



GENERAL THOMAS F. MEAGHER DIVISION

Spotsylvania Division No. 1

The Division met as scheduled on 18 September. We were pleased to accept nine applications, and to administer our pledge to four new Brothers: Bob Stevens, Dan Mulhern, Jim McMorrow and Jeff Banks.

Tom Evans, our liaison to St Mary Parish did an outstanding job managing the division raffle ticket sales at St Mary and Holy Cross Academy on 1-2 September. Brothers who assisted included: Neil Buttimer, Joe Daley, Jeff Fitzpatrick, Dick Geary, Bill Halpin, John Hogan, Brendan Kelly, Bud Logan, Hugh O'Brien, Joe O'Connor, Jim O'Donnell, and Bill Phillips. It was very hot and humid day, so thanks to all! Tom also managed our participation in the St Mary Stewardship Weekend on 15-16 September. In spare time Tom manages our website and is doing a great job there as well!

John Hogan managed ticket sales at St Patrick Parish on a dreary and windy weekend of 8-9 September. Bill Gilhooly, Bud Logan, Gene McKenna, Hugh O'Brien, and Shane Quinlan assisted.

By all accounts Jeff Fitzpatrick's idea to co-host an **Irish Breakfast** with Mary's Shelter became a successful reality on 9 September. Donations exceeded expenses by 2:1. Proceeds will be distributed next month.

Our *First Annual Halfway to St Patrick Day Celebration* was a grand success! This assessment is based on guest comments on Saturday evening and in emails/phone calls received in the following days. Everyone enjoyed the absolutely stunning performance by the Muggivan Dancers led by Dorian Joye, and the world-class music and general atmosphere the Moch Pryderi ensemble brought to our Party (yes, it was tear in many an eye during their rendition of

Danny Boy). Our objective was met: we introduced the community to AOH, Irish traditions and Irish culture! We are pleased that Father Jerry Wooten, former VAAOH State chaplain and Parochial Vicar at St Patrick Parish was able to join us. The Lake of the Woods clubhouse did a great job decorating the ballroom, preparing the food, and managing the sequence for the buffet line. Naturally there were a few minor glitches and we've identified lessons learned. An after action report will be presented at the October meeting.



We were there

Muggivan Dancers

Dorian Joye

Céilí/Irish dance lessons

Door prizes were donated by several vendors who deserve to be acknowledged. They are: The Blue & Grey Brewery, Meadows Golf Course, J. Brian's Tap Room, the Lake of the Woods Club, The Colonial Tavern of the Irish Brigade, The Blarney Stone Public House, Irish Eyes Gift Shop, Bella J Cucina restaurant, the Capital Ale House, and Mr. Scott O'Connell, who donated autographed copies of his most recent book (first of a planned trilogy), *The Patriot Spy*. You're encouraged to support these businesses that generously supported our party.

Nomination Committee was appointed to build a slate of candidates for 2013 officer positions. The committee is comprised of John Hogan, Bud Logan, and Hugh O'Brien.

Trip for Two to Ireland Raffle: Drawing is 22 September -- we need to re-double efforts to reach our goal and continue our annual donations to area Catholic education and charities.

Prayer List: Please pray for a full recovery of Irene McGee, wife of past division president Mike McGee (stroke) and for Jim O'Donnell who is recovering from surgery.

Coming Events:

22 September: Blue & Grey Brewery Oktoberfest and Trip for two drawing.

29 September: St Patrick Parish Festival

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

20 November: Shamrock Degree and election of 2013 Officers.

18 December: Installation of 2013 officers

General Meagher Division Attire:

- **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

In Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,

Bill Halpin

President

Gen. Thomas F. Meagher Division

Ancient Order of Hibernians

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