



GENERAL THOMAS F. MEAGHER DIVISION

May 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 one or 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 need to know who plans to attend!

Eleven brothers braved rain and storm to attend our May meeting last evening. One new brother, Desmond Flanigan, was initiated into our Order. Des is a St Patrick parishioner and Lake of the Woods resident. Approved for membership and awaiting initiation are Paul Chlebo, Roy Delaney, Dan Donovan, and Paul Simmons.

In a letter dated April 28th 2011, we received Diocese of Arlington permission for Father Ed Bresnahan (Parochial Vicar at St Mary of the Immaculate Conception) to become our Division Chaplain. I've sent Father Bresnahan the AOH Chaplain's Handbook and the State and National chaplain's contact information.

Both Holy Cross Academy and St Patrick School principals have selected students for the Division's scholastic stipend. The St Patrick school principal asked about the possibility of splitting our scholastic stipend between two equally qualified students. The Division voted not only to support this request, but to modestly increase the stipend for each student. I will send the students' parents congratulatory letters. The HCA student will attend Pope John Paul

the Great High School and both St Patrick students will attend St Michael the Archangel High School. Checks will be sent to the high schools in the students' names to defray tuition and/or related expenses incurred by attending Catholic High School. Also, the Division voted to financially support Parish Work Camps. Donations will be made to St Patrick and St Mary. A donation will be offered to St William of York.

The Division reviewed the current charities committee charter and decided modification is not required. Key to this decision were the phrases "is it local" and "does it advance Hibernian respect for life objectives." The charter does not specify "Catholic respect for life objectives." This interpretation and decision opens the opportunity for case-by-case donations to non-Catholic pro-life charities. In this regard, a representative from Birthright will be invited to our June meeting. Subsequent to examination of Birthright's financial future, the division will consider a donation. The division also voted to reimburse expenses (NTE the cost of a "total package") incurred by our delegates to the VAAOH State Convention (21-24 July in Richmond). Meagher Division delegates are Gene McKenna and Bill Phillips.

St Patrick Golf Tournament: Lake of the Woods management offered us co-sponsorship of a March 2112 golf tournament to honor of St Patrick, our patron saint. I await additional information wrt our obligations and responsibilities should we decide to do this.

Trip for Two Raffle Update: As of the May 2011 Treasurer's report, we have not reached \$1,000 toward our lofty goal of \$8,000. This raffle is our only fund raiser. You've read of the Division's recent major charitable donations and those we've approved for the near future. To continue this community support, we really need every Brother's participation and to sell the 1,000 printed tickets. As of this writing we haven't sold 10%. Please recall our pledge to "be zealous for the interests of our organization."

"Irish Wall" Update: I've communicated with Mr. Lars Joye, the curator at Collins Barracks Museum in Dublin. I explained a vision of how the names of the 21 Irishmen and one Irish woman who died in Vietnam as members of the U.S. Military might be displayed in an 8"x12" area:

NAME
Date / Place of Birth
Killed in Action Date/Place
Unit of Assignment

This would mean an “Irish Wall” approximately 8’x8’. Mr. Joye advised that the museum is an Irish National Historic site and he’ll discuss any modifications to the site with others associated with the museum.

General Interest Items:

- **AOH Certificates of Membership:** Brothers initiated in the past 18 months were given 1890s era “original” Ancient Order of Hibernian membership certificates. These are available for all Meagher Division brothers. I need: full name as it will appear on the certificate; your original division and division number; county and state; and date of admission into the order.

- **175th Anniversary of the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America:** An Anniversary Mass will be celebrated at St Patrick in NYC on 21 May. Also, National AOH is selling a commemorative anniversary medallion. Several Division Brothers already purchased the medallion and I urge all of you to support this AOH fund raising initiative. Order form is attached.

- **AOH credit cards:** Brother Bruce Denault has applications for those who are interested. National AOH will receive a pay-out each time an AOH card is used.

- **Irish Heritage Night Update:** The Washington Nationals Ballpark plan to sponsor an Irish Heritage night in September – a Half-Way to St Patrick Day party! Date is TBD so stay tuned - more to come...

- **Need a Green Sport Jacket?** The typical AOH “uniform” for parades and other semi-formal occasions is green sport coat, white shirt with Irish theme tie, and black trousers. Men’s Wearhouse is offering a special for Hibernians: We can buy a \$390 green sports jacket for \$89.00. The outlet is the Men’s Wearhouse located at 1210 Carl D. Silver Parkway in Central Park. Our point of contact is the Assistant Manager, Ms. Bushra Elmalki (540.785.2449).

Dues: For 2011 dues are \$30.00 and can be mailed to:

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

Please keep Bill Phillips, John Mahoney, Bill Callahan, and Ron Cullen in your prayers.

Our next meeting will be at 7:30PM on June 21, 2011 at the K of C Hall, 4724 Harrison Road, Fredericksburg, VA 22401.

In Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,

Bill Halpin

President, Gen. Thomas F. Meagher Division

540.972.5903//202.213.5625