



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MUSEUM OF NEWPORT IRISH HISTORY

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The 2005 Museum Biannual Meeting was held May 25th at The Firehouse Theater on Equality Park in Newport. The fifty members in attendance heard President Arnold review the past two years' accomplishments and present the Museum's plans for the next several years. President Arnold noted that the museum now has over 250 members. Highlights from 2004-05 include the completion of another successful speaker program, and the Museum's participation in the March Irish Music Festival, which included a large photo and graphic display. He briefly outlined the Museum's plans to have a site at Fort Adams and said it would likely require about five years of planning and fundraising to achieve that goal.

A highlight of the meeting was the viewing of the new "Irish in Newport" PowerPoint presentation on the Theater's large, high-tech screen. The presentation uses over 50 photos and images to portray the Newport County area accompanied by a narrator who discusses the history of the Irish in the County. Though the presentation is not in its final form, it was well received. When the presentation is final-

ized, it will be available on DVD for sale and for viewing at various meetings and events.

The business segment of the meeting included the Treasurer's Report and a budget plan for fiscal year 2005-2006. Both were accepted as presented. Treasurer Bill Nagle noted that the IRS Form 990 was on file for anyone interested in reviewing Museum finances in detail. Led by Maria Carroll, the Nominating

BIANNUAL MEETING

Committee presented its proposed slate of officers and directors for 2005-2006. Elected officers were as follows: President—Vincent Arnold; Vice Presidents—Bob McKenna and Elliot "Skip" Carter; Secretary—Maria Carroll; Treasurer—Bill Nagle; and Membership Chair—Shannon Buss. New Directors elected were Deanna Casey, Joe Brady and Rick O'Neill. The complete listing of all Officers and Directors is on the next page along with contact information, as appropriate.

OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 2005 • 2006

OFFICERS

President Vincent Arnold
6 Wedgewood Drive, Middletown
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1st Vice President Robert McKenna
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(401) 846-9296

2nd Vice President Elliot "Skip" Carter
27 Columbia Terrace, Portsmouth
(401) 683-4137

Secretary Maria Carroll
22 William Drive, Middletown
(401) 846-8865

Treasurer Bill Nagle
64 Eastnor Road, Newport
(401) 846-8499

Counsel Chris Behan
82 Connection Street, Newport
(401) 846-4045

Membership Shannon Buss
233 Mail Coach Road, Portsmouth
(401) 846-4341

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Margaret Ahearn

Alex Allardt

John Booth

Joyce Botelho

Joseph Brady

Deanna Conheeny Casey

Rita Clarke

Paul Crowley

Thomas N. Kelly III

Joseph McEnness

Edward McGrath

Patrick Murphy

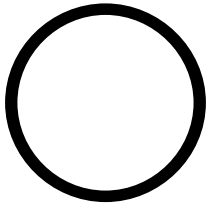
Rick O'Neill

HONORARY DIRECTORS

Hon. Kathleen Connell

Hon. J. Joseph Garrahy

Hon. David Roderick



ver 300 were in attendance on Sunday, March 20th to hear the famed Newport

Navy Choristers in a benefit concert for the Museum. The Choristers, pictured at right during the concert, have been performing since their inception in 1953, and have appeared on radio and television, and throughout Rhode Island and Massachusetts, notably at the Boston Pops Navy Night and Navy Birthday celebration. The all-volunteer Navy nonprofit group has raised over \$300,000 during its 50 plus years. The concert raised over \$2,500 for the Museum, and was widely praised by all in attendance.

HERITAGE MONTH CONCERT BY NAVY CHORISTERS AT ST. MARY'S CHURCH A HUGE SUCCESS!



RECENT MUSEUM ACQUISITIONS

- ◆ Member Peter Farrelly has donated a recently published book on the Belfast “troubles” of 1920-22 written by Alan Parkinson. Entitled “Belfast’s Unholy War,” the book presents the first balanced account of the sustained period of civil strife in Belfast at the time of the Irish revolution in the south. The results of this “war” are still felt today, more than 80 years later.
- ◆ An interesting Non-Business Corporation filing for “The Boys of Cork and Kerry” has been donated by member Ed McCarthy, whose father, Florence, was one of the five founders. According to the 1933 document, the organization was founded in Newport for the purpose of “social and literary activities”. Other founders noted on the filing are: Patrick McCarthy, Timothy Burns, Daniel Malvey and Joseph Crowley. The document has now been framed for viewing and preservation, and any members who can provide information or recollections of the group and its activities is encouraged to contact Museum Historian Pat Murphy at (401) 846-4882.
- ◆ The Museum recently assisted student James deBoer of Brown University with his work on his thesis for his Bachelor of Arts degree. The paper is entitled “Paddy in Rhode Island: Perceptions of the Irish in Mid-Century America.” James has given the Museum a copy of his well-executed thesis, which looks into Yankee perceptions of the immigrant Irish in the period of 1840-70. Newspaper commentaries quoted in the thesis are especially disturbing, including such *Providence Journal* statements as that the Irish are “ignorant” or “stupid”, and are “driven to the polls like pigs” (from the *Providence Journal* Nov. 11, 1844, Jan. 17, 1843, Jan. 28, 1853)



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P.O. Box 1378
Newport, RI 02840

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