



**GENERAL THOMAS F. MEAGHER DIVISION
SPOTSYLVANIA DIVISION NO. 1
SEPTEMBER 2011 HIGHLIGHTS**

Our Division convened on September 20th as scheduled with eleven brothers (34%) in attendance: the Vice President, Treasurer, and Financial Secretary were excused based on business commitments.

Trip for Two to Ireland raffle update:

The drawing will be at **5PM on 24 September at the Blue and Gray** Oktoberfest. I want to thank the Brothers who sold raffle tickets and/or returned unsold tickets so they'll be available for the "final push" on September 24th at the Oktoberfest.

I want to especially thank Brother Dick Geary for taking charge/organizing ticket sales at St Mary. This was the Division's first opportunity to sell raffle tickets after Masses at St Mary. The Division success at St Mary, St Patrick and St Jude parishes results from 16 Brothers selflessly and faithfully applying a concerted Hibernian effort over two weekends. In addition to Brother Geary, they are Brothers Joe O'Connor, Brendan Kelly, John Hogan, Jeff Fitzpatrick, Bruce Denault, Joe Daley, Harry Crisp, Hugh O'Brien, John Mahoney, Bill Phillips, Shane Quinlan, Gene McKenna, Bill Halpin, Roy Delaney, and Neil Buttimer.

2012 Division Officers:

As you know, none of the Division officer positions are life-long incumbencies. My hope is dynamic Brothers will step up for nomination at every Division officer position and that current officers will consider moving up the leadership chain. Brother Hugh O'Brien is chairman of the 2012 Officers Nomination Committee and will be contacting all of you in this regard.

VAAOH Vacancies:

The Virginia State Board is seeking volunteers for several positions; Assistant Organizer, Historian, Catholic Action, Freedom for All Ireland, Immigration, Buy Irish, Irish Awareness, Newsletter/Publicity, and Convention Chairman -- Interested? Contact our Worthy State President Chuck Curran at IRL4FR@aol.com

Charities:

- The Division received a heart-warming note from the Finch family thanking the division for tuition assistance at St Michael the Archangel High School and a "thank you" from Lisa Schumacher, St Patrick Parish Work Camp coordinator, for our donation.
- Birthright requested our assistance in helping them move into new office spaces on 28-29 October. Several Brothers indicated willingness to help, but the more the merrier...
- The Freedom for All Ireland Christmas 2011 Appeal pledge form was reviewed. Brothers wanting to donate (\$10 suggested) should contact me for further information.

Guest Speaker:

- Mr. Matthew Carroll, an expert on Irish Nationals who have served in the U.S. Military visited the Division meeting this month. His presentation focused on the needs of Irishmen who recently served in the U.S. Military, returned to live in Ireland, yet suffer from wounds and/or post-traumatic stress syndrome. He asked that Brothers visiting Ireland inquire about U.S. Military veterans and learn if any continue to need assistance from our red Veterans Administration or other wounded warrior programs.
- Mr. Carroll left a 2010 "America Veterans Disabled for Life" commemorative Silver Proof Dollar with the Division. He asked that it be raffled off (suggesting \$5.00/ticket) and the proceeds be donated to the Collins Barracks Museum preservation fund. I will enlist the VAAOH

state-wide membership in this funding drive to assist the National Museum System in Ireland.

Upcoming Events:

- It's not too late to register for the **Jacob Michael Storck Charity Golf Tournament** to be held September 30th at Cannon Ridge CC. Proceeds benefit Holy Cross Academy playground maintenance. For brothers who would like to make an independent TAX DEDUCTABLE donation see Golfing4Jake.com
- The **St Patrick Parish Fair** is scheduled for October 1st. The Division will have a table set-up to inform parishioner about AOH and our charitable works and to recruit.
- The **St Mary International Fall Festival** is scheduled for October 7th. The Division will assist as requested. Last year we converted cash for tickets needed to purchase food.
- I'm working with an account executive for the Washington Nationals and tri-state Hibernians to schedule an **Irish Heritage Game** next spring. Both the Red Sox and the Yankees will be in town during Interleague play in June
- The Division continues to discuss sponsorship our own **Meagher Division golf tournament in 2012** at Lake of the Woods CC. I'll approach LOW management regarding a possible date closer to Half-way to St. Patrick Day in September.
 - I ask brothers who enjoy connections with major vendors (Air Lingus, Guinness, Pepsi Cola, etc.) to contact them now for merchandise donations suitable for prizes and/or a raffle at the tourney.

2011 Rose of Tralee:

- Hope you were among the nearly one million viewers tuned your internet to RTÉ to see Tara Talbot, the Queensland (Australia) Rose, crowned as the 53rd Rose of Tralee. Tara was born in Dublin and moved to Australia when she was five-years-old, returning to live between Dublin and Galway for three years in 2006.

- If all works out as planned, I believe we'll have a very competitive *Meagher Division Rose in 2012!* I've already discussed this with her parents and they're on board!

Division Attire:

- 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).
- Several brothers asked about plastic **AOH name tags**. I'll order these if you'll send me the name you'd like to see on the name tag (e.g. Bill vs. William)

TFM Off Campus:

Several Brothers will be visiting Ireland this month; John Hogan is already there and based on this photo, John's the envy of every Hibernian I know!



Prayer List: Please pray for the return to good health/speedy recovery of our Brothers Bob Errickson, Bill Callahan, Jim Hagerty and Ron Cullen

Our next meeting is October 18th!

In Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,
Bill