# horgnanigans

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

## **June 2024** Your President's Message

My Shillelagh Brothers,

It's been another busy month at the club. As spring passes to summer, hope everyone is enjoying springtime and getting ready for summer at the shore. Cornhole and golf league are both in full swing. Cornhole is led by Kitchen Bitches. Our softball team is holding its own at 6-6; they play on Sundays so come out and support the team.

Another Memorial Day weekend has passed; our club stood tall with the Greatest Band in the Land at the Bradley Beach and Manasquan parades. As always, thanks to the Manasquan VFW for hosting us after the parade. For brothers who marched, we enjoyed lunch and a few adult beverages back at the club after the Manasquan parade.

We also had our first Trivia Night hosted by DJ Don. The consensus from those who participated was "do it again." One exception was Ryan Lavender who went all in on the last question about Scrabble and lost; he claimed it was fixed! With that, the next trivia night will be Thursday, June 20th.

Not to be outdone, the NJ Irish Festival was held at Monmouth Park on June 9th. I want to congratulate the festival committee, including President John Carr and First Chair Ray Barnes, on an outstanding job. Though the weather was a bit iffy at first, the turnout was outstanding. The club had two trackside picnic areas; the attendance was awesome. A big shout out to the volunteers who fed over 300 Shillelaghs and their guests. The day ended with the John Carr Human Horse Race. There were over twenty horses between the under 50 and over 50 races. The shenanigans were priceless.

Next up is a big weekend starting with Trivia Night on the 20th, and our annual Golf Outing on the 21st. A big thanks to Ray Barnes and the Golf Committee for your hard work putting the event together. Saturday, June 22nd is afternoon music by Turnpike Mike, followed Saturday evening by comedian John Pizza under the big top. To close out the Big Top being up, Thursday, June 27th will be a cigar and whiskey night with more details to follow.

#### We will hold the July meeting on Wednesday, June 26th.

A new event to add to the calendar is Irish Heritage Night at the BlueClaws on Saturday, June 29th. Entertainment includes the Greatest Band in the Land, the Snakes, and yours truly gets to throw out the first pitch. Yes, I will bounce it LOL!

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#### Presidents Letter continued

Contrary to my statement at the last meeting, we will be open July 4th. Come out and keep bartenders Snuffy Smith and Mike Maloney company. Don't forget we have Vinyl playing at the club on Friday, July 5th.

Membership is now closed, and the committee is doing an awesome job vetting and processing all the new candidates joining the club over the next three months. As the candidates become members, please take time to welcome them. At our club, there are no strangers, just friends you haven't met.

In closing, I want to thank all the volunteers, brothers, spouses, and partners for making this the great club that it is. Hope all Dads had a great Father's Day and got to enjoy a few adult beverages.

P.S. Thanks for all the birthday wishes!

Slainte'

John J Padgett

President

FSOS, Jersey Shore



Friday June 21st • Shillelagh Golf Outing
Saturday June 22nd • Comedy night w/John Pizzi
Thursday June 27th • Cigar & Whiskey Night
Saturday June 29th • Irish Heritage Night @ Blue Claws
Friday July 5th • Vinyl Band
Saturday July 20th • Carbon Project Band
Sunday July 21st • Enda Keegan
Friday July 26th • Greg Aulden



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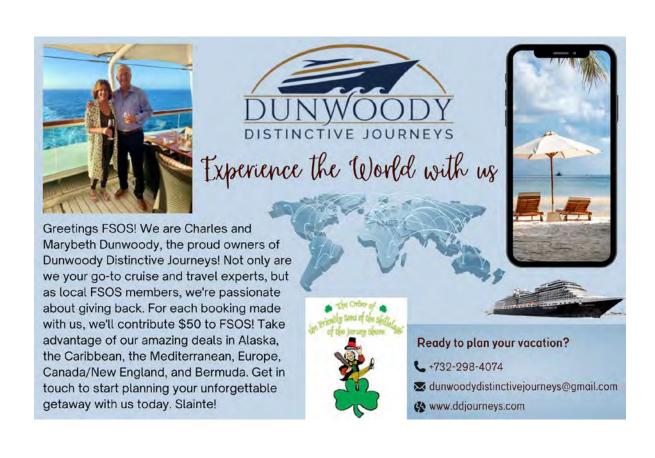
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# Irish History #115

### Independence Day

There wasn't much of a spring this year, but summer has finally arrived. The school year will be ending by the time you read this. May all Shillelaghs and your families have a relaxing, safe, and enjoyable summer.

Upcoming is the July 4th national holiday - Independence Day. It will be celebrated with fireworks, barbecues, and perhaps a few adult-beverages. This year marks the 248th anniversary of the adoption of that revolutionary document - one of the foundations of our nation. Fifty-six men signed it on behalf of the 13 State colonies, although some affixed their names after the date of the formal signing on August 2. Five signers were from New Jersey: Richard Stockton, John Witherspoon, Francis Hopkinson, John Hart, and Abraham Clark. Bet you heard of at least a few of them. The Revolutionary War was about a year old at the time the Declaration of Independence was adopted by the Second Continental Congress on July 4, 1776.

Two interesting things happened in January that year. First, Cork-born Stephen Moylan petitioned General George Washington, requesting that he be made the ambassador to Spain. (Moylan was the former President of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick in Philadelphia, and he went on to lead a troop of cavalry dragoons in the Revolutionary War at the battles of Princeton and Yorktown.) Moylan wrote, "I would vastly like to go with full and ample powers from the United States of America to Spain." When the Declaration of Independence was written six months later, the phrase was used to describe the 13 colonies.

Second, Thomas Paine's pamphlet entitled "Common Sense" was published. He called for the abolition of the monarchy. He wrote, "Americans should not feel any obligation to a crowned ruffian who sanctions war against them." Paine presented the argument for independence in a way that the masses understood. Any talk of possible reconciliation with Great Britain ended, as he galvanized public support for the war effort.

In June 1776, Richard Henry Lee introduced a motion in the Second Continental Congress proclaiming independence. General Washington was waiting for

this kind of political action. While the motion was not immediately adopted, a "Committee of Five" was formed to draft a declaration - John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, Robert Livingston, and Roger Sherman. Jefferson was the main drafter of the document. In it, he described the Declaration's passage in Congress on July 4, 1776, as "the unanimous Declaration of the thirteen United States of America." The new country now had an official name - the USA for short.

The radical document declared the USA's independence from Great Britain:

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, and that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed. That whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or abolish it, and to institute new government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. . . The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States . . . and by the Authority of the good people of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, that these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States; that they are absolved from allegiance to the British Crown and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain is ought to be totally dissolved." [Declaration of Independence].

In describing the reasons for separation from Great Britain and the rights underpinning such a move, unlike Paine, Jefferson purposely used language that was aimed at the elites in America and Europe. Still, the Declaration helped unify the colonies in the conflict. It provided a clearly articulated cause - independence - to fight for.

On the first day of the 1916 Easter Rising, Irish rebels did a similar thing. At the General Post Office in Dublin, Patrick Pearse read the Proclamation of the Irish Republic. "We declare the right of the people to ownership of Ireland and to the unfettered control of Irish destinies, to be sovereign and indefeasible. The long usurpation of that right by a foreign people and government has not extinguished that right, nor can it ever be extinguished except by destruction of the Irish people." It took a while, but independence came for 26 of Ireland's 32 counties.

In 1917, Sinn Fein representatives appealed to President Woodrow Wilson and the U.S. Congress for recognition of its shadow government. In their letter, they reached back to the Revolutionary War era and the Declaration of Independence in making their plea. They wrote:

"During your great struggle to shake off the same tyranny under which we have been forced to live, we glory in the fact that the patriot cause was actively and enthusiastically supported by all Irishmen in America, and that it had the moral support of the Irish people at home . . . With confidence we look for and invite the active support of the Government and the people of the United States in our demand for absolute independence . . . Our nationalism is not founded upon grievance, and a people nurtured from childhood on the principles enunciated in the Declaration of American Independence should have no difficulty understanding our demands."

Although many members of Congress were sympathetic to the request for recognition, President Wilson rebuffed it.

The Declaration of independence was signed by 38 men of English extraction, 1 Swede, 4 Scottish, 5 Welsh, and 8 Irish. Three had roots in Ireland's South: Thomas Reed (Delaware), Thomas Lynch (South Carolina), and Charles Carroll (Maryland). Carroll was the only Catholic who signed the Declaration. He was the richest man in America and a slave owner. It is said that he had "great anger at the foreign tax burden being placed on Americans by King George." He was the grandson of Irish immigrants from Co. Offaly.

The other 5 Irish signers were from Ireland's North. They were Scotch-Irish, having descended from families who were part of the 17th century Ulster Plantation

of Ireland. Thomas McKean (Delaware), George Taylor (Pennsylvania), James Smith (Pennsylvania), Matthew Thornton (New Hampshire), and Edward Rutledge (South Carolina) were the Scotch-Irish signers. All had been born in what is now Northern Ireland. Charles Thompson, a Scotch-Irish born in Co. Derry, was Secretary to the Continental Congress. He wrote out Jefferson's draft of the Declaration. John Dunlap, a Scotch-Irish born in Co. Tyrone, printed the first copies of the Declaration. One more connection between the Declaration and Ireland's North occurred when the Belfast News Letter became the first newspaper outside of the U.S. to publish it.

Last March, we read about the significant role played by Irish soldiers serving under General Washington and how they assisted the young nation achieve victory in the war. In this chapter we see another aspect of Irish influence; that is, the involvement of those with deep ties to Ireland who signed the Declaration of Independence. In doing so, they truly became brave Irish American heroes.

Have a Happy 4th of July brothers! Slainte, EMN

References: "Ireland's Appeal to America," Irish World (June 18, 1917); William Kasnatus, "Igniting the Revolution," Star Ledger (July 4, 2001), p. 15; Niall O'Dowd, George Washington and the Irish, Skyhorse Publishing (2022).







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# The Pipes and Drums of the Jersey Shore June 2024

Summer is finally here! Basketball playoffs, hockey playoffs, baseball season is in full "swing" and of course beach days, bbq's and fire pits are happening already! School is out! Fun events and things to do outside. We hope you all have an enjoyable, safe summer!

Due to your continued support, we were able to just about fill a small truck with donations from our clothing drive. THANK YOU ALL!!

We performed in the Bradley Beach and Manasquan Memorial Day Parades. A number of club members joined us in Bradley and there was quite a turn out in Manasquan. It was an honor to lead all of you and as we performed to remember those who gave the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom.

We are continuing to hold beginner lessons every Tuesday night at 6:30 upstairs at the club followed by rehearsal. We are working on new music. We have a number of beginners that will likely earn their kilt after auditioning sometime this year.

### PDJS Q&A:

#### 1.Does the band take the summer off?

Negative. We are always working on new music and other ways to improve! We have a few events being worked on for the summer including Irish Heritage Night at Blueclaws but nothing has been finalized as the time of this column being created.

2.It seems to take a long time to tune the bagpipers. Why?

Many things are involved to tune bagpipes. They need to be tuned every time we take them out to play and they are constantly in a state of needing to be tuned. Moisture from breathing into he bag, environmental factors (temperature and humidity), the skill of the person maintaining steady pressure are a few of the things that factor in the tuning process. It takes time to tune the band, could be 30 to 40 minutes.

3. Why are you in a circle or half moon when performing?

Both provide optimal sound for performances. If we were spread out too far, the quality of the performance would suffer. It's helpful to see the Pipe Major when performing since it helps us play together as one,

Do you have a question to ask? Let me know and your question can be featured right here! Email me: pdjspiper@hotmail.com or text 732-685-9232

Do you want to learn to play?

Growth is key the band's future. It would be great to see more club members (and your families) join the band! Remember the band is not just for club members and ...... lessons are FREE!!!

Did you read that? FREE LESSONS!

Reach out and contact me 732-685-9232 or our band manager Mark Mastowski 732-233-6136 so you can get started with 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 to check us out.

Our email is band@jspipesanddrums.com which can be accessed by visiting our updated website www. jspipesanddrums.com or talk to any band member for information.

Need a piper or the band to play at an event?

Want to have a bagpiper, small group or the band to celebrate a promotion, 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).

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

Thank you all and we appreciate the continued support from all of you!! Slainte,

Ray Spengler

# The Foundation of the Friendly Sons of the Shillelagh, Inc.

The Foundation of the Friendly Sons of the Shillelagh, Inc., is a charitable organization established and operated to be nefit 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.

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# **Upcoming Meetings**

Wednesday, June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024 7:30<sub>pm</sub>

Not receiving email or have contact information to update?

Contact Ned Barrett at njbarrrett63@gmail.com

Have information on bereavement?

Contact Dan Reilly at Irish0361@aol.com

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Ray Spengler at PDJSpiper@hotmail.com

Have news to share in the newsletter? Contact info.fsosBelmar@gmail.com

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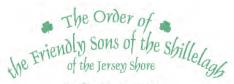
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