



30th ANNIVERSARY!!

General Thomas F. Meagher Division

1987-2017



GENERAL MEAGHER'S DISPATCHES

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

August 2017

Volume 5/Number 8

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 notices ******

1. Proposed changes to our division by-laws are posted in the restricted area of our division website. Among the proposed changes are term lengths for elected officers and procedures for associate memberships. Please review the document and be prepared to vote on the changes at the September meeting

FOR YOUR CALENDAR

2. The Virginia AOH State Biennial Convention is 22-24 September at the Virginian Beach Resort Hotel. All Hibernians are encouraged to attend. The Major Degrees will be exemplified on Sunday Morning, 24 September. A schedule of events and the registration form can be found beginning on page 8, below.

3. The 30th Anniversary Dinner Party is scheduled for October 28th at the American Legion Post 320 at 8456 Brock Rd, Spotsylvania, VA 22553. In addition to live Irish music and accomplished Irish dancers, National Park Service historian Frank O'Reilly will be our guest speaker. *Put this on your calendar today!*

President's Corner

Brother Hibernians:

I hope you are having a joyous and restful summer. I am just back from a two week vacation in the greatest state in the union, Rhode Island. My family and I, among other things, visited the beach, dug clams, went on a fishing charter, dined out at a few of the fantastic restaurants and went to a *Waterfire!* My fourteen year old, perhaps inspired by fellow Catholic and British Open winner Jordan Spieth, played his first 18 holes of golf. He had a really great time and I am looking forward to hitting the links with him again soon.

Our efforts around fund raising are paying off. As you know, we awarded the two scholastic awards in June and we will be attending the Summer Soiree in support of Mary's Shelter. We still have plenty of raffle tickets to sell and there is only one and a half months to go before the drawing. It is imperative that when an opportunity arises to sell tickets that we all make the effort to attend. This is our main income source this year and we need to get all tickets sold. On August 12 we will attend the Summerfest at Adventure Brewing South. This will be a fun, well attended event and we should be able to sell a lot of tickets. But we need YOU to make it a success!

Brothers, as you know, The Ancient Order of Hibernians in America is the oldest Catholic fraternal organization in the United States. On May 4, 1836 the first division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians was formed at New York's St. James Church. The Ancient Order of Hibernians in America has a long, proud, and frankly, interesting history. You should all feel a sense of pride to be a member of an organization that stands against bigotry in any form, protects and promotes the Catholic faith and Irish culture. As Proud members fully aware of our rich history, we should be cautious against adopting the customs or rituals of other organizations. Please review the History section at WWW.AOH.COM, re-read the Oath of Membership and remember the Motto of our organization, Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity!

*May brooks and trees and singing hills
Join in the chorus too,
And every gentle wind that blows
Send happiness to you.*

In Our Motto,
Shawn 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.”

Another noteworthy Anniversary:



The Irish government is honoring the 150th anniversary of Thomas Francis Meagher’s death (July 1, 1867) with a commemorative stamp and a first day cover. Noted as the “father of the Irish tri-color”, the stamp features a photo of Meagher with the Irish tri-color in the background. In 1847, Meagher was in France to learn revolutionary tactics. The French flag inspired him to create an Irish national flag - a tri-color of green representing Irish nationalists, orange representing the British loyalists with white between the two representing peace.

Meagher raised the flag for the first time at the Wolfe Tone Confederate Club at 33 The Mall, in Waterford on March 7, 1848 with

these words: *“...I trust that the old country will not refuse this symbol of a new life from one of her youngest children. I need not explain its meaning. The quick and passionate intellect of the generation now springing into arms will catch it at a glance. The white in the centre signifies a lasting truce between the “orange” and the “green” and I trust that beneath its folds, the hands of the Irish Protestant and the Irish Catholic may be clasped in generous and heroic brotherhood...”*

The Irish tri-color has inspired generations of Irish people since 1848. The flag didn’t see the light of day again until it was raised above the GPO during the Easter Rising in

1916; it was recognized as Ireland's national flag in 1937.

There is ample evidence that British spies and sympathizers in Montana may have assassinated our division namesake in July 1867. Subsequent to the 1866 Fenian incursions into Canada at Campobello Island and the Niagara raids (Battles of Ridgeway and Fort Erie), the British government was convinced the Fenians would try again to capture Canadian territory to bargain for Ireland's freedom. British spies within the Fenian organization knew Fenians were planning another incursion into Canada. When spies in Montana reported that

Meagher requested arms and munitions from Washington (to suppress a local Indian uprising), the British surmised this to be in support of the planned invasion. Thomas F. Meagher was a long standing thorn in the side of the British. As a Young Irelander, he led the 1848 Rising, he cheated a British death sentence, escaped from his exile to Van Diemen's Land, joined the Fenian Brotherhood in New York City, and commanded the Irish Brigade against the Confederates, a British ally. The report that he might be acquiring weapons for use against British territory was the excuse they needed to eliminate, once and for all, the thorn.

Meagher Commemorative Stamps/First Day Covers can be ordered at www.irishstamps.ie



AOH Revitalization! I'm asking our brothers in the 20-to-40 age group to write a short paragraph or two on "*Why I'm a Hibernian*". It doesn't have to be grand, just an honest statement -- something that might encourage others to consider joining. Your thoughts will become part of the nation-wide campaign to promote membership.

Raffle Ticket Sales:

Many thanks to Bill Vanderveer, John Hogan, John Kelly and Bill Halpin for answering the call to sell raffle tickets at St Matthew Church on July 30th

The Ballyshamers Irish Festival



Celebrate Irish history and culture in Alexandria!

Join us on August 26 from 11:00AM to 7:00PM for a terrific day of celebrating Irish history and culture in Alexandria. Many vendors will be on hand featuring Irish wares, crafts, jewelry, wonderful food, and community and commercial services. Musicians and Irish dancers will perform throughout the day. Please join us for a beautiful day at Waterfront Park! Beer sales and donations are the day's key fundraising opportunities.

IRISH Soda Bread

Brown Soda Bread recipe (Tim O'Sullivan of Renvyle House, Galway)

Ingredients -- makes one loaf

- 10oz whole meal flour
- 9oz white flour
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 2 tsp baking powder
- 9.5 oz. Buttermilk
- 1 beaten egg

Preheat the oven to 375° F

Sift together the flours, salt, baking soda and baking powder. Add the buttermilk and beaten egg to the mix.

Knead on a floured surface until smooth. Shape into a round and place on a baking tray. Make a cross shape on top of the cake and place in the oven for 35-40 minutes.

Serve slightly warm with real butter...delicious. Easy to make at home, but you can't beat real Irish soda bread ... and there's only one place you'll get that.



Jack Grey is Chairman of the Committee of the Sick. He asks that prayer requests be sent to him (RHGrey@cox.net/540-373-4496) not later than the Wednesday prior to our business meeting. It might be wise to let your spouse/family member know, just in case you become ill or hospitalized.

Pray for the repose of the souls of all deceased Hibernian Brothers. Keep in your prayers family members and friends:

- Ethel Malley (Ken's wife) recovering from surgeries
- Bill Phillips' brother Robert
- Paul O'Brien
- Joe Monaghan's sister-in-law, Donna Maffeo and his father Joseph Sr. who is caring for his mother and uncle (dementia/Alzheimer);
- Hugh O'Brien's brother, John (recovering from stroke);
- Amy Whittaker (cancer),
- Andy Link's parents Eileen and Dick (Dick is Eileen's care giver)



Bingo! Every Thursday and Saturday evening 6:30PM at St Michael the Archangel High School, 6301 Campus Drive, Fredericksburg. Bring the family! For Info (540) 548-8748)

August: (Date is still TBD) 3d Annual AOH family picnic

August 15: Division meeting!

September 16: Trip for Two to Ireland Raffle drawing at Adventure-South Oktoberfest (Note: 2017 Halfway to St Patrick Day Celebration is cancelled)

September 19: Important Division meeting –Vote on proposed new by-laws

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

More info at: <http://aohvirginia.org/2017/07/01/2017-aoh-virginia-state-convention-call-to-convention/>

October 28: Gen. Meagher Division's 30th Anniversary Dinner Party, American Legion Post 320, 8456 Brock Rd, Spotsylvania, VA 22553



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General Meagher Division Attire

Every brother should 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 perhaps 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.
- Gettysburg Flag offers tri-color sashes and offers “special prices” for larger orders.  
<https://www.gettysburgflag.com/custom/irish-parade-sash>

Commonwealth of Virginia  
Ancient Order of Hibernians  
Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians  
2017 State Convention

**Schedule of Events**

**Friday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>**

|                 |                                            |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------------|
| Early AM        | AOH/LAOH Golf Outing                       |
| Noon – 4:00 PM  | LAOH Neptune Festival Outing               |
| Noon - 5:00 PM  | AOH & LAOH Registration                    |
| 2:00 - 6:30 PM  | Hospitality Room open                      |
| 5:30 – 7:00 PM  | President's Reception                      |
| 7:00 - 11:00 pm | Social Night                               |
|                 | Food/Entertainment/Basket Raffle/ Cash Bar |
| 11:00 -12 M     | Hospitality room open                      |

**Saturday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>**

|                  |                                                          |
|------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| 8:00 - 9:00 AM   | AOH/LAOH Registration                                    |
| 8:30 – 9:00 AM   | AOH/LAOH Joint Session                                   |
| 9:00 – 12:00 N   | LAOH Business Meeting                                    |
| 9:00 – 12:00 N   | AOH Business Meeting                                     |
| 12:00N - 4:30PM  | Free time (shuttle to VAB boardwalk, beach, pool & more) |
| 12:00N - 4:30 PM | Hospitality Room Open                                    |
| 5:00 – 6:30 PM   | Mass & Installation of Officers                          |
| 7:00 - 8:00 PM   | Cocktails (Cash Bar)                                     |
| 8:00 – 11:00 PM  | Banquet – Dinner/ with Keynote Speaker & Presentations   |
|                  | Cash Bar/ Band / Dancers                                 |
| 11:00 - 12:00 PM | Hospitality Room open                                    |

**Sunday, September 24<sup>th</sup>**

|                    |                       |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 9:30 AM - 12:00 N  | AOH Major Degrees     |
| 10:00 AM – 12:00 N | LAOH/AOH Road Bowling |

**RESERVE YOUR HOTEL ROOM TODAY**

***Virginia Beach Resort and Conference Center, 2800 Shore Drive, Virginia Beach, Virginia 23451 Telephone (757) 481-9000 or 1-800-468-2722***

**You must mention the AOH Convention rate (\$109.00 per night plus taxes etc.) to take advantage of this special rate. Deadline is September 8, 2017. Convention rate available 3 days before to 3 days after.**



**GOLF OUTING:** Convention attendees wishing to play golf on Friday the 22nd should contact Blake Cahill by September 15th so he can coordinate A.M. tee times. The course selected will be Heron Ridge, a Pete Dye/ Fred Couples designed course, or Virginia Beach National, originally a TPC course. Price will be approx. \$49.00 + taxes per player for 18 holes. Blake can be reached at (H)757-427-5024, (C)757-343-9901, or email [blakecahill@cox.net](mailto:blakecahill@cox.net)."

**LAOH Neptune & Road Bowling:** Convention attendees wishing to attend either or both of these events contact Lori Forbes by September 15<sup>th</sup> at 804-437-1521.

The LAOH are offering **Convention Hats** for sale. The price is \$18 for ball cap and \$19.50 for visor. Hats may be pre-ordered with the Convention registration or purchased at the Convention.



## Convention Registration Form

Please Print:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name (AOH Member) Division

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name (LAOH Member) Division

\_\_\_\_\_  
Guest Name(s)

| <u>Event</u>                | <u>Early (By 9/1/17)</u> | <u>Late</u> | <u>#</u> | <u>Cost</u> |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|----------|-------------|
| Registration (Members Only) | \$ 30.00                 | \$45.00     | _____    | \$ _____    |
| Friday Night Social         | \$ 55.00                 | \$60.00     | _____    | \$ _____    |
| Saturday Night Banquet      | \$ 75.00                 | \$85.00     |          |             |

Make your banquet meal selections by entering quantities below:

beef# \_\_\_ chicken # \_\_\_ fish# \_\_\_ (# x \$ 75/\$85 ) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Convention Package:** Friday Social + Saturday Banquet (registration waived)

\$130.00 \$145.00 \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Optional:** Would you like to be listed in the Convention Booklet as a Patron of the AOH for an additional \$ 10.00? How would you like the listing to read?

*Suggestions: Tom and Betty Smith, Bob Checkers and Family* \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Convention Hat (\$18.00) or Visor (\$19.50)** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Cost** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ **Please check here if you are mobility-challenged.**

Make your check for the total amount payable to: **AOH Virginia State Board**

**Mail your completed Registration Form and check(s) to:**

2017 AOH State Convention  
c/o Lori Forbes  
10804 Blackthorn Lane, Henrico, VA 23233

**Sunday:** AOH Major Degrees Candidate? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

If "Yes" then provide a separate check for \$25.00 payable to: **Brian Boru Degree Team**