



GENERAL THOMAS F. MEAGHER DIVISION
SPOTSYLVANIA DIVISION NO. 1

July 2013 Highlights

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

Special Notice: Our next Division meeting is August 20th!

The Division does not meet in July; however, AOH business continues nonetheless. As part of the Virginia State Biennial Convention, six of our new brothers received the Order's Tower Degree on July 21st. Congratulations to these men who are now *'True Hibernians'*!



Degree recipients: Brothers Tom Evans, Rusty O'Brien, Pete Carroll, Dick Dowd, Neil Mulcahy and Ken Malley.
Observers: Brothers Bill McCarthy, Bill Halpin, Bob Stevens, Gene McKenna and Hugh O'Brien.

The convention was a tremendous success due to the effort of the Lt Col Dowd Division and the Ladies AOH. I would encourage all brothers to attend VAAOH quarterly state meetings and of course, our biennial VAAOH Conventions. The biennial National AOH Convention will be held next July in St Louis. These are always informative and a good time to boot.

As is the tradition, the state officers for the period 2013-2015 were elected on Saturday and installed that evening after the 5PM Mass. Past Meagher Division President, Bruce Denault was elected President; Gene Bransfield, Vice President; Bill Halpin, Secretary; and Jay McCarthy is the new Treasurer.



L to R: Treasurer Jay McCarthy; Secretary Bill Halpin; Vice President Gene Bransfield; and State President Bruce Denault - AOH National Board Representative JJ Kelly presided. He was assisted by State Organizer, Rich Aleksy

New Chaplain: In June, our division Chaplain, Father Ed Bresnahan, and Brother Father Jerry Wooten transferred from our division. I've had an informal discussion with a potential new Chaplain and will be requesting his pastor's and Bishop Loverde's approval to formally solicit his AOH participation.

Trip for Two to Ireland: After a quick review it seems 15 brothers are holding more than 300 tickets. The raffle committee needs to know if these tickets are sold, will be sold, or should be turned in so others may sell them. I ask that you apply some *Hibernian Zeal* to this effort: email friends and relatives, solicit neighbors and co-workers, tell them of the good works we do with the funds generated by the raffle.

In the past two years, our raffle enabled us to donate more than \$12,000 to area Catholic entities. Yesterday, Shane Quinlan wrote a check for \$1,000 to Mary's Shelter. Next month he'll write a check for \$1000 to the Paul-Stefan Foundation. Last month we gave \$2500 in scholastic awards to two students who will attend area Catholic High Schools in the fall. We cannot continue these good works if those 300 tickets aren't sold. So, please get with it! **Please sell your raffle tickets.**

October 12th -- Halfway to St Patrick Day Celebration: Our next big event requiring effort on your part is our 2d Annual Halfway Party. We printed 250 tickets; my goal is for brothers to organize tables of eight! That means selling six tickets to friends, neighbors, relatives, potential Hibernians, etc. The price per ticket is \$50, but when you consider what is being offered, that isn't much:

- ø 7 PM~Midnight, October 12, at the Hospitality House, Central Park
- ø Traditional Irish dinner (three choices -- Lamb, Salmon, or Chicken);
- ø **Full** `AOH_ Commemorative Pint Glass for every guest;
- ø Great Door Prizes!
- ø Music by Fredericksburg's Celtic band `Moch Pryderi''
- ø Irish Dance Performance and Céili lessons by the Muggivan School of Irish Dance
- ø Call 540-785-8371 or 540-972-5903 or <http://www.aohvirginia.org/FredericksburgDiv1>

Help and Hope for Meaningful Employment Project: Project leader, Brother Chuck Payne, asks that all Division brothers assist in the networking segment of our approach. Eight of our original attendees have landed meaningful employment!

Viet Nam Memorial in Ennis, Ireland: A link to the memorial initiative in Ennis (County Clair) is on the state website. It contains information on how to support this important project that will honor Irish men and women who served and died in Military Service in Southeast Asia during the period 1959-75. The formal dedication has been delayed until the International Remembrance Day, November 11, 2014. The estimated cost is \$275K; individual donations can be made using links on the project website: (www.TheIrishVietNamVeteranMemorialProject.org).

Coming Events:

- ✓ **August 20:** Our next meeting
- ✓ **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.
- ✓ **September:** The nominating committee will ask you to step forward for one of our eight elected positions. All positions are open for nomination. Only the division president is required to have the Order's Major (Tower) Degree.
It is important to the future vitality of our division to have our newer Brothers step up to leadership responsibility. We elect our officers in November and install our officers in December.
- ✓ **The Gathering Ireland 2013:** Check out <http://www.thegatheringdublin.com/>

Here is a free e-book on the *History of Ireland* Tom Evans submitted for your reading pleasure. He hasn't read it, but thought it appropriate to pass along:
<http://gutenberg.net.au/ebooks08/0800111h.html>

Prayer List: Please keep in your prayers: Brothers Joe O'Connor, who is recovering from surgery at the Woodmont Rehab Center; Joe Daley recovery from surgery to repair of a shattered

right elbow; Dennis Ryan, recovering from a rotator cuff injury; and Pat Phillips who is undergoing chemotherapy.

Division Attire: I'll be taking orders before July 31st for Division logo polo shirts, sweatshirts and ball caps.

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

How To Make Irish Coffee

Here's how to whip up this favorite spiked delight in three simple steps.



The ingredients for this sweet, whiskey-based warm-up are actually codified (I.S. 471, to be exact) in the National Standards Authority of Ireland, the agency that oversees everything from food safety to hospital practices.

One: Place a stainless-steel spoon in a stemmed glass. Trickle hot water down the spoon, filling the glass. This prevents cracking and keeps the drink warm longer.



Two: Drain the water; add 2-4 teaspoons of whole-cane sugar, then fill the glass about ¾ full with coffee, and stir until the sugar dissolves. Add a shot of Jameson Irish Whiskey (then another, for good measure).



Three: Drizzle heavy cream over the backside of the heated spoon, creating a 2-inch floater. Now the fun part: Drink through the cream - it's key to ensuring a proper mouth mix that tempers the whiskey's bite.

In Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,

Bill Halpin, President, General Thomas F. Meagher Division
Ancient Order of Hibernians in America