



Gen. Thomas F. Meagher Division Highlights February 2011



Fourteen brothers attended our February meeting. This was a grand turnout; we hope this indicates future attendance.

We grew by one in February: Mr. Neal Buttimer, a Lake of the Woods resident, St Patrick parishioner, and former member of Father Corby Division (Fairfax County) was approved for membership. We hope to have a Shamrock Ceremony at our March or April meeting. BTW AOH recruitment flyers will be inserted in the March St Patrick Parish bulletin. With assistance of our parish points of contact, hopefully our other parishes will follow suit.

I met with Father Edlefsen, University of Mary Washington Catholic Ministry, and with George Elliott, St Patrick School principal. At a future date (TBD) I'll present the AOH "pitch" to the men of this ministry. Mr. Elliott and I agreed that our grant will be presented based on scholarship, community service, and financial need. He commented that >50% of his students seeking enrollment in a Catholic high school will attend St Michael the Archangel. I'm playing "telephone tag" with Father Rooney at St Mary Church and hope we can connect soon.

National AOH is selling a medallion commemorating the 175th Anniversary of the AOH. I bought one and encourage every brother to do the same (ORDER FORM IS ATTACHED).

If we can identify a suitable venue, TFM will sponsor the April 2011 VAAOH State Board Meeting. As of today St Mary Church, St Michael the Archangel High School, and few secular locations are under consideration. Points of contact were established to vet each possible venue.

Our prayers are requested for Shane Quinlan's mother-in-law (cancer); Brothers Jim Hanson (diabetes) and Gene McKenna (eye surgery); and Mr. Thomas Dillon, Bill Halpin's colleague, who passed away earlier this month (cancer).

We've started the search for a 2011 TFM Rose of Tralee candidate. Kate Riley, the DC Area Rose coordinator, will attend some TFM St Patrick Day festivities in Fredericksburg

Our third annual Trip for Two raffle will kick-off on March 12th at the St Patrick Day Parade (see below). Once again 1,000 tickets were printed and all Brothers should feel a responsibility to sell at least 50 tickets!

Month of March

March 5: The “**Annual Irish Heritage Festival**” at St William of York, 6-9PM. The Meagher Division has supported this in the past; however, this year we were not invited. In any event, tickets are \$10.00 for adults and youth tickets are \$5.00. Tickets can be obtained from Peggy Nicely (nicely624@hotmail.com) or Shay Martello (shay.martello@commeng.com).

March 5: The **Alexandria St Patrick Parade**

March 12: The annual **St Patrick Parade at the Blue and Grey Brewery** will start at noon. The division should convene at 1130 in the parking lot across the railroad tracks. “Uniform of the day” is green sweatshirt and black trousers. This is also the kick-off of our annual raffle. All TFM Brothers are encouraged to attend.

March 14: The annual **Gaelic Mass** will be a St Charles Church in the Clarendon section of Arlington

March 17: Holy Cross Academy St Patrick Day Dinner (5-7:30PM) sponsored by the Division. Kate Riley may attend this to promote the Rose competition. All TFM Brothers are encouraged to attend

March 17: 30,000 green, white, and orange flags will be placed on the lawn at **St Michael Church in Annandale**. When placed, the flags will create the Irish flag and will represent the estimated 30,000 abortions in Virginia during 2010.

And in Later in the Year

May 27: Irish Heritage Night at Washington Nationals Ballpark at 7:05PM (Nats vs. Padres). Come out and celebrate our Irish heritage at Nationals Park and enjoy pre-game entertainment in the Miller Lite Scoreboard Walk, frosty mug giveaway at the gate and exclusive ticket discounts. The gates open at 4:30 PM for the Miller Lite Party Night in the Scoreboard Pavilion. The Group rate (minimum of 15) tickets are \$20 by the Miller Lite Scoreboard Walk and include a drink voucher at the Miller Lite Scoreboard Walk Bar and for early arrivals a beer mug. To sign up for this great opportunity to share our heritage and promote AOH, contact our Treasurer Shane Quinlan (shanemquinlan@gmail.com).

July 21-24: The Biennial State Convention will be held in Richmond. Our Division is authorized two delegates (Brothers Halpin, Denault and O’Brien have voting privileges based on their state board affiliation). The Order’s Major (Tower) Degree 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). Also, in conjunction with the convention, Major Dooley Division is sponsoring a golf outing on 22 July at the Providence Golf Course. Cost is \$60. Best ball format with awards for closest to the pin, longest drive, etc. Brothers interested in being delegates -- please identify yourselves!

Other Issues

Need a Green Sport Jacket? Vice President Denault identified a local outlet for AOH acceptable green sport blazers. The typical AOH “uniform” for parades and other semi-formal occasions is the green sport coat, white shirt with appropriate Irish theme tie, and black trousers. These “Masters Green” sport jackets cost approximately \$80.00 at the Central Park Men’s Wearhouse. Our primary point of contact is the Assistant Manager, Ms. Bushra Elmalki (540.785.2449). The Men’s Wearhouse is located at 1210 Carl D. Silver Parkway in Central Park

Congratulations to Brother Bob Errickson who married Nancy in December.

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

Our next meeting will be at 7:30PM on March 15, 2011.

In Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,

Sláinte!

Bill Halpin
President
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Ancient Order of Hibernians
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