



GENERAL THOMAS F. MEAGHER DIVISION

SPOTSÝLVANIA DIVISION NO. 1

DECEMBER 2011 HIGHLIGHTS

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A BLESSED, PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR TO ALL
HIBERNIAN FAMILIES!**

December 2011 - A Busy Month:

On the 11th in conjunction with the National Park Service, we placed a wreath at the Sgt Kirkland Memorial in our annual commemoration of Irish Brigade losses in the Battle at Marye Heights. We were supported by the Father Corby Division Honor Guard (Fairfax County); they added genuine AOH flair to the event. The wreath was constructed of boxwood sprigs, a green ribbon that contained the initials `AOH_ and the 69th NYSV patch, was provided by Pat Phillips, wife of Brother Bill Phillips.



From Left: Brothers Gerry Burke, Joe O'Connor, Bill Halpin, Shane Quinlan with daughter Abigail, John Hogan, Bud Logan, Dick Geary, Hugh O'Brien and Bill Gilhooly.

After the ceremony, we adjourned for Irish beverages and snacks at the Blarney Stone Pub in downtown Fredericksburg.

On the 13th 34 brothers, spouses, and family members celebrated a four course Christmas Season Dinner at Lee's Retreat. A good time was had by all! It was the first time in more than a decade we've been accompanied by our wives at a division function. Past Presidents pins were presented to Bob Ghormley (2004 - 2006) and Hugh O'Brien (1995-1997).



On the 20th we held our scheduled monthly meeting and elected officers for fraternal year 2012. They are:

- President: Bill Halpin
- Vice President: Jeff Fitzpatrick
- Treasurer: Shane Quinlan
- Financial Secretary: Bill Gilhooly
- Recording Secretary: Gene McKenna
- Sentinel: John Hogan
- Marshal: Bud Logan
- Standing Committee: Bill Phillips

Officers Installation will be held at our regularly scheduled 17 January 2012 meeting. I'm pleased to serve a third year as your president and extremely happy that four new officers stepped forward to shoulder a share of responsibility for running this glorious division. In 2013 one of these lucky men will be serving as your president.

We remembered Jim Mannion, a Division Charter Member, who died on December 4th after a brief bout with cancer. We performed the **Fallen Brother Ceremony** in accordance with AOH tradition. A memorial Mass will be celebrated at 10AM on 16 January 2012 at St Mary of the Immaculate Conception, Fredericksburg. **Maximum Division Attendance is Requested (Green Jackets suggested).**

Discussions: We found little interest in sponsoring a golf tournament in 2012, so we'll drop that idea for the time being.

However, a positive discussion was held with regard to a Halfway to St Patrick Day dinner o/a September 15th 2012. I will be appointing a committee to explore venue, catering, and entertainment.

We all need to be active recruiters for our Order to recruit, especially younger men, into the Division. Hibernians can initiate young men over the age of sixteen. In this vein, we also should be sponsoring more family-oriented activities. At this time family oriented functions are limited to the annual St Patrick Day Parade and the St Patrick Dinner at Holy Cross Academy. Suggestions included more `Irish Nights` at ballgames, family picnics, etc.

In a carpool chat, some of us discovered division brothers know little about one another -- about background, special talents, hobbies, etc. We may want to consider a `biographic summary` for each of us -- not "*on-line*" -- rather, in a folder the president or recording secretary can maintain. This might be of assistance as we move into the future.

There was high praise for the work Brother Dan Donovan is doing on our website (fredericksburgaoh.org). If you haven't checked it recently, please do so!

Division Attire:

- **Green Jacket:** Men's Wearhouse (1210 Carl D. Silver Parkway in Central Park) offers Hibernians a \$390 green sports jacket for \$89.00. Typically, the AOH `uniform` for parades and other semi-formal occasions is green sport coat, white shirt with Irish theme tie, and black trousers. 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 and 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

• **Division logo polo shirts, sweat shirts, and ball caps:**

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

Prayer List: Please pray for the repose of the soul of Brother Jim Mannion and for the return to good health/speedy recovery of Brother Bob Errickson (cancer), Brother Joe Daley's sister (leukemia), Brother Gene McKenna (knee replacement surgery), Brother Ron Cullen, and Past Division Presidents Bill Callahan and Jim Hagerty.

Dates to Remember:

16 Jan – Jim Mannion's Memorial Mass

17 Jan – Monthly meeting – installation of officers

21 Jan - Shamrock and Major (Tower) Degrees will be exemplified at the Fr. Robert W. McDonald Columbian Center, 2324 Pump Road, Richmond, Virginia 23233. Exact time is TBD but will be ca 1PM.

23 Jan -- March for Life (see website for more information)

16 Mar – St Patrick Dinner at Holy Cross Academy

In Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,

Bill Halpin

President

Gen. Thomas F. Meagher Division

Ancient Order of Hibernians

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