

IN FRIENDSHIP, Unity and Christian Charity



GENERAL MEAGHER'S DISPATCHES

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

May 2016

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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: Vacant **Marshal:** Shawn Lenahan **Sentinel:** Paul O'Brien, **Newsletter Editor:** Bill Halpin

President's Corner

Brothers,

During the month of May, we will begin giving money to St. Jude, St. Mary, St. Matthew and St. Patrick Churches. I am very happy to say that our work has allowed us to continue supporting our parish Work Camps in 2016. We are also providing two scholastic grants each for one



President Andy Link, Joshua Fletcher, Andrew Ebert and St. Patrick Parish Representative Bill Phillips.

student graduating from Holy Cross and another from St. Patrick School in June. Through works of charity, we have raised money to support our parish men and women following "God's calling" mentioned in the letters of Paul in essence "to bring people to Christ and to participate in his redemptive work in the world".

With the 3rd Annual Shamrock Charity Golf Tournament behind us, we continue supporting the 9th Annual Trip for Two to Ireland raffle led by our Vice President Dan Mulhern. Over the past month, we have had the opportunity to sell raffle tickets for the Irish trip at St. Jude's the weekend of May 7-8 and coordination from our

Parish representatives continues to help us meet our charity goals. We are looking forward to getting Pastor permission for more weekends at each parish over the next 4 months. Since starting the Trip for two on March 12, Brother Mulhern reports 41% of the tickets have been sold.

On May 7, State Vice President Bill Halpin and State Past President Hugh O'Brien and I attended the second quarterly state meeting in Roanoke, Virginia. Our Division will host the third quarterly meeting on Saturday, September 17 at St. Mary Catholic Church in Fredericksburg, VA. During this meeting, we will have the opportunity to locally make the Major Degree exemplification. Currently, there are 22 Division Brothers who are eligible to receive the Major Degrees. We also have the opportunity to have another Shamrock instruction next month in June and I welcome all Division Brothers who only have had the Hibernian Oath to make the Shamrock instruction. I will send e-mails to add Division Brothers to the Shamrock instruction and Major Degree exemplification. In July, we will be sending three delegates to the

2016 National Convention at Harrah's Resort Atlantic City. The next National Convention will be in Louisville, Kentucky in 2018.

As a smart fund raising and business measure, we have purchased 32 plaques for our Shamrock Charity Golf Tournament sponsors thanking them for their generosity. I am also sending out thank you letters to each sponsor including a photo of their sponsor signs shown on the golf course. I would invite Brothers who know our sponsors to deliver their plaques and thank them in person. Also please continue to pray for our convalescing family member and Division Brothers.

In Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity

Richard Andrew Link, II
President

Third Annual Shamrock Charity Golf Classic

About 72 golfers enjoyed a beautiful April day, with the sun shining, blue skies, and the temperature in the low 80s. Clearly the purchase of red tees and Mulligans were used to full advantage as Brother Pete Needham's foursome finished with an incredible **49** (par 71) to win the tournament for the second consecutive year.



Joe Daly, Jack Grey and Paul O'Brien registering golfers and selling red tees and Mulligans



Hugh O'Brien selling *Trip for Two* raffle tickets while Jack and Paul do some accounting



Loading carts



Brother Tom Evans, proprietor and generous sponsor
Pub opens in July

SPECIAL EVENT

All are welcome: Wednesday, May 18, 2016: Tree Planting Ceremony

Irish Prime Minister Enda Kenny together with Ambassador Anne Anderson will plant a tree on the Capitol grounds to commemorate the Centenary of the 1916 Easter Rising. The ceremony will take place at 4:30 pm on Wednesday, May 18th at the Capitol Grounds on Southwest Drive and Independence Ave. - Across from the Rayburn House Office Building
Gather at the Dubliner after the event!

Closest Metro – Metro South (Union Station is in the Senate side and is a 15 minute walk) Metered and Zone Parking is available D Street, 1st & 2nd Streets and New Jersey Ave & South Capitol Street – SOUTH OF THE HOUSE OFFICE BUILDINGS

Main Points -- Quarterly State Meeting, Roanoke, VA on May 7

The National Convention: Our tri-state bloc is supporting Ralph Day for an at large National Director position. If all authorized tri-state delegates vote at the convention, we may favorably compete with New York and Pennsylvania. Eight candidates are competing for six positions, so our votes, there is a better than average chance Ralph will be elected.

The **2018 National Convention** will be held in Louisville, KY (exact dates TBD)

Our IRISH HERITAGE



“The Celt would forfeit his title to the respect of the civilized world, did he not fight with all his heart and all his soul and all his cunning against the empire which has despoiled him ad murdered his kin, now with arms, now with artificial famine. There can be no peace between the two people until either Ireland is a desert or is free. It is war to the knife, and the knife to the hilt. There can be neither truce nor compromise.”

How a 22-Year-Old Firebrand Became 'Meagher of the Sword'

Edited from a post by Joe Gannon dated April 12, 2016 on Wild Geese



Equestrian statue of Meagher in his home town of Waterford

In antebellum America, many former Irish revolutionary leaders, men of the Young Ireland party who had been exiled from their native soil by the English "justice" system, made their way to America. Men like John Mitchel, Michael Doheny and John O'Mahony. Upon reaching the shores of America, they made their influence felt among the ever growing Irish communities in the larger cities, especially New York City. But among all these men, there was one whom the Irish community looked up to perhaps above all others, the man who would one day lead the Irish Brigade into battle: Thomas Francis Meagher; "Meagher of the Sword."

Condemned to death by the English in 1848 for his part in the abortive Young Irelander's rising of the same year, Meagher's last words to the judges in court before sentencing concluded, *"I hope... to appear before a higher tribunal - a tribunal where a Judge of infinite goodness, as well as justice will preside, and where, my lords, many - many, of the judgments of this world will be reversed."* His eloquence, in this instance, was wasted on men such as them, but the death sentence was later commuted to "transportation for life" to Australia. Meagher and many of the others Young Irelanders who were transported to Australia might have remained there and had productive lives, but they were men who were devoted to a higher purpose. Meagher shortly made his escape to America.

When Meagher arrived in the US, on May 26th, 1852, the Irish community, and many of his comrades of '48, greeted him with open arms. He spent the next several years in various pursuits, writing, lecturing, traveling widely, always keeping his name in the eye and the heart of the Irish in America. By the time Fort Sumter was fired on, Meagher was well known in the rest of America as well, and looked on as a leader of the Irish community.

Many may think that Meagher earned his sobriquet, Meagher of the Sword, by his martial exploits later during the American Civil War. But, in fact, Meagher arrived in the US already carrying that warlike nickname. Meagher was not really a military man, however; he was a politician and, above all, a great orator. It was in the field of oratory that Meagher earned the nickname.

It was a very early example of Meagher's articulate speechifying, as mid - nineteenth century Americans used to say, that had put "of the sword" behind his name for life. In Conciliation Hall in Dublin, on July 28th, 1846, Meagher gave a speech to the assembled throngs of Daniel O'Connell's supporters, defending the position of the Young Irelanders. O'Connell had called on all his supporters to renounce violent revolution as a means of freeing Ireland; the twenty-two year old Meagher had been chosen to give Young Ireland's answer. Imagine yourself for a moment, at the age of twenty-two, standing in front of a crowded hall, filled with the supporters of a man called the "Uncrowned King of Ireland," and in front of that great man himself, about to give a speech rejecting that man's position.

The speech Meagher gave that day is one of the most famous in Irish history. An eyewitness said: "He warmed on his subject, and the warmth became contagious; until when he rose to the height of his theme there appeared to be but one heart in the meeting, and it beat in accord with the orator." This last part of the speech, as Meagher gave Young Ireland's reasons for not renouncing the possibility of using the sword, would stick in the minds of those listening and earn him his nickname.

Read some of these lines now, and imagine the scene in that hall, as a twenty-two year old's voice rose up and held a massive crowd enthralled.

"... His Almighty hand hath ever been stretched forth from His throne of Light, to consecrate the flag of freedom - to bless the patriot's sword! Be it in the defense, or be it in the assertion of a people's liberty, I hail the sword as a sacred weapon; and if, my lord, it has sometimes taken the shape of the serpent and reddened the shroud of the oppressor with too deep a dye, like the anointed rod of the High Priest, it has at other times and as often, blossomed into celestial flowers to deck the freeman's brow."

"Abhor the sword - stigmatize the sword? No, my lord, for , at its blow a giant nation started from the waters of the Atlantic, and by its redeeming magic, and in the quivering of its crimson light, the crippled colony sprang into the attitude of a proud Republic - prosperous, limitless, and invincible!"

"Abhor the sword - stigmatize the sword? No, my lord, for it swept the Dutch marauders out of the fine old towns of Belgium - scourged them back to their own phlegmatic swamps - and knocked their flag and sceptre, their laws and bayonets into the sluggish waters of the Scheldt."

"My lord, I honor the Belgians, I admire the Belgians, I love the Belgians, for their enthusiasm, their courage, their success, and I, for one, will not stigmatize, for I do not abhor, the means by which they obtained a Citizen King, a Chamber of Deputies"

Meagher's speech ended abruptly there, as Daniel O'Connell's son, John, no doubt upset by the support Meagher was beginning to build for the Young Irelander's position, jumped up and did not let him continue further. Shortly afterward the Young Irelanders walked from the hall, their support of, and connection to, Daniel O'Connell severed forever. It was a tragic day for the cause of Irish independence, as the Irish camp divided in two; but it was a remarkable performance by the twenty-two year old Meagher. He would spend the rest of his life giving speeches and addresses to civilians and soldiers alike; but from that day forward he would be: **MEAGHER OF THE SWORD.**



Important Irish Phrases

Ireland forever	<i>Éirinn go Brách</i> (Air-ran guh braw)
Cheers	<i>Sláinte</i> (Slon-chuh)
Hello	<i>Dia Duit</i> (Dee-uh ditch)
Bye	<i>Slan</i> (slan)
A hundred-thousand welcomes.....	<i>Céad Mile Fáilte</i> (Ky-ed meel-ay fall-chay)

Do you know the difference between *Gaeilge* and *Gàidhlig*?

Learn Irish Gaeilge at www.bitesizeirishgaelic.com/beginners



Please pray for the repose of the souls of all deceased General Meagher Division brothers and all deceased Hibernians and family members. Also pray for Mike Creegan who died on April 8th. Mike served VAAOH in many capacities for more than 12 years. He served as State Webmaster, as a member of the Brian Boru Major Degree Team, as president of the Father Mychal Judge OFM Division and as Prince William County Board president. He was the 2015 recipient of the Saint Columcille Award.

Please pray for the comfort and healing of our **Brothers Dick Dowd, Jim McMorrow, and Larry Pratt**. Andy Link's mother, Eileen and Andy's father and care giver, Dick Link. Matthew Carroll (Irish Viet Nam Veterans Memorial Project) also needs our prayers. For the past few months, Dick Dowd has had a very tough row to hoe. He has been declared "**CANCER FREE**" -- another example of our prayers being answered!

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!

May 17: Division meeting

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>

July 10: Annual Division Picnic on Sunday, July 10 at the Lake of the Woods



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 Point of Contact for Division logo polo shirts, sweatshirts and ball caps is Shawn Lenahan (s_lenahan@verizon.net)**

Green Jacket: Brothers procure their own green jackets. 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: Brothers procure their own sashes. The AOH tri-color sash represents the national flag of Ireland and should be worn over the right shoulder (green closest to neck/collar) crossing to the left hip. Tri-color AOH sashes are available from:

- LAOH Sister Patricia Ankrom. Email Patricia at traceysbydesign@aol.com
- D & E Morrissey (954-426-3514) 1978 S.W. 17th Drive, Deerfield Beach, FL 33442

Measure from right shoulder to left hip in inches; keep in mind the sash will normally be worn over a jacket, possibly a raincoat/overcoat (and maybe a growing waist line).

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