



Mayo Society of New York

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Founded 1879; incorporated 1891 as Mayo Men's Benefit, Patriot and Social Association of the City of New York; later as Mayo Men's P & B Association and in 1985, gender neutral as the Mayo Society, Inc. of the City of New York.

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Newsletter

Mar 2019

Regular Meeting Tuesday, March 12, 2019
Where: St. Sebastian Parish Center
39-60 57th Street
Woodside, NY 11377
Time: 7:30 P.M. Sharp

Regular meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month. There are no meetings July & August.

I hope that you will consider marching up Fifth Avenue in NYC on March 16th. **The Mayo Society will be assembling at 50 West 44th. Street, between 5th and 6th Avenue, at 10:45 AM.** Mayo is extremely lucky to be marching early, behind the Grand Marshal Brian O'Dywer. Pray for good weather.

I'd like to wish everybody a Happy St. Patrick's Day.

Please remember the sick and deceased.

God Bless,

Betty McLoughlin

Our President's Note

Dear Members and Friends,

I hope you all are well. March is very busy month with all the festivities happening but Thank God that we can do it. The committee members involved with the dinner dance and journal have been quite busy and I am very appreciative of their time and effort over the last few months. Please come out and support our honorees.

I would like to congratulate you all on our 140th Mayo Ball. I think that it is a fantastic achievement. May God Bless those members who came before us who put so much of themselves into the Society.

Father Gibbons sends his regards to the members. He will be in New York area around St. Patrick's Day. Hopefully he will be able to catch up with us.

Our dear friend, Theresa Cunningham, celebrated her 94th birthday recently.

Plans are underway for the annual visit to Our Lady of Knock Shrine in East Durham on August 21st. It is always a lovely day and additional information will be forthcoming as plans are finalized.

To attract new members, the **April 9th. meeting** will be held in the Bronx. Please join us at **Kelly's Bar at 23 East 233st. at 7:30 PM.**

The Irish American Center in Mineola will be hosting the Celtic Angels on March 13th. at 7:30 PM. For tickets, call me at 347-613-1303

Rules of the St. Patrick's Day NYC Parade Committee

1. All units must have two (2) flags – Irish and American or no flags at all - the American flag on the right and the Irish flag on the left.
2. A minimum eight abreast. A unit with 250 + members must march ten (10) abreast.
3. At least two (2) officers of each marching unit should bring up the rear.
4. The only banners allowed are the ones identifying the unit or "England Get Out of Ireland." Only one (1) banner for each unit.
5. Green hats, sneakers, or other "odd ball" dress is not allowed.
6. Shirts with advertising are NOT appropriate dress and are not allowed. This includes GAA shirts.
7. No animals or mascots are allowed.
8. No eating, drinking or smoking in the line of march. 9. No displays of any kind will be permitted.
10. Units should make sure they are in proper formation before approaching Fifth Avenue.
11. After units get on Fifth Avenue, no stragglers should be allowed to join the unit. Unit marshals should be on the alert for this at each intersection. Please be vigilant.
12. Strollers and pull wagons shall be placed second to the last line.
13. Any marcher exhibiting improper behavior will be removed.
14. Do not attract unfavorable comments from the spectators and news reporters by allowing "undesirables" to join your ranks from the sidewalks while you are marching.

Opinion from Mayo Member Brian O'Dwyer who is an attorney and served as adviser to the Clinton White House during the peace process that led to the Good Friday Agreement. He is a longtime immigration activist and is the Grand Marshal of the 2019 St. Patrick's Day Parade in NYC:

“Irish Americans Will Not Accept Brexit Dividing Ireland Once Again”

While the UK parliament continues to tie itself in knots over how to exit the European Union, there's a ticking time bomb that cannot be defused: the 98-year old problem of the forced separation of Ireland into an independent south and a UK-controlled north. Twenty years ago, President Bill Clinton and former US Sen. George Mitchell brokered a solution. The Good Friday Agreement brought a truce in the “Troubles” — sectarian violence that spread from the streets of Belfast to Dublin and London. The agreement guaranteed an open border between the two Irelands and fostered ever-closer ties among the Irish, with the free movement of people and goods serving the interests of people there and those across the Irish Sea in England.

But Brexit will pull Northern Ireland out of the EU along with the rest of the UK, and with the Republic of Ireland remaining, nobody knows what will happen at the border between the two, which will effectively become a physical boundary between the EU and a non-EU state. How will people and goods move across it?

The attempt to paper over this problem is threatening to blow up British Prime Minister Theresa May's attempt to carry out the wishes of the English people who voted for Brexit. May and the EU have agreed on the need for a so-called backstop that will keep the Irish border open, but each side has a radically different understanding of how that would work.

Some doubt it can work at all. And there are no good options for the UK.

Either there will be a hard border between the Republic and Northern Ireland, which will undercut the free movement of people and goods that has benefited both sides since the Good Friday Agreement. Or there will continue to be no border, which will mean that part of the UK will effectively remain in the European Union, and the rest will not.

This bitter fight threatens the continued existence of the United Kingdom itself. Majorities in both Northern Ireland and Scotland voted to remain in the EU, while England and Wales voted to leave. It's far from the first time that the Irish and Scots have had their national aspirations overridden by the English, and Brexit has given renewed impetus to a potential second referendum for Scottish independence.

As Irish Americans who have been deeply involved in Irish affairs, who lobbied long and hard to convince President Clinton to appoint Sen. Mitchell as his representative in the peace talks, we watch with great concern as politicians in London consider policies that would upset the peaceful resolution reached by all sides two decades ago.

It was the political pressure applied through the likes of Sens. Daniel Patrick Moynihan and Edward Kennedy that helped the deal get done, recently declassified British documents attest. They pushed the State Department to grant a US visa for Sinn Féin leader Gerry Adams — over officials' objections in both London and the White House — for a visit that became a breakthrough moment that led to the Good Friday Agreement.

We are prepared to bring that same kind of pressure if a post-Brexit UK seeks a trade deal with the United States without keeping an open border between the two Irelands.

As it decides the fate of the Irish border, Britain must confront a new reality. Exiting the EU will necessitate a new trade deal with the United States, which must be approved by Congress — where incoming chairs of relevant committees include a number of Irish Americans and others with large Irish American constituencies.

You can expect an energized Irish American community will flex all of its political muscle to defeat any treaty that does not contain firm commitments to maintain the seamless flow of people and goods across the Irish frontier.

Irish American leaders have already held many meetings in Dublin and Belfast to prepare for the impact of Brexit. We cannot support the return of a hard border between the Republic and the North, just like we can never accept the return of the sectarian discrimination and bigotry that fueled the Troubles in the first place.

We Irish on both sides of the Atlantic have learned the hard way that history is a long march. And that those who forget the lessons of history are doomed to repeat them.

Twenty years ago, London brought a massive lobbying effort to Washington in an attempt to stymie the peace process. It failed, and it was defeated by Irish American political muscle. As a group, our efforts — and those of many others — resulted in the tearing down of a border that divided the Irish people. London must be on notice that we will deploy every bit of our political strength to assure that that despised border will never be reestablished.

https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/brianodwyer/irish-americans-will-not-accept-brexit-dividing-ireland?utm_source=dynamic&utm_campaign=bfsharefacebook&utm_term=.esYYLRzBW3&ref=mobile_share