



21st Annual Ball

— FEBRUARY 8, 2025 —


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EVENT APP

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WELCOME FROM THE PRESIDENT OF IRELAND NETWORK CHICAGO



Céad míle failte,

It is with great joy and excitement that I welcome you all to the 21st Ireland Network Chicago Ball! Tonight, we gather once again to celebrate the vibrant spirit of our Irish community here in the heart of Chicago. Whether you've traveled from near or far, your presence makes this evening truly special as we come together to honor our shared heritage, forge new connections, and create memories that will last a lifetime.

As the twelfth president, I am honored to host my first ball in this role, continuing the proud tradition of the Ireland Network Chicago as the leading Ireland Network in the United States. Chicago, with its rich cultural and social significance, serves as a vital hub, underscoring the network's mission to connect and unite the Irish community.

I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the Executive Committee for their tireless dedication and hard work in organizing this remarkable event. Your commitment to making each year better than the last is truly commendable. Special thanks to the entire team at the Drake Hotel for providing us with such an exceptional venue and service. Your efforts to enhance the experience year after year do not go unnoticed and are deeply appreciated.

We could not host this event without the incredible support of our sponsors. We extend our deepest gratitude to our presenting sponsors, CoreFX and Sterling Engineering, whose generosity and support have made this event possible. Additionally, we thank our partner sponsors Mike Clune & the Irish American Partnership, EOS IT Solutions, Gensler, Kerry, Kelso Burnett, Ornuá Foods, Syska Hennessy Group, and Vaughan Hospitality, along with a strong cast of supporting sponsors, for their invaluable contributions.

This past year has been another record-breaking one for the Ireland Network Chicago, filled with remarkable achievements and memorable events. It truly stands as a landmark year for our organization. Among the significant milestones, we welcomed new leadership, including our new Treasurer, Laura Clancy, and our new Secretary, Julianne Cox, whose expertise and dedication have helped us move from strength to strength. As we look ahead, we are committed to further strengthening our committee, ensuring we continue to grow the network and maintain the dynamic programming that our members value and enjoy. I am personally excited about the opportunities ahead and the continued success of our vibrant community.

I'd like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the Irish Government, whose support through their Emigrant Support Programme has been instrumental in enabling much of the work we do at the Ireland Network Chicago. Their generous grant has allowed us to thrive and continue making a significant impact in our community. I extend special and sincere thanks to Consul General of Ireland, Brian Cahalane, Vice Consul Pádraig Manning, and the entire consular team for their unwavering support and belief in our mission. Your presence here tonight and your continuous encouragement mean the world to us and strengthen the bonds between us.

As always, we will be hosting a raffle this evening, with all proceeds supporting the incredible efforts of our charity partners, Irish Community Services and Concern Worldwide. Thanks to our generous donors, we have an array of amazing prizes up for grabs!!

Tonight, we have the distinct honor of presenting the annual IN Spirit Award to an extraordinary individual whose contributions have left a lasting impact on our community. This year's recipient, Dolores Connolly, has shown unwavering dedication and support for the Irish community in Chicago and beyond. Dolores has been a driving force behind numerous initiatives, bringing people together, fostering cultural connections, and embodying the spirit of generosity and community that our network holds dear. Her tireless efforts and inspiring leadership make her truly deserving of this recognition, and we are thrilled to celebrate her achievements tonight.

For now, enjoy the wonderful atmosphere and take full advantage of the great night we have in store. Let's make it a night to remember – have a fantastic time, and don't forget to hit the dance floor!

Sláinte,

Craig O'Halloran
President, Ireland Network Chicago



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ORDER OF THE EVENING



6:00 P.M. CHAMPAGNE RECEPTION

7:45 P.M. WELCOME

Craig O'Halloran, INC
President
Brian Cahalane,
Consul General of Ireland
in Chicago

**7:55 P.M. IRISH AND AMERICAN
NATIONAL ANTHEMS**

Paddy Homan

8:00 P.M. DINNER

**9:00 P.M. IN SPIRIT AWARD
PRESENTATION**

Craig O'Halloran, INC
President
Margaret Rose Keating,
INC Executive Director
Dolores Connolly, 2025
Honoree

9:20 P.M. RAFFLE DRAWINGS

9:30 P.M. LIVE MUSIC AND DANCING

Rendezvous Music
VISIT THE FRENCH ROOM FOR
THE IRISH COFFEE STATION AND TO
CREATE PHOTOBOOTH MEMORIES

12:00 A.M. AFTER PARTY

The Drake – Club
International Room
THE PARTY CONTINUES WITH DJ,
DANCING AND LATE NIGHT SNACKS
UNTIL 2AM!

*At time of printing



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2025 BALL RAFFLE

100% OF RAFFLE PROCEEDS BENEFIT:



RAFFLE PRIZES INCLUDE :

TRIP TWO IRELAND

2 ROUND TRIP TICKETS ON AER LINGUS

(*Blackout dates apply)

DINING IN STYLE

DINNER FOR 10 AT CHICAGO CUT

OTHER EXCITING EXPERIENCES INCLUDE:

- Afternoon tea for four at The Drake
- Four tickets to a Chicago Bulls game including a signed Zach Lavine jersey and swag bag
- Hotel Zachery in Wrigleyville
- Four tickets to see Chicago Fire FC at Soldier Field including soccer ball signed by Kellyn Acosta (USMNT)
- Four passes to Centennial Wheel at Navy Pier
- Four tickets to Wrigley View – Cubs Rooftop
- Mother's Day tea at The Wolfhound Bar and Kitchen
- Two tickets to a White Sox ball game
- Two VIP passes to the 2025 Chicago Irish Film Festival

PLUS – GIFT CARDS AND VOUCHERS TO FAVORITE LOCAL ESTABLISHMENTS:

- Kaiser Tiger Gastropub
- Carol's Country Bar
- Cody's Public House
- The Dearborn
- Fádo Irish Bar
- Farm Bar Rivers Restaurant
- D4 Irish Pub
- Gaelic Park Kaiser Tiger
- The Kerryman
- LG's Bar & Kitchen
- Lizzie McNeill's
- The Reservoir
- Vaughan's Hospitality Group
- Wilde Bar and Restaurant

*At time of printing

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Message from Consul General Brian Cahalane

February 08, 2025

A chairde, dear friends,

On behalf of the Irish Government, I would like to congratulate the Ireland Network on another remarkable year of connecting and supporting the Irish community in Chicago. In particular, I want to recognise with great appreciation the work of the Executive Committee and Advisory Board in offering such excellent opportunities for economic, cultural, and social engagement.

The Ireland Network is unmatched in the quality and diversity of its programming, including its thought-provoking IN Conversations, its monthly social receptions, and so many other special events. I know that organising these events requires an incredible amount of work behind the scenes and I thank all of those who give their time and energy so generously.

Over the past year, the Consulate hosted a number of high-level visitors in Chicago, including then Tánaiste Micheál Martin and Ambassador Geraldine Byrne Nason. Both the Tánaiste and the Ambassador had the opportunity to engage with the Ireland Network during their visits and were deeply impressed by the work that the organisation does in connecting Chicago's Irish community.

The Consulate is proud to work in the city that is home to the oldest and most active Ireland Network in the United States. I am delighted that the Irish Government continues to support the Ireland Network's mission, through the Emigrant Support Programme, to provide a welcoming space for Irish, Irish Americans, and friends of Ireland throughout Chicago.

Personally, I want to thank the Ireland Network for the warm welcome I received upon my arrival to Chicago in September. I greatly appreciated your friendship and support as I settled in to the city and I look forward to continuing to work with you all in the years ahead.

I wish the Ireland Network every future success with all that it does for Chicago's Irish community.

Le gach dea-ghuí.

Brian Cahalane
Ard-Chonsal na hÉireann, Consul General of Ireland





EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR LETTER



Dear Friends,

Welcome to the 21st Annual Ireland Network Ball! Throughout the event preparation, I am constantly reminded of something so fundamental to the success the Ball — and really to the success of the Ireland Network itself: **community**. It takes a community to bring the vision of the Ireland Network Chicago to life, and this evening would not be possible without the tireless dedication and exceptional talents of our **Executive Committee**. These talented individuals are the best and brightest of the Chicago Irish community, and it is my honor to work alongside them. A special shout-out to **Jackie Theodore** and **Connor Kelly**, our phenomenal Ball Co-Chairs, whose dedication has made tonight possible and a fabulous night for all of us!

This evening marks a very special occasion as we honor a remarkable woman who embodies the true spirit of the Ireland Network community: **Dolores Connolly**, our 2025 IN Spirit Honoree. Dolores is an extraordinary leader—CEO of Sterling Engineering, a long-time champion of Concern Worldwide, and an early supporter of Ireland Network Chicago, just to name a few of her many accomplishments. Over the last few months I've had the privilege of getting to know her better, and it has become clear to me that Dolores not only supports her community, she is supported by it in return. Tonight, her friends, family, and colleagues are here to celebrate her, and I cannot think of a more fitting tribute to the power of a supportive network! Dolores is a beacon of leadership and a role model for us all. She embodies everything the Ireland Network Chicago stands for: commitment to community, relentless support for others, and passion for our shared culture. Thank you Dolores for graciously accepting the IN Spirit Award Honor!

Our community has shared profound losses this past year. **Senator Billy Lawless** and **Johnny McEneaney** were pillars of our community—men whose dedication to supporting immigrants and giving back to their fellow Irish in Chicago will continue to inspire us all. I'll never forget Billy's moving IN Spirit Award speech at the 2023 Ball, or how Johnny and Imelda gracefully (and artfully) opened the IN Ball dance floor over the years. Billy and Johnny leave us with a legacy of service and a call to support to one another. Their unwavering commitment to our community is how we will proudly remember each of them. Our hearts are with their families and the many lives each touched. We honor their memory in our gathering tonight.

I also want to take a moment to thank our **IN Leadership Team: President Craig O'Halloran, Secretary Julianne Cox, and Treasurer Laura Clancy**. Working alongside such inspiring individuals makes my job a joy, and I am endlessly grateful for your support. Thank you as well to our **Advisory Board**, whose guidance and wisdom have been invaluable to the continued success of our organization.

A very special welcome to a new member to our community, **Consul General Brian Cahalane**, who has been a wonderful friend to both the Network and the Irish community here in Chicago since his arrival in the Windy City. Thank you for your continued support and for strengthening the ties between Ireland and the Midwest. The Consulate Office's dedication to Ireland Network Chicago, has truly made INC the Crossroads of Irish America!

Lastly, thank you to our incredible and generous **Sponsors** and **Supporters** of tonight's Ball - your contributions to this event help maintain Ireland Network Chicago Events and Programming throughout the year. We value your support and are thankful for your belief in our mission.

It is my great honor to continue the work of so many who have come before me, supporting and welcoming the Irish community here in Chicago on behalf of Ireland Network Chicago.

I hope you all have a wonderful evening celebrating the strength, spirit, and success of our community. After all, it takes a community to reach such incredible heights—so let's make tonight a celebration of all we've accomplished and all that lies ahead.

Now, let's have a Ball!

Margaret Rose Keating
Executive Director,
Ireland Network Chicago

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IRELAND NETWORK IN SPIRIT AWARD 2025

ABOUT THE AWARD

Each year, Ireland Network Chicago honors an individual who has made significant and sustained contributions to the Chicago Irish community with the IN Spirit Award. This Award expresses our profound gratitude and appreciation for an individual's incredible service to the Irish community.

It is our great privilege to honor **DOLORES CONNOLLY** with the 2025 IN Spirit Award! Dolores exemplifies the mission of Ireland Network Chicago.

ABOUT DOLORES CONNOLLY

Dolores Connolly was born and raised in Longford, Ireland. She attended Loreto College, Mullingar before receiving her International Certification in Early Childhood Education from Association Montessori Internationale, London in 1976. Her quest for travel and adventure was answered when Alcuin Montessori School of River Forest, Illinois, came to Ireland to recruit her to work at their school in 1979. Over time, Dolores' professional ambitions changed and so too her career path. She started her corporate career with AOE / Danka Corporation, a global technology company. Over fifteen years, she worked through the ranks to become Regional Vice President.

In the late 1990's Dolores joined her husband Dan, founder of Sterling Engineering Companies to support the company's strategic plan to expand their service offerings. In 2002, she was appointed CEO of Sterling Engineering and Sterling Staffing Inc., a position she holds to this day. Currently operating in 25 states, with 500+ employees and annual revenues of \$50+ million dollars.

Sterling Engineering recently expanded their operations in the European market opening EMEA Headquarters in Ireland, with offices in Dublin and Galway. This new venture is driven by Sterling's global client demands to expand their world class engineering and specialized technical recruiting services beyond North America.

From Dolores' early days volunteering with the Simon Community (an organisation striving to end homelessness in Ireland) to teaching inner city children in Dublin, service to the community has been a constant thread throughout her life. Her passion for social justice, equality and education for all is at the core of her philanthropy focus. This has driven much of her civic engagements and commitments over the years. As a Board Member for Concern Worldwide US, civic engagement is not just a role but it is a testament to who Dolores is and what she stands for.

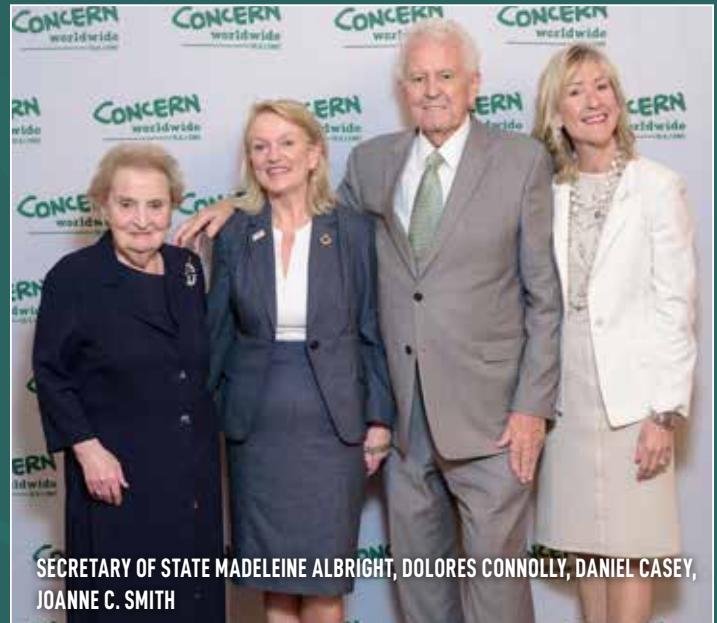


DOLORES CONNOLLY

Dolores is proudly involved, and an active member of a number of organisations:

- Concern Worldwide. Executive Board Member since 1999
- International Women’s Forum, Chicago. Member since 1998
- Chicago–Galway Sister Cities Committee. Member since 1995
- Chicago Council on Global Affairs, Presidents Circle, USA. Member since 2001
- Women Minority Business Enterprise,(WMBE) Chicago. Member since 2013
- Irish Books, Arts and Music (iBAM!) Award, Person of the Year, 2018
- Chicago Mother Jones Statue Committee 2021

Today, Dolores and her husband Dan live in Lincoln Park, Chicago. She credits him for his constant faith in her capabilities and ambitions. His unwavering support has allowed her to break glass ceilings throughout her career. They enjoy a life of adventure together while balancing their work and philanthropic endeavours both locally and globally.



SECRETARY OF STATE MADELEINE ALBRIGHT, DOLORES CONNOLLY, DANIEL CASEY, JOANNE C. SMITH



RAHM EMANUEL, DANIEL CASEY, SABINA HIGGINS, PRESIDENT OF IRELAND MICHAEL D. HIGGINS, DOLORES CONNOLLY



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2024 IN REVIEW

EVENTS ARE THE LIFEBLOOD OF IRELAND NETWORK CHICAGO, WHERE OUR MEMBERS CAN CONNECT WITH, AND CONTRIBUTE TO A STRONGER, MORE VIBRANT IRISH COMMUNITY. WE RAN A FULL PROGRAM OF EVENTS IN 2024, INCLUDING 12 FIRST FRIDAY HAPPY HOURS, 2 SIGNATURE EVENTS, 5 IN CONVERSATIONS, 2 GROUP OUTINGS, 1 CHARITY/SERVICE OUTING AND SUPPORTED A NUMBER OF PARTNER EVENTS.

A special thanks to the Emigrant Support Programme and Ireland's Department of Foreign Affairs for their generous support which makes many of these events possible.



JANUARY

FIRST FRIDAY The Kerryman Irish Bar

PARTNER EVENT Irish American Partnership breakfast-Nollaig na mBan Women's Leadership Celebration with Mary Robinson

FEBRUARY

FIRST FRIDAY Celtic Crossing Irish Pub

PARTNER EVENT Breakfast Reception with former An Tanaiste Micheál Martin at The Drake

SIGNATURE EVENT 20th Annual Ireland Network Ball at The Drake

PARTNER EVENT Chicago Irish Film Festival Opening Night

MARCH

FIRST FRIDAY Fado Irish Pub

VOLUNTEERING EVENT Care for Real Edgewater

PARTNER EVENT Irish American Partnership St. Patrick's Day Breakfast

PARTNER EVENT Irish Fellowship Club St. Patrick's Day Dinner

SPECIAL EVENT Ireland Network Women in Business Forum

IN CONVERSATION Doing Business in Chicago

APRIL

FIRST FRIDAY The Embassy Public House

OUTING Chicago Hounds Game with team meet & greet in VIP Suite at Seat Geek Stadium

MAY

FIRST FRIDAY The Wolfhound Bar & Kitchen

SPECIAL EVENT Chicago J1 Orientation Webinar in partnership with Irish Community Services

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Galway Arms

PARTNER EVENT 2024 Women of Concern Luncheon



JUNE

FIRST FRIDAY D4 Irish Pub & Café

SIGNATURE EVENT Annual Summer Boat Cruise on the Chicago River

IN CONVERSATION Exploring the African American Irish Diaspora

IN CONVERSATION Commercial Real Estate: The future of Workplace and Downtown

JULY

FIRST FRIDAY Chief O'Neill's Pub & Restaurant

PARTNER EVENT Bus trip to GAA Semi-finals at Gaelic Park

AUGUST

FIRST FRIDAY Kaiser Tiger

OUTING Air and Water Show VIP Experience at B. Coleman Aviation

SEPTEMBER

FIRST FRIDAY Corcoran's Grill & Pub

IN CONVERSATION Discussion with Minister for the Economy of Northern Ireland Conor Murphy MLA and US Special Envoy to Northern Ireland for Economic Affairs, Joseph P. Kennedy III held in partnership with the Irish American Partnership

MEMBERS ONLY EVENT Breakfast Reception with former Taoiseach Enda Kenny in support of Cancer Fund for Children

OCTOBER

FIRST FRIDAY Mrs Murphy's Irish Bistro

PARTNER EVENT Halloween Hooley with Irish Community Services

NOVEMBER

FIRST FRIDAY LG's Bar & Kitchen

PARTNER EVENT The Ireland Funds Annual Chicago Dinner

PARTNER EVENT iBAM Gala Awards Dinner at Irish American Heritage Center

IN CONVERSATION The Future of Agritech and Foodtech

DECEMBER

FIRST FRIDAY Emerald Loop Bar & Grill

PARTNER EVENT Irish Fellowship Club of Chicago Christmas Luncheon



CHICAGO HOUNDS MATCH + VIP RECEPTION



FIRST FRIDAY @ THE WOLFHOUD



AIR & WATER SHOW VIP EXPERIENCE @ B. COLEMAN AVIATION



IN CONVERSATION @ GENSLER



MEMBERS ONLY EVENT - RECEPTION WITH FORMER TAOISEACH ENDA KENNY



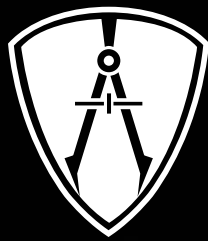
FIRST FRIDAY @ CORCORAN'S



IRISH AMERICAN PARTNERSHIP - ANNUAL ST. PATRICK'S DAY BREAKFAST



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2025 IN Spirit Award Honoree
Dolores Connolly



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Our congratulations to Spirit Award recipient
Dolores Connolly, CEO of Sterling Engineering.



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**CONGRATULATIONS TO
DOLORES CONNOLLY
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2024-2025 IRELAND NETWORK CHICAGO COMMITTEE MEMBERS



CRAIG O'HALLORAN - PRESIDENT

Craig is an experienced leader in architecture and design, currently leading Genster's Global Professional Service Firms practice. With over a decade at Genster, Craig has skillfully navigated industry challenges, fostering innovation in workplace design and strategy. From Shankill, Dublin and a DIT Bolton Street Alum, Craig has called Chicago home since 2016.



LAURA CLANCY - TREASURER

Laura is a proud Clare woman having grown up in the picturesque village of Kildysart. She graduated from The University of Limerick with a Bachelor's degree in Business with French. Laura then went on to train as a Chartered Accountant with KPMG in Dublin before relocating to Chicago in 2020. She is currently a Financial Controller with Glanbia Nutritionals in downtown Chicago.



JULIANNE COX - SECRETARY

Julianne is the Director for Business Development at Invest Northern Ireland. Her role involves working closely with companies in the Chicago area and across the Midwest that are considering setting up an office in the UK or Europe. Julianne grew up in Listowel, County Kerry but also has strong ties to County Roscommon. Her husband, Martin, is also from Listowel and they moved to Chicago together in 2017. Julianne attended Trinity College Dublin and Queen's University, Belfast.



DEAN ARROWSMITH

Dean is a Dundalk native and currently works as the manager of Soccer In The Community for Chicago Fire FC. He is also the founder of Head in the Game, a mental health non-profit based out of Ireland promoting a positive discussion around mental health in sports.



GERRY BRETT

Gerry is originally from Oak Park, IL, and moved to Rockport, Texas in the 4th grade. He earned a Marketing Degree from St. Mary's University in San Antonio while playing real football. He works as a wealth advisor at Metropolitan Capital Bank in River North. He focuses on assisting families and businesses in making informed financial decisions. He is an Irish citizen and his grandparents hail from Mayo, Limerick, & Dublin. He currently resides with his wife Maria & six children in Edison Park. He serves as the sporting chair for the St. Paul of the Cross Men's Club. He enjoys volunteering with the Big Shoulders Fund, Mission of Our Lady of Angels, and the Skokie Rotary Club.



THOMAS CARMODY

Thomas graduated in May 2022 with a Bachelor's in Information Technology and Management. With a keen interest in photo and video editing, Thomas continues to sharpen and utilize his skills helping the IN build their social media reach. He hopes to one day have a career in the theater, television & film industry.



ELLEN CONVERY

Ellen, originally from Crossgar, Co. Down, Ireland, is a proud graduate of Queen's University Belfast, where she earned a degree in Food Science and a Master's in Marketing. In 2021, she relocated to Chicago and now works at EverPass, a leading provider of live sports entertainment and marketing solutions for businesses. Ellen joined the Ireland Network in 2019 and enjoys helping to create a friendly, welcoming space for Irish expats and locals in Chicago.



RORY CONVERY

From Belfast, Co. Antrim with family ties to Co. Derry and Co. Fermanagh, Rory grew up in Dubai, U.A.E. He moved to the U.S. in 2009 to attend the University of Notre Dame where he also played rugby. He moved to Chicago in 2013, where he became a member of the IN, joining the committee in 2020. He is an attorney in the General Counsel's Office of RSM US LLP.



FRANK COSGRAVE

Originally from County Mayo, Ireland, Frank Cosgrave relocated to the US in 2013. As an Account Manager at EOS IT Solutions, he has demonstrated a high level of technical sales expertise and a strong commitment to his global customers. His perspective, shaped by both his Irish heritage and his professional journey, adds a unique and beneficial dimension to his contributions. Frank lives in La Grange with his wife Jane and their two children, Mia and Darragh.



KRISTEN FIELD

Professionally, Kristen currently serves as the Executive Director of Friends of Prentice, committed to superior healthcare spanning the full spectrum of a woman's life. In 2020, Kristen was named among the 26 Most Influential Chicagoans for her extensive contributions to the community. She is thrilled to be an active member in the Chicago Irish American community.



CONNOR KELLY

Connor is a lifelong Chicagoan who enjoys celebrating his Irish heritage through volunteer organizations like the Ireland Network. He currently lives in the Pilsen neighborhood, but spends plenty of time in Beverly, where he grew up and many of his friends and family call home. Connor has 15+ years of experience working in the special event/hospitality industry, playing a part in many of Chicago's largest and premier events including the Chicago Marathon, Taste of Chicago, Lollapalooza, and the Cub's and Blackhawk's victory parades/rallies, and recently the 2024 Democratic National Convention.



MEGHAN LEE

Meghan is Creative Director for the YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago. She has more than 20 years experience as a graphic designer, and brings a well-rounded and strategic approach to branding. Meghan has been on the Ireland Network committee since 2021, focusing on branding development and membership growth. She is passionate about donating her time and talent to organizations whose missions align with her values, and about making long-lasting connections with people in the Irish-American community of Chicago.



DYLAN MALONEY

Dylan is a Chicago native but with Irish ancestry on both sides of his family through his parents. Dylan works as an Electrical Engineer for DLR Group. He is excited to be a member of the IN committee and hopes to help build a community where Irish-Americans feel more connected to their Irish roots and visitors from Ireland can have a little slice of home across the pond.



BRENDAN MCNULTY

Brendan is a first-generation Irish American with deep roots in Ireland, spanning across Grange (Co. Sligo), Beaufort (Co. Kerry), Ballyshannon (Co. Donegal) and Belleek (Co. Fermanagh). His connection to his heritage is further enriched by his five-year stint living in a quaint village in Garrison, Co. Fermanagh. He has a Bachelor's Degree from Northern Illinois University in Marketing & Sales and earned a Graduate degree from Atlantic Technological University Sligo in Marketing. Now based in Chicago (Logan Square) Brendan works for his family owned logistics business and leads a social athletic club, fostering connections and promoting an active lifestyle.



RORY MONE

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 and has been living in the U.S. for 21 years. He is very passionate about all types of sports including rugby and GAA where he played for Co. Monaghan.



BRIGHDE MULHOLLAND

Originally from Rostrevor in Co. Down, Brighde is a Principal kdb Developer at First Derivative, a Capital Markets consulting firm, based in Newry, Co. Down. She's currently onsite in CME. She graduated from Queens in Belfast with a bachelor in Maths with Statistics and has previously worked in London, Dublin, Newry and Singapore.



2024-2025 IRELAND NETWORK CHICAGO COMMITTEE MEMBERS (CONTINUED)



CAHIR O'DOHERTY

Cahir is a native of Co. Derry, immigrating to Chicago in 2016. Cahir is the Director of Digital Marketing & Strategy for Ricoh, and is responsible for managing full web development across North America. Cahir has a honors degree from the University of Liverpool and has a Masters of Science from the University of Ulster. He is married to Meghan and they have 3 children.



DAVID O'FLAHERTY

Originally from Dublin, David studied Sports Science at TUD and subsequently went on to obtain a master's in Business & Management from TCD. David joined Enterprise Ireland as a graduate in 2016 and has gone on to become the VP Food & Beverage FDI for North America. His new role resulted in his relocation to Chicago in 2021.



DAVID SELLARS

David is an Enterprise Sales Director at Everest Transportation Systems where he specializes in providing carrier capacity for drayage moves and full truckload shipments throughout the US and Canada. He has held this role for almost 20 years with 3 different organizations during that time period. David is the grandson of Robert & Patricia Flood, who introduced him to Ireland in the summer of 1997 where he traveled to the Emerald Isle for the very first time.



DYLAN SHEAHAN

Born in Chicago and raised in Killarney, Co. Kerry, Dylan studied Economics & Business at TCD, before making the move back to Chicago. Despite growing up in a family business, The Killarney Brewing and Distilling Company, he works as a Business Analyst. As a new Dad, he doesn't mind the early morning diaper changes which allow him to watch the rugby games.



ASHLEY SUMMERS-BAKER

Ashley is a Program Manager, Sales Force Effectiveness and DE&I leader at BMO US. Raised in Vancouver, BC Canada, Ashley has familial ties to Strabane in County Tyrone and obtained Irish citizenship in 2007. She completed a Masters Degree from Indiana University in 2012 and moved to Chicago shortly after. She currently resides with husband Chris and their miniature schnauzer, Úna, in Roscoe Village.



JACKIE THEODORE

With over two decades of experience as a Senior Project Manager overseeing intricate building projects, Jackie has seamlessly transitioned into her current role as Director of Operations for Custom Home Care, LLC, a distinguished home health care agency serving the Chicago area. Outside of work, she holds a strong affinity for Fighting Illini sports and is an avid music fan.



IRELAND NETWORK COMMITTEE AT THE 2024 ANNUAL BALL

2024-2025 IRELAND NETWORK CHICAGO ADVISORY BOARD



THE ADVISORY BOARD IS TASKED WITH OVERSEEING THE LONG-TERM STRATEGIC VISION AND ENSURING THE CONTINUED GROWTH OF IRELAND NETWORK CHICAGO. THANK YOU TO THE ADVISORY BOARD FOR THEIR DEDICATION AND SERVICE.

RUAIRI BARNWELL

Ruairí is a Principal at DLR Group, a global integrated design firm, where he leads the Smart Buildings Practice. Originally from Tullamore, Co. Offaly, Ruairí moved to Chicago in 2000 after graduating from DIT with a BSc in Engineering. Ruairí has been involved with IN Chicago since its inception in 2003 and has served on the Executive Committee for the past 3 years.

ORLA CASTANEN

Orla is an executive coach and leadership consultant with over 20 years of leadership in finance, operations and strategy. As an adoptive mom, Orla is active in educating herself in the challenges of being a transracial family, becoming a keen advocate for DEI education to provide leaders with concrete, measurable actions to create a more inclusive culture.

GARRETT DIAMOND

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 lives in Oak Park with his wife Katie and their 3 children.

KEN DOOLEY

A native of Ireland, Ken spent several years in the English and Irish Banking industry prior to immigrating to Chicago in 1994. In 2000, Ken made the transition into real estate and is one of Chicago's most sought after real estate professionals—consistently ranked among the top 1% of Brokers for closed transactions by the Chicago Association of Realtors.

EDWARD GALVIN

Edward Galvin is responsible for North America B2B Commercial Payments Sales at Visa, working to grow commercial card portfolios. Edward graduated with a Bachelor of Commerce degree and a Masters of Science from University College Cork. He is a mentor and a certified Co-Active Leadership coach. In addition to the IN Advisory Board, he is also President of the Chicago Irish Film Festival.

CLODAGH LAWLESS

For Irish-born entrepreneur Clodagh Lawless, a deep-rooted love of Irish hospitality became a true calling that has seen the success of many of Chicago's beloved restaurants such as The Gage and Acanto. In 2016, along with her sister Amy, she opened The Dearborn, an ambitious venture in the city's downtown Loop. Clodagh lives in the Portage Park neighborhood of Chicago with her husband Colm and two sons.

VICE CONSUL PÁDRAIG MANNING

Pádraig Mannin is the Vice Consul and Deputy Head of Mission at the Consulate General of Ireland, Chicago. During his time with the Department of Foreign Affairs he has worked on the Irish Government's response to Brexit, North South cooperation, and the Shared Island Initiative. He holds a BA from University College Cork and an MSc from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE).

RAY MCENTEE

Ray McEntee, a licensed U.S. attorney and qualified solicitor in Ireland, England, and Wales, leads the Sports and Entertainment Department at McEntee Law Group. He advises on visa and green card options for professionals in these industries and assists clients in obtaining Irish citizenship through foreign birth registration.

BRIAN MOORE

Brian has been a member of the Ireland Network since its inception and is a past president. He works in Corporate Finance at Exelon (parent company of ComEd) and lives with his wife Sheila, in Lincoln Park and they have three children Dylan (23), Julia (20) and Olivia (18).

DENIS NEVILLE

Denis Neville is founder and CEO of CoreFX Ingredients LLC, a company specializing in the development of turnkey health through nutrition ingredient solutions. With a M.Sc. in Food Science and Technology, Denis has led commercial and technical development roles for the food and beverage industry for over 23 years. Denis' business philosophy is focused on leading with purpose, creativity and innovation.

DONAL O'BRIEN

Donal O'Brien was born and raised in Dublin, Ireland. He attended University College Dublin before emigrating to the United States. He is a partner at the law firm of Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner, LLP where he focuses on mergers and acquisitions and corporate law. He also teaches corporate law at Loyola University Chicago, School of Law.

NORA WALSH

A native of Dublin, Nora moved to Chicago before enrolling at Loyola University to earn a degree in Computer Science. She works as VP of Investor Relations for Gas N Wash. Nora is a Board Member for Weish4Ever: The Andrew Weishar Foundation, a nonprofit that supports teens and young adults battling cancer.

NIAMH WHELAN-REITER

Niamh leads North America Marketing at Avanade bringing focus, creativity and the art of storytelling to help drive growth and results. With a 25+ career that spans Ireland, France and the United States, Niamh is passionate about helping organizations tap into the power of marketing and communications to drive brand awareness and business value. She holds a BS in Business & Marketing Management from Trinity.

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- Exclusive promotions and offers from members and partners
- Opportunity to share insights with our membership and the wider Irish community
- Access to news and thought leadership from business leaders across IN Chicago, Ireland's Department of Foreign Affairs and our partners
- Option to give back to the Chicago Irish community by serving on the Executive Committee
- Direct connection to the vibrant Irish Chicago business and cultural community
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MEMBERS-ONLY / CHARITY PARTNER EVENT: CONCERN WORLDWIDE LUNCHEON



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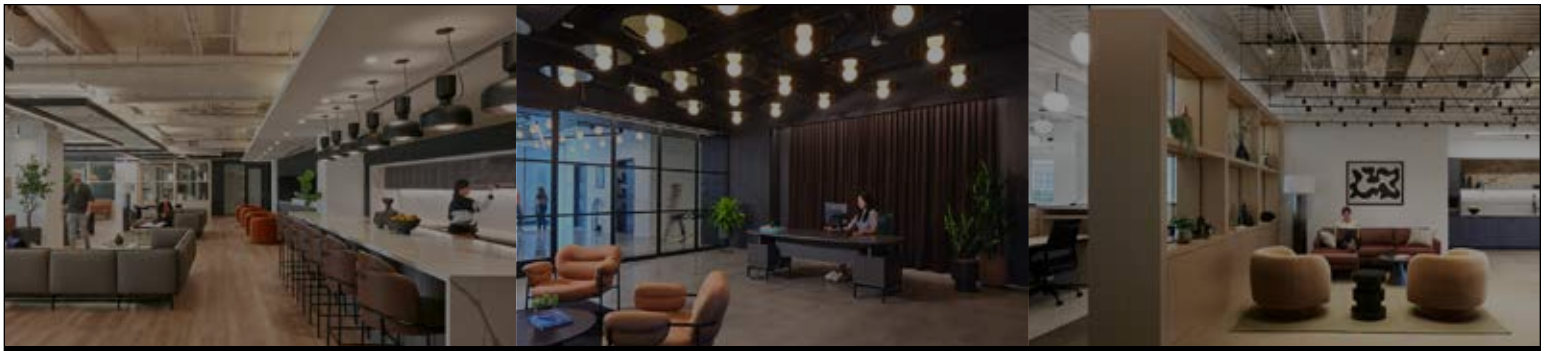
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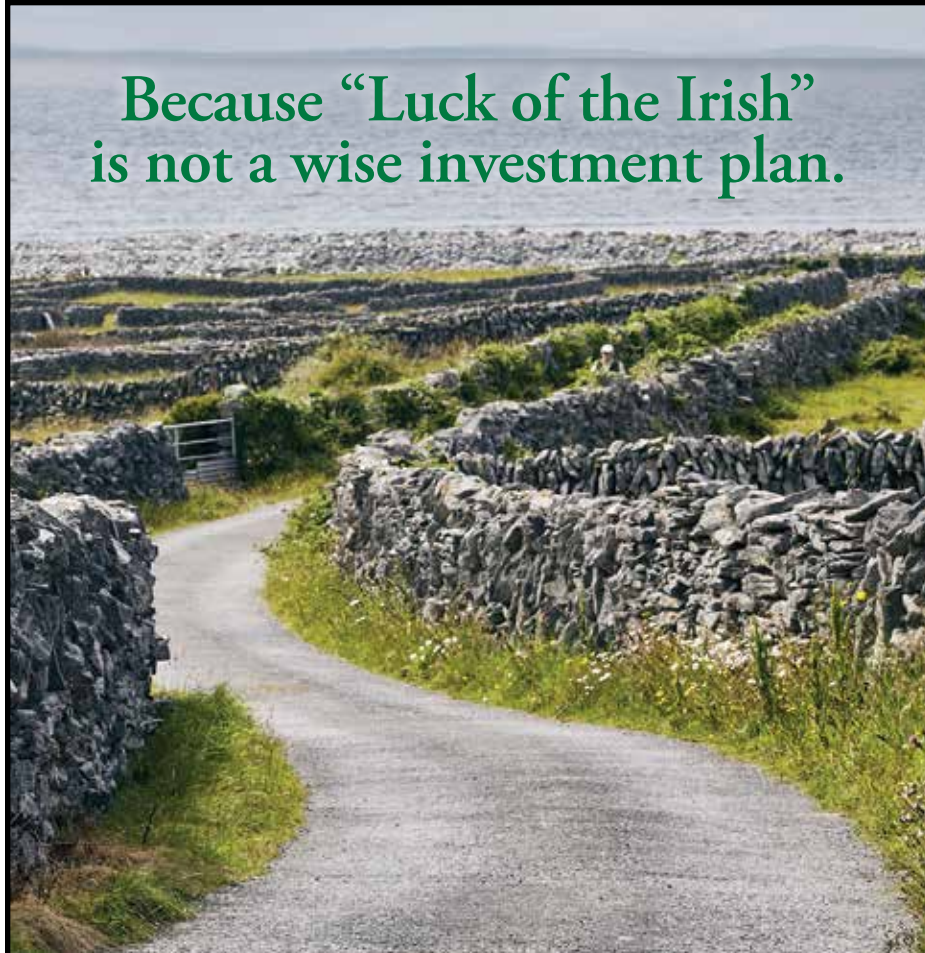


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The Chicago Irish Film Festival is thrilled to celebrate Dolores Connolly, recipient of the IN SPIRIT AWARD 2025 at the Ireland Network Ball!

From her inspiring journey from Longford, Ireland, to CEO of a global enterprise, Dolores has embodied leadership, philanthropy, and a true commitment to community. Her tireless dedication to social justice, education, and Irish culture shines brightly and inspires us all.

Dolores, your incredible achievements and unwavering spirit make this recognition so well-deserved. Your laughter and leadership will always shine through, lighting the way for everyone fortunate enough to know you.

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Celebrates Dolores Connolly

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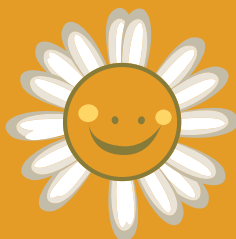
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