



# The Society of The Friendly Sons of St. Patrick for The Relief of Emigrants from Ireland

Organized March 17, 1771 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

**Joseph P. Heenan, Past President**

Dear Fellow Members,

March 11, 2018

It has been an honor for me to serve as President of our society these past three years and I wish to express my sincere appreciation to all of our membership that have continued to support our society's mission.

The society's 247<sup>th</sup> annual gala took place this past Saturday with a record attendance and raising just over \$75,000 in net profits to be used in support of the charities that we fund.

Our Honorees General John F. Kelly and Mr. Gerard P. Cuddy along with Ireland's Mr. David P. Stanton Minister of State at the Department of Justice and Equality all gave rousing speeches to the delight of the entire audience.

The newly elected 2018 – 2019 Board of Managers are already planning for the June Members meeting and early stages of next years gala. Please make sure to help out along the way showing your support in meetings participation and the Annual Appeal that starts in June.

Our newly elected President, Kevin Maloney along with his administration, will continue in guiding us in fulfilling the Society's mission. We are extremely fortunate to have Kevin leading the Society as our new President.

The past three years have seen a few changes within the society.

The Charitable Grants issued from 2015 to 2018 represent more funds issued to worthy charities in the recent three years than had been issued cumulatively in the past 35 years. Please support the new administration to continue in our goals.

During the past three years, the Society has taken our scholarship endowments starting from 1 endowment under \$100,000 in value to a total level of 14 fully funded endowments exceeding \$1,000,000.

- Inducted 128 new members into the Society.
- Established a policy of distributing 100% of funds raised or donations received back into supporting worthy charities within the year.
- Initiated the ongoing transfer of our 247 years of historical records onto the Digital Library at Villanova University for public access.
- Bylaw change that after 245 years of a male only society we changed our structure to welcome women into the Society as full members.
- Reduced excessive overhead expenses by half.
- Extensive revisions to our Bylaws eliminating outdated procedures.
- Bylaw change establishing a Fundraising Committee to be a Standing Committee of the Society.
- The success of these accomplishments would not have been possible but for a dedicated group of board members committed to accomplishing the Society's mission and support of the membership.

[Click link below for a copy of the 247<sup>th</sup> Annual Gala Booklet](#)

WISHING EVERYONE A HEALTHY & HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY

*Joseph P. Heenan*

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Past President