



Leprechaun Notes

News for Volunteers

Peoria Irish Fest - Erin Feis—2019

Greetings Leprechauns!

The 39th Annual Peoria Irish Fest - Erin Feis will start on Friday, August 23rd at 4:00PM and will close on Sunday after the Scattering (6:00PM). The 29 committee chairs and many others have been working hard to have a bigger and better event. And I think we are on target to do just that. We are all hoping you will again be a Leprechaun. Please read these "Notes". There is a lot of information about this year's event and we want our Leprechauns to be the first to know what is going on.

Last year was the 7th time in the 21 years at the Riverfront that we had a loss. Sweater weather on Friday and heat index of over 100 on Saturday and Sunday kept attendance down as well as sales of food, beverages and merchandise.

Our number one goal this year is PMBIS (Put more butts in seats). We will be doing more advertising and more advanced ticket promotions. We have a great line-up of entertainment. Sign up of vendors, food providers, exhibitors and cultural events is way ahead of last year. From Ireland we will have Five Farms and Magners and of course we will have everyone's favorite beverages.

In January we were told the area under the bridge would be closed until 2021. There will be two "tunnels" so you can get from the "South" area to the "North" area. This will necessitate some major changes besides being a headache. Grafton St. Vendor tent will be moved next to the Snug. Food vendors usually under the bridge will be moved to the side of the bridge. Everything in the "North" area will be moved a little closer to the RecPlex.

Other changes are in the works. Some are listed in this newsletter & others will be announced on the website and Facebook when they are finalized. This will be my 24th year as Chair of Peoria Irish Fest - Erin Feis. They all have been great in their own way but they all have one thing in common. *They would not have happened without you.* We now have over 375 Leprechauns. We need about 80 new volunteers as replacements. Ask a friend to join us.

John Martin, Peoria Irish Fest - Erin Feis Co-Chair

2018 Leprechaun of the Year Jessica Brekke

The **Leprechaun of the Year** award is given annually to recognize an individual who has consistently given that extra effort to develop Erin Feis by working on ways to improve it and constantly looking for solutions to problems and ways to promote the fest.

There would be no Erin Feis without your help and that of a few, very dedicated and talented individuals that not only have the foresight to talk about "WHAT IF" but put in the endless hours to make it happen. While we cannot recognize all of these outstanding individuals we can recognize one with the 2018 Leprechaun of the Year Award. The recipient of this award is selected by previous recipients.

Unlike most of the previous recipients this year's recipient has been involved in a very limited scope of Erin Feis. She has focused her energy on one area. She first volunteered at the ripe age of 14. Her parents, who were actively involved in Erin Feis, brought her along. She drifted off to listen to the bands and between acts she would hang around the back stage talking to the musician and helping them unload and pack up.

Each year after that she would show up and be back stage. When she got her driver's license she became an "Irish Groupie" following the bands that played in Peoria to their next gig - Kansas City. By the time she reached 17 she was at the North Stage all three days, all the time.. Since everyone thought she was in charge of the stage crew, I ask her to be Stage Crew Chief. A position she has held for 17 years.

She has been a real challenge to work with, after all, she was a teenager and is now a young adult. If she goes to a meeting she is late and leaves early. Has no understanding of paperwork. Doesn't have a clue what "chain of command is". But she knows more about bands and their love of their instruments than most people. She never leaves the work area until every band member and stage crew member is gone. And she doesn't take any crap from anyone no matter how important they think they are. She is a strong, independent woman who deserves the respect she gets.

Our North Stage Crew Chief---Jessica Brekke

2019 Entertainment Schedule

Go to the Web site to get the most current schedule and list of entertainers.

First Time in Downstate Illinois

You know that **Skerryvore** is FINALLY coming to Peoria, right? Here, they will bring a bit of Scotland to Illinois! Twice winners of Scotland's Traditional Music Live Act of the Year Award (2016 and 2011), they create a unique fusion of folk, trad, rock and pop that represents all the different personalities and upbringing of the 8 band members who hail from different regions of Scotland. Can't wait.

Meet the beautiful and talented **Gothard Sisters**, who will come to Peoria from the Pacific Northwest, bringing their contemporary Celtic sounds. The Gothard Sisters are a dynamic musical group of three sisters who play contemporary Celtic music. Blending Celtic, folk, classical, world and northwest musical influences, the Gothard Sisters bring songs to life, creating music that is "vivid, inspirational and captivating." (Tim Carroll, Folk Words Review 2018)

Not everyone thinks of France as Celtic influenced, but it is - heavily! Come see an energetic and exceptionally talented group coming to Peoria to show you. **Doolin'** is France's premiere Celtic band, From ballads to furiously fast jigs, from their own compositions to traditional tunes, they offer a rich sound. Natives of Toulouse, Doolin' combines instrumentals, vocals and original compositions in a resolutely modern style. That's Doolin' - Irish music with a French touch!

Jig Jam is coming to Peoria! Winners of many awards, their Irish-influenced bluegrass blends their deep histories in Irish trad with American influences. Award-winning instrumentalists each in their own right, this group forms an exciting and dynamic transatlantic trio that presents a rousing blend of Irish and American folk music. Through a shared deep-rooted passion for Irish traditional music, this trio highlights the vital role in a new genre which has been branded as 'I-Grass' (Irish influenced Bluegrass), their onstage energy along with their virtuosic musical ability has captivated audiences throughout the world.

One for the Foxes

Award-winning instrumentalists each in their own right, this group forms an exciting and dynamic transatlantic trio that presents a rousing blend of Irish and American folk music. Through a shared deep-rooted passion for Irish traditional music, this trio highlights the vital role of Irish traditional music as an origin of many American folk music tunes.

LOCAL FAVORITES RETURNING

Bogside Zukes	Duffy's Revenge
Roundstone Buskers	Turas
Shanties	Skibbereen
The McDowell's	

Returning to Peoria Irish Fest

Seven Nations is not your father's Celtic band. With a passionate, tender, and rollicking style, Seven Nations has earned a growing reputation as an adventurous band with a charismatic stage presence. It's Seven Nations' 25 Years Says It All anniversary tour; marking a quarter of a century of the band's ground-breaking Celtic Fusion-Rock music. Their anniversary tour promises to be an extraordinary anniversary celebration.

Kennedy's Kitchen is returning to Peoria! They are family and friends, gathering to deliver a mix of all things Irish from traditional to pub songs, from toe-tapping to deeply moving...and it's always fun. Kennedy's Kitchen has been making Irish music together since 1998, averaging about 80 shows per year playing everything from backyard parties and weddings to pubs, concert halls, and national festivals.

The Larkin Brothers are returning to Peoria! From Chicago's South Side, this band of raw energy is widely considered as one of the most followed and sought after in the Midwest. Pure electricity! The Larkin and Moran Brothers started as a folk quartet in 2002 that evolved into a full fledged Celtic rock band. Shay Clarke of the Irish American News has said that "The Larkin and Moran Brothers have a sense of fun and energy that is rare these days (in Irish music)..."

Paddy Homan and the Noble Call are returning! If you're a fan of traditional Irish music and storytelling, you're in for a treat. Surrounded by superior musicians, Paddy is the total Irish package! The Noble Call is something a lot of people have been waiting for a long time to hear. Joined by Mick Broderick and a group of superior musicians, Paddy Homan sings his way through the best of real Irish music in a total package. Really, this group has everything. Best of all, they really know how to deliver in a concert. The Noble Call is here, and we hear them calling.

The Kells play primarily what is called Traditional Irish Music. This is in essence the "soul music" of the Irish race. With a genuine passion and a sincere sense of purpose the Kells pour their hearts into playing lively jigs, spirited reels and haunting airs with songs that reach deep into the moral and emotional part of man's nature. Instruments such as the Irish uilleann (pronounced "il-yun") pipes, tin (pronounced "tin"!) whistle and flute provide the brilliant melodies, while the guitar and traditional Irish drum called a bodhran (pronounced "bow-rawn") provide intricate layering, heart-beat and drive. Together, when played by the Kells, it produces the inspired and mighty sound called "Hardcore Irish Trad." It is music for all ages - and for the ages.

Peoria Irish Fest - Erin Feis 2019

Friday, August 23rd – Sunday, August 25th

VOLUNTEER SIGN-UP INFO

Sign Up on the Web - Go To www.peoriairishfest.com

Click the Volunteer tab. First read all the information on the page then "Click Here to Login or Sign Up

Creating a Profile

If you are a volunteer from last year, log in using your e-mail and password (which is usually your first name), then the waiver appears. Once you have agreed to the waiver, the 2018 profile will appear and you can make necessary changes and click NEXT. A second page appears with last year's schedule. Make necessary changes and click FINISH.

If you are a new volunteer you need to create a profile by clicking on the "New User" link. The waiver will now appear. Once you have agreed to the waiver, you'll be taken to the new profile page. You must complete all fields marked in **bold**. After filling out the information click NEXT. A second page appears with shift, day and job options.

After your choices are made click FINISH.

Registration Completion Email

After you successfully finished your profile, you will receive an email containing a link to complete your registration. If you do not click the link provided, you will not be included in the volunteer list. The link at the bottom of the email will say "Click here to complete your registration". Once you click this link, you will be directed to the registration page where it will say that you have been registered. You can then logout. **If two of you are using the same e-mail you must logout between updating profiles**

Volunteer T-shirt Free this year

Because it was a huge success last year we are again going to give all volunteers a FREE event T-shirt this year. You **MUST** select your T-Shirt size on the first page of the profile. Event shirts have the advertisers on the back and a special design on the front with the date of the event.

For volunteers working in one of the four bars you will get an advertiser shirt with your bar logo on the front of the event shirt. You must have your registration in by August 1st so we can order the correct number of shirts.

Pick Up: This year's t-shirts will be available Thursday at the Party. After that, shirts can be picked up at the Souvenir Tent until 1 PM on Sunday. Final colors have not been picked out yet.

You will also have the opportunity to buy other available shirts and souvenirs at the Party.

Set-Up/Tear Down

It involves a little sweat while working in the midday sun but the pace is easy and the load is light. Putting up signs, tent lights, exhibits, chairs, decorating stages & pubs, and several hundred other things keep you busy. Work with interesting people while setting-up or tearing down the fest. Please call Cheri Ruskusky @ 685-9585.

Leprechaun Get Together

The Annual Leprechaun Get Together for all our volunteers will be on Thursday, August 22 the day before the big event. Starting at 7 PM at O'Neill's Pub. You must enter the grounds at the Volunteer Gate. There should be plenty of parking. It will be an opportunity to get reacquainted with old friends and get the most up-to-date information on what is happening this year. Committee chairpersons will be present to answer questions and the Leprechaun of the Year will be announced.

We may have a little surprise for everyone. Besides an Irish band that will be playing at the fest, drinks and snacks will be provided. You are invited to walk around the grounds and take a look at this changes year's souvenirs. See you there!

Want to get a little more involved?

Volunteering for a three hour shift at Peoria Irish Fest - Erin Feis can be a lot of fun. But if you want to get a little more involved, this is your chance. After many years as leaders several of our "Old Timers" want to be less active Also, several assistant positions have become available because of people moving out of the area.

The Committees, listed on page 4, have a number of sub-committees that meet as needed to get ready for each year. If you would like to be a part of the planning, call John Martin at 692-8937 or any of the committee chairs.

Training????

I am just a volunteer-why do I need training???

While we have a good percentage of the 375 volunteers that have been with us for 5 years plus, we also have been taking in an average of 75 new volunteers each year over that time. Many job duties have changed during that time. We have gotten bigger crowds, have a handful of ticket options, handle more money from increased sales in food, beverages, merchandise, use credit card machines, have bigger bands, and a lot more to see and do. We used to be one big happy family. We now work next to someone we don't know or have a new supervisor who is talking about rules and procedures we don't know about.

But more importantly — what do you do if a mother reports a missing child? Or someone cuts their hand. Or someone steals something. Who do you report to? Why do we have Blarney Bucks? What is the Hospitality Tent for? Where is the Office Trailer? There are a lot of other questions that we would bet you don't know the answers to.

We want you to have a good time while you are helping out but we also want you to be informed about what is going on and how you should respond to unexpected problems. We are not doing this because we have nothing to do that week.

Training will be held at the party—so please be on time. We would like it to take only 45 minutes so we can get to the meet and greet part of the evening. The training will include both general info about the festival and specific info about the duties & procedures of your volunteer assignment. You can pick up your free t-shirt there too. If you can not make it send an email to Cheri explaining the problem.

The Peoria Irish Fest 5K Happy Hour is Back

Last year's was the SECOND annual race and it was a huge success. Number of runners was over 230. We were able to donate \$2000 to the Nick Murphy Foundation. Find out more information on our website. The race is held on Friday at 6 PM. You can sign up before the race or go to the web site for further information. Entry fees start at \$25 if you register in June and progress monthly to \$40 the day of the race. Runners receive free admission to the grounds, two drink tickets and a souvenir drink cup.

Peoria Irish Fest - Erin Feis 2019 Committee Chairs

Event Co-Chairs - John Martin (St. Patrick Society)
- Nick Conrad (Peoria Park District)
Beverage Committee - KC Murphy & Dann Haney
Cultural Village - Melissa Arbise
Counsel - Thomas McConnaughay
Dance Stage - Theresa Hoadley
Exhibitors/Vendors - Kara Haney
Entertainment - John Martin, Theresa Hoadley, Fergal
O'Shea & Thomas McConnaughay
Field Coordinators - Kent Higgins
Gates - Dennis Cremeens
Grounds - Nick Conrad
Hospitality - JoAnn Martin/Theresa Hoadley
Logistics - Dann Haney
Marketing - Eric Hoadley
Money Room - Ed Monroe
On Site Office - Katie Fife
Signage - Pat Light
Souvenirs - TBA
Stage Crew - Jessica Brekke
Staff Photographer-TBA
Volunteer - Cheri Ruskusky
Wee Folks Area - Shelly Rapp



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