



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

Month of St Patrick 2013 Highlights

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

The Division met as scheduled on March 19th with 22 brothers in attendance.

As we did in February, the division has grown again with the acceptance of three new brothers, with two applications pending. The Division now boasts 49 members joining last month's four newly sworn brothers, will be John Walsh, Dan Butler and Tom Weiner who were voted into the division and will take the AOH pledge in April. Increasing by ten new brothers is a terrific way to end the first quarter of fraternal year 2013! And, now we have three very good bagpipers in the division - time to form our own color guard.

It was a busy month for yours truly and for the Division. Kudos to Jeff Fitzpatrick for arranging these three important division events.

- The Holy Cross Academy St Patrick Dinner on March 14th was a great success. Pat Fogarty, Brendan Kelly, Joe Daley, Patrick McGroarty, Joe O'Connor, Harry Crisp, Pete Carroll, and Tommy Lyons and Bill Halpin all sold dinner tickets after Masses in the two week prior to the event. Pat Fogarty and Jack McGovern also worked food service and transportation. On the 14th, Bill Phillips collected tickets and entry fees at the door, while Tommy Lyons, John Sullivan and Bill Halpin (on again - off again MC) worked beverage station.
- We had an excellent turn-out for the 11th Fredericksburg St Patrick Day Parade with more than 30 division brothers and family members marching

behind the division banner (those are Tommy's children minding the banner). So many participated, I hesitate to name them all for fear of leaving someone out. Mike Cregan, Vice President of Father Judge Division, and his granddaughter couldn't miss the opportunity to wear the green and marched with us.



- On *THE* actual day, March 17th, we hosted an Irish Breakfast in the St Mary parish shelter. I'm told it was a struggle at times, but Jim McMorrow, Tommy Lyons, Jim O'Donnell, John Sullivan, Brendan Kelly, Joe O'Connor, and Rusty O'Brien, worked through the challenges to make the breakfast a success. From the proceeds, we were able to donate \$400 to Mary's Shelter.

I was able to attend the HCA dinner and the Fredericksburg Parade. In another AOH role as State Veterans Affairs Chair, I was honored to be a Division Marshal in the Washington, DC parade. The parade theme was 'Celebrating Service to the Stars and Stripes' and was led by Grand Marshal, Admiral Mike Mullen, USN (ret.); Gael of the Year was our AOH Brother Colonel J J Kelly, USA (ret.); and the other division marshals, Olympic Gold Medalist Katie Ledecky, Col Doug Dillard, USA (ret.), President of the Battle of the Bulge Association, and me, USA

(ret.). It was an experience and included a reception/installation at the Embassy of Ireland on Friday night and an informal breakfast on Sunday morning, followed by the three hour parade. It was a cold, raw day so my hat's off to every participant!

BREAKING NEWS: This year we have a bona fide candidate for the 2013 International **Rose of Tralee**. Theresa Lewis, a Fredericksburg resident, student at Virginia Tech, and Bud Logan's granddaughter, passed muster in our rigorous interview process conducted by Hugh O'Brien, Gene McKenna and me. She is a talented and convincing candidate who we believe will do well in the competition beginning on 20-22 April. Open the PDF below for ticket information.

2013DCRoseTicketOrder.pdf

Our 'Help and Hope for Meaningful Employment Project' is going great guns. At least two of our program participants have found meaningful employment using résumés 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. For example, if a brother is employed at the company where a project participant has applied, please provide advice on helpful issues, such as company culture, the hiring manager, or other information that will help in an interview. We are not suggesting a 'vouch' for the individual, only helpful advice.

Jim O'Donnell reports our Trip for Two to Ireland Raffle is off to a great start! In the first week we've reached 16% of our revenue target.

"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.

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

Here's a collection of some of the most famous words to come out of Ireland.

- If you're enough lucky to be Irish...you're lucky enough!

- St. Patrick was a gentleman who through strategy and stealth drove all the snakes from Ireland. Here's toasting to his health; but not too many toasts, lest you lose yourself, forget the good St. Patrick, and see all those snakes again.
- An old Irish recipe for longevity: Leave the table hungry; leave the bed sleepy; leave the table thirsty.
- May you live as long as you want, and never want as long as you live.
- May your glass be ever full; May the roof over your head be always strong. And may you be in heaven half an hour before the devil knows you're dead.
- May the Good Lord take a liking to you, but not too soon!
- As you slide down the banister of life, may the splinters never point the wrong way.
- Always remember to forget the friends that proved untrue; but never forget to remember those that have stuck by you.
- 'Tis better to buy a small bouquet and give to your friend this very day, than a bushel of roses white and red to lay on his coffin after he's dead.
- It's easy to be pleasant when life flows by like a song. But the man worthwhile is the one who can smile when everything goes dead wrong.
- What is Irish diplomacy? It's the ability to tell a man to go to hell, so that he will look forward to making the trip.

Coming Events:

- **May 4-5:** Recruiting at St Patrick Parish on the 177th anniversary of the founding of AOH in America!
- **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

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

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