



GENERAL THOMAS F. MEAGHER DIVISION

SPOTSYLVANIA DIVISION NO. 1

February 2012 Highlights

Our monthly meeting convened as scheduled at 7:30PM, February 21, 2012. With prior notification, the vice president was excused. Eleven brothers attended.

Issues Discussed:

- The Annual Holy Cross Academy (HCA) St Patrick Dinner was discussed at length and in detail. We voted against hosting the dinner in 2012 for the following reasons:
 - Food safety – potential for illness caused by food preparation at private homes (some homes are up to one hour away from HCA), transported and re-heated – all we’d need is one sick kid
 - Availability of pots at brothers’ homes large enough of prepare vegetables for an estimated 80 patrons.
 - The short two week notice – believed unlikely ticket sales would be approved at other parishes or that parishioners from distant parishes would tackle rush hour traffic attend.
 - The conflicting schedules of CCW and PTO activities – since those are the people who generally attend this event.
 - The pull-out of our co-sponsor, the PTO -- who did the preparation in prior years. TFM bankrolled the event and sold drinks and raffle tickets.
 - The inability to identify alternative dates

- We voted to `lock-in` our first annual **Halfway to St Patrick Day Party** for 15 September 2012, at the Lake of the Woods clubhouse. (The deposit check was delivered in 22 Feb).
- **Letters to our four pastors** were sent to update them on Division activities and charitable contributions during 2011 and to solicit support in fraternal year 2012.
- Participation in a **second wreath laying** at the Fredericksburg City Dock o/a December 13th each year. This ceremony is dedicated specifically to the Irish Brigade. After the ceremony re-enactors and others march along the historic attack route to the Marye Heights location where we now place a wreath each year. Meeting attendees thought we could do both ceremonies.
- Fraternal Year 2012 marks the **25th anniversary** 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.
- The “**Vietnam Wall**” in Ireland initiative is now on hold at the request of my counterpart organization in Ireland who is experiencing financial challenges.
- **Irish Heritage Day at the Nationals Ballpark** is working from the Nat’s perspective. However, the tri-state AOH board has not been forthcoming with indications of support and the time is fast approaching for `fish or cut bait` (teams already reported for Spring Training). In all probability this will *not* happen in 2012.
- I requested a past **Rose of Tralee** participate in our parade this year. The DC Area Rose Committee is working the issue.
- We voted to help defray the cost of sending division delegates to the **Biennial AOH National Convention** (9-12 July) in New York

Dates to Remember:

- **March 3d:** Alexandria VA St Patrick Day parade

- **March 12th**: The 33rd annual Gaelic Mass is **Monday March 12 at 7:30 p.m.** at St. Charles Church, 3304 Washington Blvd. in the Clarendon section of Arlington.
 - Celebrant will be Father Gerry Creedon, pastor of Holy Family Parish and a native of County Cork.
 - A choral group will sing Sean O'Raida's Mass in its original Gaelic, accompanied by Irish harp and organ.
 - A reception featuring Irish music and food follows in the parish hall.
- **March 17th**: Fredericksburg Annual St Patrick Day Parade and festival Students from St Michael the Archangel High School will march with us. Per Vice President Jeff, students from both St Patrick and Holy Cross Academy schools will be invited.
- **April 14th** : Major Degree Exemplification -- Ocean City, MD

General Meagher 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. 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
- **Division Logo Items:** long and short sleeve polo shirts, sweat shirts, and ball caps:
 - Prices are:
 - 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 Jim Mannion's soul and the return to good health/speedy recovery of our Brothers Bob Errickson, Bill Callahan, and Ron Cullen and Joe Daley's sister.

Next Meeting: March 20th!

In Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,

Bill Halpin

President

Gen. Thomas F. Meagher Division

Ancient Order of Hibernians

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