



GENERAL MEAGHER'S DISPATCHES

January 2014

Volume 2/Number 1

A Message from our President:

Brothers,

I trust you and your families have been getting through this early part of the Winter without great difficulty. I'm sorry we had to cancel our meeting in January because of inclement weather but as many of you have mentioned --- it was probably a wise thing to do.

The weather hasn't slowed the operations of the Division as the Officers and Staff have been busy at their tasks through use of telephones and emails. The main effort has been the planning and execution by Jim O'Donnell and his Golf Tournament Committee. They have put a strong infrastructure in place and are hard at work.

The event, as many of you are aware, will be held at Lake of the Woods Golf Course on Monday April 21, 2014. I am 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

We also need you to play, form teams and spread the word to other golfers of your acquaintance or volunteer to perform other tasks. I don't play golf but am an expert on selling a Mulligan. If you don't know what that is 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 as well and even better to join us for the day!. Details are elsewhere in this newsletter.

It's our Division and all of us have to get involved!

If you have questions, just call me at 786-6203 or Jim O'Donnell at 412-2571.

I look forward to seeing all who are able to come at our meeting on February 21st. Jim McMorrow is serving his famous chili! Until then...

*Respectfully,
Bill*

Pray the Rosary!

Recruiting: Past President, Bill Halpin has been appointed Division Organizer. Recruitment is first in this month's newsletter because without continuous and vibrant growth we might easily wither and pass into AOH history.

For example, the Father Munley Division (named for our division founder!) was a vibrant, contributing division in the Winchester area. In recent years division leaders neglected to mount a concerted recruitment effort. Over several years, the membership was depleted due to age related infirmities that made full participation difficult, job-related moves and disinterest borne in the lack of vibrancy. In October 2013, the remaining three men petitioned to have the division removed from active status, they properly emptied their treasury, and today they no longer exist.

We need to collectively shepherd the Meagher Division's health and welfare with the "Hibernian Zeal" we pledged when we joined the AOH. We need to work in unison to support that goal by identifying, educating and ultimately recruiting Irish-Catholic men for our brotherhood. Irish-Catholic men are not hard to find. They're everywhere in our everyday activities -- in the family, at work, in the neighborhood, at church, in other organizations. **Be Active in our Recruitment effort**

Fredericksburg Religious Freedom Day: On January 12th the Division participated in the annual RFD march sponsored by the Rappahannock Assembly, Knights of Columbus. The keynote speaker was Religious Freedom Coalition Chairman William J. Murray (son of Madalyn Murray O'Hair). The invocation was delivered by fellow Hibernian, Fr Don Rooney

Neil and Connie Buttimer, Pete Carroll, Bob Fitzgerald, Bill Halpin, Bud Logan and Hugh O'Brien marched from the assembly area and were joined en route by Division President Bill McCarthy and Sentinel John Hogan. Also attending were Chaplain, Father Kevin Fimian, the Fogarty family -- Vice President Patrick, Kimberly, and one month old son "J.P."; Gene and Kay McKenna; and Bill Phillips.



Inaugural Shamrock Charity Golf Classic: Our Golf Committee has met several times and is making great strides managing the tournament. Committee Chair Jim O'Donnell has built a great team of Hibernians who are determined to make this an overwhelming success. The tournament will be held on April 21, 2014 at the Lake of the Woods Country Club located 15 miles west of Fredericksburg on Route 3. The Tournament brochure which includes the itinerary, sponsorship levels, and fees and other important information is attached. If you play, get a foursome together; if you don't play, consider sponsorship at one of the five levels!

Help and Hope for Meaningful Employment: Chairman Chuck Payne is soliciting mentors for the project, primarily to support sessions held at the St Mary Parish Life Center. These sessions are held on the third Wednesday each month starting at 8PM. None of our current mentors are experts, but they have the *Will to Help*. For additional information on how you can contribute to this beneficial community outreach program contact Chuck at AOHChuck@gmail.com

Notes From the State Meeting: Important issues taken up at the Quarterly State Meeting on 25 Jan include:

VAAOH adopted the following resolution on Irish Immigration:

Whereas the Preamble in our AOH National Constitution, Item 7 states that a main purpose of our organization is: To encourage an equitable U.S. immigration law for Ireland, and to cooperate with groups for a fair American Immigration Policy, Whereas noting with satisfaction the current efforts of the National Immigration Chairman, Dan Dennehy, working to secure a legal path for Ireland's undocumented and secure future flow for Irish immigrants,

Whereas the fact that Comprehensive Immigration Reform is now possible and Irish people will have a real opportunity from current legislation to create a new life for themselves in our great Nation and to continue to contribute to the important bonds between Ireland and the US,

1. Encourages all Virginia AOH Divisions to cooperate with other organizations at the grassroots level to support the cause of equitable immigration reform;
2. Urges members to comply with the goals of U.S. Catholic Bishops and their goals to pass a just and compassionate immigration reform;
3. Calls on appointed Immigration Chairmen and our Brother and Sister Hibernians and their families to help in attaining the successful passing of this reform;
4. Requests that each Division of the Virginia AOH appoint a Chairman of Immigration whose duties it will be to work with the Immigration Chair appointed by the National and State Boards.

Irish Concert at Walter Reed Medical Center: After visiting Army Sgt Eric Shields (son of an LOAH sister) who was wounded in Afghanistan, Brothers Keith Carney and Pat Troy decided to organize an AOH sponsored Irish Concert featuring Irish bands, Irish dance performances, etc. to be held at Walter Reed. The details are incomplete; however, they hope to schedule it in February.

National Convention: The AOH National Convention is scheduled for in St Louis, MO 30 July -3 August this year. Virginia has 29 convention delegates; it is imperative that VAAOH leaders ensure that all 29 votes are available at the convention. Our Tri-State organization (VA, MD, and DC) is the third largest bloc of voters behind NY and PA.

State Chaplain's Comments: Father Timothy Harris, TOR, commented on the March for Life and how important it is that we all do the right thing. Father Tim noted the danger on the pro-choice side and admonished us not

present ourselves that way: we cannot be angry. We need to be courageous in Faith, Truth, and Strength, but always in love as Christ would.

Prayer List: Please keep our brothers and family members in your prayers: Corita O'Brien, Pat and Jennifer Phillips, Annette Fitzgerald, Mike Lenihan, charter members Bill Callahan, Ron Cullen, and Joe O'Connor.

Calendar of Scheduled Activities

February 1 St Brigid's Gala: Our Lady of Angels Parish Center, Woodbridge, 6:30-11PM, \$25 per person. Sponsored by LAOH Contact Shirley Sullivan (703-494-4578) or Alice Alexander (703-497-7748)

March 1 Alexandria Parade: Through the years, this has been one of the best parades for AOH participation. There's an intimacy among viewers and marchers resulting from the narrow Alexandria streets. VAAOH divisions form behind the state banner and gather for refreshments when the parade concludes.

March 15 Twelfth Annual Fredericksburg Parade: Always a great event with enthusiastic crowds; begins at noon. We'll kick-off our ***Sixth Trip for Two to Ireland*** raffle at our Brother Jeff Fitzpatrick's Blue and Gray Brewery Irish festival immediately after the parade.

There are more events in the planning stages for March, so stay tuned!

April 21 Annual Shamrock Charity Golf Classic, Lake of the Woods Country Club (*see attached brochure*)

A Wee Bit o' Irish Folklore:

The Ancient Order of Hibernians can trace its name to Irish Rebellion of 1641 and its motto "Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity" to the Defenders of 1565 Ireland.

But did you know -- Thomas Radcliffe, Earl of Sussex, Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland in his 1565 edict against the Catholic religion, prohibited all monks and Catholic priests from either eating or sleeping in Dublin and ordered the

head of each family to attend Protestant services every Sunday, under the penalty of a fine.

In response, Irish prince Rory O'Moore of Leix (now County Laois) organized the Defenders, taking up the cause of religious freedom and the protection of the priesthood. Rory O'Moore's belonged to the Clan Rory of the Province of Ulster. Clan Rory were descended from the celebrated hero, Conall Cearnach, who was the chieftain of the Red Branch Knights at the beginning of the Christian era.

Under the Defenders protection, priests said Mass in the mountains, in the valleys and in the glens. After Prince O'Moore's death, the Defenders in their cause and under various chieftains grew as new branches sprang up. In due time these evolved into the "Terry-Alts" and the "Fenians". In addition to governmental oppression, these branches of the Defenders opposed a succession of Protestant organizations that evolved into present day "Orangemen". It is said that the spirit of O'Moore's followers gave rise to the Ancient Order of Hibernians.

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**The alibi:** Still working to master Microsoft publisher í in time this newsletter will see an improved format.



## *Annual Shamrock Charity Golf Classic* *Lake of the Woods Golf Course*



*Founded in 1836, the Ancient Order of Hibernians' local division is the General Thomas F. Meagher Division named in honor of the Civil War commander of the Irish Brigade. The Meagher Division celebrates more than 26 years of charitable service in the local community.*

*Charitable works include scholastic grants for deserving students; financial support to summer work camps assisting local students' outreach programs to needy communities; Help & Hope for Meaningful Employment – a mentor program providing tools for people seeking employment; and many other local organizations.*



### **Tournament Overview**

- **April 21, 2014**
- **Lake of the Woods Golf Course**
- **9 AM Shotgun start**
- **Captain's Choice**
- **Games & Prizes**
- **LUNCH by *Outback Steakhouse***

#### **LAKE OF THE WOODS GOLF COURSE**

This picturesque 18-hole PGA course was carved into the woods of oaks and pines and no two fairways adjoin. The par 71 course, with four sets of tees for each hole, is designed with a variety of slopes, sand, and water, and can accommodate all levels of play. Men, women, and children alike enjoy testing their skills on the fairways and greens. Golf course



# Ancient Order of Hibernians

## General Thomas F. Meagher Division

To register, please fill out and mail to:

Ancient Order of Hibernians  
Post Office Box 667  
Locust Grove, VA 22508-0667

If you have specific questions about this tournament, call Jim O'Donnell at (540) 412-2571 or e-mail Jim at [jimpatod@gmail.com](mailto:jimpatod@gmail.com)

**SINGLE GOLFER - \$75**  
**4 PERSON TEAM - \$275**

### TOURNAMENT REGISTRATION

1. Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_
2. Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_
3. Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_
4. Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to AOH. (You can pay at registration, but please notify us as soon as possible)

## SPONSORS NEEDED

### TOURNAMENT SPONSOR - \$5000

2 foursomes in golf tournament  
Hole Sponsor signage Recognition

### GOLD SPONSOR - \$500

1 foursome in golf tournament  
Hole Sponsor signage Recognition

### SILVER SPONSOR - \$350

2 golfers in golf tournament  
Hole Sponsor signage Recognition

### GREEN SPONSOR - \$200

1 golfer in golf tournament  
Hole Sponsor signage Recognition

### HOLE SPONSOR - \$100

HOLE SPONSOR - \$100 (no golfer in tournament)

Specific Hole Request: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Sign: \_\_\_\_\_

Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to: ðAOHö and mail to:

AOH POB Box 667, Locust Grove, VA 22508

(AOH is a 501c3 organization)