



GENERAL THOMAS F. MEAGHER DIVISION
Spotsylvania Division No. 1

November 2012 Highlights

*Celebrating 25 years of Friendship, Unity and Christian
Charity in the greater Fredericksburg area!*

Happy Thanksgiving to you and your family

The Division met as scheduled on November 20th; 22 brothers attended.

Shamrock Degree: The Shamrock Degree was administered to twelve of our new brothers: Jeff Banks, Pete Carroll, Billy Driskill, Tom Evans, Jim Florio, Bill Hocter, Tom Lyons, Jim McMorrow, Dan Mulhern, Jim O'Donnell, Chuck Payne, and Bob Stevens. The degree team included Bill Phillips (Friendship), Jeff Fitzpatrick (Unity), Bill Gilhooly (Charity), Bud Logan (Marshall), John Hogan (Sentinel), and the undersigned.

2013 Officers: The division elected the following officers for Fraternal Year 2013: President Bill Halpin, Vice President Bill Phillips, Recording Secretary Gene McKenna, Financial Secretary Bill Gilhooly, Treasurer Shane Quinlan, Chairman, Standing Committee Jim O'Donnell, Marshall Bud Logan, and Sentinel John Hogan.

AOH Storm Relief: AOH Storm Relief was discussed in detail. In addition to the Division's generous contribution, Division brothers are asked to consider

individual, tax deductible, donations. (See my email 10:10AM, November 21, 2012

Committee Reports:

a. ***Help and Hope for Meaningful Employment Program:*** Chuck Payne updated the division, noting the program is on track for a February 2013 launch. He reminded all that the Division agreed to sponsor the program *and* provide volunteers willing to attend at least one session per month to help job seekers. To date only five Brothers has volunteered (Jim O'Donnell, Gene McKenna, Bud Logan Bill Halpin, and Chuck Payne) and more volunteers are needed. President Halpin sent letters to our member pastors (St. Patrick, St. Mary, St. Jude, and St. Matthew) explaining the program and soliciting support and publication of announcements in the parish bulletins. Each pastor agreed. Father Ziegler (St. Patrick) and Father Rooney (St. Mary) offered space for our meetings: 7:00 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month at St. Patrick and 8:00 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month at St. Mary. Next steps include:

- Seek more volunteers to help the job seekers.
- Prepare announcements for the parish bulletins.
- Hold a kickoff/orientation meeting for AOH volunteers.

b. ***25th Anniversary/Christmas Party:*** Jim McMorrow updated the division. He has reserved a banquet room at the Fredericksburg Hospitality House for December 7th and acquired approximately 16 door prizes valued at between \$20 and \$50 that will be raffled off at \$10/chance. He has also has numerous additional gift coupons to be given away at the party. In addition to the raffle, there will be a Chinese (Irish?) gift exchange. Each couple should bring one wrapped gift not to exceed \$15 in value. The cost per ticket is \$40.00 (\$80/couple). VAAOH state officers, past division presidents, and charter members will attend. We expect more than 40 attendees and it's not too late to join the fun. Dress is coat and tie (green jacket if you have one).

The plan of the evening is:

6-7 PM:

Cocktails (Pay-As-You-Go Bar)

Administrative Announcements, a short narrative on General Thomas, F. Meagher, Grace before meals

7-8:30PM:

A Buffet Style Dinner Menu includes:

Rolls/Butter

Entrées: Chicken Condon Bleu, London Broil, and Crab-stuffed Tilapia

Vegetables: Garlic mashed potatoes and Green Beans *Almandine*

Desserts: New York cheese cake and Chocolate lovers' cake

Coffee/Tea

8:30 - ? PM:

Charter Member Hugh McCabe will speak on 'Growing up in Ireland' _
Raffle and Gift Exchange

Prayer List: Please pray for Ned Woisard, founder of the Col Thomas J. Cunningham Division, and a stalwart AOH Brother. Ned has suffered two recent heart attacks and is in stage 3 kidney failure.

Coming Events:

7 December: 25th Anniversary Dinner -- Fraternal Year 2012 marks the 25th year of the General Meagher Division. A dinner celebration is planned.

O/A 15 December: The division will support two ceremonies honoring the Irish Brigade losses in the battle of Fredericksburg: One at the City Dock and the other at the Kirkland Memorial (Marye Heights). The date may be December 15th or December 9th -- more to come.

18 December: Installation of 2013 officers

20 January 2013: The **AOH Major Degree** (AKA: Tower Degree) will be administered by the Brian Boru Major Degree Team of Virginia. It is scheduled for 12:00 Noon, Sunday, at St. Mary's Lyceum, 313 Duke Street, Alexandria, Virginia. The By-Laws of the Virginia State Board of the AOH require that all Division Officers take the Major Degree as a condition of holding Division office. All AOH Brothers who have not taken the Major Degree are strongly encouraged to take advantage of this local opportunity to complete their membership in the AOH. We'll arrange for carpools

16-18 August 2013: The Biennial State convention will be sponsored by the LTC Dowd Division (Woodbridge) at the Fredericksburg Hospitality House. Given the locations there is little doubt we will be asked to help.

General Meagher Division Attire: Our newest brothers are encouraged to obtain division attire. I received some requests at our meeting but wait for more prior to submitting an order.

- **Division Logo Items:** long and short sleeve polo shirts, sweat shirts, and ball caps:
 - Long sleeve polo: \$22.75
 - Short sleeve polo: \$19.75
 - Sweat shirt: \$21.25
 - Ball Cap: \$14.00 (I have two on hand)
- **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

The business meeting was followed by a lively social hour (or was it two?). We thank Jeff for donating a gallon of his very tasty beverage.

In Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,

Bill Halpin
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