



GENERAL MEAGHER'S DISPATCHES

April 2014

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A HAPPY AND GLORIOUS EASTER TO ALL IN FRIENDSHIP, UNITY AND CHRISTIAN CHARITY

President's Corner – April 2014

Brothers,

One can suggest that being redundant in the spoken or written word is a means of reinforcing a point that is considered important. To that end, I am providing you with information in this writing which you have already received in one fashion or another.

Brother Jim O'Donnell and his Golf Committee are charging forward with unwavering determination to make our inaugural Shamrock Charity Golf Classic an outstanding success but they need our help. The job is an enormous undertaking and all of us have to join together in assisting them.

As I've mentioned several times, the event will be held at Lake of the Woods Golf Course on Monday April 21, 2014, (under two weeks). I am urgently asking each of you to participate in some way to make it a success. The tournament is intended to draw Hibernians from all over the area but isn't limited just to members of the Order. Anyone and everyone is eligible

If you are a golfer, we also still need you to play, form teams and spread the word to other golfers of your acquaintance. If you don't play golf, we still need your assistance in selling Mulligans, 50/50 tickets and raffle tickets for a Trip for Two to Ireland. I'll be happy to train you!

Don't hesitate to encourage individuals and businesses along with professionals like doctors, dentists, attorneys, CPAs and others to sponsor a hole or even better to join us for the day!. Details are elsewhere in this newsletter. If you have questions, just call me at 786-6203 or Jim O'Donnell at 412-2571.

Please do everything you can to attend our monthly meeting on Tuesday, April 15th! We will be going over last minute details at that time and are counting on each of you.

Thank you in advance for helping us. Your personal participation not only helps your Brothers but the charities we support as a Division as well.

Respectfully,
Bill

[Pray the Rosary!](#)



Meagher Division Recruiting: We are set for *recruiting at St. Matthew on May 3 & 4*. Masses are Saturday at 5:30PM and Sunday morning at 8:00, 9:30, and 11:00. Chuck Payne, John Harris, and Bill Halpin will be there, but more AOH `recruiters_ are needed! Let me know if you ll be here as well at sisconsulting@comcast.net



AOH Degrees: In March we welcomed our four newest brothers with the Shamrock Degree Ceremony. Pictured here with President McCarthy and Chaplain Father Fimian are (l to r) Michael Timm, Andy Link, David Turley, and Larry Pratt.



After the 2d Quarter VAAOH State Board meeting on April 12th, the Brian Boru Major Degree Team conferred the Order’s Major Degrees on Brother Paul O’Brien. ***Congratulations Paul on becoming a “true” Hibernian!***

The Major Degrees will be exemplified at the National Convention in St Louis (31 July - 3 Aug) and again at the 4th Quarter VAAOH State Board meeting scheduled for 11 October and hosted by the Father Kelly Division in Manassas. President McCarthy says there at about 18 brothers needing the Major Degrees.



April Meeting Notes: In February, the Charities Committee presented recommendations for 2014. Among the annual recommendations was one that the division charter ***three new committees:*** Heritage Committee, Vocations Committee, and Homelessness & Hunger Committee. Brother Bill Halpin accepted chairmanship of the Heritage Committee and Brother John Hogan accepted chairmanship of the Vocations Committee. The Homelessness & Hunger Committee chair remains vacant; a volunteer to chair this committee will be appreciated.

Charities Committee Chairman, Chuck Payne, moved that the division include the new St Jude Parish participation in the annual diocesan work camp program in our annual parish work camp support. The motion was seconded and approved.

The division voted to support a third annual **Halfway to St Patrick Day Celebration** to be held o/a September 27th at Lake of the Woods. It was emphasized that Halfway Celebrations are held for the purpose of sharing Irish tradition, culture, music and dance with `outside_ communities.

Needed: **Meagher Division Delegates** for the National Convention



Prayer List: Prayers were requested for the speedy recovery of Joan McCarthy, Mike Lenihan, and Colonel Bill Wetzel, USA (ret.) and for the repose of the soul Commander, Nick Ferro, USN (ret.).



From the Heritage Committee:

Papal War: BCT for the Union Army?

While the vast majority of the Irish who fought in the Union ranks had no previous military experience, there were a handful of soldiers and officers who arrived on American shores already battle-hardened from a little known European war. Exactly 150 years ago this year, over one thousand Irishmen answered a call to arms from Pope Pius IX and journeyed to Italy to fight in defense of his temporal lands - the Papal States. Garnering praise from friend and foe, the Irish Papal Brigade, christened the "Battalion of St. Patrick", fought with bravery and aplomb alongside soldiers from Europe's military superpowers. Although the conflict between the invading Piedmontese and Sardinian nationalists and the Pope's multinational army lasted only a matter of weeks, there was sharp fighting in locations where the Irish were stationed such as Perugia, Spoleto, Castelfidardo, and Ancona where the war finally ended following a ten day siege of that Adriatic port.

After a short time as prisoners of war, most of the Irish returned home with only a handful retained to serve in Rome as part of the greatly diminished papal army. However, within a matter of months, Fort Sumter was fired upon and the American Civil War ignited across the Atlantic. Desperate for military experience in their reorganized Federal Army, Lincoln's government dispatched envoys to Europe in the hope of enlisting adventurous or disenfranchised soldiers and officers. Agents of the Union such as Archbishop John Hughes and Archbishop John Purcell were brought in to assist in this recruitment process and both men travelled to Ireland and Rome recruiting veterans of the Papal War. They were highly successful in that mission as, according to the Rome correspondent of the Tablet, "the greater part of the Irish Brigade in the Papal service . . . passed into that of the Northern states, where they have greatly distinguished themselves." Many of the

men of the Pope's Irish battalion did indeed go on to have remarkable military careers, particularly in the Union ranks. Patrick Clooney, who fought so doggedly in the streets of Perugia, died heroically while rallying the men of the Irish Brigade at Antietam. In an editorial mourning the death of Captain Patrick Clooney of Meagher's Brigade at Antietam, the Tipperary Advocate published: 'In that disastrous retreat from Richmond, which was only saved from degeneration into a shameful flight by the valorous steadiness of Meagher's command, one and twenty brave youths who had escaped the fire of Piedmontese artillerists unscathed, fell before the Southern rifle. Clooney, the editorial mused, 'with two other comrades of Perugia, Costello and Synan, left Waterford in the opening of '61 for the express purpose of taking arms under his townsman Thomas Francis Meagher, whom he loved with all the fidelity and fullness of heart of a clansman for his chief. Clooney 'did not live long to wear his spurs and though he died the death he ambitioned, perhaps, most of all, we do not think he perished quite on the field he desired. With his 'indomitable Munster pluck, he 'risked his life once for Faith, and following the martial promptings of his breed, he devoted it the second time to Gratitude' a chivalrous, albeit some might deem it an erring, impulse. Fellow Waterford man, Dan Keily (Ancona), was horrifically wounded at Port Republic in June of 1862 when he led a daring charge of Ohioan cavalry up

a slope into a fusillade of Rebel artillery fire. J.J. Coppinger (Spoleto) established himself as one of the Union army's most redoubtable fighters and eventually became a general. The commander of Company 'H' of Meagher's Irish Brigade at Antietam was Lieutenant John H. Gleeson, also formerly of the Irish Papal Brigade. Lieutenant Michael O'Connell of Ballybunion, who had won the Order of Pius IX while in the Battalion of St. Patrick, was killed in battle fighting with the 155th New York (Corcoran's Irish Legion) at the battle of Reams Station, Virginia. Probably the best known of the Pope's Irishmen was Myles Walter Keogh (Ancona), whose impressive service in the Union ranks gained him a post-war captain's commission in the famed 7th Cavalry. Keogh was killed along with General Custer and 200 hundred other troopers fighting Sioux and Cheyenne warriors at the iconic Battle of the Little Big Horn. Although treated like heroes on their return to Ireland, and then choosing to offer their blood and sword in the service of another nation, the deeds of the Pope's Irish soldiers have dissipated with the passing of time. Hopefully, an anniversary such as falls this year will provoke a renewed interest in the valiant Irishmen who fought in the Pope's army. American Civil War historian, Brian C. Pohanka, once insightfully remarked: 'Without memory, we have no deeds. _

Extracted from *Irish in the American Civil War*, by Damian Shields

The Heritage Committee is exploring the possibility of a **professional genealogist visit** to our division to talk about the conduct of Irish genealogical searches, DNA research, the likelihood of finding credible information on antecedents in Ireland, the cost involved, and related topics. Your feedback on interest in such a presentation will be appreciated.



Upcoming Events:

April 21: Annual *Shamrock Charity Golf Classic* at Lake of the Woods golf course. Tee off at 9AM. All Meagher Division volunteers should plan to arrive at 7:30AM

April 25 -27: Comhaltas Ceoltóiri Éireann 2014 Convention & Mid-Atlantic Fleadh. The Comhaltas Ceoltóiri Éireann Mid-Atlantic Region will host a weekend of *Irish Music and Dance!* Come and enjoy Ceilithe and Concerts; Instrument, Singing, Set Dance, Céilí and Sean Nos workshops and be a part of our celebration of the "bloom of youth," the future of our movement! For more information, click [here](#).

May 10: The *Commodore Barry Memorial Dedication* at the U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis. Unfortunately all 392 tickets are spoken for; however, you can witness the event on CCTV in the DC AOH tent.

May 18: The *Archdiocese of the Military Services* annual Mass will be celebrated at Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception beginning at 4:30 PM

30 July-2 August: The 2014 *AOH National Convention* to be held at the Marriott Renaissance Hotel. The convention will open with an ice breaker on July 30 and close with the banquet on Saturday (2 Aug) evening. Exemplification of Major Degrees on Aug 2.

August 9: The Annual *Ballyshaners Festival* in Alexandria -- fund raiser to support the annual St Patrick Day Parade.

August 14: *Halfway to Saint Patrick Day Celebration* with the Potomac Nationals. An AOH brother will toss the first pitch and sing our National Anthem.

September 27: The *General Meagher Division Halfway to St Patrick Day Celebration* at the Lake of the Woods clubhouse.

October 11: VAAOH Quarterly State Board meeting followed by exemplification of the *Major Degrees* hosted by Father Kelly Division, Manassas.



General Meagher Division Attire: As in most organizations, we have AOH specific attire. In a perfect world every brother would have these articles of clothing.

- For semi-formal/formal occasions, the AOH `uniform_ is green sport coat, tri-color sash, white shirt, Irish theme tie, black trousers and ball cap. These occasions include AOH Masses, funerals, AOH dinners, State and National conventions, all parades, and other public events.

- The AOH tri-color sash represents the national flag of Ireland and should be worn over the right shoulder crossing to the left hip (see photo)



- At informal events (i.e. Division outings (ball games, picnics, meetings, etc.) the division logo polo or sweatshirts (optional ball cap) are appropriate. Many have already ordered the division polo and sweat shirts and the ball cap.

Division Logo Items: Bill Halpin has been ordering Division logo polo shirts, sweatshirts and ball caps.

- Long sleeve polo: \$22.75 (XXL is extra)
- Short sleeve polo: \$19.75 (XXL is extra)
- Sweat shirt: \$21.25 (XXL is extra)
- Ball Cap: \$14.00

Green Jacket: Brothers procure their own green jackets and sashes. One source: http://blazerdepot.com/pages/mens_blazer/augustagreenblazer.html
 Say you're with AOH and the \$5.00 small order fee can be waived.

AOH Sash: Tri-color AOH sashes are available from:

- LAOH Sister Patricia Ankrom. Email Patricia at traceysbydesign@aol.com
- D. & E. Morrissey (954-426-3514) <http://www.hibernians-shamrock.com/donations.html>

