



ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND WELCOMES

Gaelic-American Club

74 Beach Road, Fairfield CT 06824

www.gaonline.org



Welcome to the Gaelic American Club!

As a new member of the largest Irish-American social club in the United States you have joined a community of fellow members devoted to promoting and celebrating Irish culture in Fairfield County. The Gaelic American Club, Inc. (G.A.C.) offers all members multiple opportunities to learn more about their Irish heritage and to participate in clubs, activities and committees intended to support the foundation of the G.A.C. community.

Founded in 1948 by a group of Irish and Irish-American volunteers, the Gaelic American Club was later incorporated in 1950. After moving to multiple locations in Bridgeport and Fairfield the G.A.C. established it's current and permanent home in Fairfield in May of 1993.

While the oversight and management of the club is performed by both paid employees and volunteers, the success of the G.A.C. is due to the thousands of volunteer hours contributed by members every year. As a new member you are encouraged to **join an activity, club or committee and get involved**. Many hands make light work, but it's also a lot more fun to get invested in your new community.

A copy of the club's ByLaws and Policy & Procedures manuals can be found on gaonline.org or in the Library. Please familiarize yourself with the rules that govern the operations of the club. Your membership is a privilege, enjoy it within the parameters that have been set over 70 years of successful operations.

Find out What's Happening at the G.A.C.

The following channels are the primary means of communication:

The Scéala Newsletter - The **Scéala** is a monthly newsletter that can be downloaded from the G.A.C. website or the weekly **Bulletin**. If you prefer to receive a printed copy by mail please send an email to newsletter@gacemail.org or send a letter to the Newsletter.

The Bulletin: The *Bulletin* is a weekly email notice that provides important reminders, updates, and timely information from various committees. Members can subscribe to the **Bulletin** on the G.A.C. Website.

Posted Notices: Notices to the membership that have been approved by the House Committee will be posted in the main lobby bulletin board and placed on tables.

Membership Meetings and Information: Membership meetings are held on the second Friday of each month at 8 pm in the Carolan Room, unless otherwise announced. Between meetings, the club

Gaconline.org - The G.A.C. website provides an abundance of information and is updated frequently. The gaelicamericanclub.com website is used specifically for management of membership applications and renewals.

G.A.C. Facilities

The building was built in 1992 and significantly expanded in 2009. All entry is through the main lobby. You will find the Carolan Room to the right of the main lobby and the Pub is to the left. The second floor consists of our library, meeting rooms and offices. Access to the second floor is via the staircase off the main lobby or the staircase and elevator off the Pub. The basement is off-limits to members, unless you are authorized by management. Mailboxes for management and committees are located at the bottom of the stairwell in the main lobby. Smoking is prohibited inside the building.

Gift Cards: We do NOT accept credit or debit cards but we do have an ATM on the premises. We do sell **Gift Cards** for personal use or gift use. Gift cards do **NOT** expire and may be bought for any cash denomination from the bartenders or club manager.

Membership Key / Scrip Cards: All voting members are given a white dual purpose membership key card. The card is used for identification and to gain entrance into the club. If you need to replace a card(s), notify the Membership Committee.

Scrip: All voting members are charged \$75 annual Scrip, which can be used to purchase food or drinks. The \$75 is downloaded onto your white card. The Scrip (\$75) expires on the last day of February and does not carry over to the following year. **DO NOT DESTROY YOUR WHITE CARD.** Your Scrip payment will be downloaded onto the same card with each annual renewal. The fee to replace a lost card is \$10. Non-working cards are replaced free of charge.

Membership Renewal: All renewal applications must be received to the Membership Committee by the last day of February. Your membership is terminated if you do not renew on time. **There is a \$100 reinstatement fee if you wish to renew after the last day in February.**

Partners Organizations in the Fairfield County Irish Community

The G.A.C. works closely with the following non-profit organizations:

<p>FÉILE FÉILE, Incorporated is devoted to the preservation and sharing of Irish culture. FÉILE was founded by members of the Gaelic American Club in 1989 to continue the Fairfield County Irish Festival which the Club had started in 1988 and to promote and support the many facets of Irish culture.</p> <p>Website: feileinc.org</p>	<p>St. Patrick's G.A.A. of Connecticut St. Patrick's G.A.A. fields teams for boys and girls from U8 to U18 and Senior age groups. Clad in G.A.C. sponsored jerseys, St. Pats has won many championship cups, and National Championships in both Hurling and Gaelic Football.</p> <p>St. Patrick's Mission:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Instill a love of Gaelic games and a spirit of sportsmanship and fair play● Provide top-notch training and instruction in Gaelic football from basic skills to advanced techniques● Compete at the highest levels in the GAA <p>Website: stpatricksgfc.org</p>
<p>Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH) America's oldest Irish Catholic Fraternal Organization founded concurrently in the coal-mining region of Pennsylvania and New York City in May, 1836. The Order can trace its roots back to a series of similar societies that existed in Ireland for more than 300 years.</p> <p>Website: aoh.com</p>	<p>Greater Bridgeport St. Patrick's Day Parade The Greater Bridgeport St. Patrick's Day Parade is a day long celebration of St. Patrick held each year in downtown Bridgeport.</p> <p>Website: stpatricksdaysbridgeport.com</p>

Top 10 - *What every GAC member needs to know!*

10 Why do we need that guest book anyway? It's the law. In order for the GAC to maintain its liquor license the State of Connecticut requires all **guests 21 years and older must be signed in** at the front desk. Members may sign in a maximum of 4 guests per 1 adult member. Children do not need to be signed in, but please use respectful judgement as to how many you bring to the club. Members are responsible for guests behavior at all times. Please enter and exit the building through the main lobby doors.

9 Wee-one's MUST be watched! Parents are responsible for the whereabouts and behavior of their children at all times. Children are very welcome to enjoy our club but respectful behavior is mandatory, otherwise parents membership will be in jeopardy. Children (under 13) are not allowed upstairs unless accompanied by an adult. By law, minors (under 18) are NOT allowed in the bar area unless accompanied by an adult and minors must remain a minimum of 3 feet from the bar counter.

8 Drinks are on you! Members are responsible to purchasing their own drinks from the bartenders and **RETURNING EMPTY GLASSES TO THE BAR**. This tradition goes back to days of old when the GAC was just a small pub with a dance floor.

7 More than Bangers n' Mash. Food service is available in the pub and rear of the Carolan room Wednesday through Sunday. See website or newsletter for hours. Our hostess will help seat members and guests during peak hours, but the **GAC does not take reservations**.

6 Upstairs is for Books and Meet Ups. Visit our library to discovered books for young and old with variety of subjects all tied back to the Irish heritage. Books may only be checked out by members only. Timely return of materials is very much appreciated. Also upstairs are two meeting rooms, the O'Keefe room and Irish Language room, that members are welcome to use. Please **NO food or beverages are allowed upstairs**.

5 Field of Dreams - if you build it, they will come. All are welcome to enjoy the backyard space but please treat it as you would your own property. Children are expected to be respectful of not climbing the fence, tree or damaging any other equipment/games that is provided. Smokers please use the available reciprocals for ashes and cigarette butts. You may take your drinks outside, but please return all glasses to bar

and garbage to available garbage cans. Wait or bus staff is NOT responsible for cleaning this area.

4 Parking a' Plenty. Well not always. If our parking lot is full, members are welcome to use the adjacent lots belonging to our neighbors [Abraham L. Green & Son Funeral Home and Fairfield First Congregational United Church of Christ] when not in use for services. Please do not park on sidewalk close to our main entrance. This area is for a quick pick up or drop off only.

3 Book A Party! The club has several areas that may be reserved or rented for members use. The main function room is The Carolan Room which may be partitioned off depending on the size needed. Members are required to book through the GAC's Manager, Tom Flaherty, at manager@gacemail.org.

2 Membership Meetings are for all Members

Every 2nd Friday 8pm in the Carolan Room the GAC holds it's monthly membership meeting. All members are welcome to join and encourage to get involved. Meetings are run efficiently and inclusively to best serve the business of the club. Coffee, tea, and dessert is complimentary at the conclusion.

1 Get Involved and Give Back!

For over 70 years, the Gaelic American Club has been primarily volunteer run. We welcome and encourage new members to apply their talent, experience, or interests to help sustain our organization and secure its future for the next generation.