



30th ANNIVERSARY

General Thomas F. Meagher Division

1987-2017



GENERAL MEAGHER'S DISPATCHES

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

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President: Shawn Lenahan **Chaplain:** Father Jerry A. 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 ****

The **Division's 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. ***If you haven't already, put this on your calendar today!***

President's Corner

Brothers,

Comhghairdeas! To our new Virginia State Chaplain, Fr. Wooten and our new Virginia State Board President, Brother Bill Halpin. By unanimous vote Bill was elected at the 2017 Virginia State Convention in Virginia Beach. I wish him much success during his tenure!



Jay McCarthy, JJ Kelly, Bill Halpin, Sean Pender, Gene Bransfield, Denny Parks, Bob Fay, Brian Kiernan
VP, National Chairman, President, National Treasurer, Past President, National Director, State Treasurer, Secretary

I also wish to thank Brother William Vanderveer for his Chairmanship of the Raffle Committee. Through his leadership, we were able to raise close to \$10,000! Thank you also to Parish Liaisons for setting up booth sales and brothers who sold tickets! Thanks to you we are able to support our Division projects and charities.

Next month we will hold the first annual Memorial Mass for our deceased brothers. The service will take place Tuesday, November 7th at 7pm at St. Mary Church and our own Fr. Wooten will officiate the service. Please mark your calendars and join me to give praise and thanks to God for Christ's victory over sin and death, to commend our deceased brothers to God's tender mercy and compassion, and to seek strength in the proclamation of the paschal mystery. This is Election Day so, as they do in Chicago, *vote early and vote often!*

On October 28th our Division will celebrate our 30th Anniversary. As I write this, about a quarter of our 60 plus members have responded to the invitation. Brothers, this will be a fun and informative evening of fellowship, food, music and knowledge. At \$40 per person this is a bargain! I hope everyone who has yet to do so will respond to the Evite and will attend this important celebration.

Finally, upon reflection of the terrible event in Las Vegas this past weekend, I am reminded of the words spoken by Pope Saint John II on September 12, 2001:

“Yesterday was a dark day in the history of humanity, a terrible affront to human dignity. After receiving the news, I followed with intense concern the developing situation, with heartfelt prayers to the Lord. How is it possible to commit acts of such savage cruelty? The human heart has depths from which schemes of unheard-of ferocity sometimes emerge, capable of destroying in a moment the normal daily life of a people. But faith comes to our aid at these times when words seem to fail. Christ’s word is the only one that can give a response to the questions which trouble our spirit. Even if the forces of darkness appear to prevail, those who believe in God know that evil and death do not have the final say. Christian hope is based on this truth; at this time our prayerful trust draws strength from it”.

I, like you, put my faith and trust in God, and that makes all the difference.

In Our Motto,

Shawn M Lenahan

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### *St Patrick Parish Festival*

We had success recruiting two new brothers on September 30<sup>th</sup> at the St Patrick Parish Festival: Pat Fegan and Ed Morgan. Pat is a St Mary parishioner and Ed just moved from Philadelphia to St Patrick Parish/Spotsylvania County.



John Hogan discussing the multiple benefits of joining Gen. Meagher Division with Patrick Aloysius Fegan  
Pat said he'd get an application in to us.

We also had a significant and appreciated turn-out of brothers willing to help: Father Jerry Wooton, Neil Buttimer, Bill Halpin, John Hogan, President Shawn Lenahan, Dave McLaughlin, Bill Phillips, and John Tracy were on hand to help.



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Did you know it takes 119.8 seconds to pour a perfect pint of Guinness?

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### *Notes from the 21<sup>st</sup> Virginia Biennial Convention*



The convention keynote speaker was Dr. Ruan O'Donnell, Visiting Chair of Irish Studies, Notre Dame (2010-11) and currently Scholar in Residence at the University of Montana. He is the author of numerous books on the history of Irish republicanism. He gave an informative and energetic talk on the critical "Decade of Contention" following the Easter Rising and inspired deeper individual research into the personalities, activities and Irish-American influence during this important, yet least understood period in 20<sup>th</sup> century Irish history.

We were fortunate to have three National AOH officers attend the convention: National Treasurer Sean Pender, Regional National Director Denny Parks, and National Degrees and Ceremonies Chairman JJ Kelly.

The most prominent theme of this year's convention centered on commitment to the future of our Order. The "Why I am a Hibernian" campaign is part of a National AOH initiative to attract men who will carry the Order into the future. An unfortunate truth is to date nation-wide only 23 Hibernians saw fit to submit their thoughts on this. National AOH is reworking the website in a way that should help achieve this goal. At every jurisdiction Virginia AOH brothers must commit to recruiting new brothers and to retain current brothers. One suggestion is to publicize significant division activities in every local newspaper in Virginia. J.J. Kelly posited that brothers who commit to the Order's Major Degrees are more likely to remain active Hibernians.

Sean Pender noting that *Irish Central* “has the pulse of Irish America”, reported that National AOH has an agreement with them to assist in the AOH recruitment initiative.

Freedom for All Ireland discussion: State Board FFAI co-chairs, Terry Riley and Jim McLaughlin appealed to conventioners to establish a FFAI chairman in every division.

Immigration discussion: Sean Pender pointed out that the U.S. immigration quota for Irish citizens is 200/year. This number is not sufficient and certainly does not consider the tremendous contributions to this country made by Irish men and women over the past 250 years.

Under new business, the State Board for 2017-2019 was elected. They are: President Bill Halpin, Vice President Jay McCarthy, Secretary Brian Kiernan, and Treasurer Bob Fay. National Treasurer Sean Pender, assisted by National Director Denny Parks, installed the new officers after Mass on Saturday afternoon. (BTW: Bill is the fourth General Meagher Division brother to be so elected. Others from TFM were Jack A’hearn, Hugh O’Brien and Bruce Denault.)



***“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.”***

### *The green flag*



The Green Flag was the *unofficial* Irish national flag used by Wolf Tone and the United Irishmen in 1798 and until the early 20th century. A gold harp on a blue field was the Arms of Ireland



beginning in the 16th century, but the United Irishmen changed the color of the field to green - a color that symbolized revolution in the late 18th century.

Irish Nationalists carried leaves, branches and 'liberty' trees as republican emblems at the time. This ditty explains:

|                                 |                                  |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| What have you got in your hand? | Where did it bud?                |
| A green bough                   | In France                        |
| Where did it first grow?        | Where are you going to plant it? |
| In America                      | In the crown of Great Britain    |

The Green Flag was carried during the rebellion of 1798 - often with the motto of the United Irishmen, 'Éire go brách' ('Ireland forever'), below the harp.



That year, the poet Mícheál Óg Ó Longáin, a United Irishman, wrote:

*Go bhfeiceam Éire saor gan daoirse  
Is an bhraitinn uaine in uachtar scaoilte,  
Gach tíoránach claoíncheardach coimhtheach  
In ainm an diabhail is gan Dia dá gcoimhdeacht.*

May I see Ireland free and without oppression  
And the green flag flying on high,  
With every treacherous foreign tyrant  
In hell and with no protection from God.

The Green Flag quickly won popular acceptance as the national flag of Ireland. It was used by the followers of Daniel O'Connell, by the Fenians, and by supporters of Home Rule from the time of Parnell until the collapse of the Irish Parliamentary Party in 1918. It lost popular support because it was used by the British army as a recruitment tool during World War I.

In 1945 the Irish government returned to the golden harp on a field of blue as the National Arms of Ireland.



**Jack Grey, Committee of the Sick Chairman.** All 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). It might be wise to let your spouse/family member know this too, just in case you become ill or hospitalized.

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

- **Nolan Banks**, 3 year old son of our past Financial Secretary, Jeff Banks. Nolan has soft tissue sarcoma (RMS) which can be very aggressive. Essentially, Nolan needs a miracle; we're asked to pray for a miracle to **Father Augustus Tolten**, a candidate for canonization.
- Bill Phillips' brother Robert
- 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),

Worthy of Note: During the Sunni invasion of Europe in 1571, Pope Pius led a Rosary Parade in Rome and asked all Europeans to pray the Rosary. The jihadists were defeated at the Battle of Lepanto on October 7, 1571. Pope Pius declared October 7th to be the feast day of **Our Lady of Victory**. Check out: [A Million Christians to Pray Rosary on Poland's Border Commemorating Historical Defeat of Islam](#)



**Bingo!** Every Thursday and Saturday evening 6:30PM at St Michael the Archangel High School, 6301 Campus Drive, Fredericksburg. Bring the family!

**October 12:** "**Celebrate Ireland Concert**" (7:30-9:45PM, Washington National Cathedral) -- Illuminates 140 years of Irish history thru the words of Ireland's great poets and patriots. I'm convinced this is a "must see" Irish event for all Hibernians. For more info and tickets visit: <http://irelandspoetpatriots.com/>

**October 15:** Monthly "Lad's Luncheon" 1PM at BJ's Restaurant & Brewhouse, 1861 Carl D. Silver Parkway, Central Park. (540) 548-8748)

**October 17:** Division Meeting; Nominating Committee's TFM leadership picks for 2018

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

**November 2:** Trip to visit Yuengling Brewery and Molly Maguire historic sites

**November 7:** Memorial Mass for TFM deceased brothers, 7Pm @ St Mary



### 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))**

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