



June 2005

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Shamrock Club of Wisconsin Color Guard, Pipes and Drums News and Notes

25th Anniversary Celebrates a Proud Tradition

by *Richard Stover*

“PRIDE & HONOR”

The Shamrock Club of Wisconsin Color Guard, Pipes and Drums celebrated their “25th Silver Anniversary” with a Dinner Dance held on Saturday, April 23rd, an evening which was filled with memories, friendship and a whole lot of fun for the over 130 people in attendance!

Beginning with a cocktail hour that featured entertainment provided by Barry Dodd, many old friendships were renewed and “story telling” of past experiences were shared. There were numerous tables displaying the trophies, plaques and awards the Unit has earned over the past 25 years, posterboards filled with pictures chronicling parades and events from 1980–2005, in which the Group was involved and a special display honoring those members who have passed into Heaven. Of special interest was our “25th Anniversary Table” where congratulatory letters and acknowledgements from President George Bush, Consul General of Ireland Charles Sheehan, Archbishop Timothy Dolan, Senator Feingold, Congressman Sensenbrenner along with “Proclamations” from Governor Jim Doyle, Milwaukee County Executive Scott Walker and Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett proclaimed Saturday, April 23, 2005 “Shamrock Club of Wisconsin Color Guard, Pipes and Drums Day” throughout the State of Wisconsin as well as throughout the County and City of Milwaukee, were displayed.

Prior to a Fabulous dinner, enhanced by the wonderfully melodic music played on the harp by Erin Canon, the Director of the Color Guard, Pipes and Drums, Rich Pfeiffer, welcomed and thanked all in attendance for coming, outlined the evenings events, acknowledged our honored guests – Alderman Bob Donovan and wife Kathy, Alderman Michael Murphy,

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club@shamrockclubwis.com

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Shamrock Club President Julie Smith and husband Tom, Irishman of the Year Ed and wife Betty Mikush, Irish Rose Noreen Barclay, Past Director Chuck McLaughlin and wife Bonnie and our Parade Marshal, Richard Stover. He then introduced Tom Blaha, one of only two remaining Charter Members of the Color Guard, Pipes and Drums who has marched in Parades every year for 25 years continuously. Tom gave a very moving and spiritually uplifting invocation, remembering the past members and achievements while encouraging the present and future members of the Shamrock Club of Wisconsin Color Guard, Pipes and Drums to always honor the traditions, heritage, ancestry and pride in representing the Shamrock Club of Wisconsin, America and Ireland!

During the dessert portion of the dinner, Director Rich Pfeiffer passed out “Certificates of Recognition” to past and current members of the Color Guard, Pipes and Drums who have served with honor, five consecutive years in the Shamrock Club of Wisconsin Color Guard, Pipes and Drums. Special “25 Consecutive Years of Participation / Service” awards were given to Joe Donovan and Tom Blaha. Please Note: due to time constraints and the receiving of confirmations of attendance, the Unit was unable to provide all deserving members with a Certificate of Recognition. However, every member of the Color Guard, Pipes and Drums, who honored the Unit with five consecutive years of participation will receive a Certificate via mail. Please be assured, YOU have not been forgotten! And because of You, we not only exist, but we continue to grow and continue the legacy of “Pride & Honor”! At this time, Aldermen Donovan and Murphy presented a plaque, on behalf of the Milwaukee Common Council, to President Julie Smith and Director Rich Pfeiffer, honoring the Shamrock Club of Wisconsin Color Guard, Pipes and Drums, for serving, honoring and representing the City of Milwaukee and the Irish Community with “Pride & Honor!”

The final portion of the evening was capped off with ballads and lively Irish music performed by the Tynkr Boys and was truly highlighted by the Raffle and Silent Auction which included an autographed football from the Green Bay Packers, a handmade quilt, tickets to Irish Fest, Summerfest; Admirals, Brewers, Bucks and Wave tickets; Gift Certificates to numerous restaurants, a crystal Gaelic Cross and hundreds of wonderful items which were donated, to assist in honoring the Shamrock Club of Wisconsin Color Guard, Pipes and Drums “25th Silver Anniversary Dinner Dance”! To all the Sponsors/Donors: “THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU ALL!”

SPECIAL THANK YOUS

It takes some “Very Special People” who are dedicated, committed and truly care, to put together such a fantastic evening, as the “25th Silver Anniversary Shamrock Club of Wisconsin Color Guard, Pipes and Drums, Dinner Dance”! The time and effort put into undertaking such an event is unbelievable! Since May 11, 2004 the following people deserve not only “Thanks” but they have earned the respect of the members of the Shamrock Club of Wisconsin and they should be recognized in an appropriate manner, to honor their tireless efforts:

- Ade Ayotte – responsible for the Raffle and Silent Auction, which will set a standard of success which future such endeavors will be hard

pressed to equal!

- Tom Blaha – spent months and months trying to find and put together the list of over 107 past and current members of the Color Guard, Pipes and Drums and gave a truly wonderful invocation!
- Karen Neilson and Holly Pfeiffer whose imagination created such beautiful announcement posters, programs and the unbelievable decorations and posterboards of pictures which allowed all of us to journey through time from 1980 to 2005, and truly appreciate/understand just what the Shamrock Club of Wisconsin Color Guard, Pipes and Drums has accomplished.
- AND ... Rich Pfeiffer, Director of the Color Guard, Pipes and Drums, who not only organized all the entertainment for the evening but provided direction and support to ensure the “25th Anniversary Dinner Dance” would not only be a success but the evening would continue the tradition of the Shamrock Club of Wisconsin Color Guard, Pipes and Drums ... Motto ... “PRIDE & HONOR”!

To each and everyone of you, we salute you, congratulate you and say “thank you!”

JUNE CALENDAR

4 Highland Games; Glendale; noon
11 Appleton; time TBA 12 Waubeka; Flag Day; noon
19 Mukwonago; TBA
25 Thiensville, TBA
26 Hartland; TBA

For more information, confirmation of parade schedules and times, please visit the Shamrock Club of Wisconsin Color Guard, Pipes & Drums web site: .

If you would like to have the Shamrock Club Color Guard, Pipes and Drums appear in a parade, special event or family occasion – or you would like to join the Unit as a banner carrier, color guard, piper or drummer, please contact:

Richard Pfeiffer, Director
Shamrock Club Color Guard, Pipes and Drums
Telephone: (414) 769-1250
E-mail: milwpiper@cs.com

– **Richard Stover**



Original members of the Color Guard: (l to r) Chuck McLaughlin, Joe Donovan, Jerry Hill, Betty Mikush, Jack Noonan, Ed Mikush, Tom Blaha, Ray Crowley, Cate Harris.



Aldermen Bob Donovan and Michael Murphy (two left) present a city commendation to Julie Smith and Richard Pfeifer (two right).



A crowd gathers for the camera.



The Tynkr Boys provided ballads and lively Irish music during the final portion of the evening.

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Rock County

UPCOMING EVENTS

- JUNE, JULY, AUGUST – no meetings
- AUGUST 16 – Annual Club Picnic; 5–9 p.m.

Our Club Picnic will be held at Sweet- Alyn Park, in Shoppire, on August 16, from 5 to 9 p.m. We will have a potluck supper at 6 p.m. Come early if you can, so you can visit with the other club members before we start eating. We will have more details about the potluck next month. There will be a raffle and door prizes and Irish music and we will be in the shelter house so plan on coming, rain or shine.

Have a great summer and we look forward to seeing all of you at the picnic on August 16.

– **Tom Kennedy**

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Dane County Shamrock Club

The club provided 30+ volunteer hours to “Fitchburg Days”, May 21 through May 23. Saturday, May 22, was an Irish day with music and crafts galore. The club will be a sponsor and provide volunteer hours to Madison Feis at the Alliant Energy Center on June 4. This is the Irish Dance competition which attracts 1500 competitors from the Midwest and Canada.

On June 14 we will have an Irish Buffet at our annual picnic at the K of C

hall, at which time our new slate of officers will be introduced. On Friday June 24 the Madison Mallards baseball team will hold its fifth "Great Dane Summertime Saint Patty's Night." The team will be in green uniforms and be serving green beer. The Kisser's Band will be performing; the primary sponsor is the Great Dane Pub. Contact me if you have interest in attending at (608) 833-0009 or (ccimgmt @supranet.com)

– **Bob Kerans, President**

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South Central Shamrock Club

On Sunday, April 17, the Club met at Longley's in Reedsburg, with 23 in attendance.

A report and discussion of our recently held St. Patricks Party was given. It was the consensus of those present to once again have our St. Pat's Party at the Voyageur in Reedsburg.

All present received the Shamrock Club of Wisconsin's web site.

The first Friday of every month, the Village of Booksmith in Baraboo, has a Celtic Night.

The president asked how many would be interested in going to Irish Fest in August. More discussion was to follow at our May meeting.

The question was brought up, should our club have a charitable purpose. Some ideas were giving to the food pantries in the area, books for libraries, or monies for families that may lose everything due to a disaster. More was to follow on this idea at our May meeting.

Dana Horkan Gant will check to see if a car honoring our Irish Rose and Irishman can be in Butter Fest, held in June, in Reedsburg.

Our next meeting was to be May 19, 2005 at the Farm Kitchen in Baraboo. Election of officers for 2005-06, was held.

– **Mary E. Stieve, Reporter**

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Milwaukee President's Message

Welcome to summer at last. June in Wisconsin brings summer vacations, Father's Day, more graduations, and many feiseanna for the Wisconsin Irish dancers. So, put on your green shirt or blouse with the new Shamrock Club pin, and enjoy the weather. Remember to use the sunscreen for your Irish skin.

At the May and June board meetings, the newly elected members are asked to attend as observers as well as non-voting participants. This eases

the transition of a newly elected board. The finance committee presents the budget for the new fiscal year, and the president is required to prepare and read an annual report to the board. With any organization, you need to get moving after taking office, and this way, new board members are able to ask questions of the persons they are replacing. As mentioned at other times, all members are welcome to attend the board meetings.

The bus trip to Mineral Point is planned for Saturday, June 11. This historic town was the home to the Irish, Cornish, and Welsh immigrants during the 1800s. The Irish in the area provided food to the miners from their farms, and in the early days, hunted deer for meat. We look forward to this opportunity to wander the craft shops, the antique show, and the lead mine. Many members have come forth to sign up at the meetings, and we hope to have a nice group of people to walk down “Shake Rag Street” with the Shamrock Club. This educational event will begin with a comfortable bus ride, and we want to leave by 7 a.m. so as to enjoy the early morning farmer’s market. The day is long on light, and we look forward to learning the history of our Wisconsin neighbors.

We are also preparing for our annual installation dinner on July 7th. We have reserved Aliota’s Restaurant in Hwy 100 in Wauwatosa for the evening. You are all invited to attend the installation of your new board of directors. This will be a sit down dinner as voted on by the membership, and we look forward to seeing as many people there as possible in a show of support.

Look for members of our Color Guard, Pipes and Drums at the camp at Alverno College in June. We are sending two drummers to camp, and wish we could send more. The camaraderie and new skills of the students will serve our Color Guard, Pipes and Drums well. The concert they do at the ICHC at the end of the week with all the attendees should be seen and heard. The staff at Alverno has reported they love to see them come back each year, and the neighbors enjoy the music.

See you at the next meeting.

– Julie Smith

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Milwaukee Election Results

The yearly election of officers for the Shamrock Club of Wisconsin Board of Directors was held May 5, 2005 with the following results:

- President: Julie Smith
- Vice President: Brian Witt
- Secretary: Richard Stover
- Treasurer: Vince Agnew
- Membership: Tom Smith
- Trustee: Pat Fitzgibbons
- Parliamentarian: Ed Mikush
- Sgt. At Arms: Kathy Donovan

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Installation Dinner 2005

Thursday July 7, 2005

Alioto's (Mayfair Rd. and Burleigh St.)

Cocktails (Cash Bar) 6:00 pm / Dinner 6:30 pm

Ceremony / Swearing in of Officers 8:00 pm

Dinner Choice: Beef Tips over Noodles or Chicken Normandy

Cost: \$18 Per person

Reservation Deadline: June 30 2005

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Installation Dinner Reservation Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Number attending: _____

Price: \$18 @ TOTAL: _____

Quantity of each Dinner Choice:

_____ Beef Tips over Noodles

_____ Chicken Normandy

Return to:

Kristine Pluskota, 1209 N. Chicago Ave. #B,
South Milwaukee WI 53172

Phone: (414) 768-8876 ? Email (dkplus@tds.net)

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Shamrock Club of Wisconsin

**Annual Family Best Ball Golf and
Dinner Outing**

Mark Your Calendars:

**SUNDAY AUGUST 28, 2005
EDGEWATER GOLF CLUB**

There will be golf, great food, prizes, and exciting events.

SIGN UP SHEETS IN NEXT MONTH'S REFLECTIONS

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Celtic Women First Friday Lecture Series

Date: June 3, 2005

Topic: "Conference of Celtic Women"

Speaker: Jean Bills, Conference founder

In October of this year, the Conference of Celtic Women will return to the ICHC, after an absence of four years. We will present an overview of all of the speakers, musicians and vendors who will be here in October. Learn about some unique opportunities for those in attendance as well. This will be the last lecture before our summer break, returning in September.

A \$5 admission fee is charged for all lectures, with tea and biscuits served. This is a gentle early evening, always enjoyable, and unique in the community. Come and learn about these Celtic events. Parking in the marked lots, off the alley south of the ICHC. No parking next to the buildings.

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St. Patrick's Help Fund

St. Patrick's Help Fund is in desperate need of non-perishable foods. Please place in container at each meeting. However, donations can be brought to the ICHC any time during the week. Questions? Call Katy Voss (414) 352-6479.

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New Members

NOTE: Please send your dues to your Membership Chairperson in your chapter. All names and addresses are listed in Emerald Reflections.

Milwaukee – Bernard A. Flatley; Larry A. Gavin-Matzot.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

MILWAUKEE CHAPTER:

- MARCH.: 94 memberships up for renewal, 62 paid, 32 dropped for nonpayment.
- APRIL.: 56 memberships up for renewal, 29 paid, 27 due.
- MAY: 45 memberships up for renewal, 4 paid, 41 due.

– **Tom Smith**

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