



what's the CRAIC



January
2026

A PUBLICATION FROM
**The FRIENDLY
SONS OF
ST. PATRICK**
SAN DIEGO



IN THIS ISSUE:

MEMBERSHIP
RENEWAL

6 NATIONS RUGBY

STEPHAN MOYLAN

COMING EVENTS

EVENTS RECAP

MEMBER BRIEFS



President's Message



Lads!

It's The High Holy Season

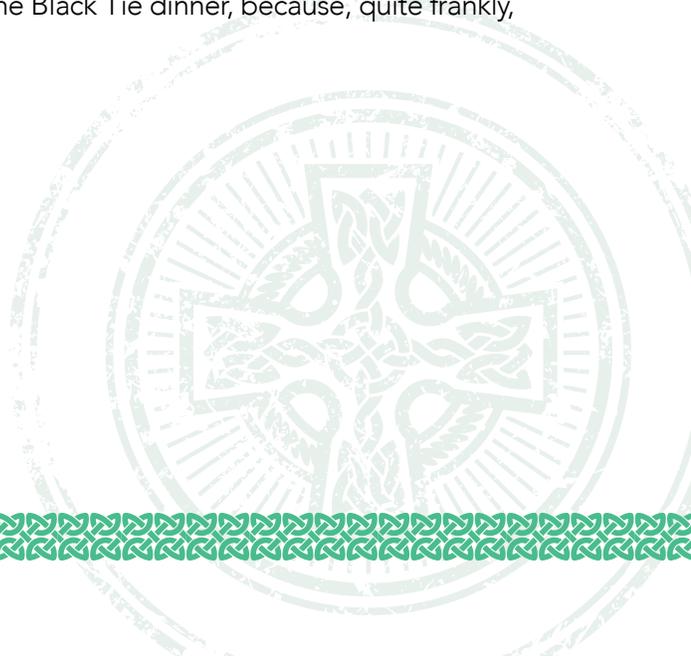
What is the High Holy Season? It's like March Madness – except with fewer buzzer-beaters and way more Guinness and whiskey. We've wrapped up our regular season of parades, Over-the-Line, and Day at the Races, and now it's time to crank things up to tournament mode for the first three months of 2026. The stakes? Raising money and winning the Smiling Irishman contest, voting on the 2026–2027 Board Officer slate at the Membership luncheon, and finally cutting down the nets at the ultimate championship: the annual Black Tie Dinner. It's the Final Four of Irish revelry – brackets busted, cocktails in hand, and everyone playing for the title.

Let's make this High Holy Season one for the ages, lads. Support Smiling Irishman candidate Alex Williams, cheer on the new members at the Membership Luncheon and toast your accomplishments at the Black Tie dinner, because, quite frankly, you've earned it.

Sláinte!

Jim Kilgore

FSOSP President 2025 - 2026





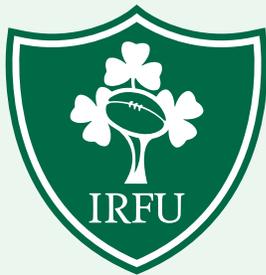
Membership Renewals

As the High Holy Season kicks off this month with the St. Patrick's Day Parade & Festival fundraising event – The Smilin' Irishman Contest – we'd like to remind you it's time for our unofficial new member drive and current membership renewal period.

If you know someone that you believe would be a great addition to our organization, there are several ways to help them attain membership. Visit **Sponsoring A New Member** on our website – Members Section > [Documents](#). There you will find links to help you and your applicant get started. Or contact a board member for more info.

Emailed invoices will be arriving soon for your **2026 membership renewal**. If you signed up for auto-renewal, you will be billed on your anniversary date. If you're not set up this way, please plan to renew on the FSOSP website with a credit card. For your convenience, during renewal you'll have the option to set-up future automatic renewals or continue to pay manually. We can make arrangements for paying by check if necessary.

Please visit friendlysonssd.org/membership-renewal to pay your dues.



Six Nations Rugby Tournament

Features our **Irish National XV**, ranked #3 in the world! Our first Fixture (match, game, test) is against FRANCE on February 5. Streaming LIVE on Peacock – check the app for viewing times here in San Diego!



Round 1 Ireland v France	Thursday, February 5	12:10 pm
Round 2 Ireland v Italy	Saturday, February 14	6:10 am
Round 3 Ireland v England	Saturday, February 21	6:10 am
Round 4 Ireland v Wales	Friday, March 6	12:10 pm
Round 5 Ireland v Scotland	Saturday, March 14	7:10 am

(All times Pacific Time)

Stephen Moylan: The Irishman Who Helped Name a Nation

Stephen Moylan (1737–1811) was an Irish-born patriot whose actions – and words – helped shape the identity of a new country. Born in Cork, Ireland, Moylan emigrated to the American colonies in the mid-18th century, where he quickly became involved in the growing movement for independence.

Moylan is best known for being one of the earliest recorded figures to use the term “**United States of America.**” In January 1776, months before the Declaration of Independence was adopted, he used the phrase in official correspondence while serving the Continental Army. At a time when the colonies were still debating their future, Moylan’s choice of words reflected a forward-looking vision of unity and nationhood that would soon be realized.

His contributions extended far beyond that. Moylan served as an aide-de-camp to General George Washington, became the first Muster-Master General of the Continental Army, and later commanded the 4th Continental Light Dragoons. He was among the few foreign-born officers to lead an American cavalry regiment, earning respect for both his leadership and dedication to the revolutionary cause.



Moylan was also a prominent member of Philadelphia’s Irish-American community. He was deeply involved with the **Friendly Sons of St. Patrick**, founded in 1771 to support Irish immigrants and preserve Irish heritage. The group counted many influential patriots among its members, including George Washington as an honorary member. Through the Friendly Sons, Moylan helped strengthen ties between Irish immigrants and the broader revolutionary movement, reinforcing the idea that Irish identity and American independence were closely linked.

Stephen Moylan’s life highlights the lasting Irish influence on America’s founding. As a soldier, community leader, and early voice for a united nation, he helped fight for independence – and helped give the new country its name.



IrishAmerica250 is an initiative dedicated to recognizing and celebrating the profound role Irish Americans have played in shaping the United States over the past 250 years. From the signing of the Declaration of Independence to the present day, Irish heritage is deeply woven into the fabric of American democracy and culture.

Throughout this year as the nation celebrates the United States Semiquincentennial, we’ll be teaming up with IrishAmerica250 to help tell the stories and join the national celebration of Irish American’s contributions to our nation’s democracy.

Read more about IA250 here: irishamerica250.org



Upcoming Events

Our events and those of other organizations the FSOSP support offer something for every member. As they have become more numerous and complex, Sons participation is necessary for success! Please contact the event Chair listed to offer your time and talents. The more you participate the more you get out of your membership!

Smilin' Irishman Contest (see ad)

Saturday, January 17 • 6-9 pm

McGregor's Ale House

10475 San Diego Mission Rd, San Diego

Advance Tickets: \$20 single | \$30 couple

\$25 single | \$35 couple at the door

Chair: Chris Hodgetts

Annual Membership Luncheon (see ad)

Friday, February 13 • 11:00 am-3:00 pm

Tom Ham's Lighthouse

2150 Harbor Island Dr, San Diego

Advance Tickets: \$80 or \$640 Table of 8 Seats

Until January 26

\$85 or \$680 Table of 8 seats Jan 26-Feb 2

\$90 at the door after Feb 2

Chair: Adam Powell

Black Tie Dinner (see ad)

Friday, March 13 • 5:30 pm - 11 pm

Marina Village Seaside Room

1936 Quivira Way, San Diego

Advance Tickets: \$99 or \$792 Table of 8 Seats

Until March 8

\$125 or \$1000 Table of 8 seats Mar 9-12

\$150 at the door

Sponsorship Tables of 10 Available!

See website for details

Chair: Bill Kennedy

More events to come!

[Click for event info on our website »](#)

St. Patrick's Day Parade & Festival

Est. Date: Saturday, March 14 • Parade 10:30 am

Festival 9 am - 6 pm

Balboa Park, Sixth Avenue & Laurel Street

Free to march / Festival \$10

Chair: Greg Swanberg

St. Patrick's Day Sing-Along

Tuesday, March 17 Details to come

GAA West Coast Sevens Tournament

Saturday, May 23 • All Day

Southwestern College 900 Otoy Lakes Rd, Chula Vista

Free to attend – Details to come

Chair: Trevor Wessman-Lavelle

Mt. Soledad National Veterans Memorial: Memorial Day Ceremony

Monday, May 25 • 11 am - 12:30 pm

6905 La Jolla Scenic S Dr. La Jolla, CA 92037

Free to attend – Details to come

Chair: Everett Evleth

Irish O'Pen Golf Outing

Saturday, June 13 • 7am Check-in

Admiral Baker Golf Course

Details to come

Chair: Scott Harmes

Over The Line (OTL) Tournament

Saturday-Sunday, July 11-12 & 18-19

First games start 7:30 am

Fiesta Island

Free to attend – Details to come

Smilin' Irishman Contest

Our FSOSP 2026 "contender" for this prestigious contest (the proceeds of which support our SD Saint Patrick's Day Parade) is **Mr. Alexander Williams**. Alex's biographical information:

DOB:

August 27th, 1985-San Diego, CA

Given Name:

Alexander Fitzgerald Williams

Nickname: Alex

Education:

- University of San Diego High School
- San Francisco State, History Major

Family: Julie (m:2023), Sam (age 15)

Live: Mira Mesa

Work: Mission Bay Boat and Ski Club,
Veterans Administration

Interests: Camping, hunting, concerts, volunteering

Fav beer: Smithwick's

Fav Irish Whiskey: Tullamore Dew

Favorite Destinations: Sequoia National Park,
Union Grove North Carolina, Las Vegas Nevada

Irish Heritage Link:

Margaret O'Connor (Great Great Grandmother).
Born 1849 in County Cork, Ireland. John Kenney (Great
Great Grandfather). Born 1851 in County Cork, Ireland

Fav Irish town: Dublin

Community Involvement:

Active member and supporter of the American
Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), and the
San Diego Boat and Ski Club, contributing to veteran
advocacy, community engagement, and local
recreational initiatives



Fun Fact:

While catering events in San Francisco, I once met
both Mark Zuckerberg and Elon Musk

Proud Family Military Service:

- William Barnes, Grandfather
(U.S. Army, WWII)
- Coy Lee Williams, Grandfather
(U.S. Navy WWII, U.S. Army, Korea–Vietnam)
- Gerald Williams, Father
(U.S. Marine Corps, Vietnam)
- Robert Williams, U.S. Army
- James Williams, U.S. Air Force

Join the Irish Community for a night of competition, music, and good craic!



FUNDRAISER FOR THE ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE & FESTIVAL

Since 1981, The Smilin' Irishman Contest has been the largest fundraiser for the annual San Diego St. Patrick's Day Parade & Festival. Vying for the title each year are members from the county's most prominent Irish and affiliated organizations. Contestants will share a song, a toast, a joke, and their knowledge of whiskeys while the rest of us "vote" with our donations. Join us for the fun and be sure to vote early and vote often!

Saturday, January 17, 2026 🍀 6 - 9pm



10475 San Diego Mission Rd, San Diego

Advance Tickets: \$20 single | \$30 couple

\$25 single | \$35 couple at the door

Purchase tickets at: fsosp.com/smilin-irishman-contest

LIVE MUSIC with Ass Pocket Whiskey Fellas
Food & Drink Specials 🍀 Raffle Prizes 🍀 MC: Tim Lane

ALL FEES & DONATIONS MAY BE TAX DEDUCTIBLE. Please consult your accountant for details.

Events Recap

Mt. Soledad National Veterans Memorial – Veterans Day Ceremony

November This year’s event honored all U.S. veterans and linked the occasion to 250 years of service by the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps. It drew local community members, civic leaders including Mayor Todd Gloria and City Council President Joe LaCava, and veterans from multiple branches of the armed forces who shared reflections on duty, sacrifice, and camaraderie.

The event, called “Honoring a Legacy: 250 years at Sea, on Land and in the Air,” featured guest speakers, music by the La Jolla High School band, flyovers by



the San Diego Salute Formation Team and tributes to Cmdr. Theodore Gordon “Spuds” Ellyson, the first Navy officer designated as a naval aviator, and Gen. Joseph Pendleton, the first commanding officer of Marine Corps Base San Diego, which became the Marine Corps Recruit Depot.

Speakers emphasized the profound sacrifices made and the importance of remembering both the fallen and living veterans. The ceremony provided a solemn yet uplifting moment for honoring military service, and the Friendly Sons were there to help with the success of this event. Kudos to **Everett Evleth** for coordinating the volunteers!



Veterans Day Parade

November The 2025 San Diego Veterans Day Parade took place at 10 am on Tuesday, Nov. 11, drawing large crowds along Harbor Drive as the city came together to salute our military veterans.

The event held special significance as it honored the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II, providing a meaningful tribute to veterans and their legacies.

The Friendly Sons gathered at The Waterfront for pre- and post-parade activities with a large group marching from the County Admin building to Seaport Village. Thanks to chair **Greg Swanberg**, our lads proudly represented the Sons and our mission to honor our Irish heritage and to support the San Diego community.



Events Recap (continued)

17th of the Month Club : Barley & Sword

November New members old friends gathered on November 21 at one of San Diego's hottest new breweries, Barley & Sword.

Opened by U.S. Navy veteran Mike Howell, Barley & Sword has been a standout by brewing Old World styles of beer from the U.K., Ireland and Germany including Clash of the Ash Irish Lager, a collaboration with San Diego's newest Hurling team, the Rovers.

They are also award winners: Best of Craft Beer Awards, California State Fair and San Diego County Fair Craft Brew Competition.

It was an evening of good fellowship and good beer! Thanks to **Chris Hodgetts** for making it happen!



2026 Annual Membership Luncheon

Friday, February 13
11:00 am-3:00 pm

Join us for a pint and a song at our annual luncheon meeting and year end review.

Tom Ham's Lighthouse • 2150 Harbor Island Dr, San Diego

Advance Tickets: **\$80 *Until January 26***

\$85 or \$680 Table of 8 seats Jan 26-Feb 2 | \$90 at the door after Feb 2

Irish clothing, shillelaghs, and branded SWAG available for purchase

Tickets: friendlysonssd.org/event/annual-member-luncheon-2026

Events Recap (continued)

Ocean Beach Holiday Parade & Afterparty

December The evening started with our muster at Chris' home for pre-game activities including our new initiative to light the Sons for the parade! Thanks to **Mark Wheelan** for taking the lead on illuminating our blackthorn walking sticks for an impressive display during our routine before hundreds of onlookers. The 46th version of the parade was a success with a record 106 floats, marching bands, and community entries. [Watch the entire parade](#) (Sons at 48:50).

Afterward, the Sons with their families and friends enjoyed a terrific afterparty at The Holding Company, viewing the rest of the parade from the second floor. There was plenty of holiday cheer! Many thanks to **Bill Kennedy** for chairing the event!



Member Briefs

Friendly Sons 1992-1993 President Robert "Hondo" Harrison turned 75 in December and celebrated with a proper cóisir in Pacific Beach. Surrounded by family and friends, Hondo and his wife Debbie partied to the sounds of the Siers Brothers – at one point joined by "Stevie Ray" Wheelan. Some of the Sons were there to honor the Diamond Jubilee and a great time was had by all. Happy Birthday Hondo!



Seen at the pub...





Irish Outreach Center Dinner Dance 2026

Saturday, January 24th, 2026 | Marina Village | 5:30 pm

Join them for an evening with old friends and new connections as they celebrate the vibrant Irish community in San Diego.

As the Irish do best, it will be a lively night filled with great food, entertainment, music, and great craic!

[RESERVE YOUR TICKETS HERE](#)





Friday, March 13 • 5:30 pm - 11 pm

Marina Village Seaside Room

1936 Quivira Way, San Diego

Advance Tickets: \$99 or \$792 Table of 8 Seats

Until March 8

\$125 or \$1000 Table of 8 seats Mar 9-12

\$150 at the door

New Sponsorship Tables Available!

GOLD • SILVER • BRONZE seating

See website for details

Info & Tickets:

friendlysonssd.org/event/annual-black-tie-dinner-2026

**YOUR 2025-26 FSOSP
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

President
Jim Kilgore

1st Vice President
Brian Dougherty

2nd Vice President
Bill Kennedy

3rd Vice President
Sean McGowan

4th Vice President
& Secretary
Adam Powell

5th Vice President
& Treasurer
Scott Harmes

Members at Large
Scott Dickerson
Chris Hodgetts
Blaise Nauyokas
Greg Swanberg

Past President
Everett Evleth

Chaplain
Capt. Kevin Sweeney

General Counsel
Sean Brew



**THE
FRIENDLY
SONS OF
ST. PATRICK**

SAN DIEGO

P. O. Box 1595
Valley Center, CA 92082

A 501(c)(3)
Charitable Corp.

EIN# 47-4868675