



OFFICIAL APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS IN AMERICA, INC.



I hereby apply for admission into the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America, Inc., and agree that my reception and continuance in said Order shall depend on the truthfulness of my answers to the questions which are hereto attached. To be a member you must be a male over the age of 16, a practicing catholic, and be of Irish heritage by birth, descent or be legally adopted by such a person and be of good moral character. (Clergy do not need to be of Irish Ancestry.)

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: (+4) _____

Occupation: _____ Phone: (H) _____

Date of Birth: ____ / ____ / ____ Phone: (C) _____

E-mail Address: _____ Phone: (W) _____

Mother's maiden name: _____

Irish by: Birth Descent Adoption

Are you Roman Catholic? Yes No Other Catholic Rite Recognize by the Pope? _____

Name and location of your Parish: _____

Have you complied with your religious duties within the past 12 months? Yes No

Do you belong to any society to which the Catholic Church is opposed? Yes No

Were you ever previously a member of the Ancient Order of Hibernians? Yes No

If yes give City, State, Division # and reason for withdrawal: _____

I do solemnly pledge my sacred word and honor that the answers I have given to the above questions are true.

Applicant's Signature: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / ____

PROPOSER'S CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify on my honor as a member that the applicant is known by me to be of good character, a practicing Catholic, and worthy to become a member of the Ancient Order of Hibernians.

Proposer's Signature: _____

Date: ____ / ____ / ____

PRESIDENT'S CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that this application has been read by me at a regular meeting and the applicant has been elected a member of this Division by the members present.

President's Signature: _____

Date: ____ / ____ / ____

STANDING COMMITTEE

The Standing Committee has investigated the applicant and recommends him for membership.

Standing Committee Signature: _____

Date: ____ / ____ / ____

FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the member has paid the initiation fee/dues \$ _____

Financial Sec. Signature: _____

Date: ____ / ____ / ____

MEMBERSHIP NUMBER

[Empty box for membership number]





Ancient Order of Hibernians in America

The Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH) is the oldest Catholic lay organization in America. Officially formed in New York in 1836, it was born in anger centuries earlier in Ireland, after successive invasions by those who tried to master the Irish, and alter their Gaelic life style. Inflexible opponents like the Vikings were fought until their power was broken; others, like the Normans, were absorbed until they became as Irish as the Irish themselves. Through it all, the Irish maintained their language, traditions, and religion. But in the Sixteenth century, a concentrated attack, unswervingly focused on the most precious part of their heritage - their religion - and proved to be their greatest challenge.

After several attacks on Irish and Church property, the Irish immigrant resorted to a familiar tactic. Those, who had been members of the AOH in Ireland, banded together in this new land, and in 1836, formed an American branch of their Order. True to their purpose, they stood guard to defend Church property, and though actual attacks were few and far between, the long, cold, and lonely nights of vigil were many. The early AOH in America remained a secret society, and little is known of its activities except that it provided a monetary stipend to immigrants who arrived as members in good standing from the Irish Order, and they assisted Irish immigrants in obtaining jobs and social services. Quite naturally, the early AOH Divisions were nurseries for the preservation of Irish culture and traditions in America.

In large measure due to the significant contributions of the Irish in defending the Union during America's Civil War, it became unfashionable to be anti-Irish, and the bigoted Know Nothings faded away, taking their No Irish Need Apply signs with them. The AOH, on the other hand, grew stronger, following Irish immigrants as they worked their way across the country. As the need for militant support of their Church dwindled, the AOH shifted its purpose to charitable activities in support of the Church's missions, community service, and the promotion and preservation of their Irish cultural heritage in America. Today they stand, not only as the oldest Catholic Lay organization in America, but as the largest Irish society in the world with Divisions in Ireland, and 49 of the United States.

The AOH in America is partitioned into Divisions, County Boards, and State Boards, and is governed by a National Board elected every two years. The Division is the basic unit in the Order, and membership in a Division is membership in the Order. Even County, State, and National Officers, maintain membership in a local Division. Annual dances, concerts, and parades sponsored by all levels of the Order raise millions for charity, while providing a showcase for the positive contributions of the Irish to every walk of American life. Divisions usually support local charities within their geographic areas, while sending a portion of their moneys to higher levels for support of state, national, and international charities. Subcommittees are often established to perform specific functions such as the administration of an annual Feis or Festival, the raising of a historic memorial, or providing instructions in such Irish subjects as history, bagpiping, dancing, and language.

The many Divisions and Hibernian Halls across the country have also traditionally provided a welcome for new immigrants. Here, the unique art, dance, music, and other interests of the Irish are fostered and preserved, making the AOH Hall a home away from home for many. Together, they are at the forefront of support for issues concerning the Irish, such as Emigration Reform, MacBride Legislation, and the Right to Life. They never forget their ancestral homeland either, and can always be found actively lobbying for, praying for, and working for the total independence of a united 32-county Ireland, as their constitution avows: "by all means constitutional and lawful."

As a potential Member to our Order you are seeking admittance to the finest and fastest growing Irish Catholic organization in the world. Our Catholic faith and our values are exemplified in our motto: Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity. You must be Irish by birth or descent and a practicing Roman Catholic to become a member.

Friendship, Unity & Christian Charity