



28th Annual Ancient Order of Hibernians Saint Patrick's Day Parade Continues a St. Louis Tradition

(St. Louis)-Thousands lined the street of one of St. Louis oldest Irish neighborhoods to celebrate the 28th Annual Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH) Saint Patrick's Day Parade on March 17. Parade watchers all decked on in green began lining up along the parade route several hours before the parade began. Local media reported that the numbers attending set an all-time record.

Earlier in the week several inches of snow had covered the St. Louis area, but on Saint Patrick's Day the crowd in the Dogtown neighborhood of South St. Louis was greeted with bright sunny skies and record temperatures in the low eighties.



The traditional Irish event kicked off at noon led by the Ancient Order of Hibernians Irish Guard and Pipers and a number of local dignitaries. Over 100 marching units and colorful floats took part in this year's event. The family-oriented parade featured a number of family clans marching under their family crests and banners. Parade watchers spilled over into the neighborhood for blocks on either side of the main parade route along Tamm Avenue.

St. Louis Archbishop Robert J. Carlson was the parade Grand Marshal. Prior to the march Archbishop Carlson celebrated mass in the neighborhood parish, St. James the Greater.

As in previous years, St. Louis area firefighters and law enforcement officers were recognized during the Hibernian parade. The 2011 honorees were Detective Sergeant Joe Egan, Maryland Heights Police Department; Lt. John Walsh, St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department; firefighters Captain Dennis A. Leone, Creve Coeur Fire Department; and St. Louis Fire Department Battalion Chief Bill Schurwan. Also honored were Pat White of the Gas Workers Union the 2011 AOH Labor Leader and Louis businessman Floyd Warmann, the 2011 AOH Civic Leader.

Following the parade trophies were awarded to Best Float-Teamsters and Friends, Best Family Clan-McGinnis Clan, Best Irish Heritage Theme-Emerald Society, Best Hibernian Float-Cardinal Division, Best Band-St. Mary's High School and Best Irish Dance School-Clark Academy. The Grand Marshal Trophy was presented to St. James the Greater and the Chairman's Award to the Fogerty's. Once again the AOH sponsored a contest for the best decorated house on the parade route. This year's winner was homeowner Carol Wilson of 1424 Tamm Avenue. Once again the AOH sponsored a contest for the best decorated house on the parade route. This year's winner was homeowner Carol Wilson of 1424 Tamm Avenue.



Sponsored by the St. Louis City and County Boards of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, the parade was created in 1984 to highlight the many contributions of the Irish people to America. Metromix St. Louis named the Saint Patrick's Day celebration in Dogtown number four its' list of '101 Things to do in St. Louis during 2011.'