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

January 2024 Your President's Message

Brother Shillelagh's,

Happy New Year's to you and your families. All the best in health and happiness to you in 2024! We celebrated the New Year at the club with our traditional New Year's Eve ball dropping at 7PM as we celebrated New Year's in Ireland. It was a tremendous crowd at the bar and upstairs. Thanks to all who helped make the night an outstanding one, including our bartenders and the 100 Proof Band. My thanks also to all those that brought appetizers and desserts.

As the calendar turned to the new year, Belmar Parade season kicked in on January 7th at the Salty Whale in Manasquan where over 40 Shillelaghs recognized our Shillelagh Brother and this year's parade Grand Marshall, the Honorable Ed Neafsey. Please join us at the Belmar Parade fundraisers that will take place on Sunday's as we move toward Parade Day. Monies raised help fund New Jersey's largest St Patrick's Day parade right here in Belmar.

We will host two fundraisers this parade season at the club. On Saturday, January 27th, we will hold a Steak Bake at the club to help Grand Marshall Ed Neafsey defray some of the costs of being a Grand Marshall. The event will go from 3PM-7PM with the Ryan Express band playing at the club providing the best in Irish and rock tunes. Food will be available with the kitchen crew providing the Steak Bake fare. Our 2nd fundraiser is for the Belmar Parade and will take place on Sunday, February 25th from 2PM-6PM. We will have the Pat Roddy Band outside under our tent, weather permitting, with plenty of Irish fare in the upstairs banquet room. This is always one of the best fundraisers the Belmar Parade Committee has and a great day for our club.

Please make sure to pay your 2024 dues prior to the deadline on February 15th. The deadline is a change from previous years, so you can't wait until parade day to pay. Over 800 members have paid to date with approximately 600 members yet to pay. We are also accepting business ads for our green pages at this time as well. Also, if you have any uniform needs for parade day, please visit our uniform supplier, the Irish Centre in Spring Lake.

Mark Chadwick has also arranged for some music entertainment upcoming as well. The Strictly 60's Band will be back to the club again on Friday, January 19th from 730PM-1030PM. We will also have the Carbon Place Project Band on Friday, February 9th from 730PM-1030PM.

Unfortunately, we lost three brothers this past month. Prayers go out to the families of Vinnie Harris, James Rowe and Peter Cavagnaro.

Slainte'

Craig Coyle President, FSOS Jersey Shore

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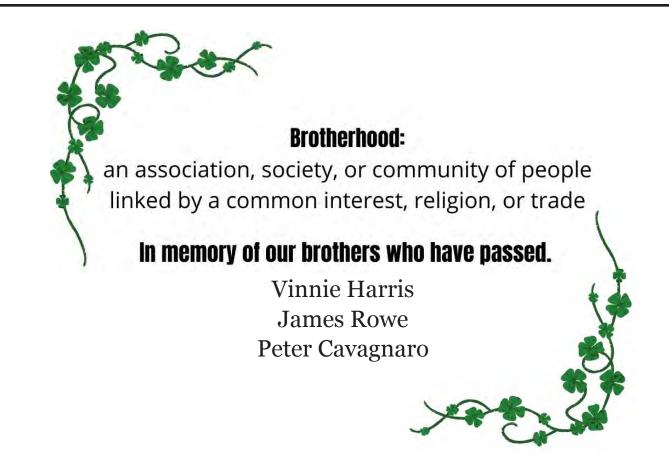
Legal Advisor Tom Ehrlich

NEWSLETTER STAFF Ryan Lavender Kevin Giblin





Friday January 19th • Strictly 60's Band Saturday January 27th • Fundraiser for Grand Marshal Ed Neafsey Wednesday February 7th • FSOS Monthly Meeting Friday February 9th • Carbon Place Project Band Wednesday February 28th • FSOS Monthly Meeting Sunday March 3rd- Belmar • Lake Como St. Patrick's Day Parade







We proudly support the Friendly Sons of Shillelagh of Belmar.

For members of the FSOS or those referred by a member of the FSOS that closes and funds a mortgage loan with Patriot Mortgage, a \$300 donation will be given to the FSOS in the name of the person doing the mortgage and Patriot Mortgage.

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Greetings FSOS! We are Charles and Marybeth Dunwoody, the proud owners of Dunwoody Distinctive Journeys! Not only are we your go-to cruise and travel experts, but as local FSOS members, we're passionate about giving back. For each booking made with us, we'll contribute \$50 to FSOS! Take advantage of our amazing deals in Alaska, the Caribbean, the Mediterranean, Europe, Canada/New England, and Bermuda. Get in touch to start planning your unforgettable getaway with us today. Slainte!



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Irish History

Irish Government draws a line in favor of truth andjustice with interstate case.

The Irish Government's interstate case against the UK for the Northern Ireland Troubles (Legacy and Reconciliation)Law is courageous.Ed Neafsey Contributor @IrishCentral Jan 02, 2024



The Irish Government's courageous decision to bring an interstate case in the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) against the British government over the Northern Ireland Troubles (Legacy and Reconciliation) Law - enacted this past September - has been castigated by British officials.

On the Ulster Good Morning radio show, Lord Jonathan Caine - who shepherded the law through the House of Lords - said the Irish government's decision was profoundly regrettable and warned it may have "consequences" on bilateral relations between the two nations. Northern Ireland Secretary of State Chris Heaton-Harris called the decision "disappointing" and "misguided." He said it was "hard to reconcile" when compared to Ireland's record on dealing with legacy matters.

These complaints about the decision make this an appropriate time to consider the British government's consistent argument in support of the law and see how it measures up. Two reasons were repeatedly presented for why the law was necessary: to protect military veterans from investigation and prosecution, and to provide information to survivors and victims' families.

After the proposed law was made public in 2021, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson told Parliament that the legacy bill would allow Northern Ireland "to draw a line under the Troubles." He called it the solution to the problem of "vexatious prosecutions" of members of the armed services and said it would "enable the people of Northern Ireland to move forward."

This bogus theme marked the ominous start of the bill's journey into law. Government officials responsible for the law cynically argued Northern Ireland's inability to resolve the legacy of the Troubles and to secure truth and accountability for victims and families of those killed, made the law necessary. This lament about failing to deliver positive outcomes for those who suffered during the Troubles ignored the government's refusal to implement the 2014 Stormont House Agreement.

Northern Ireland's Secretary of State when the legislation was introduced - Brandon Lewis - said the law's Independent Commission for Reconciliation and Information Recovery (ICRIR) would obtain answers for victims and survivors about those who caused them harm. To accomplish this, he said, the government will collect information from perpetrators by granting them immunity (amnesty) from prosecution in exchange for their account of bad acts or involvement in criminality given to the best of their knowledge and belief.

Additionally, Lewis noted, the ICRIR process will mean that military veterans and members of the security services will no longer be subjected to investigations and the adversarial court system for their conduct.

Despite refutation of the claim about vexatious prosecutions by victims' rights groups and human rights advocates, this is exactly the line Prime Minister Johnson sought to draw.

In urging the bill's passage, Heaton-Harris agreed with Lewis about the new information recovery process. He told Parliament that the ICRIR will deliver better outcomes for members of the armed services and for victims, survivors, and families.

The first part of his statement is accurate. The second part, however, is not true and was never meant to be.

When the law was enacted, British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak voiced approval with the law's approach by saying it was "better than what went on before."

Better for whom is a fair question to ask? Better for members of the security forces who committed crimes and were involved in murders. They can receive amnesty for providing information that is already in the public domain and nothing more.

But the law is not better for victims' families. As will be explained herein, the law extinguishes their right to seek justice and hold perpetrators accountable. Nor does the law's newly created information recovery process assure they will receive answers to their questions about a loved one's death. In short, the law will not deliver better outcomes to them. Sadly, that was never the law's purpose.

The law has already put an end to civil actions filed by families after May 17, 2022, seeking information about

and damages for an unlawful Troubles killing. Coroner's Inquests aimed at shedding light on Troubles-related deaths will shut down on May 1, 2024. So too will Police Ombudsman's Office investigations. Many of the investigations being handled by Ombudsman Marie Anderson involve collusion.

The ICRIR will begin work on May 1, 2024. Troublesrelated murders being investigated by the Northern Ireland Police Service Legacy Branch will be transferred to the ICRIR on that date, resulting in approximately 1,000 criminal investigations moving into the ICRIR review process.

The Ombudsman expects to complete reports on up to 70 of the approximately 450 Troubles-complaints the office is handling by the deadline. Letters have already been sent to hundreds of victims' families advising them that no additional work will be done on their matters because they cannot be concluded within the statutory timeframe. In those matters, families will have to file a new complaint with the ICRIR.

More than 40 inquests are pending at present. Coroners have been assigned to 20 of them; 16 have begun and FOUR are under active case management. It is uncertain, however, that a verdict will be rendered in each of those cases on time.

In a recent update provided at the Royal Courts of Justice in Belfast, Justice Michael Humphreys - the presiding Coroner - said the pressure to complete already running inquests before the cut-off point means there are no resources available to allocate to the other cases. Inquests that are not completed by May 1, 2024, will be subject to the ICRIR process. Unlike an inquest, the ICRIR review procedure will not take place in a public setting in the presence of the family and their attorney.

Victims' families have used these justice mechanisms to get answers, receive acknowledgment, and learn the truth about the murder of a loved one. (For example, the Miami Showband civil suit, the Ballymurphy Coroner's Inquest, the Ombudsman Reports in Operation Greenwich and Operation Achille, and the Soldier F Bloody Sunday Prosecution.) This is the real reason why the British government is shutting each of them down.

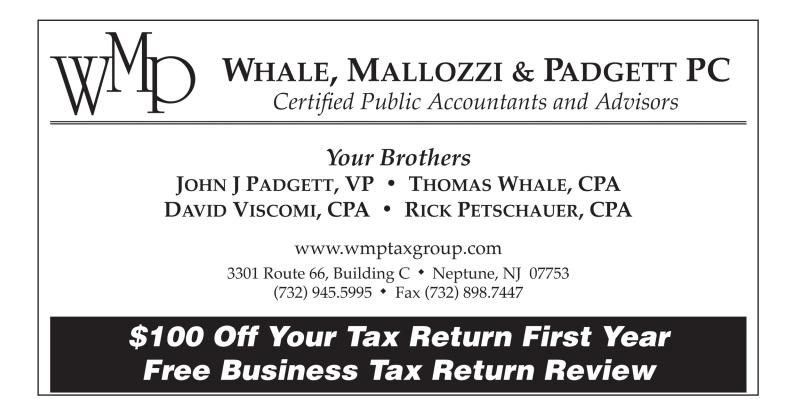
Making civil suits, Coroner's Inquests, Ombudsman investigations, and police criminal investigations unavailable for victims' families to pursue will deny them the truth and justice outcomes they seek. Some have filed actions against the law in the Belfast High Court. They must, however, exhaust all domestic remedies before they are eligible to petition the ECHR. This can take years.

By filing an Interstate Case, the Irish government can go directly to the ECHR. As Kieran McEvoy, Chair of the Senator George Mitchell Institute at Queen's University, has pointed out, Ireland did this before in the influential Irish State Case, Ireland v the United Kingdom, which challenged the use of the "five techniques" of interrogation - i.e., "enhanced interrogation" - on 14 detainees arrested during internment in Northern Ireland. The fact that they are doing so again underscores the significance of the rule of law issue involved in this case. The Irish government believes the Northern Ireland Troubles (Legacy and Reconciliation) Law violates the European Convention on Human Rights and says it is contrary to a victims-centered approach to dealing with legacy matters.

The Irish government has recognized the legal basis for taking this action and understands the moral basis for doing so. Their political courage in taking this step has been praised by victims' rights groups, Irish American civic organizations, and members of US Congress. It has also received just applause in an Irish Echo editorial (Dec. 27, 2023) entitled "A Forced but Righteous Case." (Emphasis added.)

The decision shows the Irish government can draw a line too. Unlike the line drawn by British officials, this one is in favor of truth and justice!

This article was submitted to the IrishCentral contributors network by a member of the global Irish community.



The Pipes and Drums of the Jersey Shore January 2024

Quite a year we had in 2023! We had many highlights and a few heartbreaking moments as well.

We will always remember all in our band family that passed. Most recently one of our bands biggest supporters over the last 25 years, Charlie Brady, passed. He was one of the best people I have ever had the pleasure to call a brother. Most of you know Charlie and the entire Brady family. They do so much for the community and have done so much for the band and club over the years. We had the honor to perform at his services. Charlie was loved by all and will be missed.

On a happier note, there have been many engagements, marriages and births over the history of the band! We had many new members join the ranks over the years as well! In 2023, we had a birth in the band, two weddings and capped that all off with a fantastic 25th year celebration/ fundraiser for the band! We had a new parade in Myrtle Beach and now have 2 instructors helping the band improve. We have one for piping and one for drumming that are there every other week.

2024 looks to be another great year for the band. We are working on new music and have our instructors back every other week to continue helping us improve!

Sunday rehearsals are back and set for January and February in addition to our Tuesday night rehearsals to gear up for parade season!

Events in 2024 on the list so far include the Belmar Lake Como Parade fundraiser at the club at the end of February. The parade itself in early March where we lead the club along Main Street!

We anticipate being in the Asbury, Seaside, Keyport and Keansburg parades along with another visit to Myrtle Beach to lead our brothers at the FSOS-Carolinas in the parade!

PDJS Q&A:

1. When do beginner lessons start and is there an age limit?

The short answer is anytime. Beginner lessons start around 6:30pm on Tuesday upstairs at the club. Anyone with the interest to learn to play pipes or drums just needs to show up to see what its all about. There is no official age limit. Men, women and children are all in the band ranging form 11 years old to 70+ —- so there is no official limit on age.

2. How do I audition for the band?

For beginners, your instructor(s) will let you know when you are ready to audition. Ultimately, this is up to the individual putting in the practicing time at home. Generally speaking, it takes 1 to 2 years (or more) for beginners to learn the required material and become a member of the band. We suggest private lessons in addition to our free lessons as well. It is up to the individual to practice and meet the criteria for their audition. People with experience will need some time to learn our music before auditioning.

3. Has anyone ever retired from the band or left the band and if so, why?

Yes, for many reasons including: it becomes physically too demanding to march in parades due to a variety of reasons. Moving to a spot outside our local area where you can not attend rehearsals/lessons. Family & job obligations are probably the biggest two reasons people decide to leave the band.

Being a part of the band means you are family for life, no matter where life takes you.

Do you have a question to ask? Let me know and your question can be featured right here!

This all seems like it might be fun to try. How do I join?

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 benefit 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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The Order of The Friendly Sons of the Shillelagh of the Jersey Shore





about us:

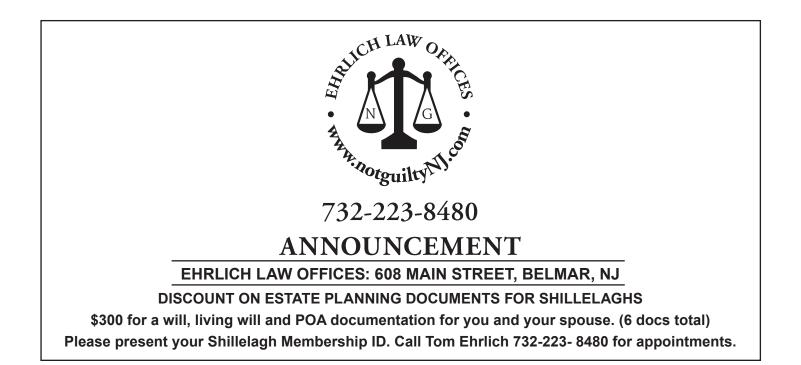
We invite you to show your support, honor friends and family, to remember loved ones, or commemorate special occasions by purchasing tribute bricks to be placed in the walkway and landscaped area in front of The New Friendly Sons of the Shillelagh Clubhouse in Belmar. Best of all, your brick purchase will help the new FSOS clubhouse, which in turn helps the FSOS continue its mission of celebrating Irish- American culture and helping countless members of our community who are less fortunate or in need.

The laser engraved bricks are guaranteed for life, with permanent paint that never wears away.

There are several brick sizes and price options to choose from.

Thank You







Upcoming Meetings Wednesday, February 7th, 2024 7:30pm

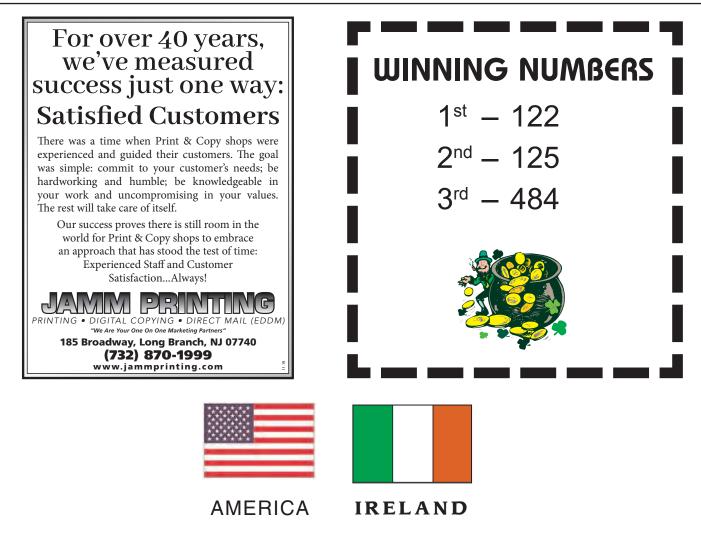
Not receiving email or have contact information to update?

Contact Ned Barrett at njbarrrett63@gmail.com

Have information on bereavement?

Contact Dan Reilly at Irish0361@aol.com or Ray Spengler at PDJSpiper@hotmail.com

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



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