

IN FRIENDSHIP, UNITY AND CHRISTIAN CHARITY



GENERAL MEAGHER'S DISPATCHES

<http://www.aohfredericksburg.org/>

July 2015

Volume 3/Number 7

President: Jim O'Donnell **Chaplain:** Father Kevin Fimian **Vice President:** Bob Stevens
Financial Secretary: Bill Gilhooly **Treasurer:** Dick Dowd **Recording Secretary:** Kevin Doyle
Standing Committee: Jim McMorrow **Marshal:** Neil Mulcahy **Sentinel:** Rusty O'Brien, **Newsletter Editor:** Bill Halpin

THE DIVISION DOES NOT MEET IN JULY!

PRESIDENT'S CORNER:

Brothers,

I trust you are enjoying the beautiful summer with your families and loved ones. July is the only month we do not meet. It is a time for summer enjoyment. It also marks the half waypoint for our Hibernian year. With the help of the good Lord, we have been blessed to help fulfill our charity committee's budget and we look forward to completing the year with several key events.

One of the key events occurred today with the celebration of our First Annual Hibernian Family picnic. It was a huge success, and we owe it all to the efforts of Shane Quinlan. Had it not been for him this event would not have taken place.

August will find us returning for our regular monthly meeting and the beginning of the end of our Trip for Two to Ireland Raffle drive, which occurs in September. We will also have our hallmark Irish cultural event our Half Way to St. Patrick's Day celebration, which also occurs in September. I ask that you support these two events so we may continue our works of mercy that so help our Church.

May St. Patrick continue to watch over you and yours. May Our Lady do the same.

In Our Motto,

Jim O'Donnell

DIVISION UPDATE

Happy Day for the Fogarty Family May 9th Baptism of Piper Quinn Fogarty



L-R Kimberly holding Joseph Patrick Fogarty, Pat holding Piper, Father Cummings, and God Parents Misty and Mark Gish

The Division voted to establish a Past President Committee. The committee will draw on experience to advise elected officers regarding processes and procedures consistent with our Order. Further, the Committee will perform other functions as requested by the incumbent president.

News from the June 13th VAAOH State Board Meeting

The official AOH commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the 1916 Easter Rising will be held on Saturday, April 23 2016 in New York City. National Vice President Judge Jim McKay is chairman for the event. Displays of the 1916 Proclamation as seen at the 2014 National Convention will be available to support state commemorative activities. In Ireland the yearlong commemoration begins next month -- see: <http://www.irishtimes.com/culture/heritage/easter-rising-commemorative-programme-revealed-1.2160368#.VVpVKXbuaOQ.mailto>

National Director Mike Delaney cited General T.F. Meagher and St Patrick Divisions as models for AOH recruiting; both divisions increased membership by 32% since 2011.

Deputy National Chaplain Father Timothy Harris, T.O.R. is being transferred to Austria. Father Tim served AOH in Virginia as Col. Cunningham Division chaplain and later as the VAAOH State Chaplain.

Be aware that people associate you with the AOH, so set a good example, especially at Mass and when wearing an AOH polo or green jacket.

Past President Committee (PPC) submitted for review and comment proposed amendments the current state by-laws; the proposed amendments were sent to all division presidents. Comments should be sent to VAAOH Executive Secretary Chuck Curran. The proposed amendments will be discussed at the first state meeting following the biennial convention. Also, the PPC will address the issue of Associate Members, specifically Irish-Catholic men who married outside the Church and therefore cannot be in compliance with religious duties as required in the AOH application.

The VAAOH 2014 Hibernian of the Year award was presented to Bill Baker, Father Corby Division. President Denault cited Brother Baker's numerous contributions to AOH at the division, county and state levels since joining the AOH in 2006. While serving as Father Corby Division president he re-invigorated the division, established numerous pubic events and brought focus to area charities.



UPDATE ON HERITAGE COMMITTEE PLANNED EVENTS

Summer Picnic: This year's first annual TFM Division picnic was a grand success. Situated at the beautiful Lake of the Woods clubhouse, more than 40 AOH brothers, families and friends enjoyed great weather, hotdogs, hamburgers, ribs, chips, watermelon, potato salad, multiple desert choices, and beverages of choice. A **Great Hibernian Thank You** to Shane and Melinda Quinlan for organizing and doing all of the heavy lifting that made this a success. Beyond his tremendous organizing skills, Shane is an excellent cook!



Anybody having fun here??



Shane Jeff and crew



Halfway Party: The Halfway to St Patrick Day celebration is on track: we have signed contracts for the **Seacobeck Hall** at UMW, the Irish band, **DragonFyre**, and the **Muggivan Irish Dance School** is committed to perform. Tickets and posters are printed. We need to begin ticket sales. **Harry Crisp** volunteered to lead publicity and ticket sales in St Mary Parish and the Fredericksburg area. We're soliciting brothers to act as "**Table Captains**" responsible for filling one or more tables. Harry will be contacting Brothers for this support. Our **VP Bob Stevens** has set the example and will "Captain" two tables and John Hogan another. We need about 15 Captains! Some brothers have connections to UMW Catholic Youth Center and the UMW Eagle Pipe Band. These might be good places to start spreading the news! Keep in mind the traditional purpose and our goals for Halfway Celebrations are to bring Irish music, dance and culture to the local community. A ticket for an excellent Irish meal (salmon or corner beef), a commemorative pint glass, live Irish music, an Irish dance performance and post-performance Irish reel lessons is a mere \$35/person. Harry and Bill Halpin have tickets.

Christmas Party: Arrangements are in place for the date (*Sunday, December 6th*), the time (*2-8 PM*), and place (*St Michael the Archangel High School*). This party is intended to be pot-luck, with the division supplying beverages. We can use the kitchen to warm food and we can have

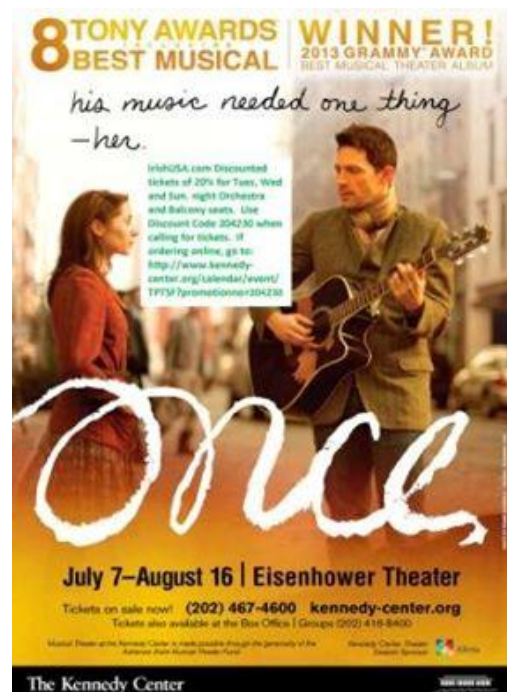
access to the high school pool (\$10/hour for a life guard). Entertainment for the children can include a visit with an Irish Santa, face painting, a balloon artist, and other ideas as they become apparent. [**NB:** December 6th is the feast day of St Nicholas, who is the inspiration behind the legend of Santa Claus. In about 1210 A.D., St Nicholas was buried on the grounds of the Church of Saint Nicholas, a church his family built in in Newtown Jerpoint (the "lost town"), County Kilkenny, Ireland.]

Craft Distillery Tour: Andy Link volunteered to coordinate a Division tour of Fredericksburg's Bowman Distillery, where hand crafted small batch bourbon, whiskey, rum, gin and vodka are produced and sampled. We can easily accommodate 35 brothers (and spouses). This could be followed by lunch at Brother Jeff Fitzpatrick's restaurant - Lee's Retreat. Express your interest in joining the tour (probably on a Saturday) by emailing Andy (ramslia@comcast.net) or Bill Halpin (sisconsulting@comcast.net).

Kennedy Center Performance:

The [Kennedy Center](#) has generously offered a 20% discount to friends of the Embassy of Ireland to see the Grammy and Tony Award winning musical [Once](#) from 7 July to 16 August.

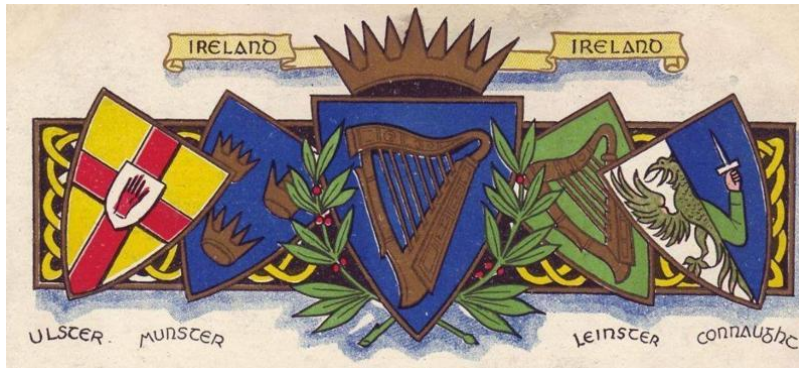
Once is a musical stage adaptation based on the 2007 film of the same name by Irish director John Carney. Like the film, Music and lyrics were by Glen Hansard of The Frames and Markéta Irglová, including the Academy Award-winning "Falling Slowly". The book for the musical was written by Irish playwright Enda Walsh. The musical premiered at the New York Theatre Workshop in 2011, before transferring to Broadway in 2012. The production received eleven 2012 Tony Award nominations, and won eight including Best Musical, Best Actor, and Best Book. The musical also won the 2013 Grammy Award for Best Musical Theater Album.



Theatrically breath-taking, the musical tells the enchanting tale of a Dublin street musician who's about to give up on his dream when a beautiful young woman takes a sudden interest in his haunting love songs.

When ordering by phone or in person at the Kennedy Center Box Office, **mention the offer number 204230** to receive your discount. Alternatively, you can [Order online here.](#)

OUR HERITAGE



The famine proved to be a watershed in the demographic history of Ireland. As a direct consequence of the famine, Ireland's population of almost 8.4 million in 1844 had fallen to 6.6 million by 1851. The number of agricultural laborers and small land holders in the western and southwestern counties underwent an especially drastic decline. About one million people died from starvation or from typhus and other famine-related diseases. The number of Irish who emigrated during the famine may have reached two million. Ireland's population continued to decline in the following decades because of overseas emigration and lower birth rates. By the time Ireland achieved independence in 1921, its population was barely half of what it had been in the early 1840s.

FROM THE BOOKSHELF – A HIBERNIAN SUMMER READING LIST

The Famine Plot: England's Role in Ireland's Greatest Tragedy

By Tim Pat Coogan (Reviewed by Eamon Loingsigh (for Wildgeese.com))

“Outside of Ennis, in County Clare in the west of Ireland, the wind kicks upon the hills under the same gray sky where once starved children, women and old men were buried callously, if not left by the ditches. Where the weakest of the agrarian poor were communally laid in what are now mere humps of turf: paupers' graves that for over 160 years have not been fully honored by truth nor been properly acknowledged. Even if two million of them perished of starvation and common disease, over a million more died jumping desperately into coffin ships. The facts had never made a difference as to the truth of their demise, such as numbers as stiflingly affecting as up to twenty-five percent of a country's population dead or dispersed.”

(Published by Palgrave Macmillan Trade, 2012)

Kindle version is \$.99

The Great Hunger: Ireland 1845-1849

By Cecil Woodham-Smith

The most appalling event of the Victorian era, over a million people killed and as many more emigrated. ‘A moving and terrible book -- it combines great literary power with great learning. It explains much in modern Ireland – and in modern America’ D.W. Brogan.

(Published by Trinity Press, London, 1962)

About \$5.99 from Amazon

Every Dark Hour - A History of Kilmainham Jail

By Niamh O'Sullivan

Known as Ireland's "Bastille" Kilmainham Gaol is possibly the most important building in modern Irish history. The jail was a powerful symbol of British rule. It is the place where some of the 1916 rebels were executed. Liberties Press, Dublin, 1997 (ISBN 978-1-905483-21-1)

Kindle \$10.99//used from Amazon about \$5.50

The Irish in Early Virginia 1600-1866

By Kevin Donleavy

A well informed and fascinating perspective on Irish immigrants in Virginia This 200-page paperbound work is the first and only study of those Irish, and also the first to clarify the strong revolutionary link between Thomas Jefferson and Ireland. Pocahontas Press, 2014 (ISBN 0-926487-77-9)

\$12.95 (possible discounts for AOH when purchased at an AOH meeting)

History of the Ancient Order of Hibernians & Ladies' Auxiliary

By John O'Dea

This work chronicles the history of this Irish order from 1331 AD until the middle of the 19th century. It includes a review of the state of Celtic society before St Patrick and the Order's funding and activities in the U.S. Three volumes (re-printed in paperback by University of Notre Dame Press, 1995 (ISBN 10: 0268011095 ISBN 13: 9780268011093)

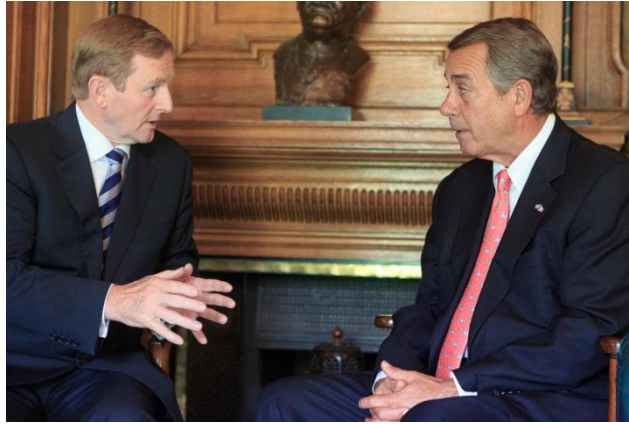
Expensive to buy –best to **visit a library to read the e-book version**)

SPEAKER JOHN BOEHNER'S IRISH FOURTH OF JULY 2015

Why Ireland? "The Taoiseach (or Prime Minister, Enda Kenny) comes to Washington every year on St. Patrick's Day," Boehner explained in his gallery, "So it was about time we visit Ireland for the Fourth," and trade stories with Kenny. My idea of a good Fourth of July is [cooking on the grill](#) for my family in West Chester, Ohio. This year, unfortunately, [our meetings in Europe](#) meant we'd spend the day away from home. **That said, if you have to spend the Fourth of July outside the United States, you can't go wrong spending it in Ireland.**

"After all, America wouldn't be America without the Irish."

This was also an opportunity to express in person Congress's [condolences on the deaths of six Irish students](#) who died last month in a tragic accident in Berkeley, California. The Irish people banded together—as they always do in times of tragedy—like family.



Enda has been Ireland’s prime minister for about the same amount of time as I have been Speaker. We’re both just regular guys with big jobs—and a lot of stories.

After lunch, we had a series of meetings with ministers and lawmakers. A big topic of discussion was trade. With passage of [trade promotion authority](#), the United States has taken the next steps towards making trade agreements that help create more jobs and opportunities for America’s workers. And closer ties between the United States and Europe mean less leverage for Russia and the world’s aggressors. Dinner was also an opportunity to honor U.S.-Irish ties.

The *Irish Times* reported on July 3, “. . . Boehner told a Dublin audience of his determination to overcome Republican resistance to immigration reform,” and mentioned that Kenny had pushed him on the issue, “telling him how the lack of reform has left some Irish immigrants listening to a parent’s funeral by phone.” (There are an estimated 50,000 Irish in this country illegally.)



The Fourth is a big day for our embassies, where they hold Independence Day celebrations around the world. This one brought nearly 3,000 people to our Ambassador’s residence. On the Fourth, we ran into folks from at least 10 states, including a family from—where else?—Cincinnati, Ohio

We are blessed to have such courageous and determined allies as the Irish people. Before our country was even a country, Ben Franklin said Ireland would be “disposed to be friends of America.” But with all we’ve weathered together—and all the work that lies ahead—we know that it’s more than that. It’s blood. It’s family.

(Edited from “In the Loop”, *Washington Post*, July 9, 2015, page A17)

THE FOURTH AT LAKE OF THE WOODS: John Hogan, Gene McKenna Larry Pratt and Bill Halpin volunteered to sell Trip for Two raffle tickets at the Lake of the Woods Fourth of July festival. We were there from noon to 4PM and sold nearly 50 tickets. Jim & Bunny McMorrow and Bud & Natalee Logan stopped by to lend their support.



SOME JULY DATES OF INTEREST

July 1, 1867 – **Death of Thomas Francis Meagher**, Young Ireland leader, U.S. Civil War hero and Governor of Montana

July 4, 1921 - Awaiting truce with the English, Eamon De Valera orders the American flag flown in Dublin to "emphasize the principle for which we are fighting"

July 8, 1889 - In the last official bare knuckle title fight ever held, heavyweight boxer, John L. Sullivan beats fellow Irishman Jack Kilrain in a world championship bout which lasts 75 rounds

July 12, 1690 - **Battle of the Boyne** and victory for William of Orange

July 13, 1825 - The Catholic Association, dissolved in accordance with the Unlawful Societies Act

July 15, 1927 - Countess Constance de Markievicz, Irish patriot, dies. Also, it's revealed that all telephone, e-mail and fax messages between Ireland and Britain, and probably the United States, were tapped by the British Government

July 17, 1846 - Birth of Fenian, John McClure, one of 30 Fenian prisoners released in a conditional amnesty by the British government on January 5, 1871. John McClure, Jeremiah O'Donovan Rossa, John Devoy, Henry Mulleda and Charles Underwood O'Connell, shipped out

from Liverpool on board the "Cuba." The so-called 'Cuba Five' arrive in New York to a hero's welcome and even received a resolution of welcome from the US House of Representatives

July 21, 1920 - Catholics are forced out of Dromore, Co. Down

July 22, 2007 - Dubliner **Padraig Harrington** becomes the first Irish golfer to win the British Open in 60 years

July 29, 1848 – The **Young Ireland** uprising, Ballingarry, County Tipperary -- William Smith O'Brien, **Thomas Francis Meagher**, Terence Bellew McManus and Patrick O' Donohue are arrested, convicted of high treason, and sentenced to death. Sentences are commuted to transportation in June, 1849

July 31, 2007 - After 38 years, the **British Army occupation** of the north of Ireland **ends** at midnight. Operation Banner is the Army's longest continuous campaign in history with more than 300,000 personnel serving.



Irish Historian: Looking ahead to **September 15th**, Kevin Donleavy of Charlottesville is scheduled to speak. Kevin is author of *The Irish in Early Virginia 1600-1860*, a past Fellow at the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities, a retired Latin teacher, and he plays in an Irish band. His commitment to Irish cultural history spans forty years. He also has an Irish radio program heard on WTJU.net.



Please pray for the repose of the souls of Past Division Presidents Phil Booty and Bill McCarthy, our Brother Mick Lenihan, and Brother George Beck (Vice President of the Fr. Mychal Judge O.F.M. Division), and Timothy Jones (Bunny McMorro's son). May God's perpetual light shine upon them; May they rest in peace.

Please keep in your prayers Brothers Joe O'Connor, Jim McMorro, David Lee Chichester, and Mike Creegan (VAAOH webmaster); and Matthew Carroll, the inspiration behind the Irish Viet Nam Veterans Memorial Project

Pray to Mary Immaculate Patroness of the United States for the strength to defend our religious freedoms, for national moral guidance, and that this country

will always be “one nation, under God”. In the mid-nineteenth century our nation overcame several threats to our first amendment right to religious freedom. The future may be more onerous in this regard.

In this time of extreme political correctness, opinions and beliefs contrary to those popularized in TV reality shows, some public media and ubiquitous social networks are ridiculed as narrow minded, bigoted, or not in tune with “modern” America. For example -- same sex marriage -- the tail is wagging the dog when less than 2% of 320 million Americans can dominate the headlines, win a Supreme Court split decision and prompt the President to bathe the White House in “gay colors”. Some progressive politicians are suggesting our religious beliefs must change to be in step with modern America. Not so fast – many of us are not buying into this secular propaganda campaign.

The world will not be destroyed by evil – it will be destroyed by those who watch evil at work and doing nothing about it (attributed to Albert Einstein).

Praying the Rosary is critically important in this time of contrary moral agendas and the threats from patently evil elements. In 1571 the Holy League defeated an attack by the Ottoman Empire -- a Sunni Islamic state referred to as the "eternal enemy of the Christian" -- in the ***Battle of Lepanto***. The victory was credited to the Virgin Mary whose intercession with God was implored through praying the Rosary. To commemorate the battle, **Pope Pius V instituted the feast day of Our Lady of Victory** (now celebrated as Our Lady of the Rosary) **October 7th**.



Mark Your Calendars!

Multiple Dates: **Bingo** every Thursday and Saturday evening starting at 6:30PM – at **St Michael the Archangel High School**, 6301 Campus Drive, Fredericksburg, VA 22407 (540) 548-8748). Bring the family!

Multiple Dates: **Roller Derby** at **Golden Skate World** (Five Mile Road) -- Family Friendly Fun. For more information, contact Jill Lenahan (Brother Shawn’s wife) at 540-295-2464. John Hogan attended a Derby and reports it is terrific family oriented fun!

July 25 – 26: **Raffle and Halfway ticket sales at St Mary**

August 1-2: Raffle and Halfway ticket sales at St Patrick

August 1- 2: Raffle and Halfway ticket sales at St Mary

September 12: 4th Annual Halfway to St Patrick Day Celebration, 6:30-11PM, at Seacobeck Hall, 1301 College Street, Fredericksburg (University of Mary Washington)

September 15: Kevin Dunleavy will speak on the *Irish in Virginia 1600-1860*

September 19: Trip for Two to Ireland raffle drawing at Blue & Grey Brewery

October 20: Nominations for officers to serve in fraternal year 2016

November 17: Election of officers for fraternal year 2016

December 6: Family (Pot Luck) Christmas Party at St Michael the Archangel High School!

December 15: Installation of 2016 officers



GENERAL MEAGHER DIVISION ATTIRE

As in most organizations, we have AOH specific attire. In a perfect world every brother would have these articles of clothing.

- For **semi-formal/formal occasions**, the AOH “uniform” is green sport coat, tri-color sash, white shirt, Irish theme tie, black trousers and optional ball cap. These occasions include AOH State and National conventions, Masses, funerals, AOH dinners, parades, and other public events.
- At **informal events** (i.e. Division outings (ball games, picnics, meetings, etc.) the division logo polo or sweatshirts (optional ball cap) are appropriate. Many have already ordered the division polo and sweat shirts and the ball cap.

Division Logo Items: Brother **Ed Kelly** (EJPKelly@yahoo.com) will order Division logo polo shirts, sweatshirts and ball caps.

- Sport Tek Long sleeve polo: \$28.95 (XXL is extra)
- Sport Tek Short sleeve polo: \$26.95 (XXL is extra)
- Cotton Long Sleeve polo: \$22.75 (XXL is extra)
- Cotton Short Sleeve polo: \$19.75 (XXL is extra)

- Sweat shirt: \$21.25 (XXL is extra)
- Ball Cap: \$14.00

Green Jacket: Brothers procure their own green jackets and sashes. One source: http://blazerdepot.com/pages/mens_blazer/augustagreenblazer.html. Visit the website; call the 800 number. Tell them you're with AOH and the \$5.00 small order fee can be waived. Kelly green is the color.

AOH Sash: The AOH tri-color sash represents the national flag of Ireland and should be worn over the right shoulder (green closest to jacket collar) crossing to the left hip (see photo). Tri-color AOH sashes are available from:

- LAOH Sister Patricia Ankrom. Email Patricia at traceysbydesign@aol.com
- D. & E. Morrissey (954-426-3514) <http://www.hibernians-shamrock.com/donations.html>

