



**General Thomas Meagher Division  
Fredericksburg, Virginia**

**October 2008**

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Fredericksburg, Virginia                      Instituted: November 11, 1987  
Meeting Time: 3rd Tuesday, 7:30PM      Membership: 24  
Meeting Location: Fredericksburg Knights of Columbus Council Home, 4724 Harrison Road,  
Fredericksburg, VA 22401

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**PRESIDENT**

Bruce A. Denault

**FINANCIAL SECRETARY**

Joseph O'Connor

**RECORDING SECRETARY**

Robert J. Sullivan

**VICE-PRESIDENT**

Robert E. Ghormley

**TREASURER**

William Halpin

**ORGANIZER**

*Vacant*

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***President's Report***

Preparations for the 2009 AOH State Convention have begun!! I feel very confident that we will pull everything together in plenty of time to host a most successful convention (17-19 July 2009). The convention is open to all members, not just the Officers. I encourage you to attend. It promises to be a great social function. And for those who have not yet completed the Tower Degree, it will be conducted on Sunday, July 19<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 am until 2:00 pm.

The Convention Committee can always use more help. So, if you have any ideas or are just inclined to lend a helping hand, please, let me know. We can use you!!!

Unfortunately, we will not march in this year's Fredericksburg Christmas Parade. The Scots and the Welsh pulled out leaving only a handful of interested Hibernians to represent the Celts. There are too few of us to make it worth the cost and effort. I will take the lead on this, and, perhaps, next year

we will have more interest and be better prepared to participate.

***Coffee and Doughnuts***

We sponsor a coffee and doughnut breakfast the fourth Sunday of each month at St. William of York Parish. Thus far, it has been successful and has the potential for far more success. This function is not labor intensive, but does take 2-3 Hibernians and/or family members to set up and monitor the activity between 6:30 am until after the 12:15 pm Mass. This gives us an opportunity not only to replenish our coffers, but also a chance to recruit new members. Volunteers can contact either Bruce Denault at 540-446-9123, [bdenault2002@yahoo.com](mailto:bdenault2002@yahoo.com), Shon Ramsel at 540-720-8904, [sramsel@ikon.com](mailto:sramsel@ikon.com) or Bob Ghormley at 540-752-9613, [bobkatss@mac.com](mailto:bobkatss@mac.com).





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***Membership***

Membership is the life blood of any organization. Presently, we have only 24 members. **We need to actively recruit!!** We need to revitalize our Division. We need to take advantage of every possible opportunity to make every Irish-Catholic man aware of us, what we do, and how to join!!

For starters, I have drafted a short article for publication in church bulletins. I'd like a volunteer from each Parish to act as our point-of-contact. I will list your contact information in the respective church bulletin so potential applicants will have someone local to contact.

If anyone is interested in filling the billet as our Organizer, please let me know. Your assistance in recruiting will be greatly appreciated.

***Tower Degree***

Fifty per cent of our Division has not taken the Tower Degree. I encourage any member who has not yet taken it to consider it as a part of your growth as a Hibernian.

The world famous Brian Boru Degree Team will conduct the Tower Degrees in Ocean City, Maryland on November 15<sup>th</sup>. Those interested, please contact [bdenault2002@yao.com](mailto:bdenault2002@yao.com) or call (540) 446-9123.

The Tower Degree will also be conducted after our 2009 AOH State Convention on July 19<sup>th</sup>.

***Upcoming Events***

From now until the end of the year, we have:

**Election of Officers:** Our election of new Officers will take place on November 18<sup>th</sup> during our monthly meeting. Their Installation will be on December 16<sup>th</sup>, our regular business meeting, in accordance with our By-Laws.

**The Laying of the Wreath at Sgt. Kirkland Memorial,** 1013 Lafayette Blvd, Fredericksburg, is scheduled for 2pm on December 14<sup>th</sup>. A reception will follow at the Fredericksburg Knight's of Columbus Council Home on Harrison Road.



***Unfinished Business***

***Honor/color guard.***

In the past, there had been an expressed interest in our Division starting an honor/color guard for participation in parades. If that interest still exists, please contact Bruce Denault at 540-446-9123, [bdenault2002@yahoo.com](mailto:bdenault2002@yahoo.com)

***Division Hats and shirts.***

If there is an interest in purchasing shirts, hats, jackets or any other Division-specific clothing, again, please contact Bruce Denault at 540-446-9123, [bdenault2002@yahoo.com](mailto:bdenault2002@yahoo.com)

***By-Laws.***

Copies of our By-Laws were passed out at our last meeting and I sent a copy to all members with an e-mail address. Please,



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review and submit to me any recommended changes. I will publish your recommendations in the next Newsletter and we will vote on them during our January business meeting.

***Slate of Officers***

The Nominations Committee has submitted the following as our Slate of Officers for Calendar Year 2009:

President:	Bruce A. Denault
Vice-President:	Robert E. Ghormley
Financial Secretary:	<i>VACANT</i>
Treasurer:	William Halpin
Recording Secretary:	Robert J. Sullivan
Chairman of Standing Committee:	<i>VACANT</i>
Marshall:	<i>VACANT</i>
Sentinel:	<i>VACANT</i>
Organizer:	<i>VACANT</i>

As you can see, most of the positions are *VACANT*. If you are interested in filling one of the vacancies, please, let me know. I would like to see a more complete slate prior to our election. We will also entertain nominations from the floor.

To me, it's a sad testimony of the dedication of our membership when only four step forward to lead. Believe me, I recognize the fact that our lives should not revolve around our Division. Many of us have families, jobs and are active in other Church and community organizations. My concern is `burnout` of the same few who step forward consistently and do everything while the majority of our Division doesn't even attend meetings. If we are to survive as a Division, we not only need new members, but we

need dedicated and motivated members to lead this Division now and into our future.

***St. Finbar***

Feast day: September 25

St. Finbar was the son of an artisan and a lady of the Irish royal court. Born in Connaught, Ireland, and baptized Lochan, he was educated at Kilmacahil, Kilkenny, where the monks named him Fionnbharr (white head) because of his light hair; he is also known as Bairre and Barr. He went on pilgrimage to Rome with some of the monks, visiting St. David in Wales on the way back. Supposedly, on another visit to Rome the Pope wanted to consecrate him a bishop but was deterred by a vision, notifying the pope that God had reserved that honor to Himself, and Finbar was consecrated from heaven and then returned to Ireland. At any rate, he may have preached in Scotland, definitely did in southern Ireland, lived as a hermit on a small island at Lough Eiroe, and then, on the river Lee, founded a monastery that developed into the city of Cork, of which he was the first bishop. His monastery became famous in southern Ireland and attracted numerous disciples. Many extravagant miracles are attributed to him, and supposedly, the sun did not set for two weeks after he died at Cloyne about the year 633. His feast day is September 25th.



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***The Leprechaun Legend:  
Real Irish Luck or  
Just a Bunch of Blarney?***

The most famous (or infamous) Irish fairy of them all is the stuff of many a fantasy and folktale and one of Ireland's most beloved symbols. The leprechaun legend is especially popular around St. Patrick's Day. Here's a brief overview of this famous Irish legend.

Standing only about two-feet-tall, this little old shoemaker with twinkling eyes and rosy cheeks looks friendly, but they're actually quite the tricksters.

According to Colin Chapman, leprechauns are "*given to excess, nothing appeals to a Leprechaun like a binge of whiskey, Guinness, pipe tobacco and snuff, and despite their small stature they can handle surprising quantities of alcohol.*"

If you could really use a good laugh, check out the dialogue with a drunken leprechaun at the bottom of Colin's article, "*Leprechaun*".

Being aloof and unfriendly little fairy souls, Ireland's leprechauns aren't easy to spot. They spend all their time busily making shoes, and stashing away all the money their craft brings them in a hidden pot of gold at the end of the rainbow.

Everyone's heard of the legendary pot of gold, and the only way to track one is to follow the sound of a leprechaun hammering the shoes. They say if you catch one, he'll promise to take you to his pot of gold if you can just keep him in your sights.

But these tricky little fellows know just how to get you to look away.

Once you do, they've disappeared and your chance of riches is gone!



Drink is the curse of the land. It makes you fight with your neighbor. It makes you shoot at your landlord, and it makes you miss him.

Irish proverb

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***OUR NEXT MEETING IS 7:30 PM TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18th***

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