

**IRISH CULTURAL SOCIETY
MARTIN J. KELLY WRITING CONTEST 2020**

ELIGIBILITY: Open to all students in grades 9 to 12 in the schools in Nassau County.

PROJECT: A rewriting of contemporary rules/regulations in the language of 14th century English. The model for the Early Modern English is the language in the Statutes of Kilkenny, a page of which is included with these contest materials.

Contest entrants will rewrite contemporary rules (restrictions on cell phones, tank tops, iPods, etc.) in the style found in the Statutes of Kilkenny. The mix of the new (field hockey rules, soft drink regulations, etc.) with the old (600 year old English phraseology) will undoubtedly produce chuckles and perhaps some outright laughter. Fun with language manipulation is an object of this project. We ask the entrant to create three rewritten rules/regulations.

USEFUL RESOURCES: The best material for this project is a copy of the entire *Statutes of Kilkenny* which is available on our web site: irish-society.org. and at Statutes of Kilkenny (1367).

We have included the first page of the Statutes of Kilkenny with this material, to which we have added a rewritten rule as an example for the contest entrants. Please go to our web site irish-society.org for “Helpful Hints,” which includes the full version of the Statutes and two additional examples of rewritten rules.

CRITERIA: The judge will rate most highly those entries which make the greatest and most clever use of the Statutes of Kilkenny material. Humor is a goal of this contest. The entries need not make sense (see “Helpful Hints”), nor be easily readable. The old phraseology used to convey current day restrictions might suggest a satirical comment on rules.

ENTRY FORMAT: Typed, writer’s name at
end of entry; no school identification

DEADLINE: March 17, 2020

PRIZES: 1ST \$200 (3), 2ND \$150 (3), 3RD \$125 (3)
4th \$35 (35)

COVER SHEET: Writer’s name, school;
email address, sponsoring teacher

A gift of a book will be donated to the school libraries of all of those who enter the contest.

All entrants will receive a Certificate of Merit.

Sponsor: The H.W. Wilson Foundation

MAIL ENTRIES TO:
Irish Cultural Society
P.O. Box 247
Garden City, NY 11530