



**GENERAL THOMAS F. MEAGHER DIVISION
SPOTSYLVANIA DIVISION NO. 1**

April 2013 Highlights

***Completing Our Third Decade of Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity
in the greater Fredericksburg area!***

The Division met as scheduled on April 16th with 17 brothers in attendance.

Brothers John Walsh and Dan Butler were administered our Hibernian pledge at the meeting. Tom Weiner, Jon O'Connor and Steve Keene will be sworn soon.

Our first Fredericksburg area ***Rose of Tralee***, Theresa Lewis, was a splendid representative of our division in the Washington DC 2013 competition held April 19th-21st. Theresa was among six candidates and the Rose Committee chairperson reported to me "Theresa was a delight to have! I was really touched with her on-stage interview ... (she) was the youngest (candidate)." After the competition, Theresa told me she met a many great people, that she was proud to be the Fredericksburg AOH entry, and will gladly join us as the **2013 Fredericksburg Rose** in our 2014 St Patrick Day parade. The 2013 Washington, D.C. Rose is Lauren DeBueriis. Lauren is a 2009 graduate of DePaul University and is employed as a research assistant at the Embassy of Ireland.

Help and Hope for Meaningful Employment Project is extremely successful. Of our original 25 participants, five have found meaningful employment using résumé formats and interview techniques learned at our seminars. Project leader, Brother Chuck Payne, asks that all Division brothers assist in the networking segment of our approach. At our May seminars, guest speaker Dr. Michael Horne. will speak about recognizing and dealing with the psychological issues associated with job search. Michael is a psychologist with Catholic Charities, headquartered in Fredericksburg.

Vietnam Memorial in Ennis, Ireland: We continue to await a decision on National AOH sponsorship of this worthy objective. The Ennis town council plans to have this monument completed for dedication on November 11th this year. Both the January-February and March-April editions for the *National Hibernian Digest* have highlighted this effort.

AOH Degrees: We are planning to have a Shamrock Degree ceremony at our June meeting. *“You’re not a true Hibernian until you’ve received the Major Degree”* says AOH legend, Pat Troy. The next opportunity to receive the Major Degree will be during the Virginia State Convention scheduled for 19-21 July 2013. As a reminder, the goals and objectives of the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America, Inc., are:

1. To promote Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity
2. To foster and sustain loyalty to country and community
3. To aid and advance by all legitimate means the aspirations and endeavors of the Irish people for complete independence, promoting peace (with justice) and unity for all Ireland.
4. To foster the ideals and perpetuate the history and traditions of the Irish people.
5. To promote Irish culture.
6. To encourage civic participation.
7. To encourage an equitable U.S. immigration law for Ireland, and to cooperate with all groups for a fair American immigration policy.
8. To accept and support, without prejudice, the concept of free expression of religious practice for the people of Ireland.

The Gathering Ireland 2013: Check out <http://www.thegatheringdublin.com/>

Coming Events:

- **June 19th:** Shamrock Degree at the division monthly meeting
- **July 19-21:** The **Biennial State convention** will be sponsored by the LTC Dowd Division (Woodbridge) at the Fredericksburg Hospitality House.
- **September 21:** Trip for Two to Ireland raffle drawing
- **October 4:** 4-7:30PM **Annual St Mary Fall Festival**

- **October 12:** Second Annual Meagher Division **Halfway to St Patrick Day Celebration** at the Fredericksburg Hospitality House.

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 ball cap. These occasions include AOH Masses, funerals, AOH dinners, State and National conventions, **all parades**, and other public events. Clearly the AOH tri-color sash represents the national flag of Ireland and should be worn over the right shoulder crossing to the left hip (see photo)



- 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 the ball cap.

Brothers procure their own green jackets and sashes. I'll take orders for Division logo polo shirts, sweatshirts and ball caps.

Division Logo Items: long and short sleeve polo shirts, sweat shirts, and ball caps:

- Long sleeve polo: \$22.75
- Short sleeve polo: \$19.75
- Sweat shirt: \$21.25
- Ball Cap: \$14.00

Green Jacket: Several brothers already have one from this outlet and are pleased with the product, so check his out. Call **((888) 322-7469)** ask for Rivkah; tell her you're with AOH and she'll waive the \$5.00 small order fee. Imported blazers size 48 and smaller are \$59.00 plus \$12.50 shipping/handling. Prices increase with size. http://blazerdepot.com/pages/mens_blazer/augustagreenblazer.html

JC Penny may still have some green jackets remaining -- sizes 42, 44, 48 (some tall sizes). They are on sale for **\$36!**

AOH Sash: Tri-color AOH sashes are available from:

- LAOH Sister Patricia Ankrom. For more information, email Patricia at traceysbydesign@aol.com
- Ancient Order of Hibernians -- Trumbull County, Ohio
<http://trumbull.aoh-laoh.com/STORE.html>
- D. & E. Morrissey. 1978 S.W. 17th Dr. Deerfield Beach, FL 33442. 954-426-3514. <http://www.hibernians-shamrock.com/donations.html> (**note:** several brothers are pleased with this vender)

In Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,

Bill Halpin

President, General Thomas F. Meagher Division

Ancient Order of Hibernians in America

540.972.5903 (home)

202.213.5625 (cell)