



## GENERAL THOMAS F. MEAGHER DIVISION

### SPOTSYLVANIA DIVISION NO. 1

April 2012 Highlights

The Division convened at 7:30PM, on 17 April per schedule. We were honored to have Virginia State President, Chuck Curran, attend. Six applicants were accepted into the division: James Florio, James O'Donnell, John Hogan, Jonathan Kohl, Thomas Evans, and Robert Davis. These applications resulted from our recruitment campaign at St Mary of the Immaculate Conception and Holy Cross Academy over the weekend of 24-25 March. Further good news -- John Kennan and Jack McGovern were officially transferred into the Division.

#### **Threat to Religious Liberty:**

Bishops in Virginia are working through the Virginia Catholic Conference to affect public policy including the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services issued a mandate to require that almost all health plans include contraceptives, sterilizations, and abortion-inducing drugs. In the face of this unprecedented threat, the U.S. Catholic Bishops have called for Catholics throughout the country to become actively engaged in protecting religious liberty, our first freedom.

The Virginia Catholic Conference is the public policy advocacy organization representing Bishop Francis DiLorenzo, Diocese of Richmond, and Bishop Paul Loverde, Diocese of Arlington, on matters before the Virginia General Assembly, the U.S. Congress, and the state and federal administrations and their agencies.

**Jeffrey F. Caruso, J.D., the founding Director of the Virginia Catholic Conference will address these topics in St. Patrick Parish Hall on Tuesday, May 22, at 7:30PM.**

### *AOH National Convention:*

The Division is authorized two delegates to the Biennial National Convention. Hugh O'Brien volunteered to be one of the delegates and we seek a second delegate to attend the convention at Turning Stone Resort & Casino in Verona, New York 9-12 July. (I am unable to attend).

Registration is now open at <http://www.hibernians.com/>. The site can be reached through the AOH National web site at <http://www.aoh.com/>, but it does take a few additional clicks. Turning Stone is a family friendly resort in a beautiful setting within an easy day's drive. This could be a wonderful opportunity to treat your loved ones to a great vacation as you participate in the national level decisions and direction of our Order. All indications are that the reservations at Turning Stone are going fast, which not surprising is given the large number of Hibernians in New England, New York and Pennsylvania. For reservations, call Turning Stone Resort & Casino at 1-800-771-7711. Be sure to mention `Ancient Order of Hibernians` to get the special room rate of \$115.00 per night.

**The Division will reimburse most expenses incurred by the two Division delegates.**

**Please let me know ASAP as my suspense date to submit delegate names to State and National is May 15, 2012.**

### *25th Anniversary:*

Fraternal Year 2012 marks the 25th year of the General Meagher Division. I asked that we attempt to contact the 14 lapsed charter members to invite them to a planned dinner celebration to be held o/a November 27th.

### *Special Presentation!*

Our Brother and Charter Member, Joe O'Connor, was honored for his sustained superior performance for 25 years of dedicated service to the General Thomas F. Meagher Division and the Fredericksburg area Catholic community. Way to go, Joe!

## St Columcille Award



VAAOH President Chuck Curran presents the 2012 St Columcille Award to Joe O'Connor

The accompanying citation reads in part:

Joe O'Connor, a charter member of the General Thomas F. Meagher Division, represents the highest caliber of Hibernian tradition and values. He is an exceptional citizen, a patriot (Navy veteran of atom bomb tests), an exceptional family man, a devout Catholic, and an example for all Hibernians. Joe is the personification of Hibernian Charity and Catholic Action. His generous heart knows no bounds - Joe works in commemoration of *An Gorta Mor*, working to alleviate hunger and need in Fredericksburg and environs. He serves the sick and home-bound in the Fredericksburg area as a Sunday Eucharistic Minister. Joe's works on behalf of the Division in our Catholic community and the positive awareness he brings to AOH in the local area are widely recognized. Joe O'Connor has been the volunteer workhorse inside the General Meagher Division for 25 years.

**General Meagher Division Attire:** Typically, the AOH `uniform\_ for parades and other semi-formal occasions is the AOH sash, green sport coat, white shirt with Irish theme tie, black trousers, and ball cap. Otherwise, it's the polo or sweatshirt.

- **Green Jacket:** Men's Wearhouse (1210 Carl D. Silver Parkway in Central Park) offers Hibernians a \$390 green sports jacket for \$89.00. Our point of contact is the Assistant Manager, Ms. Bushra Elmalki (540.785.2449).
- **AOH Sash:** Tri-color AOH sashes are available from LAOH Sister Patricia Ankrom. She produces 7.5ft long sashes costing \$ 40.00. Patricia guarantees satisfaction: if you're not satisfied send it back for a full refund. Mail your order and payment check (payable to Tracey's By Design or Patricia Ankrom) to: Patricia Ankrom, 7400 Airport Road, Quinton, VA 23141. For more information, email Patricia at [traceysbydesign@aol.com](mailto:traceysbydesign@aol.com)
- **Division Logo Items:** long and short sleeve polo shirts, sweat shirts, and ball caps. **I'm ready to submit another order soon, so please get your input to me ASAP.**

Prices are:

- Long sleeve polo: \$22.75
- Short sleeve polo: \$19.75
- Sweat shirt: \$21.25
- Ball Cap: \$14.00

**Irish History:** Hugh O'Brien presented an interesting statistical account on building the HMS Titanic.

**Date to Remember:**

- **Halfway to St Patrick Day** celebration, Lake of the Woods, Sept 15th

**Prayer List:** Please pray the return to good health/speedy recovery of our Brothers John Mahoney, Bob Errickson, Bill Callahan, and Ron Cullen and our family members: Bruce Denault's sister and sister-in-law and Joe Daley's sister.

**Next Meeting:** May 16th -- Please plan to attend! Shamrock Degree for our six new Brothers is planned.

**In Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,**

Bill Halpin  
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Gen. Thomas F. Meagher Division  
Ancient Order of Hibernians  
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