



GENERAL THOMAS F. MEAGHER DIVISION
SPOTSYLVANIA DIVISION NO. 1

November 2013

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

Note: The monthly 'Highlights' is transitioning into newsletter format. It will continue to provide information on important division activities and will be augmented with items/articles of Irish/Irish-American cultural, traditional, and historic interest. Hopefully there'll be opportunity for all brothers to add their two cents as well



NEWS FROM THE VAAOH STATE MEETING 2 NOVEMBER IN
RICHMOND - YOUR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION REQUESTED

Mr. Kevin Conmy, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Ireland, spoke on the topic of Irish Immigration. The Irish embassy is engaged in this issue and commented on the centuries-long connection between Ireland and the United States. Prior to 1965, Irish immigration was without restrictions. In 1965, the U.S. Immigration and Nationality Act made immigration more difficult. As a result more than 50,000 Irish nationals reside illegally in the U.S.

The U.S. Senate proposes a legal pathway to citizenship, providing 10,500 E-3 visas specifically for Ireland. These visas are valid for two years and can be renewed three times, after which a green card can be issued [**Note:** an E-3 visa is for persons seeking employment in a specialty occupation requiring at least a bachelor's degree or equivalent]. House Republicans are not enthusiastic about the Senate's comprehensive proposal. They prefer a piecemeal approach. Mr. Conmy requested AOH convince Virginia representatives that 'we want reform now.' He identified Eric Cantor and Bob Goodlatte as key members to lobby.

The following was received from National AOH President Brendan Moore:

'Brothers, Our National Immigration Chairman, Dan Dennehy, is urging all of us to stand with the U.S. Catholic Bishops in their effort to promote House passage of Comprehensive Immigration Reform. Please pass along to AOH Brothers in your states this easy-to-use means of reaching out to local House members. Thank you.'

Now is the time to pass just and compassionate immigration reform

[Take Action!](#)

Send this electronic postcard to your U.S. Representatives and Senators Simply click on the postcard below or the `Take Action_ link on the right to send the postcard.

Go to <http://www.justiceforimmigrants.org/> for more information.



After you have sent the postcard to your Washington, DC lawmakers, forward this message to your email contacts throughout the country and urge them to send the e-card to their U.S. Senators and Representatives. Thank you!

ALSO: The following resolution was presented and will be voted on at the State meeting scheduled for January 25, 2014. The resolution was introduced by Brother Bobby Mahoney who was recently appointed VAAOH State Immigration Chairman.

`A.O.H. Virginia State Board,

Whereas the Preamble in our AOH National Constitution, Item 7, states that a main purpose of our organization is to encourage an equitable U.S. immigration law for Ireland and to cooperate with groups for a fair American Immigration Policy,

Whereas noting with satisfaction the current efforts of the National Immigration Chairman, Dan Dennehy, working to secure a legal path for Ireland's undocumented and secure future flow for Irish immigrants

Whereas the fact that Comprehensive Immigration Reform is now possible and Irish people will have a real opportunity from current legislation to create a new life for themselves in our great Nation and to continue to contribute to the important bonds between Ireland and the US,

1. Encourage all Virginia AOH Divisions to cooperate with other organizations at the grassroots level to support the cause of equitable immigration reform;
2. Urge members to comply with the goals of U.S. Catholic Bishops and their goals to pass a just and compassionate immigration reform;
3. Call on appointed Immigration Chairmen and our Brother and Sister Hibernians and their families to help in attaining the successful passing of this reform;
4. **Request each Division of the Virginia AOH appoint a Chairman of Immigration whose duties it will be to work with the Immigration Chair appointed by the National and State Boards."**



GEN. MEAGHER DIVISION NEWS

General Meagher Division brothers Bob Buckman, Bob Fitzgerald, Patrick Fogarty, John Harris, Paul O'Brien, Rusty O'Brien, and John Walsh received the Order's Shamrock Degree at the November meeting, marking their first step to full Hibernianism.

Thanks to the degree team of Vice President Bill Phillips, Treasurer Shane Quinlan, Sentinel John Hogan, and especially to Jim McMorrow and Gene McKenna who filled in for our Marshal and Standing Committee chairman who were excused. Worthy of Note: our division is first among Commonwealth divisions with regard to percent of brothers who have received the Order's Major Degree (56%)!

In a busy November meeting, the Division also elected the slate of officers for 2014. They are:

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| * President: Bill McCarthy | |
| * Chaplain Father Kevin Fimian | * Treasurer: Bud Logan |
| * Vice President: Patrick Fogarty | * Chairman, Standing Committee: Jim McMorrow |
| * Recording Secretary: Dennis Ryan | * Marshal: Bill Phillips |
| * Financial Secretary: Bill Gilhooly | * Sentinel: John Hogan |

VAAOH State President Bruce Denault will install our new officers on December 17th

A Golf Committee was formed to research and present detailed findings on the risk/benefit of hosting the **Inaugural Shamrock Golf Classic** in 2014. Committee members are: Jim O'Donnell, John Walsh, Neil Mulcahy, Jack McGovern, and Jim McMorrow. They will present their findings at the December meeting.

Prayer List: Please keep our brothers and family members in your prayers: Father Fimian, Pat and Jennifer Phillips, Annette Fitzgerald, Joe Daley, Mike Lenihan, charter members Bill Callahan, Ron Cullen, and Joe O'Connor.

Upcoming Activities:

Dec 7: Our annual Christmas dinner will begin with cocktails at 6PM at the Hospitality House. It's a pay-as-you-go bar, and the buffet dinner will include sliced London broil, chicken cordon bleu, and tilapia stuffed with crabmeat. Music will be provided by Ned's Oldies but Goodies. There will be a Chinese gift exchange and a 50/50 drawing. VAAOH State President Bruce Denault and his wife, Lisa, will be our guests. Everyone is asked to consider bringing an unwrapped toy for donation to Mary's Shelter.

Dec 15: Annual wreath laying ceremony at the City Dock monument to the Irish Brigade and at Marye's Heights. The City Dock ceremony is scheduled to begin at noon followed by the Marye's Heights ceremony at 2PM.

Dec 17: Installation of 2014 officers. VAAOH State President Denault will preside.

Jan 12: Fredericksburg Religious Freedom March - need robust AOH participation



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Since the Pledge of Allegiance and The Lord's Prayer are not allowed in many public schools anymore because the word 'God' is mentioned - a kid in Arizona is said to have written the attached new school prayer:

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Now I sit me down in school  
Where praying is against the rule  
For this great nation under God  
Finds mention of Him very odd.  
If scripture now the class recites,  
It violates the Bill of Rights.  
And anytime my head I bow  
Becomes a Federal matter now  
Our hair can be purple, orange or green,  
That's no offense; it's a freedom scene..  
The law is specific, the law is precise.  
Prayers spoken aloud are a serious vice.  
For praying in a public hall  
Might offend someone with no faith at all  
In silence alone we must meditate,  
God's name is prohibited by the state.  
We're allowed to cuss and dress like freaks,  
And pierce our noses, tongues and cheeks...  
They've outlawed guns, but FIRST the Bible.  
To quote the Good Book makes me liable.  
We can elect a pregnant Senior Queen,  
And the 'unwed daddy,' our Senior King  
It's 'inappropriate' to teach right from wrong,  
We're taught that such 'judgments' do not belong  
We can get our condoms and birth controls,  
Study witchcraft, vampires and totem poles...  
But the Ten Commandments are not allowed,  
No word of God must reach this crowd.  
It's scary here I must confess



**Quinnipiac: Great Hunger Museum**

Extracted from Matt Keough's IrishCentral article

The absence of cameras in 1845 and the lack of shocking artifacts as are found in Holocaust museums could have hindered Quinnipiac University's chances of creating a successful Irish famine museum. However, a successful exhibit is what was accomplished. In the galleries of Ireland's Great Hunger Museum we come face to face with what really happened.

This has the surprising effect of simultaneously softening and sharpening the gruesome facts,

The art isn't difficult to merely look at like a picture from a concentration camp but it's also difficult to process. Looking deeper into the art allows one to truly feel the emotion like tension in a small room.

Lilian Lucy Davidson's "Burying the child" is described as "the central figure leaning into his shovel almost as he were still digging potatoes; but it is a straightforward picture of loss." Davidson captures the anger, sorrow and reality of the famine with a simple painting.

The Great Hunger Museum houses artwork that directly blames the British Government. Michael Farrell's "Black 47" -- a courtroom in which five Irish skeletons emerge from a coffin to accuse Britain, in the reviled person of Charles E. Trevelyan, who ran the government's disastrously inadequate efforts.

The museum is able to depict the reality of the famine and debate that surrounds it. Great Hunger Museum is located at 3011 Whitney Avenue, Hamden Connecticut. [www.ighm.org](http://www.ighm.org).

[Read more: Famine Museum an inspiring tribute - world's largest collection of Irish famine art at Quinnipiac, CT](#)

**(Editor's Note:** Google the artists and painting for better appreciation. Keep in mind that the potato crop failure played a role in the famine. However, during the famine period 1846-51, Ireland's food production was controlled by the British and Ireland was a net exporter of grains and meat -- foodstuffs that could have saved a million lives. By any definition, this was a calculated genocide. We should not forget that it is by the grace of God that our forefathers survived and we're here.)

**Viet Nam Memorial in Ennis, Ireland:** Rory Breslin, ([www.rorybreslin.com](http://www.rorybreslin.com)) was selected to sculpt the memorial. He is a major artist and has had significant commissions including a bust of Teddy Kennedy. The estimated cost of the memorial is B145K. Below is a link to information on how to support this important project to honor Irish men and women who served and died in Allied service in South East Asia during the period 1959-75. The formal dedication is planned for November 11, 2014.

([www.TheIrishVietNamVeteranMemorialProject.org](http://www.TheIrishVietNamVeteranMemorialProject.org)).

**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. Brothers procure their own green jackets and sashes.

**Green Jacket:** Several brothers are pleased with this product, so check it 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 are inexpensive:** size 48 and smaller are \$59.00 plus \$12.50 shipping/handling. Prices increase with size. The website is:  
[http://blazerdepot.com/pages/mens\\_blazer/augustagreenblazer.html](http://blazerdepot.com/pages/mens_blazer/augustagreenblazer.html)

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

LAOH Sister Patricia Ankrom. For more information, email Patricia at [traceysbydesign@aol.com](mailto:traceysbydesign@aol.com)

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)

At informal events (i.e. Division events (meetings, ball games, picnics, 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. I'll take orders for Division logo polo shirts, sweatshirts and ball caps. (I have two ball caps)

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