



GENERAL THOMAS F. MEAGHER DIVISION

SPOTSYLVANIA DIVISION NO. 1

June 2011 Highlights

~~IMPORTANT NOTICE~~

Our Order's Shamrock and Major Degrees will be administered beginning at 11AM on Sunday, July 24th at the Koger Conference Center, 1021 Koger Center Blvd., Richmond, VA 23235-4756. General Meagher Division brothers who have not yet received both degrees are encouraged to take advantage of this rare opportunity to receive both degrees on the same day. These ceremonies will conclude our 18th Biennial State Convention. Although all active Brothers are welcome to attend the convention, convention attendance is not required to receive the degrees. I've mentioned this opportunity at several meetings and in recent Monthly Highlights, yet I've received zero responses.

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

Fourteen brothers (about 50% of current division membership!) attended our June meeting. No new applications were received; however, Paul Chlebo, Roy Delaney, Dan Donovan, and Paul Simmons are approved for membership and await initiation. When initiated, they will bring active membership to 38, a number that reflects growth and vitality.

“What have you done for me lately”: Our Division donated \$1600 for three scholastic stipends and \$500.00 for parish work camp projects. Our ability to continue good works (more than \$4000.00 donated in past eight months) is made possible through Trip for Two raffle ticket sales. **Every brother needs to be zealous in support of this division fund raising project.**

I attended the St Patrick Elementary School graduation ceremony earlier this month and presented certificates representing our scholastic stipends to two deserving young men who will be attending St Michael the Archangel High School next fall. I must report the demeanor and enthusiasm of these young men and women was remarkable. A schedule conflict prevented me from attending the Holy Cross Academy graduation; however, Sister Susan Louise Elder made a presentation on our behalf; we sent a check in the recipient's name to Pope John Paul the Great High School

St Patrick Golf Tournament: I met with the general manager and golf pro at Lake of the Woods (LOW) to discuss this initiative. Here's what I learned:

- The golf course charges \$25.00 per registered golfer, including 18 holes and golf cart.
- Typically, charity tournaments charge from \$65.00 to \$100.00 per person. Expected participation would be about 40-45 golfers -- a good number for a first time charity tournaments. The optimum number of golfers is about 100.
- Lake of the Woods will assist in advertising the event.
- We should solicit sponsors for each hole (usually \$100 - \$250/hole; holes can have multiple sponsors).
- We can sell Mulligans, have a 50/50 raffle, etc.
- We should solicit prizes from local vendors (dinner for two at local restaurants, etc.) to be raffled off. LOW suggested that we try to have a "prize" for every participant – establishes a positive attitude and anticipation of next year's event.
- In the past, major companies (Coke was mentioned) donated golf bags and golf accessories.
- We can have a "win a car for a hole in one" and obtain insurance against the unlikely event somebody actually sinks a par 3 hole in one.
- We can consider other prizes (e.g. closest to the pin/fairway center line), longest drive, etc.)
- The Fairways snack bar (in golf clubhouse) charges \$10-12.00 for lunch (if we choose to do this).

Our objectives are twofold: Increase our ability to support local charities and increase AOH awareness. Naturally this would take place during the *Month of St Patrick 2012* (looking at 24 March). Last night, after clear understanding that this will be a manpower intensive effort, the Division voted to proceed: test the waters for large corporate donors, etc.

More on Golf: Holy Cross Academy is sponsoring the “Jacob Michael Storck Charity Golf Tournament” on Friday, September 30th at the Cannon Ridge Golf Course. The Division hopes to enter a foursome and sponsor a hole and will be discussed at our August 16th meeting.

Charities Committee:

- Two Birthright of Fredericksburg, Inc. representatives visited the Division last evening. They provided comprehensive insight into the organization’s size (25 volunteers), mission, functions, relationships with similar local activities, and financial situation. Originally a Canadian organization, Birthright is now a North America organization; the Fredericksburg office was established in 1978. Birthright provides free pregnancy tests and a full array of pro-life counseling to approximately 100 women each month. Although they do not offer further support, they do offer local area points of contact for prenatal care, financial support, etc.
- They reported recent publicity in the Free Lance Star ignited community interest, donations, and offers for related support that should sustain them through 2011. Their expenses run about \$26,000/year, including nearly \$16,000 in rent for a facility used 16 hours per week (\$81.00 per hour!). Division brothers offered multiple suggestions on how they might better organize and manage Birthright; how and from whom to solicit corporate and benevolent financial support; how to establish a viable board of directors, where to seek new office space, including some space that might be donated, etc.
- Birthright literature including “Birthright in a Nutshell”, “Pregnant? Need Help?” and the Winter 2011 Newsletter was distributed.

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 order 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.)

Special Thanks:

To charter member **Joe O'Connor** for his work *year-in and year-out* in making our post-business meeting social time enjoyable and refreshing. This is the time when we have opportunity to build a deeper appreciation for one another. We all appreciate what you do, Joe. Thank you for facilitating this!

Dues: Dues are \$30.00 (believe it or not, six are in arrears!) and can be mailed to:

Brother Jeff Fitzpatrick
Meagher Division Financial Secretary
237 Hillcrest Drive
Fredericksburg, VA 22408

Prayers: Please keep your Brothers Bob Errickson and Bill Callahan in your prayers, as well as Joe O'Connor's sister, Ann Marquart, who died last month in California.

Our next meeting will be on **August 16, 2011** at 7:30 PM.

In Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,

Bill Halpin
President
Gen. Thomas F. Meagher Division
Ancient Order of Hibernians
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