



THE IRELAND NETWORK

16th Annual Ball

FEBRUARY 16, 2019



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WELCOME TO IRELAND NETWORK CHICAGO'S 2019 ANNUAL BALL



On this day sixteen years ago, we held our first Ireland Network Ball in this very hotel. At the time, we had grand aspirations for the potential impact of the Networks potential.

Tonight's crowd is just one of the many ways in which lofty aspirations have come to fruition. As a founding member of the Network all those years ago, it is wondrous to now lead the organization into a fresh 2019.

The past year has been rich with exciting events, including a boat cruise with former Taoiseach, Enda Kenny and the Lord Mayor of Dublin, as well as a lively tailgate for the Irish Rugby match with Italy.

Our programming continues in the up-coming months with an IN Conversation entitled, *Update from Leinster House* by Senator Billy Lawless and an IN Conversation with the celebrated film Director Jim Sheridan as we celebrate the Chicago Irish Film Festival's 20th Anniversary. I am pleased to share that the Irish Government continues to support our organization thanks to a generous grant from the Emigrant Support Program. We are extremely grateful for that continued support helping us grow and serve as a bright beacon for Irish People, wherever they were born or whatever Country or County they come from.

The Emigrant Support Program is a tangible expression of the Government's support, commitment, and interest in the global Irish community. Like no other nation in Europe it aims to strengthen the international Irish community and deepen its cherished bond with Ireland. Through this creative program, the Government intends to fund projects that promise a clear and identifiable impact on supporting and building global Irish communities. The Irish Abroad Unit in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade manages and coordinates the program in partnership with Ireland's Embassies

Mise Le Meas,

Ferdia Doherty

President of the Ireland Network Chicago

Please visit our website for updates on our programming and membership: www.theirelandnetwork.com

and Consulates abroad. Since its inception in 2004, the Emigrant Support Program has assisted over 530 organizations in 36 countries with grants totaling over €170 million. Grants range from small amounts for grassroots groups, to major allocations awarded to large-scale volunteer and community organizations. In 2018 alone, there were over 490 applications from more than 20 countries, requesting over €21 million worth of funding for the Program's €11.6 million budget. We are proud of the steadfast support of the Irish Consulate here in Chicago over the years, and the leadership and energy of Consul General Brian O'Brien and Vice Consul Justin Dolan. Their patriotism and friendship is exemplary. With strong leadership comes new opportunities, and so we are saddened now to say goodbye to Justin, but delighted on his diplomatic advancement and promotion with a return to Ireland for his next chapter of service. Chicago will always hold a home for him anytime he wishes to return. May he have a future of promise. We know he will keep the Chicago flag flying wherever he lands.

This organization would not be what it is without the great support and energy of those committed to its success. Your generosity in giving so many nights, weekends and countless hours has launched the IN Socials, IN Conversations, Boat Cruise, IN Tunes, IN Community and this very IN Ball. Let me personally thank our Committee for their tireless efforts in the past year. Serving with you all is both an honor and pleasure.

This year we revive our IN SPIRIT award, which is bestowed on a very special Irishman, Bill Gainer. It is our way of thanking Bill for his 20+ years of service as Chairman of the Galway Sister Cities Committee and his remarkably creative years working with the soulful people of County Cork.

Lastly, a small personal indulgence, I would like to give heartfelt thanks to my wife Nora, and my children Bébhinn, Aonghus and Maude (who really, really wanted to be here tonight!) for being behind me in every wacky idea I have with their ever-magical support.



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Ball



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ORDER OF THE EVENING

6:30 P.M. CHAMPAGNE RECEPTION – PALM COURT

7:45 P.M. WELCOME – IN PRESIDENT, FERDIA DOHERTY

7:50 P.M. IRISH AND AMERICAN NATIONAL ANTHEMS –
PADDY HOMAN

8:00 P.M. DINNER SERVED

9:30 P.M. IN SPIRIT AWARD PRESENTED TO BILL GAINER

9:35 P.M. RAFFLE WINNERS ANNOUNCED

9:40 P.M. BAND AND DANCING: TRUE BLUE BAND

11:30 P.M. AFTER PARTY: FARMHOUSE CHICAGO
228 West Chicago Avenue

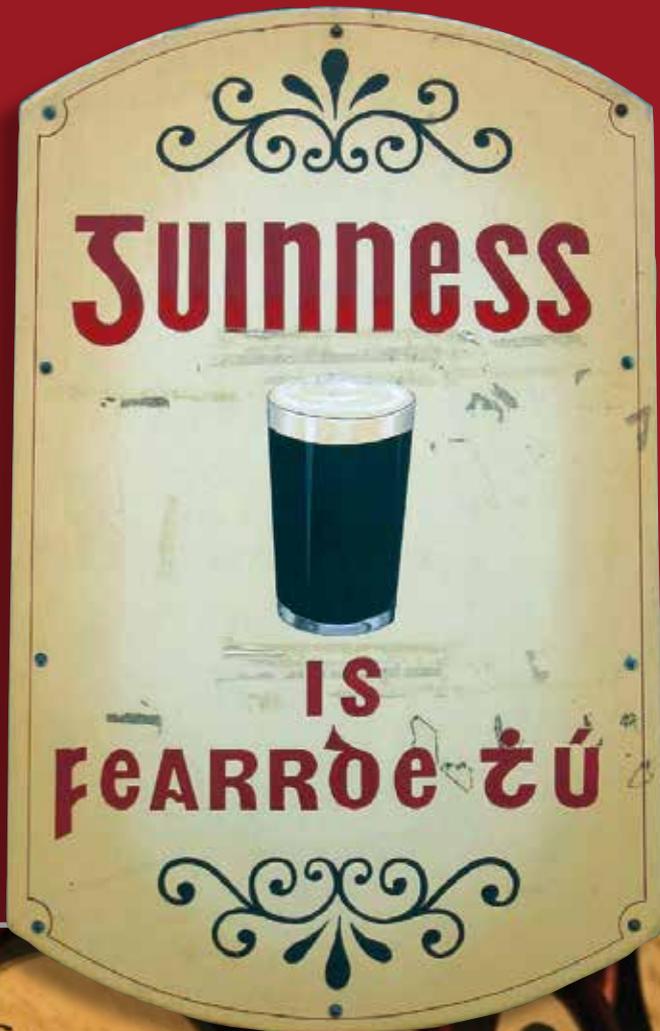


SLANE

THANKS TO ALL OF OUR FOOD AND DRINK DONORS. WE COULD NOT DO THIS WITHOUT YOU!

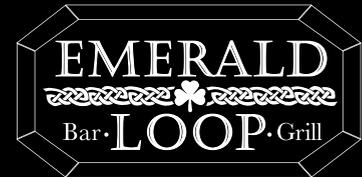
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2019 IRELAND NETWORK CHICAGO BALL RAFFLE

100% OF PROCEEDS FOR THE RAFFLE GO TO CONCERN WORLDWIDE AND IRISH COMMUNITY SERVICES.



TICKETS ARE \$20 EACH, OR 6 FOR \$100

RAFFLE PRIZES INCLUDE

- Four Art Institute of Chicago passes, Highlights of the Museum catalogue and one 60-minute guided tour. A \$400 value.
- Two tickets for the Liz Carroll concert at the Beverly Arts Centre on March 9th
- One gift certificate: dinner for two w/ wine at Farmhouse Chicago
- Three gift certificates for Irish Fest at Gaelic Park
- Two \$50 gift certificates to Galway Arms Pub
- One night stay at the Hyatt Regency Chicago
- One \$100 gift certificate to McGee's Bar
- Two tickets to a Cubs baseball game
- One \$200 gift certificate to The Dearborn
- Four VIP tickets to Air and Water Show at Theatre on the Lake. \$700 value.
- One night stay at Marriott Hotels – Courtyard brand
- One night stay at the Godfrey Hotel and opening night Chicago International Film Fest tickets on February 28th
- Four \$25 gift certificates to Emerald Loop
- One night stay in the Princess Diana Suite and Tea for Four (4) in the Palm Court at The Drake Hotel
- Four \$25 gift certificates to Lizzie McNeil's
- One \$2,000 Dinner at Chicago Cut

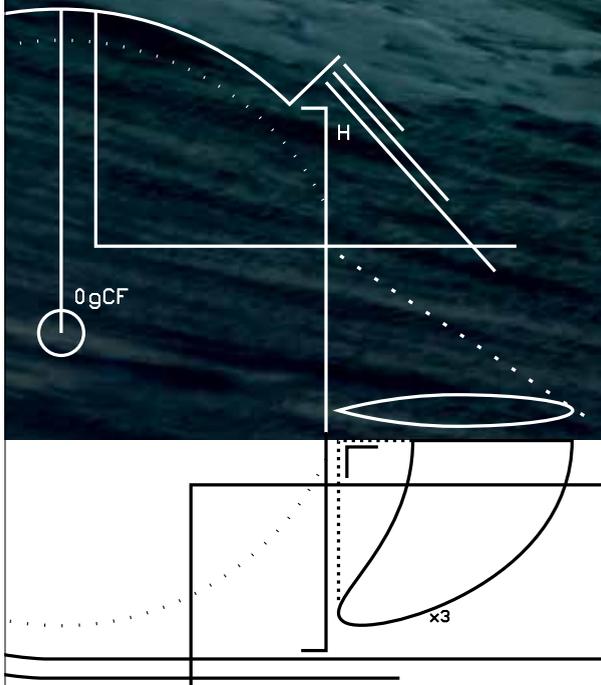
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**Message from Consul General Brian O'Brien
Consul General of Ireland to Chicago and the US Midwest**

A Chairde, Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Government of Ireland, I want to thank the Ireland Network of Chicago for your outstanding work over the last year. You continue to reach out to newly-arrived Irish, you maintain strong ties with Irish people who have lived here for many years and you bring Irish, Irish Americans and Americans together. Your organisation embodies the Irish traditions of hospitality, friendliness and inclusiveness.

2018 has been a busy year for the Consulate. We have had a number of high level political visits from Ireland to the Midwest including for St Patrick's Day. 2018 was also the year that we helped facilitate Mayor Emanuel's first visit to Ireland where he was welcomed by the President, Taoiseach and Chicago's sister city of Galway. The visit was a chance to repay the hospitality shown by Chicago to Irish visitors over the years and underlined the strong links between Ireland and Chicago. The links remain strong because of organisations like yours and the power of our very active diaspora. Chicago is of course home to Ireland's only Senator for the Diaspora, Senator Billy Lawless.

Another highlight of 2018 was the Consulate's participation in the Chicago Pride Parade for the first time. There was much appreciation from the crowd for Ireland's message of equality and inclusion.

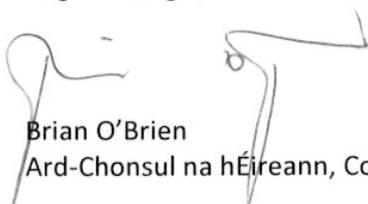
2018 was also a busy year for the Ireland Network with the Ball, the social events and the IN conversations series. I know that organising these event requires an incredible amount of work behind the scenes and I salute all of those who give their time, energy and creativity so generously.

I am delighted that the Irish Government, through the Emigrant Support Programme, continues to partner with the Ireland Network Chicago to help you continue to deliver your important programming.

Thank you also for your continued friendship and support. Our role in the Consulate is to tell the story of Ireland, to explain our culture and values and to make connections between Ireland and the Midwest. The work of Ireland Network greatly contributes to our goals and we deeply appreciate it.

Maith sibh.

Le gach dea-guí,



Brian O'Brien
Árd-Chonsul na hÉireann, Consul General of Ireland





A Look Back at Ireland Network Chicago Events in 2018

IN-Chicago is continually grateful for the support of the Irish Government through the Department of Foreign Affairs for their generous grant which makes many of our events possible!

From our IN Socials and IN Conversations to our special events like the Rugby Tailgate, we strive to provide our members with a lively series of activities throughout the year.

As always, we continue to let our members know about events we think may interest them through our IN-Chicago Supported event emails and promotions and our social media presence on Facebook and Twitter.



IN CONVERSATION: Brexit and Beyond
October 2018



Rugby Tailgate
November 2018



Boat Cruise w/Enda Kenny and ONENESS
September 2018

IN SOCIALS

- JAN** Farmhouse (Featuring Chicago Irish Film Festival)
- FEB** Fado
- APR** The Kerryman
- MAY** Annual Member's Meeting and Social - Chicago Cut
- JUN** Lizzie McNeill's
- OCT** LG's Bar
- DEC** Ambassador Pub (Christmas Party and Toy Drive)

IN CONVERSATIONS

- JAN** The Hon. Kevin F O'Malley (Former U.S. Ambassador to Ireland)
- MAR** The Good Friday Agreement - The Chicago Council on Global Affairs
- SEP** John Hume in America movie discussion (w/De Paul University)
- OCT** IRE/UK/EU Brexit and Beyond (w/De Paul University)

SPECIAL EVENTS

- FEB** Ireland Network Chicago Ball - Drake Hotel
- MAR** Duhallow Choral Society Concert - Old St. Pat's
- SEP** Cruise on the Chicago River w/Enda Kenny and ONENESS
- NOV** Rugby and Tailgate Event - Soldier Field

IN-SUPPORTED EVENTS

- FEB** Riverdance 20 Years - Rosemont Theatre
- FEB** CIIS Casino Night Fundraiser - IAHC
- MAR** Chicago Irish Film Festival
- MAR** Irish American Partnership Breakfast
- MAR** Irish Fellowship Club Dinner
- APR** Launch of the Irish-US Economic Relationship 2018 report
- MAY** Solace Sunrise Walk
- JUN** The Women of Concern Awards Luncheon
- JUN** IN TUNE with David Keenan
- JUL** Special Olympics 50th Anniversary
- AUG** ICS Quiz Night
- SEP** ONENESS Networking Lunch - Drake Hotel
- OCT** iBam Awards Dinner - IAHC
- OCT** IN USA Conference - New Orleans
- NOV** Ireland Funds Dinner
- DEC** Irish Fellowship Lunch

Ireland Network In Spirit Award 2019

Ireland Network Chicago would like to thank and honor Bill Gainer for his 20 years of service as Chairman of the Galway Sister Cities Committee. For those of you who don't know Bill—if this is possible, as everyone knows Bill—he is a proud son of the Southside of Chicago.



The Gainer family

After graduating from St. Ignatius High School, he briefly went to work on the Monon Railroad, until he found his calling and started with Illinois Bell in 1960. Starting at the top (literally the top of a telephone poll as a lineman), Bill worked for the phone company for almost 50 years in almost every capacity. He combined his depth of knowledge and love for the phone company with his devotion to Chicago and the Labor and Civic organizations that make it the greatest city in the world.

Leveraging his place in the business community with his Irish heritage, Bill became an active member in the City of Chicago and Cook County Irish Trade Missions. Mayor Richard M. Daley appointed Bill as the Chairman of the Chicago Sister Cities International Program-Galway Committee in October of 2001. He has served on that Committee since its inception and has hosted Mayors, members of the Irish Parliament and business leaders to promote trade and business development between Chicago and Ireland. Bill also serves on the Cook County Partners with Ireland Cork Committee. Behind all these wonderful accomplishments is Bill's greatest success story – his great wife Gerry, 6 children, and his 16 grandchildren, with 1 more on the way next month.

It is our great privilege to honor Bill Gainer with The Ireland Network IN SPIRIT AWARD for 2019. We can't thank Bill enough for the 20 years he shared his time and talent strengthening the partnership between Ireland and Chicago.



Join Ireland Network Chicago!

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

- Free drinks and appetizers at our famous monthly IN Social gatherings at Irish establishments around the city!
- Fun and interesting networking events with visiting speakers and business leaders
- Access to the continuously expanding IN USA membership directory - over 20 chapters in the USA
- Direct connection to the vibrant Irish business community in Chicago and other Irish-related groups we partner with
- A chance to meet new people interested in Ireland and Irish people

A membership subscription is only US\$75 annually or US\$120 for Family membership and online registration is quick and easy.

BECOME A MEMBER OR JOIN OUR EMAIL LIST BY VISITING WWW.THEIRELANDNETWORK.COM





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Ard-Chonsalacht na hÉireann
Consulate General of Ireland



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Sound good? Then give in to temptation and start planning your trip home today...



IRISH NETWORKS ACROSS AMERICA

INUSA

Making Connections

*Irish Network USA congratulates
President, Ferdia Doherty
and Ireland Network Chicago
on a successful 2019 Ball.*

- Steve Lenox, President INUSA

Across the United States

Irish Network USA is proud to support chapters and their members across the United States. INUSA helps Irish and Irish-American professionals across the United States to connect with their peers and to develop relationships that will foster success in their business, economic and social ventures.

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twitter.com/IrishNetworkUSA

We hope to see you in the Big Easy later this year!

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John D. McEneaney & Imelda M.W. Gallagher

would like to congratulate
Ireland Network Chicago on their
Annual Ball.

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The Ambassador Public House
wishes The Ireland Network
a very successful Ball
and a Fantastic 2018.

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EPL Football and some great Ga'Games.

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A Cháirde,

Greetings to the Ireland Network Chicago's Annual Ball, which I know will be another successful highlight to Chicago's Irish social calendar. I trust it will be a great night for all. Unfortunately, I cannot attend in person, given that Seanad Éireann is in session but I wanted to thank you all for the stellar work that you do on behalf of Ireland .

The Ireland Network Chicago is one of the strongest and most vibrant chapters of INUSA and your annual ball is rightly looked to as the flagship Ireland Network event in the country. Your determination to connect young Irish professionals in Chicago to one another and to Ireland is an essential component to your success and to the very success of Ireland in America .

In an increasingly interconnected and volatile world your work in building strong business and networking relationships provides the foundation stones for Ireland to interact with the United States and the wider world . We at home appreciate your dedication to Ireland and acknowledge your contribution to ensuring that Ireland continues to punch above her weight at the international level.

We live in turbulent times where Ireland as a nation faces challenges not experienced since the foundation of the State. Brexit threatens not only the hard fought peace on our island but has the potential to upend years of economic growth and prosperity. We in government are working hard to ensure that Irish interests are protected and rights safeguarded, despite the UK's exit from the European Union. As always, we look to our friends in America in perilous times and thank you and your representatives in Congress who have stepped forward to support us in these important negotiations between the UK and the EU.

Congress has also recently been the focus of Irish concerns related to the E3 Work Visa that passed the House of Representatives but failed by one vote in the Senate. Along with other Irish immigration advocates in the United States, I was profoundly disappointed that the measure failed at the last post. The bipartisan, reciprocal agreement would have provided the annual 5000 unused Australian E-3 Visas to Ireland. We worked hard to ensure that American citizens wishing to retire in Ireland would also find it easier to do so, as part of Ireland's desire to be reciprocal. My disappointment is tempered only by the fact that we proved that much goodwill exists on the Hill towards Ireland and many opportunities lie ahead. I will endeavour to work closely with Irish immigration advocates in the USA in the coming year to advance a Work Visa Bill for Ireland and a resolution to the plight of the Irish undocumented living in the USA.

I want you to know that I am committed to making your voice heard in Seanad Éireann and in the highest chambers of government. If we as a nation are to live up to the virtues of the Proclamation of 1916 in '*cherishing all the children of the nation equally*' then we must approach our Diaspora with respect and sincerity.

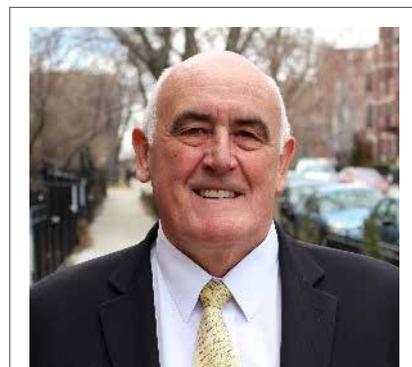
As such, I welcome the government's commitment to holding a referendum on Emigrant Voting Rights in the Autumn. I encourage you to get involved in the campaign to extend voting rights to Irish citizens in Irish presidential elections . If 25 out of the 28 countries in the EU can do it then so can we.

In closing, I would like to thank the Ireland Network Chicago again for its continued support of front line Irish service agencies and congratulate you on your great success this year.

Le gach dea-ghuí,

Billy Lawless

Senator Billy Lawless



IRELAND NETWORK CHICAGO COMMITTEE MEMBERS



BARBARA ANDREWS
barbaraandrews@gmail.com

A proud Dubliner, Barbara has lived in her beloved adopted city of Chicago for over 23 years. She graduated with a BSc from University College Dublin and a HDipIT from St. Patrick's College, Maynooth. After 20 years in the field of Software Quality Assurance she took a detour in 2017 to give Real Estate a try and now she is deciding what she wants to be when she grows up! Outside of work she satisfies her creative side by performing in Chicago a cappella group 'Faces For Radio'! She has been a loyal member of Ireland Network Chicago since its inception and is currently enjoying her fourth year committee.



JAMES COLEMAN
jcoleman@mayerbrown.com

A native of Co. Galway, James also lived in Dublin and Brussels before moving to Chicago in 2014. James is an attorney in the Chicago office of an international law firm, Mayer Brown LLP, where his practice focuses on commercial litigation and international arbitration. He is a graduate of University College Dublin School of Law and Northwestern University School of Law. Before moving to Chicago, James ran the Brussels and Strasbourg Parliamentary offices of an Irish Member of the European Parliament where he worked on issues important to Irish citizens and the Irish diaspora while managing legislative, press, and constituency affairs.



KRISTEN CURNYN
kmcurnyn@gmail.com

Kristen Curnyn is an American-born, yet Irish faithful, new member to the Board. She is a hospitality Executive managing congresses and tradeshow on five continents throughout her twenty-three-year career in event management. She is a Certified Meeting Professional and recently secured her Certification in International Tour Management. Kristen also enjoys spending her time volunteering at the Irish American Heritage Center, Meals-on-Meals and for CurePSP.org. Having grown up in Atlanta, Georgia and only recently moving to the Midwest, in her (very rare) spare time, she is enjoying getting to know Chicago and embracing the winter.



GARRETT DIAMOND
garrettdiamond78@gmail.com

Originally from Co. Meath, Garrett has lived in Chicago on and off for nearly 15 years. A DIT hospitality and Tourism Graduate, Garrett initially spent a number of years in the hotel and bar business in Chicago. He is now working as a Sales and Business Development Representative for Stuart Dean Company in Facilities Services. Garrett spends his time living in Oak Park with his wife Katie and three children, Ciara, Liam and Fiona. He also is a member of the local AOH Chicago Branch.



FERDIA DOHERTY (President)
ferdia@farmhousechicago.com

Ferdia Doherty hails from Gaoth Dobhair, County Donegal. He is founding partner and owner of Farmheads Restaurant Group with establishments in Chicago, Lakeview and Evanston. Prior to joining the merry band of hospitality professionals he was founder and owner of Rain Communications, a design marketing company based in Chicago, London and Dublin. He is married to Nora Gainer and has three children, Bebhinn, Aonghus and Maude. As a founding member of Ireland Network Chicago he is excited to be back on the Committee and looks forward to help spearhead some wonderful growth in the network over the coming years.



PAUL GILLEN
paulgillen1@me.com

Paul was born in New York City and raised in Ridgewood, NJ. His Irish roots extend to Sligo, Fermanagh, Longford and Kerry. He holds a bachelor's degree from Baldwin Wallace University, Berea, Ohio. He has a background in b2b media sales having spent the majority of his career with Cahners Publishing and Washington DC-based Hanley Wood Business Media. He is now a licensed insurance agent and Health Benefit Consultant with Healthcare Solutions Team, Lombard, IL. He is a resident of Evanston; is a working committee member of Evanston Ambassadors, serves as an ESL tutor through Volunteers in Teaching Adults (VITA) and volunteers with the VA at Evanston Veterans Center. In addition to his Irish heritage and citizenship he is proud of his three adult children Mallory, Connor and Cameron.



DIARMUID HORAN

diarmuid.horan@gmail.com

Diarmuid, born in San Francisco, moved to Ireland where he was proudly raised in his faithful county, Offaly. Immersed in GAA for most of his life, Diarmuid graduated with a bachelors degree in Sports Rehabilitation from DCU. Later, he completed a traveling nutrition masters which took him to 5 countries, before landing in Chicago in 2015. Since arriving here, Diarmuid has steeped himself back in the GAA with the Harry Bolands CLG, worked in a health start-up teaching people to take control of their health behaviors, started a private health coaching practice, and co-founded a Chicago coffee and tea company called Sputnik Coffee. Not knowing what the future holds is what excites Diarmuid.



MOLLY MCGRAIL (Secretary)

irelandnetworkchicago@gmail.com

A graduate of National University of Ireland, Galway, M.A. Arts Policy and Practice, Molly has since worked as the Event Manager at the French-American Chamber of Commerce, Chicago. Fluent in French and Italian, and continuing to learn Irish after a Gaeltacht Summer Award in 2018 in Gaath Dobhair, Molly joined the Committee in 2017 and was elected Secretary in 2018. Although a native of Houston, Texas, Molly has lived in six different U.S. states and two foreign countries, and is always looking for an excuse to get back to Ireland.



JOE MCKITTRICK (Treasurer)

macsitric@gmail.com

Joe is one of the original three founding directors of the Ireland Network Chicago in 2003. From a career perspective, Joe was recently awarded 'Circle of Excellence' by his current employer, PNC Bank, for being the Top Treasury Manager in the country in 2017. He has had a successful career in the finance industry for over 20 years in Chicago. Joe hails from a true GAA family of 9 kids from Swords, Co. Dublin, played Rugby for his university in England and regrets not giving soccer a go in 'his younger days'. Favorite quote: "Be yourself, everyone else is already taken." (Oscar Wilde)



RORY MONE

rmone@koenigrubloff.com

Rory Mone is a Real Estate broker with Berkshire Hathaway. He has more than 20 years experience with real estate and construction of investment properties. He is originally from Clontibret, Co. Monaghan, Ireland and has been living in the U.S. for 21 years. He is very passionate about all types of sports and a huge fan of the GAA, where he played for the Monaghan county. Rory also played rugby with the Southside Irish Rugby Club. Rory enjoys exploring the world with his wife, Nathalie who is originally from Brazil.



JENNA ORR

jennaorr93@gmail.com

Jenna, originally from Belfast, is an Advertising Executive and our newest member to join the Ireland Network Committee. After graduating from Northumbria University in 2015, she came over to Chicago as an au pair for the year and fell in love with the city. Jenna then began her career at Vibrant Media in London and has recently transferred over to their Chicago office. Growing up Jenna was a competitive swimmer, representing Team Ireland in International competitions and was a finalist in the Northern Ireland Irish dance championships.

Too much work,
and no vacation,
deserves at least
a small libation.
So hail! my friends,
& raise your glasses,
work's the curse
of the
drinking classes.

~ Oscar Wilde ~



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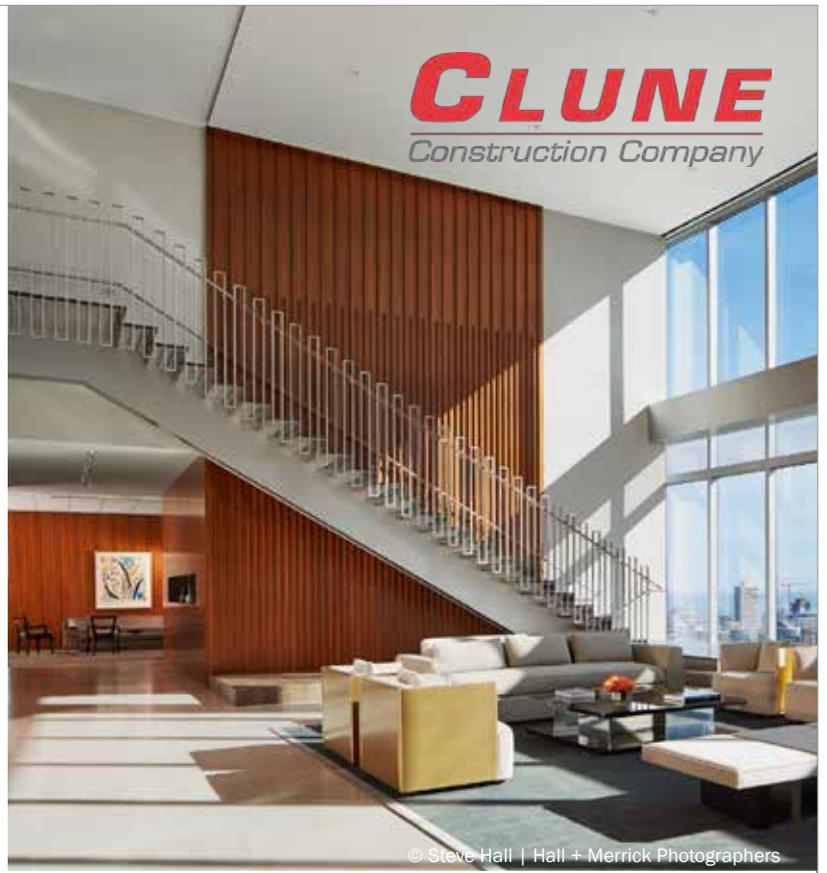
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The Kerryman would like to congratulate the Ireland Network Chicago on their 16th annual ball.



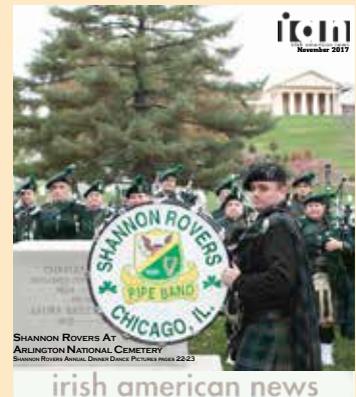
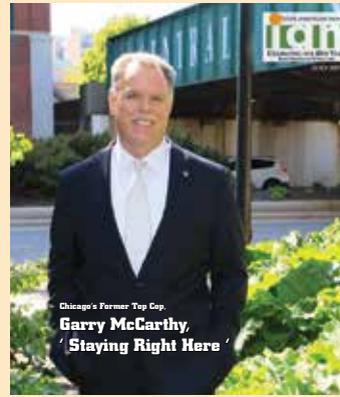
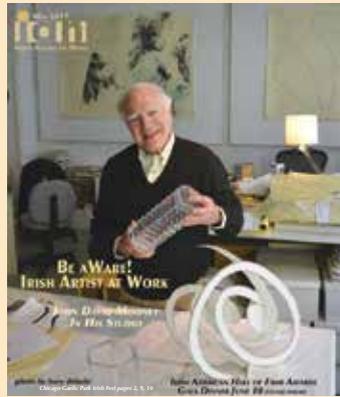
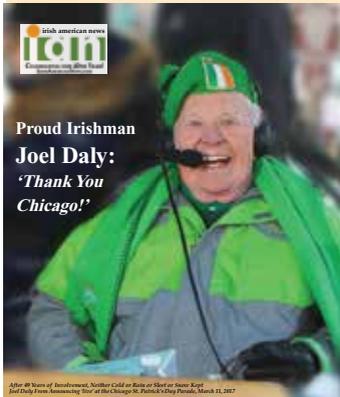
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Wishing Ireland Network of Chicago
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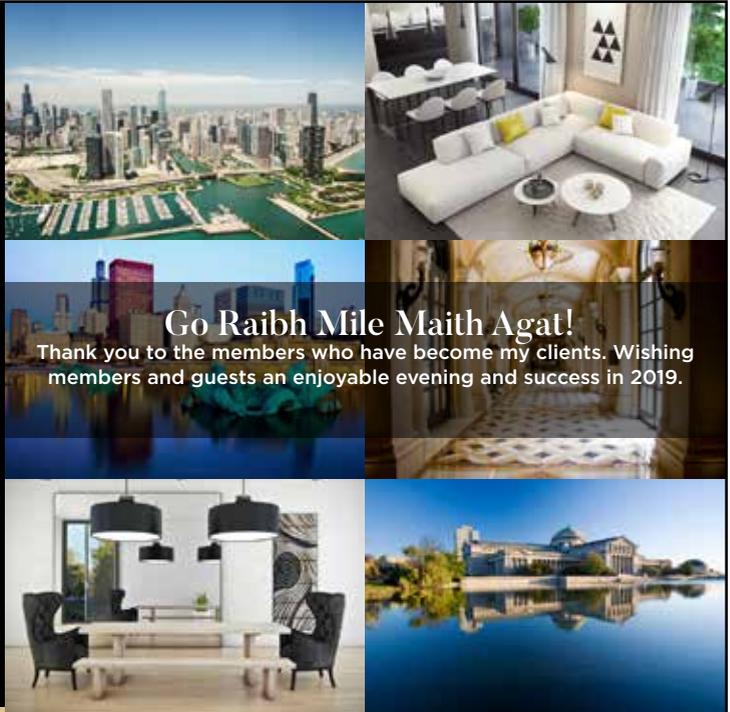
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Go Raibh Mile Maith Agat!

Thank you to the members who have become my clients. Wishing members and guests an enjoyable evening and success in 2019.



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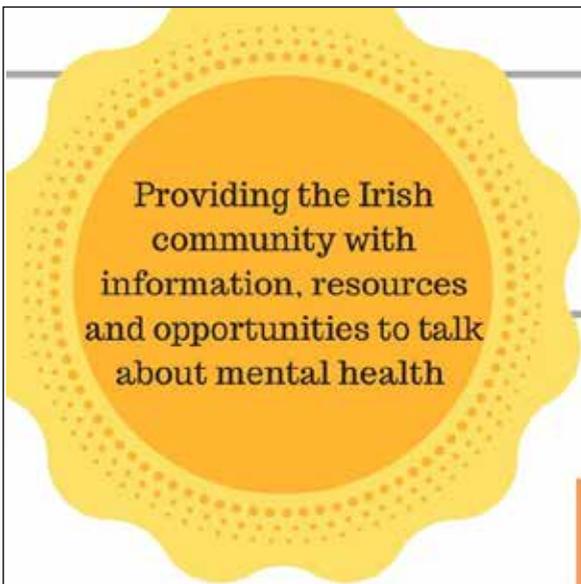
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Orchard Electric Inc
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are excited and proud to be
associated with Ireland Network
Chicago and wish the executive
board, advisory board, members and
guests an enjoyable evening and to
health, happiness and success in 2019.

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Donna O'Rourke



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*The Irish American Heritage Center congratulates
the Ireland Network on its 16th Annual Ball*

2019 UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH 16:

St. Patrick's Festival

MARCH 17:

St. Patrick's Day Celebration

APRIL 27:

Irish American Hall of Fame Gala

JULY 12, 13 and 14:

Irish Fest



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