



GENERAL THOMAS F. MEAGHER DIVISION
Spotsylvania Division No. 1

February 2013 Highlights

***Completing 25 years of Friendship, Unity and Christian
Charity in the greater Fredericksburg area!***

The Division met as scheduled on February 19th with 30 brothers in attendance. Vice President Bill Phillips presided as President Halpin was excused (needed to (among other things) play at Trump International, Puerto Rico). The Division now boasts 46 members including four newly sworn brothers, Rusty O'Brien, Sean Fogerty, Patrick Fogerty, and Dennis Ryan, plus Mike Yearsley who transferred from New Jersey.

Increasing by five new brothers is a terrific way to start the New Year! This bodes well for the division that initiated 17 new brothers in 2012. With some effort we'll be at 60 brothers this time next year.

We'll be recruiting in March - hopefully at all parishes. We're set for St Jude on 16-17 March and *tentatively* set for the same weekend at St Patrick. I haven't from our St Mary and St Matthew LNOs (realizing Patrick Fogerty just signed-on as liaison to St Mary).

At risk of being redundant, I say again we're very happy all of you decided to join the AOH and become integral to the division's future. We see great potential in you and look forward to your assumption of leadership positions in the coming years. None of the Division officer positions are life-long incumbencies. My hope is that in October, you will accept nomination for a Division officer position.

Committee Reports:

a. ***Help and Hope for Meaningful Employment Program:*** Program chairman, Chuck Payne, updated on Help & Hope for Meaningful Employment

1. When the volunteers met on January 11, we saw a need to broaden the program announcement beyond the weekly parish bulletins. We did the following.

* Announcements were made from the altar at each parish with representative outside church after Mass to discuss program with people who are interested.

* Handouts about the program are available at Mary's Shelter, St. Vincent DePaul, and St. Matthew ministries.

* Interview televised on the local Comcast channel (2?) outlined the Help & Hope program.

2. Need help from Division members.

* Volunteers. As the number of participants grows (currently about 20), our volunteers will be stretched and we will be limited for one-on-one help. We could use some more volunteers.

* Network. Chuck would like to use Division members as a network. We could do this both for occupations and for companies. For example, if we have a participant who is an electrical engineer, we could send a broadcast to Division members asking for anyone who is an electrical engineer to talk with this individual (a) to give advice and (b) to point the individual to someone else who may have further advice. Also, if one of our participants is considering a job at XYZ Company, we can send a broadcast to see if anyone works, or worked, at XYZ or knows someone who works at XYZ who would be willing to talk to the individual about XYZ -- its culture, the hiring manager, anything else that would be helpful.

3. Help & Hope business cards that have Chuck's H&H contact info on one side and the program session schedule on the flip side are available. Division members can take one or several of the cards so they can refer folks who need this help.

b. *Trip for Two to Ireland Raffle:* Standing Committee Chair Jim O'Donnell distributed 21 raffled tickets to each brother (he mailed 21 tickets to the brothers who could not attend the February meeting). He reiterated raffle objectives at the meeting and in a letter to absentees. The minimum goal (21 tickets) is very 'doable' for every brother. A few brothers already volunteered to sell ticket at the Irish Festival following the St Patrick Day Parade on March 16; however, we'll need more!

c. **Halfway to St Patrick Day Celebration:** Brother Jim McMorrow is chairing the Halfway Party committee. A committee of elected division officers was established and voted of the various options. The date is now set for October 12, 2013 at the Hospitality House in Fredericksburg. Our experience there in December was very positive - service was great and the food was excellent! We'll be printing 250 tickets for our second annual celebration priced at \$50/person. Music will be provided by *Moch Pryderi* and the Muggivan Irish Dance School will perform and provide *céilí* dance lessons. Both entertained at our celebration last September and did a great job!

Good and Welfare:

a. ***"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.

b. **Don't Miss: Brother Chuck Payne's interview on Comcast** about our Help & Hope for Meaningful Employment program will be aired on *Around Town*, February 25th - March 2d 7:30 am, 10:30 am, 5:30 pm, and 8:30 pm. The program airs on channel 2 for those who have Comcast in Spotsylvania and Stafford Counties.

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

d. Irish America: facts & figures ahead of St. Patrick's Day

By [Irish Central Staff Writers](#),

150,990 - The number of Irish-born naturalized U.S. residents in 2011. Source: [2011 American Community Survey](#)

39.3 years old - Median age of U.S. residents who claim Irish ancestry is higher than the U.S. residents' median age as a whole (37.3 years). Source: [2011 American Community Survey](#)

12.9% Percent of New York state residents were of Irish ancestry in 2011. This compares with a rate of **11.1** percent for the nation as a whole. Source: [2011 American Community Survey](#)

33.3% - Percentage of people of Irish ancestry, 25 or older, who had a bachelor's degree or higher. In addition, **92.9** percent of Irish-Americans in this age group had at least a high school diploma.

Source: [2011 American Community Survey](#)

\$57,319 - Median income for households headed by an Irish-American, higher than the \$50,502 for all households. In addition, 7.3 percent of families of Irish ancestry were in poverty, lower than the rate of 11.7 percent for all Americans families.

Source: [2011 American Community Survey](#)

13 - Number of places in the United States that share the name of Ireland's capital, Dublin. The most populated of these places is Dublin, Calif., with a population of 43,572. Source: 2011 American Community Survey

7 - Number of places in the United States named Shamrock, the floral emblem of Ireland.

*SOURCE U.S. Census Bureau

e. I'm told the meatball subs went like wildfire to those to stayed for the division social hour. Thanks Jim! As always, we thank Joe O'Connor for lugging in the beverages.

Prayer List: Please pray for the repose of the soul of:

- Our Division Charter Member, Dick Fleming. Dick died on 22 Feb; he was 87 and a WWII Army Air Corps veteran. After retirement he was very active in Spotsylvania community affairs and active in AOH for several years. I spoke with Dick in December; his poor health prevented him from attending our 25th anniversary party. His full obituary was in the February 23 edition of the *Free Lance Star*.
- Pauline (Polly) Mahoney, wife of former Meagher Division Brother John Mahoney, who died on February 23d. Her obituary is in the February 28th edition of the *Free Lance Star*.
- Eileen Devaney, wife of AOH Brother Jack Devaney (Corby Division) who died on January 31st.

May perpetual light shine upon them and may they rest in peace.

Coming Events:

- **March 2:** Alexandria, VA St Patrick Day parade
- **March 11:** The AOH annual Gaelic Mass will be celebrated in Gaelic at Saint Charles Catholic Church, 3304 North Washington Boulevard, in Clarendon section of Arlington VA on the 11th March 2013 at 7:30 PM.
- **March 14:** 5 PM Annual Family Irish Dinner at Holy Cross Academy - *need volunteers*
- **March 16:** Annual St Patrick Day Parade at the Blue and Grey brewery and 5th annual Trip for Two to Ireland raffle kickoff - *need 100% participation with families*
- **March 17:** 12 Noon, Washington, D.C. St Patrick Day Parade featuring (*drum roll...*) Virginia AOH brothers J.J. Kelly, Gael of the Year, and yours truly as a Division Marshal.
- **March 17:** 8AM-2PM Irish breakfast, St Mary Parish Life Center *need volunteers*
- **March 19:** 7:30PM our March meeting
- **July 19-21 2013:** The **Biennial State convention** will be sponsored by the LTC Dowd Division (Woodbridge) at the Fredericksburg Hospitality House. Given the location there is little doubt we will be asked to help.
- **September 21:** Trip for Two to Ireland raffle drawing
- **October 4:** 4-7:30PM Annual St Mary Fall Festival
- **October 12:** Second Annual 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

Jack McGovern reports that JC Penny still has green jackets 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>

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)