THE BLARNEY



Keeping The Greater La Crosse Area Celtic Community Informed Since 1988



January 2023





2023 Irish Rose and Irishman

Congratulations to Ann Nolan and Pari Sexauer for being chosen to represent The Greater La Crosse Area Shamrock Club during 2023



Ann grew up in Hartland Minnesota. A small town of 300 just north of Albert Lea and graduated from New Richland Hartland High School where she enjoyed playing the clarinet in the pep and concert bands. She graduated from the College of Saint Teresa in Winona in 1989 with a bachelor's degree in Psychology and a minor in Religious Studies.

She fell in love with the beauty of the Coulee Region while in college and knew that she would, one day, make it back to the area. It took a while, but she gradually made her way here and has been living with her two cats, Walter William and Isabella, in La Crescent for almost twenty years. As a diehard Minnesota Vikings fan, she cannot see herself making the final move across the border.

She joined the Shamrock Club about 5 years ago at Irishfest. "Next thing I know I am a trustee on the board and haven't stopped being involved in all the fun and shenanigans yet!"



Pari was born in La Crosse in March 1973, so will turn fifty the same year as the Shamrock Club. He grew up in Medary and went to school on the Northside at St. James, then on to Aquinas for high school.

While in high school he worked at the McDonalds that was located in Valley View Mall, and that is where he met his future wife Kathy. After high school, he attended UW-Madison for 5 years. During which time he and Kathy were married. After graduation they moved back to La Crosse and have been here ever since, they have three children, Max, 25, Oscar, 22 and Guenevere, 20.

Pari and Kathy have been volunteers at Irishfest for the last eight years and decided to become club members at the fest in 2019. They have been active ever since and really enjoy meeting the club members and participating in the club activities.





It has been a wonderful year as the 2022 Irish Rose. I highly recommend it! I hope that I was able to do a good job representing our club out in the community.

Radio and TV interviews were a new and exciting experience for me. Dave and I were asked to speak at a womens group and were rewarded with chocolate Guinness cake and ice cream. Representing the club for Irish Heritage Day at the Loggers game on a warm but beautiful summer day with our friends was a lot of fun. And....who doesn't love a parade! Starting with a carriage ride in a brisk but sunny St. Patrick's day parade. Through the year and ending with a ride through Rotary Lights in the last parade of the year.

It was a great honor to be chosen and I want to thank you all for supporting Dave and I as your 2022 Irish Man and Rose!

Best wishes to Ann Nolan and Pari Sexauer in 2023.





I had a great time as the Shamrock Club Irish Man for the past year.

My year went by quickly, filled with fun parades followed by post-parade socializing and many other events at which we had the privilege of representing the club. Probably my favorite moments were when we got to see both the Torchlight and Maple Leaf parades from a perspective I've never experienced before, riding atop the Shamrock award-winning float and being entertained by the Irish music band Amadans and the talented Clog Jam Dancers.

Our club members who attended parades and events were a lot of fun to be with and really helped make the year memorable. And getting to know those club members better was perhaps the best part of being Irish Man!

Dave





In the latest edition of a tradition that started in 2015 members of The La Crosse Area Shamrock Club once again jigged their way through downtown La Crosse. Along the way games of chance were played and quiz questions answered with prizes to be awarded at our final destination.

After starting out at The Bodega on Fourth Street, members and guests danced their merry way under an overcast rainy sky to Bennett O'Rileys, which was to be our second port of call. Alas due to a darts tournament being held in town, this venue was "rocking". After a quick sidewalk huddle, the decision was made to pay a visit to the nearby La Crosse Bierhaus on Third Street, hats off to the Bierhaus staff for handling the influx of a small sized green army. One thing for sure you don't have to look far for a watering hole in downtown La Crosse. Our last stop of the jig was a The Turtle Stack Brewery on Second Street, where food was on hand to welcome the weary drinkers sorry, dancers.

Thanks go out to all those who helped in organizing this fun event, here's to 2023.



First stop The Bodega











Then The La Crosse Bierhaus

















And Finally, The Turtle Stack Brewery











All over for another year.





Irish Man Dave Burgess and Irish Rose Debi McGrury trimming the tree on a cold November morning.



Fourteen Trimmers Trimming



After the Tree Trimming, the annual toast to those club members who have passed away in the preceding year.



After Trimming, Treats at Ardies after a job well done.





Prior to the parade came the hard work of putting together and checking the lights for the Rotary Lights Display, Jean Burgess, Debi McGrury and Ann Nolan were three of the many club members who helped in bringing the display to life.



Irish Rose Debi McGrury and Irish Man Dave Burgess brave the cold along with other members to take part in the annual Rotary Lights Parade.



Past and Present Irish Roses and Men



(L to) Sue Crothers 1991, Liz Oelke 2009, Linda Boyle 2011, Debbie Kroner 2005, Jeannine Nolan 2007, Kathleen Ryan 2014, Tracy Mullaney 2020, Debi McGrury 2022, Linda Smith 2001, Vicky Hampe 2013, Ann Nolan 2023, Pam Smith 2010, Kelly Smith 2015, Kathy O'Driscoll 2016, Sharon Candahl 1998, Becky Seielstad 2019, Linda Pfaff 1997 and Mary Monks 2018.



(L to R) Dave Burgess 2022, Rick Pervisky 1995, Tom Nolan 2004, Pat Mullaney 2020, Pari Sexauer 2023, Pat Stephens 1989, Rod Smith 2008, Tom Pahs 1981, Luke Seielstad 2019, Jim Kroner 2005, Bill O'Driscoll 2016 and Barrie Monks 2010.

Missing from the photo, Ron Smith 2001

The Christmas Dinner Organzation Committee would like to thank the following people for their donations which helped to make the evening such a success.

Ann Nolan

Jim & Debbi Kroner

Liz Oelke

Ken Birnbaum

Linda Pfaff

Pari & Kathy Sexauer

Linda & Ron Smith

Luke & Becky Seielstad

Pam & Rod Smith

Kelly Smith

Tom & Jeannine Nolan

Mary Jagim

Pat & Tracy Mullaney

Bill & Kathy O'Driscoll

Sue & Jim Crothers

Gerry & Angela O'Flaherty

Ross & Linda West

Whitey & Linda Hoehn

John Harrington

Dennis & Dian O'Brian

Linda Boyle

Dave & Jean Burgess

Matt & Debi McGrury

Kathleen Ryan







All those lovely prizes.





Introductions of the 2023 Irish Rose and Irish Man.







Back Row – Linda Pfaff, Debi McGrury, Char Barton, Sue Crothers

Middle Row – Pam Smith, Jeannine Nolan, Sally Sulliavan, Becky Seielstad, Tracy Mullaney,

Sharon Candahl, Vicky Hampe, Kelly Smith, Kathy O'Driscoll

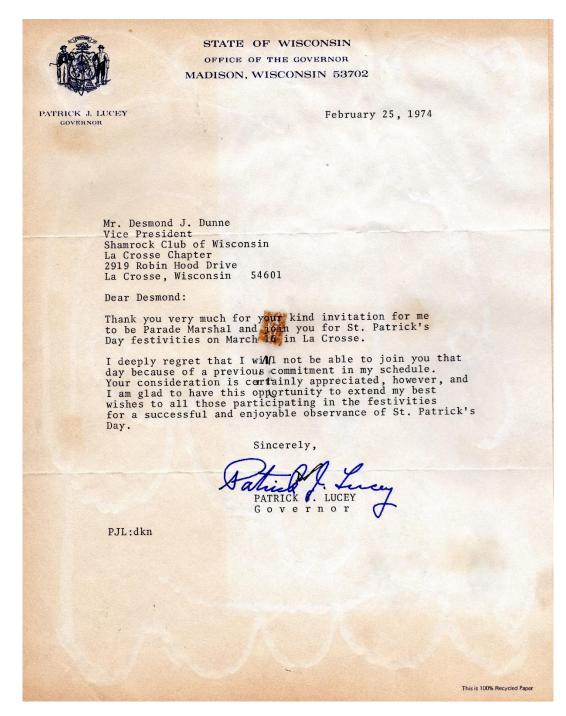
Seated – Liz Oelke, Linda Smith, Ann Nolan, Debbie Kroner.





Back Row – Barrie Monks, Luke Seielstad, Dave Burgess, Jim Kroner, Bill O'DriscollFront Row – Rick Pervisky, Tom Pahs, Don Walsh, Pat Houlihan, Peri Sexauer, Mark Barton, Tom Nolan, Pat Mullaney, Don Venner, Rod Smith.





A letter from the, then, Governor of Wisconsin Patrick J. Lucy, expressing his regrets for not being able to attend the 1974 St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Of note is the adendum in the bottom right hand corner stating that this letter was typed on 100% recycled paper.

The first instance of paper recycling in the US was in Philidelphia in 1690.





Irishfest La Crosse is still 8 months away, but the planning is ongoing! Behind the scenes, plans are underway to make 2023 the best Irishfest ever! The music lineup is coming together with more stellar entertainment to come. Mark your calendars for **August 11-13** so you don't schedule anything else for that weekend.

We hope that you had a chance to catch a couple of our Irishfest entertainers at Rotary Lights this year. Ian Gould and the Harp Twins performed in the Ice Castle in December. Ian said that although he has been to La Crosse for Irishfest, he had never been here in the winter and was very impressed with Rotary Lights.

Keep an eye on the website, <u>www.irishfestlacrosse.org</u> and our Facebook page for updates and announcements over the next several months.



Despite having no monthly meetings in November and December, the last three months have been busy for our organization and also very sad as we lost one of our members, Corrine Abegglen in October. Corrine and her group involvement will definitely be missed.

The highlight perhaps was our annual Christmas party on December 4th at the Eagles Club. The event was again catered by Famous Dave's and 20+ people attended. There were also games and door prizes rounding out the festive gathering. (See picture)

Committees are busy with planning a delegation trip to Bantry October 14-20, 2023 and preparing for our 2023 Coulee Hoolie Ceili. The Bantry trip is open to the public and details as they are finalized can be found at our website, www.lacrossebantry.org. If anyone reading this is interested in joining in on this trip, please contact either Lynn West at lrcrosse@gmail.com or Linda Pfaff at irishroz 2000@yahoo.com.

The 2023 Coulee Hoolie Ceili will be held on **Saturday, March 25th**, 6-10pm, at the American Legion, 6th and Market. Music will be provided by the **Coulee Hooligans** and this year's caller will be the energetic ceili caller & teacher, **Eamonn de Cogain** originally from Carragaline, West Cork. (See picture) Many of you may be familiar with Eamonn's brother, Mairtin de Cogain, who has performed for us in the past.

The Coulee Hoolie Ceili will also feature storyteller Terry Visger who many will remember from last year, a great silent auction and some Irish-inspired food fare! Proceeds from the event will be split between two similar non-profits, **Horse Sense** in La Crosse which provides and promotes interests with developmental and physical disabilities and **Hairy Henry** in Bantry which is an animal care farm geared for children and adults with developmental and physical disabilities. If anyone would like to help sponsor or donate to the event's silent auction, please contact Lynn West or Linda Pfaff.

We also are looking forward to being part of the St Patrick's Parade on March 11^{th} – hope to see you there!!

Wishing you all an early Happy St. Patrick's Day!! Slainte!

LBFA President Linda Pfaff



Pam Love	1-Jan	Shelli Kult	17-Feb	Ellie McLoone	2-Mar
Tim Sprester	5-Jan	Tom O'Brien	18-Feb	Barrie Monks	6-Mar
Stephanie O'Driscoll	9-Jan	Linda Boyle	23-Feb	Vanessa Jagim	9-Mar
Connie Sprester	12-Jan	Becky Zentner	24-Feb	Myra Kunert	13-Mar
Barb Schulka	14-Jan	Eileen Walsh Doyle	25-Feb	Rod Smith	14-Mar
John Rieder	14-Jan	Kathy Spelker	28-Feb	Patrick Mullaney	17-Mar
Sue Miller	17-Jan			Tom Peterson	15-Mar
Pat Houlihan	19-Jan			Dianne O'Brien	16-Mar
Joanne Stephens	19-Jan			Brad Sturm	22-Mar
Regina Chihak	21-Jan			Hazel Desmond	23-Mar
Doug Billings	23-Jan			Kathy Sexauer	27-Mar
Debbie Burns	31-Jan				

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



January 18 – Shamrock Club General Meeting – 6:30pm @ Lions Club February 15 – Shamrock Club General Meeting @ Lions Club TBA – Shamrock Club Bowling Night @ Coulee Golf & Bowl March 4 – St.Patrick's Day Dinner - 5:00pm @ Cedar Creek Golf Club March 11 – St. Patrick's Day Parade – 12:00pm @ Downtown La Crosse March 17 – St. Patrick's Day Bus Tour – 8:00am @ Eagles Club



It is with deep regret that we notice the passing of club member Tom Smith Snr. The club sent a sympathy card to the family along with a framed prayer and a donation to be made to the charity of their choosing.

The club would also like to extend its sympathy to Mary Monks and family, Mary's brother unexpectedly passed away on December 30th in Manchester, England, our thoughts are with her in this time of loss.



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

Tom O'Brien Steve Korger Katherine Kenemer Andrew and Vanessa Jagim Becky Crowly Pat & Joanne Stephens

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



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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