



GENERAL MEAGHER'S DISPATCHES

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

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

President's Corner

Bliain Nua Shona!

I trust each of you had the Merriest Christmas and the Happiest New Year. I had a great time with my family including my mother and father who left the warm climes of Florida to be with us. I am looking forward to another fun filled fraternal year and look to each of you to participate in the many activities we have planned.

This past year we amended our By-Laws. There were two major changes. First, officers will serve for a term of 2 years and are eligible for re-election once. Second, we are initiating an associate membership program. Per the By-Laws, "Associate Members must be 16 years of age or older; demonstrate good will towards the Order, its aims and principles, be interested in Irish history, culture and traditions; and be willing to promote AOH goals and objectives within the Community". Please see Bob Fitzgerald, the Financial Secretary, for more information.

We will continue meeting the Sunday prior to the monthly business meeting, calendar permitting, for a Lad's Lunch. We will also plan a social meeting in lieu of our regular business meeting at least once a quarter. These meetings will be held on the third Tuesday at a location other than the K of C hall. We will arrange guest speakers, visual programs or music pertinent to AOH goals and objectives and will be open to associate members, family and friends. More information will follow as to the where, when and what regarding the social meetings.

You may have also noticed Evite emails in your in-box starting in the middle of last year. While I do not own stock in the company, you will continue to receive these invites for our events and activities. There are several benefits of using this simple service. You will receive separate invitations for our specific events that you can put directly on your calendar. Next it provides a list of those attending the event in one spot. This is helpful in communicating a change or cancellation of the event, like the Religious Freedom March last year. It also keeps a count of all attending if we need to communicate numbers or buy items. When you receive an evite, please click whether

you are or are not attending and if you are, how many guests you are bringing. Please let me know if you have any questions.

As always, we will be looking to you to help the Division with our various activities such as raffle sales, parades, IAHM, golf tournament, Halfway party, summer and Christmas parties. Let's make this year the most fun yet!

May God bless and keep you and yours throughout the New Year.

In Our Motto,

Shawn M. Lenahan



Get in the Pictures! Attend Division Events!

A large gathering of Meagher Division Hibernians attended the annual wreath presentation at the City Dock this year. The largest contingent in several years braved the cold, sunny morning to witness the event. Division President Shawn Lenahan, assisted by Past President Andy Link, presented the wreath at the Irish Brigade memorial. Several brothers and family members accompanied NPS historian Frank O'Reilly on a walking tour of the brigade's march to battle at Marye's Heights. Later, several brothers adjourned to the Colonial Tavern -- Home to the Irish Brigade, just to get warm.



At the December meeting, our 2018 officers were installed by VAAOH Vice President Jay McCarthy. Anybody know why Jack wears a white ribbon?





“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.”

To increase your knowledge of Irish history and learn more about *An Gorta Mor*, you might consider purchasing this video. Control/click on the picture to learn more about the video and how to acquire the DVD.



This satellite photo confirms what we all knew: It **IS** the Emerald Isle!



The Act of Union went into effect on January 1, 1801

(Derived from various sources)

Following the Irish Rebellion of 1798, the British parliament enacted the Act of Union. England was still at war with France and there were fears that Ireland would again resort to rebellion with renewed French assistance. Further, Catholic emancipation was being discussed and the English feared that a newly enfranchised Catholic majority would drastically change the character of the Irish government. The parliamentary merger would avoid that possibility and create a new political entity called United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, ruled of course from London.

In 1799, British Prime Minister William Pitt introduced the bill to the Protestant Irish parliament which would unify Ireland and Great Britain as a single kingdom. Central to this bill was the repeal of the last two Penal laws which forbade Catholics from becoming members of parliament and excluded Irish from certain public positions (keep in mind, becoming a member of this parliament required swearing allegiance to the King, something no self-respecting Irishman would do). In any event, the bill was defeated as members of this Protestant parliament were antagonistic to the idea of Catholic emancipation. This antagonism was shared by King George III.

However Pitt was not to be denied. In a second version, he dropped the emancipation of Catholics from the bill. He and Lord Cornwallis (Lord Lieutenant of Ireland (remember Yorktown!)) then resorted to bribery and patronage on a massive scale to convince the Irish parliament to accept the bill. Many of the rising Catholic middle class were enthusiastic towards the Union falsely believing they would gain emancipation. For the same reason the Orange members of parliament were opposed to the union. After a bitter parliamentary debate and street fighting in Dublin, the bill was passed on January 15, 1800.

On January 1, 1801 the two kingdoms joined together becoming *The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland*. A new flag was created incorporating the crosses of St. Patrick, St. George and St. Andrew. Ireland remained a part of the Union until the Anglo-Irish Agreement in 1921 brought the Irish War of Independence to an end.



Jack Grey, Committee of the Sick Chairman. Prayer requests should be sent to Jack not later than the Wednesday prior to the business meeting (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 former Financial Secretary, Jeff Banks. Nolan has soft tissue sarcoma (RMS) which can be very aggressive. Essentially, Nolan needs a miracle. **Pray for the intercession of Father Augustus Tolton**, a candidate for future canonization (for the actual prayer see my email 10/18/2017 9:37 AM).
- Paul O'Brien – recovering from surgery
- 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),



Mark Your Calendars!

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

January 14: Fredericksburg Religious Freedom March

January 16: Division meeting -- Charity Committee's report, basis for 2018 budget

January 19: March for Life, Washington, DC

February 3: Quarterly State Meeting hosted by Msgr Bradican Division at St Michael School, 7401 St. Michael's Lane, Annandale. Start at 9:30AM. Major Degree Exemplification to follow the meeting



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)

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 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. 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>

This newsletter is an unofficial publication providing information to members of the General Thomas F. Meagher Division and others who may have interest in division activities. It is published by Bill Halpin and unless shown otherwise, he is the author of the contents.