

IN FRIENDSHIP, UNITY AND CHRISTIAN CHARITY



GENERAL MEAGHER'S DISPATCHES

May 2014

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MAY IS MILITARY APPRECIATION MONTH!

President's Corner: May 2014

Brothers,

Our first Annual Shamrock Charity Golf is behind us and I cannot express my appreciation adequately enough to all those who helped make it possible. Brother Jim O'Donnell and his hard-working team outdid themselves in pulling it together. I can honestly say I didn't hear a single complaint! My deepest and most sincere thanks to all involved! They certainly adhered to the words you've heard me use several times to "always remember It's our Division and all of us have to get involved!."

The Ninety-Seventh Biennial National Convention of the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America is being held in Saint Louis, MO beginning Thursday July 31st and ending on August 3rd. If you are interested in being a delegate, the Division will provide a modest subsidy for your attendance. We must know NLT May 30th so we can submit the appropriate paperwork in a timely fashion. Please get in touch with me or Brother Bill Gilhooly with any questions.

Chuck Payne recently sent me a copy of a poem titled, The Pin In My Lapel. It was written by Brother Denis McGowan of

Division 22, Kings County, NY in January 1987. I'd like to include four lines from it:

**"Tis the Emblem of the Order, of Irish
Folk proud of their land
And their glorious religion under the
Lord's command. In Friendship we are
gathered, we strive for Unity;
To serve our Church and Brethren in
Christian Charity."**

These are thoughts all of us should hold each and every time we gather. It is what we believe and how we should act, not only with each other but with all with whom we come in contact. Committed to these principles, the Meagher Division continues to set a splendid example to our parishes and the community.

Two last items: 1) Please bring toilet articles to the meeting on May 20th for distribution to the VA hospital in Richmond. 2) Remember to bring the Trip to Ireland Raffle money and ticket stubs to the meeting as well.

On another note, we are planning on conducting a **Shamrock Degree** at our monthly meeting on June 17th. I really look forward to seeing you there!

Respectfully,

Bill [Pray the Rosary!](#)

~MAY 26TH IS MEMORIAL DAY~

30 Irish Citizens died in Southeast Asia during the Viet Nam War

During the 1960s and 70s, thousands of Irishmen and Irish women came to the U.S.A. on work visas. During the Viet Nam war, many Irishmen were drafted into military service and others volunteered. As a result thousands of Irishmen and Irish women served with honor in our military during the conflict. The Irish Viet Nam Veterans Memorial Project is an effort to recognize their service and to commemorate the 28 Irishmen and one Irish woman killed in action during the war. In County Clare, the Ennis town council voted unanimously to provide a significant piece of property for the memorial. In September 2013 the Ennis town council tendered a request for design proposals. Sixteen Irish artisans competed. The winning design -- 'Reflections' -- was selected earlier this year (see

www.IVNVMP.org). It features a bronze statue of an Irish father staring into a circular infinity pool in front of three granite columns featuring the 30 names (including one Irish woman) of the fallen. The Ennis town council set November 11, 2014 as dedication date.

Donations have not met expectations and the project may be delayed, or worse. The Irish Viet Nam Veterans Memorial Project registered 501c.(3) organization; therefore, donations are legitimate tax deductions. This project is endorsed by the Virginia AOH State Board, the Vietnam Veterans of America, the Embassy of Ireland, and many other Irish/Irish-American organizations. We are soliciting your donations to assist in this worthy project. Donations can be made through www.IVNVMP.org

THIRD ANNUAL HALFWAY TO ST PATRICK DAY CELEBRATION

As we know, the major objectives of our Order include 'perpetuate the traditions of the Irish people, promote Irish culture, and encourage civic participation'. With this in mind, planning is well under way for our third annual Halfway Party. This year's event will take place at the **Lake of the**

Woods clubhouse on September 27th. Irish dancers are scheduled and promise to perform at a high level and the Irish music performers are arranged as well. Soon a 'Save the Date' flyer will be distributed to our parish liaisons for use within their parishes. Tickets will be available soon!

~SHAMROCK CHARITY GOLF CLASSIC~



Played at Lake of the Woods Country Club, this inaugural tourney was a tremendous success. Seventy-six golfers enjoyed the best spring day of the year playing a fun-filled captains' choice tournament. The winning foursome included Tony & Joe Hooper and Winn & Lou Ann Carithers. They were presented with beautiful Waterford Crystal Golf Club Heads. Our own Gene McKenna won closest to the pin and Neil Mulcahy presented an Irish Crystal Shamrock (unconfirmed is the rumor he missed a hole-in-one by mere inches!). Donated raffle prizes, Krispy Kreme

donuts, and a lunch provided by Outback Steakhouse added to the festivities. We sincerely thank our numerous hole sponsors, our Gold and Silver Sponsors, the dedicated golfers who made this a success, Rea Hargraves, PGA, for adding to the fun and offering drives off the first tee, and the division Golf Committee, chaired by Jim O'Donnell, the numerous volunteers on game day, for their outstanding work. All proceeds from Rea's drives, the 50/50, hole sponsorships and entry fees support Meagher Division charities and scholastic grants.

~THE "BACK STORY" ON GERRY ADAMS' RECENT ARREST~

Wall Street Journal, May 4 2014: 65-year-old Gerry Adams was detained after he voluntarily presented himself at Antrim police station on 30 April. The detention of Mr. Adams had come just weeks before local and European Parliament elections, in which the Sinn Féin party hopes to make substantial electoral gains, particularly in the Republic of Ireland. Sinn Féin will continue to insist that the police have shown "double standards" in not bringing prosecutions in their investigations into

killings by British troops during the Troubles.

Daily Mail, 14 Aug 2012: Americans should be concerned that a British police force, not Parliament or the Prime Minister, but the 'P.S.N.I.' (Police Service of Northern Ireland), an offspring of the R.U.C. (Royal Ulster Constabulary) thugs of the past, have requested of U.S. Attorney General (Eric) Holder a subpoena for Boston College to surrender records and oral recordings.

Irish Echo, 10 Sep 2012: The Ancient Order of Hibernians, Brehon Law Society and Irish American Unity Conference `have appealed to (Boston College) President William P. Leahy S.J. to join the educational

campaign regarding Britain's unprecedented effort in America to intimidate journalistic inquiry, academic freedom and to color the historical record of the Anglo-Irish conflict to their liking. _

The Hill, 2 June 2013: In this case, the British Government, with the acquiescence of US Attorney General Eric Holder, sought interviews that IRA combatants contributed to the `Belfast Project_ and held at Boston College under the strictest conditions of security and confidentiality. The Obama administration agreed, sparking outcry from First Amendment advocates. Sean Hughes,

a spokesman for the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America said `We believe that these materials should be kept sacrosanct, and that their disclosure threatens to swing a wrecking ball through a painstakingly-constructed Irish Peace Process that Americans, as well as Irishmen, can rightly view with the pride of ownership. _

Boston Globe, 6 May 2014: Seeking to free itself from a roiling dispute across the Atlantic, Boston College announced Tuesday ũ it would release the original recordings to any of the participants who request them, a step that could help shield the people interviewed from authorities investigating past crimes in Northern Ireland. The university also said it will not retain copies or transcripts of interviews, and will continue to shield the identities of participants until their deaths. Several participants have already filed requests. Between 2001 to 2006, researchers recorded

confidential interviews with members of militia groups that clashed during the conflict, under the assurance that their statements would be kept confidential until their deathsũ at the urging of British authorities, the Justice Department demanded that Boston College hand over the interviews to US authorities, under an international treaty requiring the disclosure of evidence of violent crimes. After a high-stakes legal battle that concluded last year, the university was forced to release portions of interviews with seven former members of the Irish Republican Army.

MEETING NOTES 20 MAY

We welcomed three new brothers to the division: David Lee Chichester, Kevin Doyle and Pete Needham.

Vocations Committee Chairman, John Hogan, identified means through which the division can foster and support vocations. As a means of fostering vocations, the division voted to support

(one per division parish) a male student to attend *Quo Vadis* (Where are we going_) and/or a female student to attend *Fiat* (`Let it be done_) at Mount St Mary Seminary in Emmetsburg, MD

As a means of support vocations, we will be making a donation to National AOH Project St Patrick. John will also be the division point of contact for Project Saint Patrick memorial cards.

PRAYER LIST

Rest of the souls of Brother John McInerney, St Aiden's Division, D.C. and Bill Halpin's brother-in-law, Bill Black. Also pray for a speedy recovery for Brothers Mike Lenihan, John Walsh, and Mike Creegan (Father Mychal Judge OFM Division).

FACTOID -- ORIGINS OF THE ORDER

In 1565 Thomas Radcliffe, the Englishman appointed Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, published an edict that prohibited all monks and Catholic priests from eating or sleeping in Dublin. Further, he ordered the head of each family to attend Protestant services every Sunday, under the penalty of a fine. Irish prince Rory O'Moore of Leix (County Laois) responded by organizing the `Defenders_ to protect priests and religious freedom. The Defenders enabled priests to celebrate Mass wherever possible -- often in the fields and forests. The Ancient Order of Hibernians can trace its motto "Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity" to the Defenders. Our name came a little later - 1641.

TRIVIA FOR THE WELL ROUNDED HIBERNIAN

In George Washington's days, there were no cameras. One's image was either sculpted or painted. Some paintings of George Washington showed him standing behind a desk with one arm behind his back while others showed both legs and both arms. Prices charged by painters were not based on how many people were to be painted, but by how many limbs were to be painted. Arms and legs are 'limbs,' therefore painting them would cost the buyer more. Hence the expression, `Okay, but it'll cost you an arm and a leg._ (Artists know hands and arms are more difficult to paint)

UPCOMING EVENTS

17 June: Shamrock Degree Ceremony at our regular monthly meeting

30 July-2 August: The 2014 *AOH National Convention* to be held at the Marriott Renaissance Hotel, St Louis, MO. 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.

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