



## GENERAL THOMAS F. MEAGHER DIVISION

### SPOTSYLVANIA DIVISION NO. 1

#### July 2011 Highlights

**(\*\*\*\*No Meeting in July\*\*\*\*)**

I hope you were able to enjoy Independence Day activities and continue to enjoy other summertime activities.

#### **The Good News:**

Raffle Tickets update: Gene McKenna, John Hogan, Bud Logan and I sold 53 tickets at the Lake of the Woods Independence Day festival. John Hogan, Hugh O'Brien, and Bud Logan turned in revenue on an additional 22 tickets sold.

In the past ten months we've been able to donate more than \$4,000 to local charities, scholastic stipends, and parish work camps. The Division should be very proud of this accomplishment. This month we've received thank you notes from Mary's Shelter (for distribution of St Mary International Fest income) and from the St Mary's work camp director.

*BUT* in order to maintain this level, or achieve a higher level, of charitable work all 1,000 tickets should be sold each and every year. We need a full court press on this. As of today we haven't reached the minimum prize money and of course our goal continues to be 100% sold.

To this end, and because I *know* you're all eager to support division objectives, I'll be mailing 24 raffle tickets to brothers who cannot attend regular meetings. Please return to me the ticket stubs (and, of course, the revenue). Also, please return unsold tickets by Sept 1st so they'll be available for our after Mass sales.

To avoid conflicts, we need to schedule after Mass sale at St Patrick (I'm the POC), St Mary (Jeff is our POC) and if possible a second weekend at St Jude (Hugh is the POC). So, I ask parish POCs to discuss this with your pastors and get back to me with proposed dates as soon as possible.

**The Not So Good News:** Frankly, I'm disappointed with the response received with regard to this rare opportunity to receive our Shamrock Degree and/or our Major (Tower) Degree. As of today, only one brother has signed-up for the Major Degree. Ten or more of you should be eager to receive one or both Degrees. It's the old saying "you can lead horse to water, but..." so, again I encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity. I can't predict when the next time the Major Degree will be offered.

At the risk of being "over the top", I note that on the day you took the Hibernian pledge, you all agreed to "receive the Lessons (Shamrock) and take the Test (Tower) of the Order in accordance with our laws." If I receive commitments from at least six more brothers, I'll rent a van to facilitate a car pool leaving from our monthly meeting location at 9:30 AM. The degrees will be administered at 11:00 AM on July 24th at the Koger Conference Center, 1021 Koger Center Blvd., Richmond, VA 23235-4756.

I need to let the state secretary/degree teams know how many Meagher Division Brothers plan to receive these important Hibernian degrees!

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**For Golfers:**

On Friday, September 30th Cannon Ridge Golf Course (Route 17N) will host the **Jacob Michael Storck Charity Golf Tournament for Holy Cross Academy**. I'm hopeful the Division can field foursome (\$400 each) and/or sponsor a hole (\$250). Proceeds will benefit the playground at Holy Cross Academy. The Stork family says "We hope to enrich the lives of our Holy Cross Academy Families and honor the memory of our beloved Jacob by being able to improve and maintain the school playground as a place for children to play and pray." We'll have to discuss this at the August 16th meeting.

For Division brothers who aren't golfers, you're encouraged to see the donation page on the [Golfing4Jake.com](http://Golfing4Jake.com) website to make a tax deductible contribution.

**Birthright Update:**

Birthright's treasurer sent a followed-up note to thank AOH our "interest and suggestions" and to provide clarification on some questions we posed at our June meeting.

- Birthright's mission is to work with women who have not yet made a decision. In contrast, Mary's Shelter and the Paul Stefan Home assists women who have already decided to have the baby. Birthright often refers clients to them.
- Birthright provides counsel on fetal development and attempts to follow up with every client, especially those who are abortion minded. Birthright refers some clients for a sonogram to help them to choose life for their babies.

- WRT to the percentage of women who have their babies, exact tracking is not possible as people move and telephones are disconnected. Birthright knows of several who gave birth, but also knows of a few who aborted.

After receiving input from a charities committee member, on 30 June I responded:

- Thanked Birthright for meeting with us and the informative follow-up email, noting I'd shared it with the Division membership
- Mentioned our top-notch suggestions on how Birthright can create revenue, reduce overhead expenses, and organize/manage the organization more efficiently.
- Noted that we are very interested in which suggestions Birthright will adopt and would appreciate details on how Birthright plans implement them.

**Division Attire:**

- Men's Wearhouse 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. The Men's Wearhouse outlet is located at 1210 Carl D. Silver Parkway in Central Park. Our point of contact is the Assistant Manager, Ms. Bushra Elmalki (540.785.2449).

- I'm taking orders for Meagher **Division polo and sweat shirts** and want to submit the order by mid-July to assure delivery for the August meeting. I'll need your size (S, M, L, XL, etc.). Today I have three orders. So, if you want to have this piece of Division attire get your order to me ASAP.

**Our next meeting is 16 August.**

In Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,

Bill