

# THE BLARNEY



Keeping The Greater La Crosse Area  
Celtic Community Informed  
Since 1988



April 2023

## 2023 St. Patrick's Day Festivities – The Dinner



2023 Irish Rose Anne Nolan and her Irish Man Pari Sexauer at our recent St. Patricks Day Dinner.



Irish Men and Irish Rose's past and present.





A word from the St. Patrick's Day Dinner committee chairperson Tracy Mullaney.

We had a wonderful evening Saturday night, introducing our 2023 Irish Rose Ann Nolan & Irishman Pari Sexauer! Looking forward to celebrating our 50th Anniversary Year with them. There was beautiful music during the social by Regina Chihak (member) and Allan Beatty and a surprise- after dinner music by Rick Pervisky (member).



My committee was small, but mighty. I would like to thank Barrie Monks for his efforts with the name tags, meal tags, the list of RSVP, and also compiling a year's worth of pictures for the yearbook which is given to the outgoing Irishman & Irish Rose. How he finds time to do this with the hours he spends writing the Blarney, keeping the General Meeting Minutes and updating our membership email list, I don't know, but I'm grateful for his time and talent.

I also want to thank Kelly Smith & Patrick Mullaney for meeting me on Friday afternoon for set up and for helping me tear down the tables Saturday night,

Whiskey Servers: Mary Jigm and Linda Pfaff,

Raffle Ticket Sellers: Kelly Smith & Patrick Mullaney,

Bead Seller: Erin Liss.

Thanks also to these folks who made up Raffle Baskets: Kelly Smith, Pam Smith Jean Burgess, Kathy Sexauer, Linda Pfaff, Debi McGrury, Ann Nolan, Mark Barton they were awesome and highly sought after. We also included auction items & experiences from: Sally Sullivan, Bill & Kathy O'Driscoll, Debbie & Jim Kroner and Charlene Baumbich.

Thanks also to MC Jerry O'Flaherty, Jim Kroner Invocation and Dave Burgess our treasurer.

Thanks also go out to the following businesses who donated items. Please support those that support us.

Video Vision Air B&B Winona,  
Bloedows,  
Island City Brewery,  
Winona Visitor Center,  
Minnesota Marie Art Museum,  
CEC Winona 7 Theater,  
Winona County Historical County Museum,  
Bub's Brewing Company,  
Muddled Thyme, Saponi di Sicillia

Painting donated by Mary Kulas (Paint & Sip) all proceeds from classes benefit JDRF Class  
info [kulasfarm@gmail.com](mailto:kulasfarm@gmail.com)

## The Parade







Shamrock Club members walking alongside and riding on the club float decked out in the new 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary greenery.



Pre parade shenanigans at The Freighthouse



Where would any parade be without its volunteers, club members Bill O'Driscoll, Linda Boyle and Mark Barton making sure things run smoothly.





## And Finally – The Bus Tour



Our 2023 Rose and Man, and below, their means of transport for the day.







Club members and dancers from Amanda's Academy of Dance enjoy Cinnamon Rolls and a warming drink before boarding the trolley.



And who will be Clancy today/



## Shamrock Club Bowling Night



A Picture of sartorial elegance, or, as The Kinks once said,  
“A Dedicated Follower of Fashion”.



The Venue – Coulee Golf Bowl, before the carnage started.





Contrasting methods of delivering the ball down the lane.



And this is what they were all after, The Shamrock Club Bowling Trophy.



The eventual winner with his trophy – Max Sexauer.

## 2023 Blood Drive



Top, Linda Boyle takes details while Whitey Hoehn and Kathleen Ryan wait for a chair to open up.  
Below (L to R) Kelly Smith, Kathy O'Driscoll and Whitey Hoehn donate the red stuff.

Many thanks to Bill O'Driscoll for providing the photographs.



## A Blast From the Past



**Woman who began club  
named Wild Irish Rose**

*La Crosse Tribune March 23, 1979 p. 5*

The woman who started the La Crosse Chapter of the Shamrock Club of Wisconsin has been named the group's first "Wild Irish Rose."

She is Marcella "Marcy" Winchell, 2514 East Ave. S., who started the La Crosse chapter in 1972. Its membership has grown to 150 persons.

According to the group's current president, Kathleen Burns, 2001 S. 20th St., Miss Winchell is the first person to be selected for the annual award.

Each year the award will go to a woman selected by the club as having done the most to promote her Irish heritage and the Shamrock Club, Mrs. Burns said.

Miss Winchell, a secretary employed by Vaaler Building Supplies, 1650 Kane St., is a member of the state advisory board of the Shamrock Club of Wisconsin.



**Marcella Winchell**

She is a past president of and has held several offices in the local group. She's the daughter of Josephine Winchell, 2514 East Ave. S., and the late LaVerne Winchell.





## News From Around the Other Groups



Irishfest La Crosse  
August 11-13, 2023

The “green” month is behind us so on to Spring!

The St. Patrick’s Day parade was another success with many thanks to Tracy & Pat Mullaney for coordinating the event. Clancy O’Coulee was happy to ride on the Shamrock Club float. It was a cold day and we thank all of the participants and spectators for coming out. A big shout out to our parade sponsors: The Freighthouse, Downtown Mainstreet, Breakfast Club, Dublin Square, Coulee Bank, Bennett O’Riley’s, Bantry Friendship Assn and Shamrock Club.

The time is going quickly until Irishfest La Crosse begins, just 130 days away. Plans are coming along but still lots to be finalized and completed.

The Main Stage lineup is almost complete! We will have Skerryvore coming back from Scotland along with a new CD which will be out by fest, Seo Linn has also been waiting to get back to La Crosse and this is the year. They also have a new CD out. Returning from last year is the popular Boxing Banjo and the Screaming Orphans will be back after a few years. “Storm Chasers” will be thrilled to have Gaelic Storm in La Crosse. Back at the Harp Stage, the Harp Twins will be playing to the crowds. Shane Hennessy will be bringing his fantastic guitar work to the Cultural Tent. We will also have Ian Gould and after a short absence, Seamus Kennedy will grace us with his humor and music. We still have a few more slots that we will fill in soon.

After several years absence, the Fiddle Competition will return! This year it will tentatively be held in the Cultural Tent on Sunday after mass. Another change will be the USA Tug of War will be competing out in the front field on Saturday and Sunday. The Highland Games will, of course, be returning on Saturday so it will be a busy spot over the weekend.

If you want to extend your listening pleasure, join us down at Riverside Park for Moon Tunes on Thursday, August 10. Irishfest will again present “Irish Night” at Moon Tunes and are also planning to hold our VIP Sponsor Dinner in the park on that evening.

As you know, we can’t hold the festival without volunteers so please start thinking about which areas you would like to help out in. The Volunteer Portal isn’t open yet, but will be soon.

Keep an eye on the website, [www.irishfestlacrosse.org](http://www.irishfestlacrosse.org) and our Facebook page for updates and announcements over the next several months.

Next Irishfest La Crosse meeting will be Thursday, April 13, 5:30 at the Onalaska American Legion.

Slainte!



### News from La Crosse Bantry Friendship Association

The La Crosse Bantry Friendship Association and especially the Coulee Hoolie Ceili (CHC) planning committee, have been quite busy the past 3 months, preparing for our annual fundraiser which was held March 25<sup>th</sup> at the La Crosse American Legion.



The Coulee Hooligans



A grand turn out for the Hoolie



While the numbers are not final yet, it is safe to say we had another successful event which, this year, included professional ceili caller, Eamonn de Cogain, originally from Carragaline, West Cork (near Bantry), now living in Milwaukee. With his enthusiasm and smooth Irish brogue, he summoned people to the dance floor and encouraged them in the steps of various ceili dances. Using that same enthusiasm, he 'encouraged' people to bid on the many silent auction items.

In addition, the CHC was graced with the talented Irish storyteller, Terry Visger who enthralled the attendees with several different tales. The music for the evening was provided again by 10 members of the Coulee Hooligans who gave a wonderful sound to the evening. Ed Smerud provided excellent technical support to the musicians and the evening's speakers. Irish-themed food, including corned beef sandwiches and Blarney Bars, were provided for purchase as was liquid refreshments from two venerable bartenders, Mark Barton and Pat Houlihan. LBFA also received a congratulatory note from Mayor Reynolds on our consistent efforts as a sister city non-profit raising funds for other non-profits here and in our sister city, Bantry.



Left – Irish Storyteller Terry Visger.

Above – Eamonn de Cogain along with Lynn West, Lynn Miller, and Club President Linda Pfaff

LBFA also found time to help sponsor and participate in the St. Patrick's Parade on March 11<sup>th</sup>. Another great time, even with the chilly weather. Afterwards we took part in the post-parade gatherings at the Freight House and Bennett O'Reilly's, celebrating with the new 2023 Irish Rose and Man who are also members of LBFA – congratulations to Trustee Ann Nolan and member Pari Sexauer!



LBFA continues to prepare for a planned delegation trip to Bantry October 14-22, 2023. The trip is open to non-members. President Linda Pfaff continues to write monthly articles for the Bantry Grapevine. Those interested in reading the Bantry news magazine on-line can go to [www.the-grapevine.ie](http://www.the-grapevine.ie)

As we say good-bye to March, LBFA wishes everyone a happy Easter season!

Linda Pfaff, President.



Don Walsh	3-Apr	Emily Kernin	2-May	Luke Seielstad	2-Jun
Mary Thompson	4-Apr	Barbara Smith	5-May	Angela O'Flaherty	5-Jun
Jim Kroner	6-Apr	Char Barton	6-May	Robert Dixon	9-Jun
Justin O'Driscoll	7-Apr	Jerry Sheehan	7-May	Sharon Candahl	11-Jun
Mike Diveley	11-Apr	Bill Flaherty	9-May	Kyle Humfeld	14-Jun
Pati Connery	12-Apr	Maureen Bolard-Nebeck	12-May	Coleen Dixon	18-Jun
Bill O'Driscoll	12-Apr	Marleen Venner	12-May	Mike Burns	19-Jun
Dave Burgess	21-Apr	Russ Stockel	14-May	Tim Gillespie	20-Jun
Ron Smith	29-Apr	Linda Pfaff	17-May	Jane Brannan	21-Jun
Becky Crowley	30-Apr	Erin Liss	23-May	Jean Burgess	23-Jun
Linda Hoehn	30-Apr	Mary Erickson	25-May	Marcia Knudtson	23-Jun
		Mary Monks	26-May		
		Dennis O'Brian	26-May		
		Erin Gill	27-May		

**The members of the board would like to send out their best wishes to those listed.**

**If your birthdate is incorrect or missing, please contact Linda Pfaff at**

[irishroz\\_2000@yahoo.com](mailto:irishroz_2000@yahoo.com)





## **Welcome New Members**



The Board Members of the Greater La Crosse Area Shamrock Club would like to welcome the following new and returning members:

Bill Flaherty  
Eric Coaty  
Robert & Colleen Dixon  
Eric & Marcia Knudtson  
Robert & Elaine McGary  
Michael Scott  
Tom & Elaine Smith

We encourage you to attend our meetings, become involved and above all have fun. If you would like to celebrate an event with us please send an e-mail to [laxblarney@gmail.com](mailto:laxblarney@gmail.com)



## **Up-Coming Events**



Board Meeting April 17 7pm at Big Al's Shamrock Club Members are welcome to attend, however, they do not have voting privileges.

Next General Meeting is April 19 @6:00pm Agenda Attached Contact Jerry O'Flaherty: [oflaherty45@gmail.com](mailto:oflaherty45@gmail.com) to add items to this agenda.

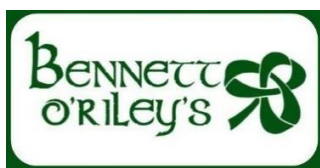


## **Current Board Members**



President – Gerard O’Flaherty  
Vice President – Tracy Mullaney  
Secretary – Barrie Monks  
Treasurer – Dave Burgess  
Parliamentarian – Luke Seielstad  
Sargent At Arms – Kathleen Ryan  
Membership Chair – Linda Pfaff  
Past President – Bill O’Driscoll  
Trustee – Linda Hoehn till 2025  
Trustee – Kathy Sexauer till 2025  
Trustee – Erin Liss till 2024  
Trustee – Matt McGrury till 2024  
Trustee – Lynn West till 2023

The Board of The Greater La Crosse Area Shamrock Club would encourage our members to frequent the establishments below, each of which has contributed in some way towards club



**Shamrock Club of La Crosse**