



GENERAL THOMAS F. MEAGHER DIVISION  
APRIL 2011 HIGHLIGHTS

***Happy Easter to all TFM Brothers and families!***

Thirteen brothers attended our April meeting last evening. This number includes four new brothers who received our Order's Shamrock Degree: Neil Buttimer, Bill Gilhooly, John Hogan, and John L. Sullivan. Unable to attend were Roy Delaney and Bob Errickson and we have four more approved applications awaiting initiation. Special thanks to **Patrick McGroarty, Hugh O'Brien, Bruce Denault and Dick Geary** for administering the Degree.

With Father Rooney's permission, I requested Bishop Loverde's okay to formally ask Father Ed Bresnahan to be our **Division Chaplain**. I await his reply. Holy Cross Academy principal, Sister Susan Louise, and St Patrick School principal, George Elliot, are in the final stages of selecting students for the Division's scholastic stipend. By vote the Division modified the stipend amounts *for this year*. The selected graduates of St Patrick School and Holy Cross Academy will receive \$750.00 each to defray the tuition and/or related expenses incurred by attending Catholic High School.

As mentioned last month, at this meeting a lengthy discussion ensued concerning liberalizing current division charity guidelines to include non-Catholic charities. A vote on this issue was tabled until the May meeting to ensure all brothers are acquainted with the issue. I have attached the current charities committee charter for you review and for comparison with a forthcoming modification verbiage.

Our Division sponsored **the VAAOH State Board Meeting** held at St Michael the Archangel High School on April 16, 2011. Approximately 25 AOH members and six LAOH members attended. Coffee/donuts were available prior to the meeting and lunch was served at the conclusion of the meetings. Very special

thanks to **Brother Bill Phillips and Candidate Roy Delaney** for their hard work in setting up and taking down the event. General interest items include:

- **This year is the 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America.** An Anniversary Mass will be celebrated at St Patrick in NYC on 21 May.
- National AOH is selling an anniversary medallion commemorating this milestone. Several Division Brothers have purchased the medallion and I urge all of you to support this AOH fund raising initiative. Order form is attached.
- In my capacity as State Veterans Affairs Chairman, I suggested AOH consider supporting a Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Dublin Ireland. As envisioned, the memorial would be similar to the Memorial in DC with the names of 21 Irishmen and one Irish woman who died in Vietnam as members of the U.S. Military. The “Irish Wall” would be on display at Collins Barracks Museum in Dublin. I’m in contact with the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund and Collins Barracks to obtain granite availability and cost estimates to be presented to the VAAOH and through National Veterans Affairs Chairman, J.J. Kelly, to National AOH for consideration.
- AOH credit cards are available. I have applications for those who are interested. As with all “sponsored” cards, National AOH will receive a pay-out each time an AOH card is used.
- VAAOH may initiate an annual state-wide Gaelic Mass to celebrate Irish- American Heritage Month beginning in March 2012.

Hugh O'Brien and I sold raffle tickets after Masses at St Jude Church on April 2-3. We need to do this at St Mary and St Patrick. Both Father Zeigler and Father Rooney have approved our sales; now our parish POCs must schedule the weekend. Best to do this before or after summer vacation! Also, I suggest each brother commit to sell *at least* 50 tickets (not including after Mass and other “group” sales).

The Division sponsored the Holy Cross Academy St Patrick Day Dinner on March 17<sup>th</sup>. It was a success as more than 100 people enjoyed corned beef and cabbage, Irish dance and song. Brother Gene McKenna won the \$50 raffle and immediately re-invested his winnings in Trip for Two raffle tickets.

**Irish Heritage Night Update:** Washington Nationals Ballpark postponed this important event until September – a Half-Way to St Patrick Day party! More to come...

The **Biennial State Convention** will be held in Richmond in July (22-24). Our Division is looking for two delegates to the convention. Brothers interested in being delegates -- please identify yourselves! Our Order's Shamrock and Major (Tower) Degrees will be administered on Sunday, July 24th; the State Board will recognize all 21st Century division presidents (for us that means: Mike McGee, Bob Sullivan, Bob Ghormley, Bruce Denault, and Bill Halpin). Major Dooley Division is sponsoring a golf outing on July 22d at the Providence Golf Course. Cost is \$60.

**Need a Green Sport Jacket?** Men's Wearhouse has *a special deal* for Hibernians: We can buy a \$390 green sports jacket for \$89.00. The typical AOH "uniform" for parades and other semi-formal occasions is green sport coat, white shirt with Irish theme tie, and black trousers. The outlet is the Men's Wearhouse located at 1210 Carl D. Silver Parkway in Central Park. Our point of contact is the Assistant Manager, Ms. Bushra Elmalki (540.785.2449).

Dues: Current and past due 2010 dues (for 2011 dues are \$30.00) can be mailed to:

Brother Jeff Fitzpatrick  
Meagher Division Financial Secretary  
237 Hillcrest Drive  
Fredericksburg, VA 22408

Our website is being upgraded so continue to check [www.fredericksburgaoh.org](http://www.fredericksburgaoh.org)

Please keep Bruce's mother, Mary E. McGarry, and Joe O'Connor's sister in your prayers.

Our next meeting will be at 7:30PM on May 17, 2011.

In Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,

Sláinte!  
Bill Halpin  
President

Gen. Thomas F. Meagher Division  
Ancient Order of Hibernians  
540.972.5903  
202.213.5625