

IN FRIENDSHIP, Unity and Christian Charity



GENERAL MEAGHER'S DISPATCHES

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

September 2015

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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

NEXT DIVISION MEETING: October 20th, 7:30PM

IMPORTANT ISSUE OF THE DAY

Our nation is facing internal *and* external threats. Internal threats include “progressive” politicians who suggest murder is a “woman’s health” issue and our religious beliefs and freedoms must be forfeited if we are to be in step with “modern” America. As recently as August 27th, a Democrat presidential candidate equated pro-life advocates (by definition all Catholics) with “terrorist groups” adding (we) “*refuse to live in the modern world... and we espouse out-of-date and out-of-touch policies...for 21st century America.*” (*Washington Post*, August 28, page A-3)

External threats include Islamic Jihadists who are waging war to destroy Western Civilization. In 1571 Western Civilization was facing an overwhelming Sunni jihadist army (that hasn't changed in 444 years). Pope Pius called for all of Europe to pray the Rosary for victory over what he referred to as the “eternal enemy of the Christian”. Catholics throughout Europe prayed the Rosary and the Pope led a Rosary procession in Rome praying for Christianity’s victory. The Sunni jihadists were defeated at the Battle of Lepanto and the Pope declared **October 7th** to be the **Feast of Our Lady of Victory**.

Praying the Rosary is critically important as we work to defeat current threats from these patently evil elements. Prayers were answered in 1571 and can be answered again in 2015. At our meeting on September 15, the Division resolved to ***Pray the Rosary on October 7, that Our Lady of Victory will deliver us from these evils.***

Division President's message

Brothers,

As I mentioned in a recent email, it is a glorious time to be a Hibernian. September is one of our busiest months, and this year has been no exception. We are winding up our annual Trip for Two to Ireland raffle with record sales. The response from our four parishes has been overwhelming. The support of our four Parish Pastors has been likewise inspirational. Our seminal Irish Heritage event the Halfway to St. Patrick Day Party was a huge success, and our membership continues to grow not only in numbers, but more importantly in the quality of the men who continue to join our ranks (*recently we welcomed Mark Gallagher, Mike Fegan and Jake Ruppert into the Order*). We are much blessed by Our Lord thanks in no small part to the intercession of his Holy Mother and our patron St. Patrick.

One last note -- our immediate late past president, Bill McCarthy, will be buried with full military honors on September 29 at Arlington National Cemetery. Several of us will make the trip to pay our respects. Join us if you can. If you are unable, please say a special prayer for Bill on that day. Remember also, the other brave Americans who rest in peace at that most sacred of places. I wish you all good health and much happiness as you continue to enjoy God's blessings.

In Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,

Jim O'Donnell

Virginia Biennial Convention Highlights

The 20th AOH/LAOH Biennial convention was in Alexandria August 14-16, 2015. The convention began with a Friday evening "icebreaker" featuring heavy hors d'oeuvres, exquisite Irish dance performances and the opportunity to begin new/renew old friendships. Subsequent to Saturday's business meeting many brothers and spouses enjoyed lunch at historic Gatsby's Tavern, which host to George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Ben Franklin and other founding fathers. Mass at St Mary, the first Roman Catholic Church in Virginia followed. After Mass, State Officers were installed in a dignified ceremony led by National Director Mike Delaney. That evening the convention banquet was a great success featuring excellent food and entertainment by the "Wild Irish Roses". On Sunday morning the Brian Boru Degree Team was magnificent in exemplifying the Order's Major Degrees on 17 Virginia Hibernians.

From the business meeting:

- VAAOH theme for the next term (2015-17) is: "***Living the Faith of Our Fathers***"
- National Director Mike Delaney confirmed our next ***AOH National Convention*** will be held **11-14 July 2016** at Harrods in ***Atlantic City***, New Jersey.
- State Secretary Halpin highlighted the 4.25% growth of AOH in Virginia and encouraged a letter writing campaign to inform national, state and local officials that we are praying for them to make choices and decisions pleasing to God.

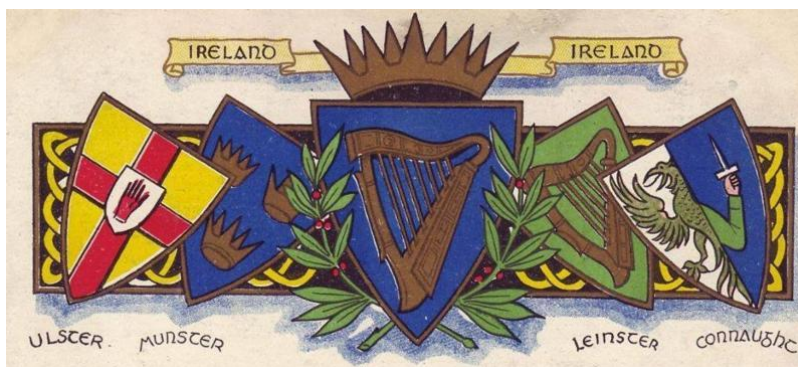
- PSP Curran expressed the need to be pro-active in our communities and increase awareness of AOH and our good deeds.
- State Officers elected for the 2015-17 term are: President Gene Bransfield, Vice President Bill Halpin, Secretary Jay McCarthy, and Treasurer Brian Kiernan. Photos/biographies are on the state website www.aohvirginia.org.



On Sunday, August 16th in an extremely well executed ceremony, the Brian Boru Degree Team exemplified the Order's Major Degrees on seventeen brothers.

Among them were General Meagher Division's Andy Link and Kevin Doyle. Past State President Hugh O'Brien and State Vice President Bill Halpin were on hand to congratulate Kevin and Andy after the ceremony as "true Hibernians".

Our IRISH HERITAGE



"We must study our Heritage, for we can only pass on what we preserve. If we only retain trivia ... and fashionable, but distorted versions of our history from uniformed media, we have nothing of lasting value to offer our children about who they really are." National AOH Historian, Mike McCormick

The Fourth Annual Meagher Division Halfway Celebration

"What a magnificent time to be a Hibernian; last night's Halfway to St. Patrick Day celebration was an absolute success." says Jim O'Donnell. One hundred and fifteen guests (including 20 Meagher Division Brothers) attended. By all accounts it was a successful in achieving our goal of sharing traditional Irish music, dance, and cuisine with the community! Division bagpipers, **Dan Butler** and **Mike Yearsley** piped the guests to the brick path (it's unlikely anyone would have found the entrance without them). The Muggivan School of Irish Dance brought their "A Team". The School has several North American Championship medal holders won at the

championship in July. Liam was their highest placed dancer this year (3rd place); he performed for us on Saturday. He is ranked 13th in North America and will be in Ireland next month to compete in the All-Ireland Championships. DragonFyre offered us a superb selection of traditional Irish music and song. A Hibernian thanks to our Table Captains (*Harry Crisp, Bill Halpin, John Hogan, Andy Link, Bill Phillips, and Bob Stevens*) who combined to fill 10 tables! Special thanks to our patrons, *The Old House Vineyard, Carrabbas, Bonefish Grill, the Colonial Tavern-Home of the Irish Brigade, J. Brian's Tap Room, Park Lane Pub, and Firebird* for their generosity and continued support for our door prize drawings.



DragonFyre



Muggivan's Caitlin & Liam



Brother Mike McCormick, our National Historian has published numerous booklets and essays, produced informative CDs and DVDs on the history and music of Ireland. For a complete list of Mike's work and ordering information visit: www.shamrockandclover.com

Mike's newest book *The Road to Rebellion* is a 116 page illustrated chronicle of the reasons for the Easter Rising, the events of the six-day battle, and profiles of the 16 executed patriots. *This book should be required reading for all Hibernians as we prepare to celebrate the centennial in 2016.*



UPDATE ON Heritage committee events

Craft Distillery Tour: Andy Link has set **Saturday, October 3d** for the Division tour of **Fredericksburg's Bowman Distillery**. We'll sample hand crafted small batch bourbon, whiskey, rum, gin and vodka produced on location. We can easily accommodate 35 brothers (including spouses). This will be followed by lunch at Brother Jeff Fitzpatrick's nearby restaurant - Lee's Retreat. Join the tour by emailing Andy (ramslii@comcast.net) or **Bill Halpin** (sisconsulting@comcast.net).

September in Irish History

September 2 1649 - *Siege of Drogheda* begins. The siege of Drogheda was perhaps the most ferocious sacking of a town in Irish history. Even today, viewed through the lens of Irish nationalist memory, it retains its capacity to inspire horror and anger. All Catholic priests found in Drogheda were clubbed to death by Cromwell's army.

September 3, 1972 - Mary Peters won the women's pentathlon in Munich and becomes the *first Irish woman to win an Olympic Gold medal*

September 5, 1771 - *Benjamin Franklin's visit to Ireland* begins. He reported "Ireland would be disposed to be friends of America."

September 7, 1695 - *Penal Laws are passed* which restrict the rights of Catholics to have an education, to bear arms, or to possess a horse worth more than five pounds; in **1921** Frank Duff founds the *Association of Our Lady of Mercy*, later to be known as the Legion of Mary

September 10, 1923 - The *Irish Free State* is admitted into the League of Nations

September 13, 1803 - Death of *Commodore John Barry*, Father of the U.S. Navy, a native of Ballystampson, Co. Wexford,

September 17, 1976 - The founders of the Peace Movement, Mairead Corrigan and Betty Williams, awarded the *Nobel Prize for Peace*

September 19, 1880 - Parnell delivers his famous speech at Ennis in which he *introduces the term for non-violent protest - boycotting*. Parnell asked his audience, 'What are you to do with a tenant who bids for a farm from which another has been evicted?' Several voices replied, 'shoot him!' Parnell answered: "I wish to point out a better way, a more Christian way which will give the lost man an opportunity of repenting. When a man takes a farm from which another has been evicted, you must shun him on the roadside, on the streets, in the shop and even in the place of worship by putting him in a "moral Coventry." You must show him your detestation of the crime he has committed".

Captain Charles *Boycott*, the British landowner, described his own situation in a letter to *The Times* "...people collect in crowds upon my farm and order off all my workmen. The shopkeepers have been warned to stop all supplies to my house. My farm is (now) public property, I can get no workmen to do anything, and my ruin is openly avowed as the object of the Land League unless I

throw up everything and leave the country" He was "boycotted" and that's where the term "boycott" originated.

September 20, 1803 - Robert Emmet, Irish patriot, is executed in Dublin. Emmet becomes a hero of Irish nationalists, largely on the basis of his stirring speech from the dock: *"Let no man write my epitaph... When my country takes her place among the nations of the earth, then, and not till then let my epitaph be written"*

September 25, 1697 - Catholic clergy are banished by Act of Parliament

September 29, 1979 - Pope John Paul II arrives in Dublin for the *first papal visit to Ireland*



Please pray for the repose of the souls of deceased Gen. Meagher Division Brothers and all deceased Hibernians and family members. May God's perpetual light shine upon them; May they rest in peace.

Please keep in your prayers to comfort and heal Brothers Joe O'Connor, Jim McMorrow, David Lee Chichester, Mike Creegan (VAAOH webmaster); Charles Banks (Jeff's Dad), Neil O'Brien (Hugh's son), John Gallagher (Mark's brother) and David O'Brien (Paul's son); and Matthew Carroll, the inspiration behind the Irish Viet Nam Veterans Memorial Project



Mark Your Calendars!

Multiple Dates: Bingo every Thursday and Saturday evenings 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!

October 3: *Bowman Brewery Tour* with lunch at the Blue and Grey

October 7: *Feast of Our Lady of Victory* -- a day for all Hibernians to pray the Rosary for victory over internal and external threats to our religious freedoms.

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