



## **2020**

### **ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS SAINT PATRICK'S DAY PARADE**

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#### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Sandi Swift Selected Grand Marshal of 2020 Hibernian Saint Patrick's Day Parade**

**(St. Louis)** The Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH) have selected Sandi Swift of St. Charles, the Grand Marshal of the 37<sup>th</sup> annual AOH Saint Patrick's Day Parade. The Irish gala gets underway at 11:00 am, Tuesday, March 17, Saint Patrick's Day.

Swift has been an active member of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians (LAOH), since 2008, holding various position at the local, state and national level. She currently serves as the National Historian for the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians. Currently she is working on a book commemorating the 125th Anniversary of the LAOH.

Swift has led a number of other projects on behalf of St. Louis Irish-American community. She organized the St. Charles Sister Cities Irish Chapter (St. Charles, MO and Carndonagh, Ireland) and helped create the Missouri River Irish Fest in 2006. Sandi arranges classes in Irish Language, Irish History and Irish Literature, and is the liaison for Irish and German student exchange program with St. Charles Sister Cities and St. Charles School District. For many accomplishments Swift was honored by the St. Charles Chamber of Commerce with a *Lifetime Distinguished Service Award*.

“I want to thank you for this wonderful honor to represent what I feel is the best organization there is,” said Swift after notified of her selection as the 2020 parade Grand Marshal. “I truly appreciate your support and will continue to strive and work for the Hibernian organization,” she added.

The annual parade, sponsored by the St. Louis and St. Louis County Hibernians, honors Saint Patrick as the Apostle of Ireland, and highlights the contributions the Irish and Irish-Americans have made to the United States. The parade passes through one of St. Louis' oldest Irish neighborhoods.

The Hibernians are working with representatives of Dogtown United, that represents local residents and business owners, to better coordinate efforts with the Hibernians and to improve operations and efficiency of all events taking place in that historic neighborhood on March 17. Parade and festival organizers have once again adopted a ‘no cooler/backpack’ rule for both the parade and festival.

The 2020 AOH parade will start south of the Tamm Avenue overpass at Oakland Avenue, travel south on Tamm Avenue past St. James the Greater Catholic Church and end at Manchester. This year's parade will feature over 90 colorful floats and marching units. Like traditional Saint Patrick's Day parades held in Ireland, many St. Louis Irish will march under their family crests and banners.

This year's parade is once again being dedicated to firefighters, law enforcement, public safety personnel and union members killed in the line of duty since September 11, 2001. Among those being recognized as distinguished honorees during this year's parade will be firefighters and law enforcement officers from St. Louis City and St. Louis County.

This year's honorees include: St. Louis City Police Detective Bill Gillian, St. Louis City Fire Department Battalion Chief (Retired) Gary Steffens, St. Louis County Police Officer Russ Nunnaly (Retired) Webster Groves Police Department, St. Louis County Fire Fighter Chris Marshall, Labor Leader John O'Mara, Business Manager, Plumbers and Pipefitters, Local 562, and Eddie McVey, proprietor of Maggie O'Brien's Restaurant and Irish Pub.

More information on the parade and the Ancient Order of Hibernians can be found at:

<http://www.stlhibernians.com>