



**GENERAL THOMAS F. MEAGHER DIVISION
Spotsylvania Division No. 1**

December 2012 Highlights

*Celebrating 25 years of Friendship, Unity and Christian
Charity in the greater Fredericksburg area!*

**Merry Christmas/Nollaig Shona Duit
to you and your family**

The Division met as scheduled on December 18th with 21 brothers in attendance. The Treasurer and Vice President were excused.

New Brother: The division accepted Charlie Ryan of Fredericksburg and St Mary Parish into the division. Charlie was administered our pledge and was warmly welcomed into our Order. We now have 41 active brothers. Also, we welcomed Corby Division brother and Lake of the Woods resident, Tom Sullivan, as our guest.

2013 Officers: Past State President and Past Division President Hugh O'Brien presided over the installation of division officers for Fraternal Year 2013: President Bill Halpin, Vice President Bill Phillips, Recording Secretary Gene McKenna, Financial Secretary Bill Gilhooly, Treasurer Shane Quinlan, Chairman Standing Committee Jim O'Donnell, Marshall Bud Logan, and Sentinel John Hogan.

AOH Storm Relief: The division was very generous, accounting for nearly 1/3 of all Virginia AOH donations (\$1181.00). Congratulations and thank you for your generous support!

Committee Reports:

a. ***Help and Hope for Meaningful Employment Program:*** Chuck Payne updated the division, noting the program is on track. He reported:

- We now have nine volunteers, including three who are not AOH members: Bob McDevitt and Sandy Corbin of St Jude, and Deacon John Hubbarth of St Mathew.
- Follow-up letters were sent to our four pastors thanking them for support and advising them of our plan to launch the program in February.
- An announcement is finalized and will be provided to parish POCs for inclusion in January bulletins: 7:00 pm on the first Tuesday of each month at the St. Patrick parish hall and 8:00 pm on the third Wednesday of each month at the St. Mary parish life center.
- Chuck will have kickoff/orientation meeting for all volunteers. The date, time and place are TBD.

b. **25th Anniversary/Christmas Party:** Was held at the Fredericksburg Hospitality House. All indications from the 39 brothers and spouses who attended the party are that it was very successful evening. Charter Member Hugh McCabe provided both humor and human interest factoids in his description of growing up in Ireland in the late forties, fifties and early sixties, and the founding of our division. We were honored to have Virginia State President Chuck Curran and Vice President Bruce Denault in attendance. State President Chuck Curran presented the division with a Virginia State Board **Certificate of Merit** in recognition of `25 years of dedicated service to the Hibernian principles of Friendship Unity, and Christian Charity. Jim McMorrow, who managed both the door prize raffle and the `Irish_ gift exchange, did all of the leg-work arranging the party was given a well-deserved round of applause.

Sesquicentennial Commemoration of the Battle of Fredericksburg



Irish Brigade Monument with Gen. T.F. Meagher Division Boxwood Wreath

On December 9, 2012, the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Fredericksburg, the National Park Service rededicated the Irish Brigade monument in Fredericksburg, Virginia. The monument is located where the Irish Brigade crossed the Rappahannock River on December 13, 1862 and

engaged Lee's forces in the Battle of Fredericksburg. Brigadier General Thomas Francis Meagher's brigade was decimated as it repeatedly charged Confederate fortifications along the sunken road at Marye's Heights. The commemoration was part of a week-long event that included re-enactors representing the 116th Pennsylvania, the 28th Massachusetts, and Active Duty soldiers of the famed Fighting 69th New York Infantry, all regiments assigned to the Brigade during the battle.

The General Thomas Francis Meagher Division, Ancient Order of Hibernians in America participated along with a color guard from the Irish Defense Force, dignitaries from County Kerry, the Embassy of Ireland, and the City of Fredericksburg. Division brothers presented boxwood wreaths at the Irish Brigade Monument and on the Sunken Road wall at Marye's Heights. (Wreaths courtesy of Pat Phillips)



Division Brothers with Irish Defense Force Color Guard



Bud Logan and Pete Carroll with wreath



Gen. Meagher Division brothers Bill McCarthy, John Hogan, Bill Phillips, Bill Halpin, Tommy Lyons, Harry Crisp, and Bud Logan.

Important//Important Coming Events:

- **13 January 2013:** 1:45PM Fredericksburg **Religious Freedom Parade** Assemble at the Fredericksburg train station (need to arrive early to park) and march to the Religious Freedom Monument (followed by food at St. Mary parish life center). **We need full participation in this! More to come...**
- **15 January: 7:30PM** regular monthly meeting
- **20 January 2013:** 12PM (noon) the Brian Boru Major Degree Team of Virginia will administer the **AOH Major Degree** (AKA: Tower Degree) at St. Mary's Lyceum, 313 Duke Street, Alexandria, Virginia. The By-Laws of the Virginia State Board of the AOH require that all Division Officers take the Major Degree as a condition of holding Division office. All AOH Brothers who have not taken the Major Degree are strongly encouraged to take advantage of this local opportunity to complete their membership in the AOH. We'll arrange for carpools
- **Date TBD:** The AOH annual Gaelic Mass
- **14 March:** 5 PM Annual Family Irish Dinner at Holy Cross Academy
- **16 March:** Annual St Patrick Day Parade at the Blue and Grey brewery and 5th annual Trip for Two to Ireland raffle kickoff
- **17 March:** 8AM-2PM Irish breakfast, St Mary Parish Life Center
- **16-18 August 2013:** The **Biennial State convention** will be sponsored by the LTC Dowd Division (Woodbridge) at the Fredericksburg Hospitality House. Given the locations there is little doubt we will be asked to help.
- **4 October:** 4-7:30PM Annual St Mary Fall Festival

Good and Welfare: The business meeting was followed by a lively social hour (or was it two?). We thank Joe O'Connor for bringing the beverages (again!) and Jim McMorrow for the culinary delights! He promises to do the brats with caramelized onions next month!

Prayer List: Please pray for the repose of the soul of Ned Woisard, founder of the Col Thomas J. Cunningham Division, and a stalwart AOH Brother. Ned died on December 1, 2012 - may perpetual light shine upon him and may he rest in peace.

General Meagher Division Attire: Our newest brothers are encouraged to obtain division attire. I will be sending in an order next week.

- **Division Logo Items:** long and short sleeve 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 (I have two on hand)
- **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. 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

In Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,

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