



FRIENDSHIP, Unity and Christian Charity



## GENERAL MEAGHER'S DISPATCHES

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

February 2017

Volume 5/Number 2

**President:** Shawn Lenahan    **Chaplain:** Father Jerry Wooton    **Vice President:** John Tracy  
**Financial Secretary:** Bob Fitzgerald    **Treasurer:** Jeff Everett    **Recording Secretary:** Bill Vanderveer  
**Standing Committee:** Dave McLaughlin    **Marshal:** Paul O'Brien    **Sentinel:** Jack Grey; **Webmaster:** John Hogan    **Newsletter Editor:** Bill Halpin (sisconsulting@comcast.net)

*Important notice:* President Lenahan appointed **Jack Grey as Chairman of the Welfare Committee**. Prayer requests should be sent to Jack not later than the Wednesday prior to the business meeting ([RHGrey@cox.net](mailto:RHGrey@cox.net)//540-373-4496). Tell your spouse/family member his in case you become ill or hospitalized.

### President's Message

Brothers,

It's hard to believe that January is already in the books. I hope everyone is keeping up with their New Year's resolutions.



Our first "Lads Lunch" at the Colonial Tavern was a great event. Ten brothers came out for food and fellowship. I am looking forward to our next lunch February 19th at Adventure Brewing South at 1pm, please come join us! Speaking of Adventure Brewing, they are very

receptive to allowing us to continue our traditions started with Brother Jeff Fitzpatrick. We have confirmed the date of the St. Patrick's Day parade, which is

Saturday 3/18, where we will take part in the day's festivities and officially kick off our *Trip for Two to Ireland* raffle ticket sales.

A highlight in January was attending the Deanery Mass celebrated by Bishop Burbridge on January 17 at St. Mary's of the Immaculate Conception and meeting the Bishop afterward. He was happy to see Hibernians and shared with us that he is also an Irishman.



Bishop Burbridge delivered a compelling sermon challenging each of us to “Walk humbly with your God.” The quote comes from the Book of Micah, 6:8. Micah was an Old Testament Prophet tasked by God to warn the Kingdom of Judah and specifically Jerusalem of their impending destruction. They had turned away from God and toward idolatry and dishonesty.

I ask that you ponder these words and reflect on their meaning. Bishop Burbridge warns us of the sin of pride. St. Peter, in his first letter, cautions, “God opposes the proud but bestows favor on the humble.” God is looking for a change of heart in his people-toward humility. We may go to Church on Sunday and Holy Days, put money in the collection plate, volunteer our time and service to good works, but no amount of external sacrifice can take the place of a humble heart. Jesus set the ultimate example of humility by allowing Himself to be crucified for our sins. And it is by His example that we too can live out the mercy and justice of a truly humble heart.

Brothers, as I keep each of you in my prayers, I ask for your continued prayers and support.

In Our Motto,

Shawn M. Lenahan



*“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 and 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.”*

### National AOH Initiatives

**The National Organizer** plans to implement a nationwide contest to award divisions with (1) the largest percent gain in membership and (2) the largest membership gain measured in pure numbers. Brothers you are asked to be on the lookout for suitable candidates. *Every Brother should recruit AT LEAST one new member in 2017.*

**The National Board** will host a “*Leadership and Organizing Seminar*” on Feb 25th at the Richard Rossiter Memorial Hall, 200 Columbia Blvd, National Park, New Jersey. All are welcome. Topics include:

- |  |                       |
|--|-----------------------|
| Roles and Responsibilities of Officers | Grassroots Organizing |
| Blue Book Review                       | Finding our Future    |
| Mentoring/ Fostering future Leaders    | Retention Techniques  |
| Forms and Paperwork Review             | New technologies      |
- More Information:

For More Info Contact: Tim McSweeney (newjack12007@yahoo.com) and/or Liam McNabb (liammcnabb@hotmail.com)

### State Meeting NOTES

The 2016 Virginia Hibernian of the Year is Brother Bob Anderson of the Colonel Thomas J. Cunningham, Jr. Division (LO01).

Twenty three Brothers from across Virginia and Maryland received our Order’s Major Degrees on January 21<sup>st</sup> at St Theresa Parish Hall. Setting the example and

earning our sincere **congratulations** were our own **Frank Connors, Dave McLaughlin and Ken Fowler**. Witnessing the ceremony were Shawn Lenahan, Andy Link, Hugh O'Brien, Jack Grey, John Tracy and Bill Halpin.



President Bransfield appointed State Past Presidents/Trustees Chuck Curran, Bruce Denault, and Rich Aleksy, plus Dan Sullivan (Fr Judge Division), and Terry Riley (Herbert-Cady Division) to the *Nominating Committee for 2017-19 State Officers*. They will present a slate of nominees at the next state meeting; nominations from the floor can be made as well. Tentatively the meeting will be hosted by Msgr Kelly Division in Richmond in late May/early June. Elections will be held at the State Convention 22-24 September in Virginia Beach.

Some Divisions do interesting public affairs activities we might consider:

- Sponsor a céilí at a senior center
- Hold a beer tasting night – a single fee (\$20)
- Road/Highway clean-up
- Christmas Ornament sales (imprinted photo of local church and AOH logo)

44<sup>th</sup> Annual March For Life





**Hibernians from National, States and local jurisdictions attended the pre-march Mass, including National President Jim McKay, Virginia State President Gene Bransfield and Gen. Meagher Division President Shawn Lenahan along with Past President Andy Link**

***Life is Winning Again in America*, by Shawn Lenahan**

On Friday, January 27, 2017, Andy Link and I attended the 44th Annual March for Life in our nation's capital. Our day began with an early morning train ride and much anticipation for the day ahead. A little before 9am we met other Hibernian Brothers from around the country outside St. Mary Mother of God Church. I was amazed when a group of teenagers and their chaperones from Massachusetts filed out of the Church having already celebrated Mass and were boarding buses for the main event. This was a preview of what we were to witness on the Ellipse in front of the White House and all the way up and down Constitution Avenue.

At breakfast after mass, National Pro-Life Chairman John Patrick Walsh reminded us

that the pro-life movement needs to focus not only on overturning Roe v. Wade and resisting assisted suicide laws, but to support mothers and families with compassion and understanding. This theme would be echoed by the speakers at the Rally later on in the morning.

Walking the 10 blocks from breakfast to the Ellipse, we encountered more and more youth groups heading in the same direction. I kept waiting to see protesters against the cause for life but at every turn thousands of young people were waving signs and chanting "we are the pro-life generation!" A truly uplifting sight and surely not one advocated in the media or popular culture.

At the rally, New York Cardinal Timothy M Dolan was on hand for the invocation and Kellyanne Conway, Special Advisor to President Trump, addressed the crowd avowing her Catholic faith and dedication to the cause for life. But it was Vice President Pence who put it best when he spoke these beautiful words:

*Let your gentleness be evident to all. Let this movement be known for love, not anger. Let this movement be known for compassion, not confrontation. When it comes to matters of the heart, there is nothing stronger than gentleness. I believe we will continue to win the minds and hearts of the rising generation if*

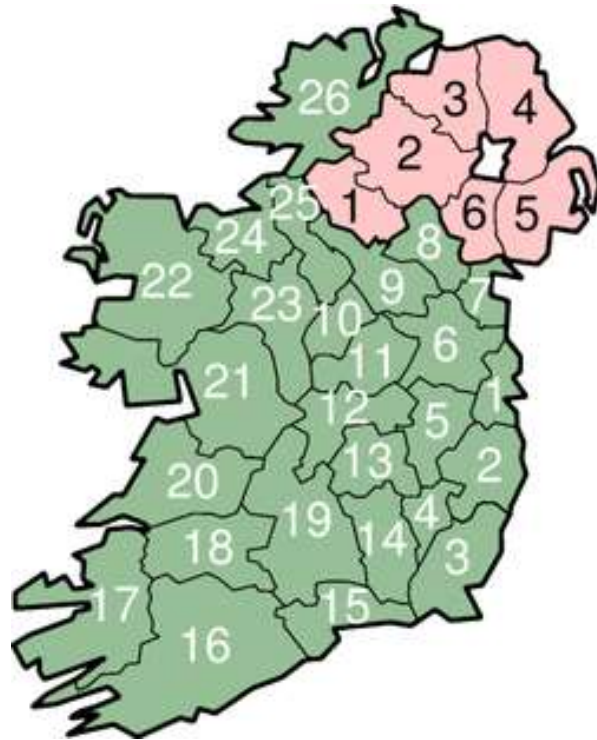
*our hearts first break for mothers and their unborn children and meet them where they are with generosity, not judgment.*

Throughout the day I experienced the complete range of emotions from pride in the amount of young people marching and inspiration from the speakers, to deep and profound sadness for why we had to be there in the first place. At the rally, Jeanne Mancini, President of the March for Life, said that since the Roe vs. Wade decision in 1973, the year of my birth, 58 million abortions were performed in the United States. For a country founded on the principles of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, abortion is truly a stain on the soul of America.



**Pro-Life Marchers filled Constitution Avenue!**

**Counties of Ireland (Should you ever be asked)** Can you name them? If not check the footnote<sup>1</sup>



$$26+6 = 1$$

Take a quick south coast tour of the Island of Saints and Scholars

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OVWzUc4cQ6c>

Irish Heritage



**Listen:** Thomas Francis Meagher and the Famine  
[Memory Of Potato Famine Burdens 'Immortal Irishman'](#)

**Vikings** influenced/occupied Ireland for about 200 years; it ended at the Battle of Clontarf in 1014. However they left a legacy of place names, examples are:

*Dun na Gall* (Fortress of Foreigners) is now Donegal



Deilgey (a meld of *deilg* (Irish) + *ey* (Norse), now Dalkey

Vikinga-lág (Vikings' low place) now Wicklow

Dubh Linn (black pool), now Dublin

### Saint Brigid of Kildare: February 1st



Saint Brigid of Kildare or Brigid of Ireland (451 – 525) is one of Ireland's very important patron saints, along with Patrick and Columcille. She was a nun, abbess, and founder of several monasteries. She founded the famous and revered a monastery in Kildare, called the Church of the Oak. It was built above a pagan shrine to the Celtic goddess Brigid, which was beneath a large oak tree. Brigid is celebrated for her generosity to the poor. Most of her miracles are relate to healing and household tasks usually attributed to women. She is said to have been a close friend of St Patrick.

Her feast day is February first.

### The Round Tower: Symbol of our Order's Major Degrees



During Bill Halpin's recent trip to County Clare, he took this photograph at *Cill Mhic Dhuach* (Monastery of St Colman Mac Duach) located in the Burren of northwestern Clare. Round towers, built in the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> centuries provided ecclesiastical refuge and place to secure sacred Church treasures from invading foreigner (Vikings). They were positioned about 20 feet from the northwest corner of the Church. They were normally 100 to 120 feet high and roughly 60 feet in circumference 20 feet in diameter at the base. Inside there were six or seven floors, each with one window. The entrance was about 10 feet above the ground.

### FIINN AND THE FIAN

Of all the great bodies of ancient Irish  
Legendary lore, this group had

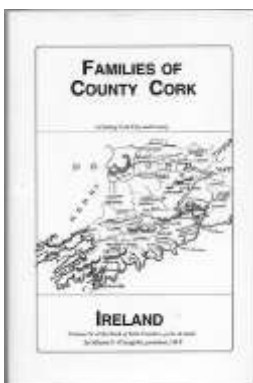
tremendous influence upon the Irish  
people through the ages.



Fionn MacCumail, leader of the Fianna (Fenians), is the central figure and organizer of this pre-Christian band of Irish warriors -- similar to the Knight of the Round Table. Their heroic conduct inspired heroism and the need to protect the country from foreigners. Fionn said these “Fianna would not give up Ireland in exchange for the whole world”. It was a great standing army of specially trained, daring warriors, whose duty was “uphold justice and put down injustice and to guard the harbors from foreign invaders”. They also prevented robberies, exacted fines and tributes,

### Genealogy Corner

Books that may interest you:



put down public enemies and every kind of evil that might afflict the country. All recruits had to master the twelve books of poetry, be fast and agile on foot, and be fearless in the face of enemies. Their three part motto was: Purity of our hearts, strength of our limbs and action to match our speech

Today, the Special Operations Forces of Irish Defense Forces motto is *Fiannóglai* an amalgamation of two words: *Fiann* (warrior), a reference the ancient band of warriors known as Na Fianna and *Óglai* (volunteers).

There are **editions for all 32 counties** published by The Irish Families Project Irish Genealogy & Family History. They are available through <http://www.irishroots.com/index.php/free-master-index-mainmenu-45/19>. Click on “books we publish” and watch the short video.



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In July 2016 Pope Francis declared “*We are living in a moment of annihilation of man as image of God*”. He recalled Pope emeritus Benedict’s pronouncement: “*It’s the epoch of sin against God, the Creator.*”

**Say a Prayer of Thanks** to Mary Immaculate, Patroness of the United States, for delivering us from progressive secularism and threats to our religious freedoms and sacred beliefs.

Please pray for the repose of the souls of all deceased General Meagher Division brothers and their families.

Please pray for the comfort and healing of our Brothers Neil Mulcahy (cancer), Dick Dowd (recovering from cancer), Jim McMorrow (recovering - cancer & knee replacement).

Keep in your prayers our family members and friends:

- Bill Phillips’ brother Robert;
- Joe Monaghan’s sister-in-law, Donna Maffeo (cancer) and his father Joseph Monaghan Sr. who is caring for his mother and uncle (dementia/Alzheimer);
- Hugh O’Brien’s brother, John O’Brien (recovering from stroke);
- Rochelle Grey (hip surgery);
- Bob Doan’s sister-in-law Latisha Horwath (Parkinson’s disease);
- Barbara McCoy (cancer);
- Amy Whittaker (cancer),
- Andy Link’s parents Eileen and Dick (Dick is Eileen’s care giver),
- Matthew Carroll (IVNVMP)



***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!

**February 19: Lad's Lunch** 1PM at **J. Brian's Tap Room**, an annual supporter of our division. It is located at 200 Hanover Street (corner of Caroline).

**February 21:** Division Meeting

**March 1-31: *Irish American Heritage Month*** -- Displays and Hibernian docents will be present at:

**Rappahannock Central Library:** March 7, 8 and 9 from 12-6PM

**England Run Library:** March 14, 15, and 16 from 3-7PM

**Salem Church Library:** March 28, 29, and 30 from 12-6PM

**March 3: Lenten Fish Fry** St Jude Church 4pm-7pm (supports building fund)

**March 4: Annual Alexandria Parade** (followed by party at Terry Riley's home)

**March 11: Annual Manassas Parade**

**March 12: Washington, DC parade**

**March 13: Annual VAAOH Gaelic Mass**, Cathedral of St Thomas More, Arlington, VA at 7:30 PM

**March 16: Division St. Patrick Day Vigil Mass** 7PM at St. Patrick's Church, Ely Ford Road.

**March 18: The 15<sup>th</sup> Annual St Patrick Parade in Fredericksburg followed by and Irish Festival** and kick-off of the *Trip for Two to Ireland Raffle*.

Spotsylvania Business Park (Mills Drive off Route 2). Sponsored by Adventure Brewing – South. Division assembles at corner Mills Drive and Main Street

**May 2: Irish Heritage Night** at Nationals Stadium – see the Washington Nationals play the Arizona Diamondbacks. Details will follow.

**May/June:** (Date TBD) the second quarterly VAAOH State meeting – Richmond, VA

**June/July:** (Date TBD) 3d Annual family picnic

**September:** (TBD) Sixth Annual Halfway to St Patrick Day Celebration



**September 22-24:** VAAOH Biennial State Convention, Virginia Beach Resort Hotel



General Meagher Division 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.

**Division Logo Items:** **The Point of Contact for Division logo polo shirts, sweatshirts and ball caps is Shawn Lenahan ([s\\_lenahan@verizon.net](mailto:s_lenahan@verizon.net))**

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

Tri-color AOH sashes are available from:

- LAOH Sister Patricia Ankrom. Email Patricia at [traceysbydesign@aol.com](mailto:traceysbydesign@aol.com). She produces 7.5ft long sashes costing \$ 40.00 and guarantees satisfaction: if you’re not satisfied send it back for a full refund.
- D & E Morrissey (954-426-3514) 1978 S.W. 17th Drive, Deerfield Beach, FL 33442

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**The Republic**

Carlow - 4 (Ceatharlach)  
Cavan - 9 (An Cabhán)  
Clare - 20 (An Clár)  
Cork - 16 (Corcaigh)  
Donegal - 26 (Dún na nGall)  
Dublin - 1 (DuÁth Cliath)  
Galway - 21 (Gaillimh)  
Kerry - 17 (Ciarraí)  
Kildare - 5 (Cill Dara)  
Kilkenny - 14 (Cill Chainnigh)  
Laois - 13 (Leix)  
Leitrim - (25 Liatroim)  
Limerick - 18 (Luimneach)  
Longford - 10 (An Longfort)  
Louth - 7 (Lú)  
Mayo - 22 (Maigh Eo)

Meath - 6 (An Mhí)  
Monaghan - 8 (Muineachán)  
Offaly - 12 (Uíbh Fhailí)  
Roscommon - 23 (Ros Comáin)  
Sligo - 24 (Sligeach)  
Tipperary - 19 (Tiobraid Árann)  
Waterford - 15 (Port Láirge)  
Westmeath - 11 (An Iarmhí)  
Wexford - 3 (Loch Garman)  
Wicklow - 2 (Cill Mhantáin)

**North of Ireland**

Antrim - 4 (Aontroim)  
Armagh - 6 (Ard Mhacha)  
Down - 5 (An Dún)  
Fermanagh - 1 (Fear Manach)  
Londonderry (Derry) - 3 (Doire)  
Tyrone - 2 (Tír Eoghain)