



APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP
Ancient Order of Hibernians in America, Inc.

I hereby apply for admission into the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America, Inc., and agree that my reception and continuance in said Order shall depend on the truthfulness of my answers to the questions which are hereto attached, which answers are made by me for the purpose of gaining admitted to the order.

TO BE A MEMBER YOU MUST BE A PRACTICING ROMAN CATHOLIC AND BE OF IRISH HERITAGE BY BIRTH OR DESCENT. (Only Exception: Clergy need not be Irish.)

Please type or print clearly

My Name is:

Address:

City: State: Zip Code

Occupation: Home Phone:

E-Mail Address: Work Phone:.....

Age Date of Birth/...../..... Irish by: Birth Descent

Mother's maiden name:

Are you a Roman Catholic: Yes No Name of your Parish

Have you complied with your religious duties within the past 12 months: Yes No

Do you belong to any Society to which the Catholic Church is opposed: Yes No

Were you ever previously a member of the Ancient Order of Hibernians Yes No

If you were a member before please give the City, State, Division # and reason for withdrawal

I do solemnly pledge my sacred word and honor that the answers I have given to the above questions are true.

Applicant Signature Date/...../.....

Return to: Robert Fitzgerald, 11001 Crooked Tree Lane, Spotsylvania, VA 22553

PROPOSER'S CERTIFICATE:

I hereby certify on my honor as a member that I the applicant is known by me to be of good character, a practicing Roman Catholic, and worthy to become a member of the Ancient Order of Hibernians.

Proposer's Signature

Date/...../.....

PRESIDENT'S CERTIFICATE:

I hereby certify that this application has been read to me at a regular meeting and the applicant has been elected a member of this division by the members present.

President's Signature

Date/...../.....

STANDING COMMITTEE:

The Standing Committee has investigated the applicant and recommends him for membership.

Standing Committee Signature

Date/...../.....

FINANCIAL SECRETARY:

I hereby certify that the member has paid the initiation fee/dues \$.....

Financial Secretary's Signature

Date/...../.....



The Ancient Order of Hibernians can trace its name to 1641 and its motto "*Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity*" to the Defenders of 1565 Ireland. Their mission was to protect priests who risked death for keeping the Catholic Faith alive. England implemented the Penal Laws stripping the Irish of every basic human right for more than 100 years (1697-1826). The Order's mission grew to include aid and comfort to all Irish people.

AOH in America

www.aoh.com

In the mid-19th century, the Irish arrived on our shores impoverished, ragged, mostly Gaelic-speaking, and worst of all, Catholic. Several Irish immigrant societies in the U.S. provided social welfare benefits to arriving immigrants. As more Irish Immigrant Societies agreed, the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America was founded in New York City on May 4, 1836. In response to the rise of anti-immigrant, anti-Catholic sentiment, Hibernians were called to protect the Catholic clergy and parish churches from vandalism and arson. In 1843, the AOH gained national notoriety in fighting off a mob intent on burning Saint Patrick Cathedral (New York) to the ground. In the mid-1850s the Know Nothings burned Irish and other immigrant communities and lobbied for laws restricting Irish Catholic immigration. AOH continued to defend Catholicism even using armed guards to fight off would be desecrators of consecrated properties.

AOH in Virginia

www.aohvirginia.org

The Hibernian Friendship Society of Arlington Virginia (founded in 1831) became the local link in the evolution of the ancient Irish Catholic societies. The first AOH division in Virginia, the St Patrick Division in Roanoke, was found ca 1895, but dissolved shortly after World War II. Since then 15 divisions have been chartered from spanning the Commonwealth from Winchester to Virginia Beach and Roanoke to Alexandria.

The General Thomas F. Meagher Division

www.fredericksburgaoh.org

In November 1987, Father John J. Munley (St Mary Parish) was instrumental in founding the Fredericksburg area AOH Division. It was named in honor of Irish-American statesman, patriot and commander of the famed Irish Brigade, General Thomas F. Meagher. General Meagher Division brothers volunteer and raise money for local Catholic charities. For example, proceeds from our annual Shamrock Charity Golf Tournament and Trip for Two to Ireland raffle support Mary's Shelter, Birth Right, the Paul-Stefan Foundation, parish work camps, and scholastic awards for Catholic elementary school students accepted for attendance at area Catholic High Schools. Each year we commemorate Irish Brigade losses in Battle of Fredericksburg and present wreath at the City Dock and at Marye's Heights. We participate in Irish cultural events, including Irish-American Heritage Month activities (St Patrick celebrations, parades, etc.), International Festivals, and host an annual Halfway to St Patrick Day celebration each September.

Our monthly meetings (third Tuesday, 7:30 PM) include a formal business meeting followed by a social segment including guest speakers on current issues in Ireland, and Irish/Irish-American history, and cultural discussions. We meet at the Fredericksburg Knights of Columbus Council Home, 4724 Harrison Road, Fredericksburg, VA 22401