriette (Sorensen) Roy, the oldest of their four sons. His educational pursuits led him to Mexico where he earned his first Master's degree, in Latin American History. His education continued later in life, with an MBA and a PhD in management. He began his career at Muskegon Catholic Central, teaching Spanish, serving as dean of students, and coaching football and wrestling. Paul worked for Muskegon County for almost 40 years, serving as the director of numerous departments, most notably workforce development, economic development, and facilities management.

He was instrumental in the reclamation/transformation of the industrial area currently known as Heritage Landing and its designation as a county park, bringing the first *Michigan Irish Music Festival* to that location. Paul developed innovative programs in workforce and economic development in Muskegon and Oceana counties. This earned him numerous statewide and national memberships, awards, and recognition, and he was in demand as a consultant nationally and internationally. Paul is survived by his wife, Dr. Patricia Roy; their daughter, Jennifer (Brett) Layne-Roy; brothers, sister-in-law, and many nieces and nephews. A memorial service to be held at Heritage Landing around Cinco de Mayo, 2020.

Call for Nominations to the Michigan Irish American Hall of Fame - Class of 2020

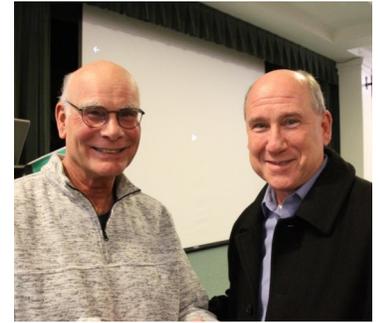
Criteria for Nomination:

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. Nomination forms are available through the Muskegon Irish American Society or can be completed online at www.michiganirishamericanhalloffame.org Nominations must include name of nominee, category and brief description of reason for nomination/candidate worthiness.
4. A committee appointed by the Board of Directors of the Muskegon Irish American Society will screen nominations and recommend selections to the Board for final approval.

Deadline for Nominations: The completed nomination form and any supporting materials must be emailed or posted on or before **APRIL 1, 2020**. Nominations received after this date may be considered for the following year.



Highlights From Irish Movie at the Museum



On November 6th about 70 of our members and guests gathered for our annual Irish movie night at the Muskegon Museum of Art. We saw the film "*The Siege of Jadotville*," which tells the gripping true story of an Irish Army peace-keeping unit sent into the Congo Crisis of 1961. Many thanks to our fellow member, movie critic Bill Iddings, for his very informative introduction to the film. His insight greatly added to our enjoyment of the movie.

That evening our President Kevin Donovan and Program Chair Neil Mullally, also named Dee Carlson and Kathleen Marek as our *2019 Irish Persons of the Year*. See the picture above of Kathleen and Dee with their families and friends.



St. Patrick's Day Events

There will not be another newsletter before St. Patrick's Day.
Please note these upcoming events.



MIMF St. Patrick's Party March 13 & 14

Sponsored by the Michigan Irish Music Festival, **5:30 - 11:00 pm** Friday and Saturday night at Bella Maria's Event Center. There will be a great entertainment line-up, silent auction and flavorful Irish fare. Tickets available at the door. More information at www.michiganirish.org



St. Patrick's Day Parade March 14

Sponsored by Muskegon Jaycees in downtown Muskegon on Saturday morning at **11:00 am**. Line up for the parade at the corner of 4th and Clay, by Hackley Park at 10:30 am. If you are a member of our club, **please walk with our club** in the parade, we need a good turnout for our club. And here's a secret strategy...our club walks in the front of the parade, so we beat the crowd to Hennessy's! More information at www.muskegonjaycees.org



47th Annual Irish Flag Raising March 17

Tuesday is St. Patrick's Day itself. Please join our club at **noon** at Hennessy's for our 47th annual Raising of the Irish Flag in downtown Muskegon. After a brief ceremony, we will gather for lunch at Hennessy's. Please join us in this longstanding tradition! More information at www.muskegonirishamerican.com

2020 Raffle

Our annual raffle will be held at our spring dinner in May. This raffle is our major fundraising project for the year and helps support our club's activities and the newsletter.

This year our raffle prize will be **CASH!**

The club plans to sell 250 tickets at \$25 each.

1st prize is \$2,500.00

2nd prize is \$500.00

3rd prize is \$250.00

If 250 tickets are not sold, the raffle will revert to a 50/50, with a minimum prize of \$1,000 and only one winner.

Additional information and tickets will be available at the Pub Party, so be sure to attend!

If you are **not** able to attend the pub party, please mail a check, with "2020 Raffle" on the memo line, to: **MIAS, 4109 Nob Hill Dr., Norton Shores, MI 49441**

Dues Can Be Paid with PayPal

With this newsletter you will receive your annual dues statement for 2020. 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! It is also convenient to pay your dues during the pub party on January 26. Thank you!

