

# IN FRIENDSHIP, UNITY AND CHRISTIAN CHARITY



## GENERAL MEAGHER'S DISPATCHES

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

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**President:** Andy Link **Chaplain:** Father Kevin Fimian **Vice President:** Dan Mulhern  
**Financial Secretary:** Jeff Banks **Treasurer:** Dick Dowd **Recording Secretary:** Jack Grey  
**Standing Committee:** Jack McGovern **Marshal:** Shawn Lenahan **Sentinel:** Paul O'Brien,  
**Newsletter Editor:** Bill Halpin



**St. Brigid** is the second patron saint of Ireland. Her feast day is 1 February (Lá Fhéile Bhride). She is known as *Muire na nGael* or "Mary of the Gael," meaning Our Lady of the Irish.



### PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear Division Brothers,

With the month of February 2016 upon us, recruitment has begun to yield new members to our Division. Please continue to seek qualified Irishmen to pledge to our Order and I look forward to holding a Shamrock Degree for all Division Brothers who have not had the opportunity to make the Degree next month.

Also in the month of February, I will initiate of two of our biggest fund raisers of the year for our parishes and to support our community needs. I ask each Division member to please support myself and Vice President Dan Mulhern in making the 2016 Trip for Two to Ireland Raffle and our 3rd Annual Shamrock Golf Tournament successful. The Trip for Two Raffle begins at the Annual St. Patrick Day parade and Irish festival at Blue and Gray Brewery on Saturday, March 12th and the Shamrock Golf Tournament will take place on

Monday, April 18th at Meadows Farms Golf Course. Please contact myself or Dan Mulhern at Division meetings or by e-mail [ramslie@comcast.net](mailto:ramslie@comcast.net)/[djmulhern1@msn.com](mailto:djmulhern1@msn.com) to let us know what support you can provide. All of these good works of charity will not be possible without your support.

During the month of March, our Heritage Committee led by Hugh O'Brien, John Hogan, Des Flanagan and Bill Halpin will be at public libraries in the Fredericksburg area to commemorate Irish American Heritage Month. Other key events during the month of March include a Mass at historic St. Mary Catholic Church in Alexandria (8 AM) followed by the Alexandria St. Patrick Day Parade on Saturday, March 5th; there is also the 38<sup>th</sup> annual Gaelic Mass at the Cathedral of St. Thomas Moore on Monday, March 14 at 7:30PM celebrated by Reverend Gerard Creedon from Co. Cork, Ireland; Bishop

Loverde will give the homily. A special General Meagher Division Mass will be celebrated at St. Patrick Catholic Church in Spotsylvania on Thursday, 17 March at 6:30 PM by our very own Division Chaplin, Father Fimian. For more information, detail and dates please look within this Dispatch periodical.

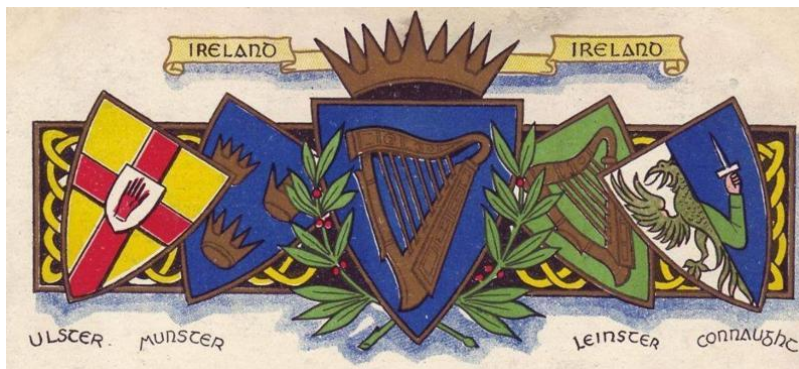
Charity work and coordination would not be possible for our four parishes without the work of our Charities Committee Brothers. This committee is comprised of Bill Phillips of St. Patrick's, Hugh O'Brien of St. Jude's, John Harris of St. Matthews and Jack Grey of

St. Mary's. I will ask them to please coordinate with their Pastor's and ensure our Division meets desired parish needs.

Regarding our history and my responsibility as President to challenge each member's knowledge for the month of February, please to learn more about 'An Gorta Mor' - The Great Hunger\_ at [http://www.aoh.com/?page\\_id=258](http://www.aoh.com/?page_id=258).

In Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity  
Richard Andrew Link, II  
President

## 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***

## FIFTH IN OUR SERIES OF IRISH PATRIOTS - EASTER 1916



## Eamonn Ceannt: Sept 21, 1881 ~ May 8, 1916

Eamonn Ceannt was born in County Galway, the son of a Royal Irish Constabulary officer. When his father was transferred to Dublin, Eamon was educated at the local National School and later at the Christian Brother School on N. Richmond St. Post-graduation he worked as accountant in the Treasury Dept. of Dublin Corporation. He was impressed (some say `radicalized\_) after attending commemorations of the 1798 United Irishmen Rising and especially the Battle of Ballinamuck that marked the defeat of the French allies during the 1798 Rebellion.

He joined the Gaelic League in 1899, taught Irish to newcomers, and became a member of its governing body. A talented musician and uilleann piper, he founded the Dublin Pipers' Club and joined Sinn Fein in 1907 and was recruited into Irish Republican Brotherhood (IRB) by Seán MacDiarmada. He moved up the ranks to be a member of the IRB Supreme Council and its Military Committee. After taking part in the 1914 Howth gun running episode, Ceannt was a charter member of the Irish Volunteers and elected to Provisional Committee of Irish Volunteers. In 1913 he was a Captain in Company A, 4th Battalion.

Ceannt was described as a very tall man and enjoyed playing the pipes. He was a sincere and good person, rather fanatical, but really one of the nicest and best people in the

movement. In 1908 he led Irish athletes to Rome for the jubilee of Pius X. In a private audience he played the uilleann pipes for his Holiness.

During the Rising of 1916, Ceannt, signatory to Easter Rising Proclamation, held the rank of commandant in command of the South Dublin Union and Marrowbone Road Distillery outposts of the Volunteers. It is told that during the fighting there he remained calm, brave and gentle. His unit inflicted heavy losses on British officers and men before the South Dublin Union was over run.

The British imprisoned Ceannt at Kilmainham Gaol where he was sentenced to death. Between 3.45 and 4.05AM on 8 May 1916, Eamonn Ceannt was taken to Stonebreakers Yard and executed by firing squad. His last words were: `I bear no ill-will towards those against whom I have fought. I have found the common soldiers and higher officers human and companionable, even the English who were actually in the fight against us. Thank God soldiering for Ireland has opened my heart and made me see poor humanity where I expected to see only scorn and reproach\_. His remains were later buried in Arbour Lane Cemetery. His widow founded the White Cross to help families impoverished by British actions.

Mike McCormick's book ***The Road to Rebellion*** is an excellent, 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 Easter Rising centennial next spring. **Order it at:** [www.shamrockandclover.com](http://www.shamrockandclover.com)

## IRISH-AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

**This is our month!** We have many opportunities to show our Irish heritage beginning with **month-long** displays at several regional libraries. These displays depict Irish/Irish-Americans are inextricably linked to the development of the United States in fields from labor and politics to science and leadership. Naturally, on the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Easter Rising of 1916 will be featured. The Heritage Committee is seeking volunteers to be present during specified hours at the libraries. On **March 5**, is the all-important first **St Patrick Parade in Alexandria**, an event in which our division should be a participant. On **March 12** is our own **Fredericksburg St Patrick Day Parade and Irish Festival** at Blue and Grey Brewery. This is where we kick-off our annual Trip for Two to Ireland Raffle. On **March 14**, is the **38<sup>th</sup> Annual Gaelic Mass** (in the Irish language) honoring St Patrick and celebrated by Father Gerry Creedon from Co. Cork, Ireland. This year's Mass is at the Cathedral of St. Thomas Moore @7:30PM. Bishop Loverde, a Hibernian brother of the Herbert- Cady Division will give the Homily. This is followed by the **Meagher Division St Patrick Day Mass** to be celebrated by Father Kevin Fimian on **March 17** (6:30PM) at St Patrick Church. (See Upcoming Events on page 5)



Please pray for the repose of the souls of deceased Gen. Meagher Division Brothers and all deceased Hibernians and family members. We pray especially for the repose of the soul of General Meagher Division charter member Brother Joe O'Connor. May God's perpetual light shine upon all deceased Hibernians. Also pray for the repose of the souls of:

**James T. Fegan**, father of Brother Mike Fegan (7 Feb);

**Joyce O'Connor**, daughter-in-law Julia O'Connor (24 Jan);

**Bridget McCarthy**, wife of Bill Halpin's Infantry School classmate (suddenly 24 Dec 15); and

**Honorable Tom O'Connell**, Col, USA (ret.), Bill Halpin's friend and colleague of more than 40 years (suddenly 19 Jan)

May they all rest in peace

Please pray for the comfort and healing of Brothers Dick Dowd, Jim McMorrow, Mike Creegan (VAAOH webmaster); Andy Link's mother, Eileen and Andy's father and care giver, Dick Link; and Matthew Carroll (Irish Viet Nam Veterans Memorial Project).

Pray to Mary Immaculate, Patroness of the United States, for preservation of our religious freedoms and for an unambiguous national moral compass. This is critically important in this era of progressive secularism and threats from patently evil terror organizations.



### ***Mark Your Calendars!***

***Multiple Dates: Bingo!*** Every Thursday and Saturday evening 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!

**March 1-31: Irish American Heritage Month** -- Our Heritage Committee began working on this project in November. Displays will be arranged at the Central Rappahannock Regional Library, the Salem Church Library and the Wilderness Library. At times/dates to be announced, knowledgeable Hibernians will be available at these locations to field questions and provide information.

**March 5:** The **Alexandria St Patrick Day Parade**. Prior to the parade at 8AM Mass will be celebrated at historic St Mary Church

**March 12:** Annual **St Patrick Day Parade** and Irish festival at Blue and Grey Brewery, plus *kick off* of our 2016 **Trip for Two to Ireland Raffle**.

**March 14: Gaelic Mass** honoring St Patrick at the Cathedral of St. Thomas Moore @7:30PM. The celebrant will be the Reverend Gerard Creedon from Co. Cork, Ireland. Bishop Loverde will give the Homily.

**March 17: Division Mass** - Chaplain Father Fimian will celebrate Mass honoring St Patrick at 6:30PM in St Patrick Church. Eucharistic Adoration follows.

**April 18:** 3d Annual Shamrock Charity Golf Classic, Meadows Golf Course in Orange County. Registration, coffee & donuts at 8 AM; tee-off at 9 AM

**April 23:** Commemoration of the **Easter Rising 1916** at various locations around the world, but especially in New York City at the epicenter of American Hibernianism, St Patrick Cathedral. Mass is a 1PM and will be followed by a procession to the Consulate General of Ireland for a reading of the *Poblacht*.

**May 17-June 5:** The Kennedy Center presents **IRELAND 100: Celebrating a Century of Irish Arts & Culture**, a major festival highlighting Irish culture and its relationship to America. This coincides with a larger global celebration commemorating the 100th anniversary of the 1916 Easter Rising, which led to creation of the Irish Free State and the road to independence. <http://www.kennedy-center.org/festivals/ireland>



### 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 ball cap.

**Division Logo Items:** **The Division is seeking a volunteer** to manage orders of Division logo polo shirts, sweatshirts and ball caps (prices subject to change).

- 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](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. Tri-color AOH sashes are available from:

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