

## A Message from Our President Patricia A. O'Connell

**Top of the Day to Ye!** Thank you for reading this edition of the St. Patrick Society's *The Central Illinois Irish News*. This year, the St. Patrick Society of Peoria is celebrating its 31<sup>st</sup> Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade through downtown Peoria followed by the family-focused, or as we Irish say clan-focused, party being held at the Holiday Inn City Centre.

**You**, our members and friends, have been sporting the green in a special way on March 17<sup>th</sup> the last 31 years. Let me, on behalf of the St. Patrick Society Board of Directors, invite you to renew your membership or join the St. Patrick Society for the first time. Our membership includes two categories, Annual Individual and Life-Time Membership.

Today the mission of the Society remains as it started with our Founders 31 years ago, **"to perpetuate the heritage and history of the Irish people and to promote their ideals, traditions, and culture."** You do not need to be Irish to be a member of the Society. We ask that you support our mission and events. The two major events that were started 31 years ago continue to be our two main events—**St. Patrick's Day Parade** in March and **Erin Feis** in late summer, typically scheduled for the 4<sup>th</sup> full weekend in August. For the **St. Patrick Society of Peoria** to continue to be true to its mission,



we need you to get involved in the events sponsored by the **St. Patrick Society**. We need you to be an active volunteer to assist with the **St. Patrick's Day Parade and Party**, the **3-DayFeis** event on the Peoria RiverFront and **other events** as they are hosted by the St. Patrick Society of Peoria.

As a 501c3 organization with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), the **St. Patrick Society of Peoria** does not get involved in attempting to influence legislation or intervene in political campaigns on behalf of any candidate for public office. Please consider making a contribution in honor of or in memory of a loved one, or to assist with the sponsorship of one of our events.

Your donation check should be made payable to the **St. Patrick Society** and mailed to the St. Patrick Society President, P O Box117, Peoria, IL 61650. Your gift is tax deductible according to the extent of the IRS laws.

As events are scheduled or there is news to share the *Irish News Newsletter* is published and mailed to the membership. You may also keep in touch with news and events by going to the **St. Patrick Society website:** [www.stpatpeoria.com](http://www.stpatpeoria.com) or the **Erin Feis website:** [www.erinfeispeoria.com](http://www.erinfeispeoria.com)

**Mark your calendar** to come to this year's **Erin Feis** scheduled **August 26-27-28, 2011** co-sponsored by the St. Patrick Society of Peoria and the Peoria Park District.