

IN FRIENDSHIP, UNITY AND CHRISTIAN CHARITY



GENERAL MEAGHER'S DISPATCHES

October 2014

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President: Bill McCarthy **Chaplain:** Father Kevin Fimian **Vice President:** Patrick Fogarty
Financial Secretary: Bill Gilhooly **Treasurer:** Bud Logan **Recording Secretary:** Dennis Ryan
Standing Committee: Jim McMorrow **Marshal:** Bill Phillips **Sentinel:** John Hogan
Organizer: Bill Halpin

NEWS FLASH! Visit the **new, improved Division website!** Significant work has been accomplished and while it is still a work in progress, we believe you'll be impressed. There is a member's only area; the password will be distributed at meetings.

<http://www.aohvirginia.org/FredericksburgDiv1>

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Brothers,

September was a busy month for the Division and we kept busy in a wide range of activities. I would like to thank and compliment all of the Brothers who participated in several highly successful efforts in all of our parishes. Not only did we gather funds for our charitable endeavors but we've attracted additional men to our ranks. And whilst doing so we had a grand time demonstrating our fraternal ties!

There are a great many activities to acknowledge and while I've tried to do so individually, I'd like to take this opportunity to say I've not seen us so busy in so many ways this year. It is a reflection of good teamwork and a manifestation that it's not only about one person but a determined group of men who have the Division and Order in mind.

From a brand new initiative, the Lacrosse Festival, the success of which belongs solely to one Brother --- Rusty O'Brien --- to the annual undertakings of the Trip for Two to Ireland, Halfway to St Patrick's Day Party and recruiting of new members as we spent a number of days visiting different parishes we Hibernians were welcomed by our pastors and priests as well as the parishioners we serve.

I thank each of you for your contributions and look eagerly forward to your involvement as we enter the final quarter of the fraternal year.

May God continue to bless you and your family!

Respectfully, Bill

[Pray the Rosary!](#)

DIVISION OUTREACH

General Meagher Division information tables were present at several parish fairs and festivals in the few weeks. These efforts resulted in at least six new applicants.

- The **St Jude Parish Fair** -- the AOH information table was manned by Hugh O'Brien, Bill Halpin and Bud Logan.
- At the **St Patrick Parish Life Fair** -- Bill Phillips, Bill Halpin and John Hogan were on hand to answer questions about the AOH.
- The **St Mary Parish Life Weekend** -- Pat Fogarty, Joe O'Connor, Kevin Doyle, Tommy Lyons, Joe Daley, and Rusty O'Brien were on hand to answer questions and distribute information
- The **St Patrick Fall Festival** -- the division was represented by Bill McCarthy, Bill Phillips, Ken Malley, John Hogan and Jim McMorrow. 50/50 raffle tickets were sold by these brothers (along with strolling encouragement by Jim McMorrow) and resulted in proceeds of \$355.00 being presented to Father Ziegler for the Glory of God church building fund.

TRIP FOR TWO TO IRELAND RAFFLE

The Sixth Annual Trip for Two to Ireland raffle marked the most successful year for the division. Raffle chairman, Jim McMorrow, reports that *all 1,000 tickets were sold*, marking the first time in raffle history this has been done. Congratulations, Jim and all the brothers who made the effort to sell tickets after Masses and in their neighborhoods. **The lucky winner is St Patrick parishioner Marietta Gress.** This marks the fourth time in six years that a St Patrick parishioner has won the raffle! At time of publication, we're not certain which prize she'll select.



John Hogan presents Trip for Two to Ireland winner's certificate

News from the AOH State Meeting held October 11th and hosted by Father Edwin Kelly Division, Manassas. Brother John Hogan represented the General Meagher Division and reported based on President Bill McCarthy's submissions to the state board.

National Director, Mike Delaney, was the keynote speaker. Mike represents Virginia, West Virginia, Kentucky and the District of Columbia. He asked the question (of all Hibernians) 'What do you want/expect of the National AOH Board?' and encouraged all to contact him (Mike.Delaney@aoh.com).

Mike highlighted some changes originating at the 2014 National Convention in July, including (1) independent cities with two or more divisions can establish 'county boards', (2) the National Veterans Affairs chair must be filled by an Active Duty serviceman or an honorably discharged/retired veteran, (3) AOH is encouraging the POTUS to formally recognize the anniversary of the 1916 Easter Rising, (4) AOH is encouraging Congressional leadership to support a bill authorizing US LEA to assist in the conduct of investigations into atrocities that occurred during the Troubles.

Addressing the planned 2016 National Convention, Mike noted that given the current exodus of businesses from Atlantic City, the National Board is considering contingency plans. If Atlantic City no longer can provide a suitable venue, other locations in the Northeast will be considered. However, this will require a State Board to step up and volunteer to host the convention. If the Northeast doesn't work out, the chances are the convention will be in a 'geographically not suitable location'.

VAAOH President Denault announced the following tentative state meeting schedule:

- State Board Meeting hosted by Col Fitzgerald Division (Arlington), Jan 17, 2015
- State Board Meeting hosted by St Patrick Division (Virginia Beach), April 2015 (date TBD)
- Biennial State Convention hosted by Herbert-Cady Division (Alexandria), 17-19 August 2015

The State Board voted to donate money to Father Pat Kelly, SMA, to support hospitals in Liberia in the SMA Fathers' effort to control the Ebola epidemic and a program called 'Sweats for Vets' in which sweat suits are purchased/donated to the Veteran Hospital in Martinsburg, West Virginia

Political Education Chairman, Hugh O'Brien, citing questions from Catholic parishioners, asked if the National Board has a position *vis-à-vis* Cardinal Dolan's role as Grand Marshal in the 2015 New York City St Patrick Day Parade, given parade organizers acceptance of GLBT marchers authorized to display their life style. The question, left unanswered, will require further study.

A planned discussion of proposed changes to VAAOH bylaws was tabled until the January 2015 meeting.

IRISH HERITAGE COMMITTEE



Heritage Committee Member, John Hogan reports: By all accounts, the Division's Third Annual Halfway to St. Patrick's Day Party was an overwhelming success. The approximately 120 guests were entertained by Irish dancers from Muggivan Irish Dance School, traditional Irish music performed by the Moch Pryderi Celtic Band, wonderful meals served to the table, and numerous door prizes. **Double click to see the video!**

Video.MOV

Of special note, the Fredericksburg Bonefish Grill Restaurant donated a basket containing a gift certificate, two glasses, and a bottle of 2009 Inglenook "Rubicon" Rutherford Cabernet Sauvignon. Wine Spectator rates this bottle at 93 points and described it as *'classy, rich and layered, restrained and structured, featuring fine tension between the dried currant, cedar, cigar box and anise flavors and the firm, fine-grained tannins. Drink now through 2023.'* The Bonefish basket was raffled off to raise money for the Irish Viet Nam Veterans Memorial Project planned for Ennis, County Clare, Ireland. A stirring speech delivered by Division President McCarthy was instrumental in collecting \$350.00 for the Memorial. The lucky winner was Doris Stachowski of Lake of the Woods. Please visit our website to see a complete list of businesses that supported our Halfway Celebration with donated door prizes.



Any Cooks out there? Try Poached Pear and Cashel Blue Salad

The most popular and recognizable pear is the yellow Bartlett. Pears are harvested from the middle of August through the end of November and can be partnered with blue cheese -- Kerrygold's Cashel Blue preferred -- and a glass of wine or port.

Serves 4 A whole poached pear tops this salad made with Cashel Blue cheese and toasted walnuts. The recipe was inspired by one served at The Bishop's Buttery in Cashel Palace Hotel, Cashel, County Tipperary.

Poached Pears

750 ml bottle sweet white wine, such as Riesling
3/4 cup sugar
2 tbsp. honey

1 vanilla bean, split and scraped
4 medium ripe pears, peeled, stalks left on

Salad

1 tbsp. Sherry vinegar
1/2 tsp. Dijon mustard
Salt and freshly ground pepper to taste
4 tbsp. olive oil

2 tsp. chopped fresh tarragon
10 oz. mixed salad greens
4 oz. Cashel Blue cheese, cubed
4 oz. toasted walnuts

1. To make the pears, in a medium saucepan over medium heat, bring the wine, water, sugar, vanilla pod, and seeds to a boil. Add the pears, reduce heat to medium-low, and cook, covered, for 15-20 minutes, or until the pears are tender when pierced with the tip of a knife. Remove the pears and stand them upright on a plate. Let cool completely; refrigerate.

2. To make the salad, whisk together the vinegar, mustard, salt, and pepper. Slowly whisk in the oil and tarragon. Toss the greens with the dressing and divide among 4 salad plates. Place a pear in the center of the salad and sprinkle the blue cheese and walnuts around it.



IRISH and HALLOWEEN (*Oíche Shamhna*)

Portions of this extracted from Dee Notaro's article as appeared in Wild Geese

The custom of Halloween was brought to America in the 1840s by Irish immigrants fleeing the famine. Halloween's origins date to 4000 B.C. when according to the Celtic lunar calendar 'summer's end' was celebrated. The Celts celebrated Samhain, 'All Hallowtide' - the 'Feast of the Dead', when the dead revisited the mortal world. The Celts believed that all laws of space and time were suspended during this time allowing the spirit world to intermingle with the living. On the eve of October 31, the disembodied spirits of all those who died during the preceding year would come back in search of living bodies to possess for the next year. It was believed to be their only hope for the afterlife. Naturally the still-living did not want to be possessed, so on the night of October 31, villagers would extinguish the fires in their homes to make them cold and uncomfortable. They would dress up in all manners of ghoulish costumes and noisily parade around the neighborhood

to frighten away the spirits. Probably a better explanation as to why all extinguished their fires as so that all Celt could relight their fires from a common source: the Druidic fire that was kept burning in the middle of Ireland at the Hill of Uisneach (St Patrick and St Brigid have important connections with the Hill, it being claimed that it was there St Brigid received the veil from St Patrick). This festival was called Samhain. Often Druid priests would throw the bones of cattle into the flames and, hence, 'bone fire' became 'bonfire.'

The Jack O' Lantern probably comes from Irish folklore. As the tale is told, a man named Jack tricked Satan into climbing a tree. Jack then carved a cross into the trunk, trapping the devil up the tree. Jack made a deal with the devil that if he would never tempt him again, he would promise to let him down from the tree. According to legend, when Jack died he was denied entrance to heaven because of his evil ways but he was

also denied entrance to hell because he had tricked the devil. Instead the devil gave him a single ember to light his way through the frigid darkness. The ember was placed in a hollowed out turnip to keep it glowing longer. The Irish originally used turnips as their 'Jack's lanterns'. But when they came to America they found pumpkins were far more plentiful.

During the eighth century the Catholic Church designated the first day of November as 'All Saints Day' ('All Hallows') - a day of commemoration for those Saints that did not have a specific day of remembrance. The night before was known as 'All Hallows Eve' which, over time, became known as Halloween.



Winter's coming: What You Need to Know about Aran Sweaters

The Aran sweater is one of Ireland's major contributions to international style. A national icon, the sweater is still worn and loved, connecting people with Ireland, all over the world. Those traditional patterns you know so well are more than just pretty stitching. Each Aran pattern has its own hidden meaning. The Aran sweater has become far more famous than the Aran Islands located off the western coast of Ireland, close to counties Clare and Galway. The fishermen of Aran revealed their home county, village or parish in the pattern of the sweater they wore. The sweater's explosion in popularity during the 1950s and 1960s spawned an important new Irish industry - - the Irish government sent clothes manufacturers to the islands to teach the knitters how to craft sweaters that fit international sizing standards.

The quality of the Aran sweater is one of the reasons for its popularity. The quality of the Aran sweater served an important purpose: to keep the fishermen warm in stormy winter seas. At first, the Aran sweater was even waterproof with best not to test this today!

Aran sweater patterns stretch back to Celtic Ireland. A figure sporting an Aran sweater has been spotted in the Book of Kells. There is no doubt the same patterns we see in the Aran today are also carved into European megaliths. There is more meaning hidden in the Aran sweater than you might think! Each stitch pattern is a traditional symbol. Many are of Catholic significance, reflecting the spirituality of the islanders who crafted them.

Portions of this entry were originally posted on www.theIrishStore.com but also check out <http://www.aransweatermarket.com/clan-aran-sweaters> and <http://www.blarney.com/aran-sweaters-men/>



Genealogist's Visit: Bill Halpin was asked to reconfirm Division interest in having a professional genealogist guest speaker. He did this in September and it was unanimously supported among those present (about half the division). Ms. Shannon Bennett is invited to a meeting in the first quarter of the New Year. More information on Ms. Bennett can be found at (tntfamilyhistory.blogspot.com/)



Irish Patriots: In the coming months *Dispatches* will begin an occasional series on significant Irish Patriots and Freedom Fighters, the men who organized the Irish and fought an 800 year battle against occupation and oppression. This virtually unending war opened in 1169 when Pope Adrian IV – the only English Pope – in concert with Henry II, concluded the Irish needed help with their brand of Christianity. Adrian issued a papal bull giving the Henry II of England the right to assume control over Ireland. This led directly to the Norman invasion in 1169.

Until then, Irish society was based on kinship groups (septs) and loosely connected clans (a clan is a group of septs). In all probability the concept of an ‘Irish nation’ had not been formed. So, the Irish were not sufficiently united to defeat the Normans and over time the kinship system of septs and clans was destroyed. We’ll take a look at:

- Rory Oge O'Moore organized and founded Hibernianism 1565
- The Battle of Kinsale (1601-02)
- The Plantation of Ulster 1603
- Rory O'Moore and the Irish Rebellion of 1641 (nephew of above)
- The Irish Confederates 1642
- Cromwell’s massacre at Drogheda 1649
- The Battle of the Boyne, 1690
- Patrick Sarsfield, the Siege of Limerick and the Flight of the Wild Geese
- Penal Laws 1690 (not fully repealed until 1920!)
- Emergence of Whiteboys 1761
- Michael Dwyer and the Battle of Vinegar Hill/Wexford 1798
- Theobald Wolfe Tone and the United Irishmen
- Robert Emmet and the Rising of 1802
- James Stephens, John O’Mahony and the Fenian Brotherhood
- The Rising of 1867
- The Rising of 1916

Fields of Athenry

This Irish folk ballad written by Pete St John is set during the Irish Famine. It is about a man from Athenry (County Galway) who was sentenced to transportation to Australia for stealing food for his starving family. It has become the anthem of a generation. The reference to Trevelyan recalls the genocidal, anti-Irish racial sentiment Trevelyan expressed when placed in charge of administering relief for Irish suffering under the Irish famine

By a lonely prison wall
I heard a young girl calling
Michael they are taking you away
For you stole Trevelyan's corn
So the young might see the morn.
Now a prison ship lies waiting in the bay.

By a lonely prison wall
I heard a young man calling
Nothing matters Mary when you're free,
Against the Famine and the Crown
I rebelled they ran me down
Now you must raise our child with dignity.

Low lie the Fields of Athenry
Where once we watched the small free birds
fly.
Our love was on the wing we had dreams and
songs to sing
It's so lonely 'round the Fields of Athenry.

Low lie the Fields of Athenry
Where once we watched the small free birds
fly.
Our love was on the wing we had dreams and
songs to sing
It's so lonely 'round the Fields of Athenry.

By a lonely harbor wall
She watched the last star falling
As that prison ship sailed out against the sky
Sure she'll wait and hope and pray
For her love in Botany Bay
It's so lonely 'round the Fields of Athenry.

Low lie the Fields of Athenry
Where once we watched the small free birds
fly.
Our love was on the wing we had dreams and
songs to sing
It's so lonely 'round the Fields of Athenry.

Hear it here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0iHiDZB699A>



Please keep in your prayers Brothers Bill McCarthy, Pete Needham, Mike Lenihan, Bill Phillips, David Lee Chichester, Des Flanagan and spouses Pat Phillips and Joan McCarthy.

Pray to Mary Immaculate Patroness of the United States for the strength of mind and heart to defend our religious freedoms, for national moral guidance, and that this country will always be `one nation, under God`. This is critically important in this time of contrary moral agendas and the threats from patently evil elements.



October 21: Division Meeting and 2015 officers nominations

November 18: Division Meeting and 2015 officers election

November 27: Thanksgiving Day (*Lá Altaithe*)

December 13: Christmas Party at Hospitality House, Fredericksburg. Tickets are \$45/person and the buffet will include steak, chicken and fish. Please bring an unwrapped child's gift (toy, doll, etc.) *Ned's Oldies but Goodies* will provide the music.

December 14: Annual wreath laying in conjunction with the National Park Service, at Irish Brigade Monument (City Dock) and Kirkland Memorial (Marye's Heights) (Times are TBD)

December 16: Division Meeting and 2015 officer installation

December 25: Christmas Day (*Lá Nollag*)

January 11: Fredericksburg Religious Freedom March

TBD March: Annual Gaelic Mass (9th?)

March 12: Annual St Patrick Dinner at Holy Cross Academy

March 14: Twelfth Annual St Patrick Day Parade

March 15: Annual Irish Breakfast in St Mary Parish Life Center

Bill Halpin, Editor