



April 21, 2020

Dear Friendly Sons,

It's hard to fathom what has transpired in our world over the six weeks that have passed since the March 17, 2020, Friendly Sons of St. Patrick dinner was postponed. I know that everyone of us is feeling a significant impact upon our lives.

Therefore, with proper context and perspective, I am writing to provide an update on specifics of our Society. Of course, all aspects of our Society's planning and logistics are held hostage by the circumstances bestowed upon us by the COVID-19 pandemic. Hence, at this time there can be no certainties in scheduling. Regardless, the following are important points to note:

- Consider the 2020 Annual Dinner officially cancelled.
- As the 2020 Dinner did not and will not occur, I have agreed to stay in position as President in the hopes that we will be able to re-create the same program (or as similar as possible) next St. Patrick's Day, March 17, 2021. This decision was at the behest of Vice President, Mike Cosgrove, Esq., and discussions with our Historian, By-Laws Chairman, and Ticket Committee. A "proper" transition of the presidency to Mike Cosgrove, Esq., will occur at that next dinner.
- Table captains/ticket purchasers will receive their full refund within the next 2 weeks and will then be responsible for any further individual distributions necessary.
- The updated and improved website **will officially launch on May 1, 2020**. The new domain is [www.friendlysonslackco.org](http://www.friendlysonslackco.org). Many thanks to the Information Technology and Website Committee, led by Dr. Joe Kelly, Sr. I urge you to spend time exploring the entire website to become familiar with its detail and many features.

Some notable website features include:

- ❖ NEWS – announcements and notifications will be listed and kept up to date.
- ❖ GALLERY – expanded gallery of photos. Plus, the ability to upload **your own** Friendly Son's photos to the website. You are encouraged to do so!
- ❖ New contact email address for the website: [contact@friendlysonslackco.org](mailto:contact@friendlysonslackco.org)
- ❖ Instructions on how to order a print of "Arrival of the Procession."
- The dates of additional meetings for the 2020-21 year have not yet been scheduled. That said, we will try to keep our traditional meeting format intact as this pandemic allows. You will be notified of any scheduled events.
- I would like to proceed with our plans to establish a statue/monument of Saint Patrick in the Cathedral Prayer Garden. Anyone interested in directly participating in this project is asked to contact me via [fssplackawanna@yahoo.com](mailto:fssplackawanna@yahoo.com).
- Hopefully, at some point, our Membership Committee will be able to proceed with plans for new membership recruitment outings.

I remain optimistic that the 2020-21 Friendly Sons' year will be a great success, if not memorable. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me directly regarding any questions or concerns regarding our beloved Society. I wish you and your families health and safety during these challenging times.

Sláinte and all the best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'FitzPatrick', written in a cursive style.

W. David FitzPatrick, M.D.  
President, Friendly Sons of St. Patrick