



## GENERAL THOMAS F. MEAGHER DIVISION SPOTSÝLVANIA DIVISION NO. 1

### September 2013 Highlights

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

The Division met on September 17th as scheduled. Twenty brothers attended and post meeting enjoyed Jim McMorrow's spicy meatball subs (grinders!!) along with a beverage or two. The highlight of this meeting was the **introduction of our new chaplain**, the Reverend Kevin Fimian, Parochial Vicar at St Patrick Parish. Father Fimian is a great addition to our Division and Order and we are very pleased he's committed to attend as many meetings as is possible.

**Nomination Committee:** Chuck Payne and Bill McCarthy will be seeking nominations for 2014 division officers. **Now is your chance** to influence change, to set goals for the future, and guide the division into our second quarter century. Chuck (540-972-6803//[chasjpayne@mac.com](mailto:chasjpayne@mac.com)) and Bill 540-786-6203//[yankeecolonel@msn.com](mailto:yankeecolonel@msn.com) are seeking nominations - **throw your own hat into the ring or nominate another brother!**

**Trip for Two to Ireland:** Last month I wrote "We cannot continue these good works if all tickets aren't sold." Well, Jim O'Donnell pulled off -- by far -- **the best Trip for Two raffle in the five years** we've been doing this. His strategy paid off -- and resulted in the sale of 889 raffle tickets surpassing 2011 (838). Of the remaining 111 tickets, 47 are known to have been lost and 64

remain `out there`. (Just a hint: If we had the 64 on Saturday, they would have been sold in quick order.) The winning ticket was pulled from the center of the jar by 4 year old Sarah Lammers, pictured here with raffle chairman, Jim O`Donnell, and later showing pure joy that she picked our Brother John Hogan`s ticket from among the 889 tickets.



Photos with parent`s permission

**October 12<sup>th</sup> -- Halfway to St Patrick Day Celebration:** Our next big event requiring your effort is our **2d Annual Halfway Party**. Party Chairman, Jim McMorrow, advises he needs to provide the Hospitality House with an attendance estimate on October 1<sup>st</sup>. Therefore, ticket sales continue to be very important to division health and welfare. As you`ll recall, we printed 250 tickets; *to date we have commitments for about 35% of that number.*

The price per ticket is \$50, but when you consider what is being offered, that isn`ť much:

- đ 7 PM-Midnight, **October 12**, at the **Hospitality House, Central Park**, Fredericksburg
- đ Traditional **Irish buffet dinner** including Lamb, Salmon, and Chicken);
- đ **Full** `AOH` commemorative pint glass for every guest;
- đ **Great Door Prizes** (about 15:dinners for two and merchandise valued at up to \$300)
- đ **Live Music** by Fredericksburg`s Celtic band `Moch Pryderi`
- đ **Irish Dance** Performance and Céili lessons by the Muggivan School of Irish Dance
- đ **Call Jim McMorrow (540-785-8371) for tickets!**

**Meaningful Employment Project:** Project leader, Brother Chuck Payne, reports that 40 men and women have come to us for help. (12 added since June) and that eight have landed jobs. The October sessions will feature a guest speaker, a Special Emphasis Program Manager representing the Department of Homeland Security who will address DHS employment opportunities.

**Viet Nam Memorial in Ennis, Ireland:** Donations can be made using links on the project website: ([www.TheIrishVietNamVeteranMemorialProject.org](http://www.TheIrishVietNamVeteranMemorialProject.org)).

**Coming Events:**

- ✓ **October 12:** Second Annual Meagher Division Halfway to St Patrick Day Celebration at the Fredericksburg Hospitality House. Committee Chairman Jim McMorrow reports that he's collected several very good door prizes! These include several dinners for two and other valuable prizes. Tickets for the Halfway Party (\$50/each) are available from him (540-785-8371) for distribution. Announcements will appear weekly in the St Patrick Bulletin beginning September 8th; in the St Jude bulletin at least three times; and hopefully in the St Matthew and St Mary bulletins.
- ✓ **November 19<sup>th</sup> :** Election of 2014 officers
- ✓ **On/About December 14<sup>th</sup>:** Annual Irish Brigade Commemoration City Dock & Sunken Road
- ✓ **December 17<sup>th</sup>:** Officer installation ceremony
- ✓ **The Gathering Ireland 2013:** Check out <http://www.thegatheringdublin.com/>

**Prayer List:** Please keep in your prayers: Brothers **Joe O'Connor** (recovering from surgery); **Joe Daley** (recovering from surgery to repair of a shattered right elbow); **Dennis Ryan**, (recovering from rotator cuff injury); Pat Phillips (undergoing chemotherapy); **Father Kevin Fimian** (knee replacement surgery scheduled for Sept 26<sup>th</sup>), and Mike Lenihan (very ill). **Kaye Kelly**, wife of VAAOH Past State President and current National Veterans Affairs Chairmen, J.J. Kelly. Kaye Kelly passed away peacefully after a short illness on September 19<sup>th</sup>. (Visitation at Demaine Funeral Home, 5308 Backlick Road, Springfield, on Tuesday, September 24 from 2-4 pm and 6-7 pm with Memorial Services to follow at 7 pm.)

**Things you may (or may not) know:**

**Ireland's new Ambassador to the U.S**

**Anne Anderson** presents her Ambassador credentials

By MICHELLE K. SMITH, IrishCentral Staff Writer, Thursday, September 19, 2013



Official White House Photo by Lawrence Jackson

Ireland's new Ambassador to the U.S. [Anne Anderson](#) presented her credentials to President Obama on Tuesday, September 17, 2013 in a traditional ceremony at the White House. She replaces former Ambassador Michael Collins.

Anderson was previously a permanent representative to the United Nations. She has already placed immigration reform and working on economic ties between Ireland and the US at the top of her agenda.

Anderson said she will work to increase the likelihood of Congress passing a Bill on immigration reform to aid undocumented Irish and others. The bill could legalize thousands of workers and provide a legal flow of workers in the future.

She is the first woman to hold her position but being the first lady to a post is not new to Anderson. She was the first lady in all of her previous positions. Before being a permanent representative to the UN, she was ambassador to France in 2005, representative at the European Union in Brussels in 2001, and permanent representative to the United Nations in Geneva in 1995. During her time in Geneva her primary work was on human rights and she served as the chair of the UN's Commission on Human Rights.

Anderson is excited for her new position. In an interview with the Irish Voice in July 2013 she said about the job, 'I had hoped for it. It's every diplomat's dream to serve in Washington and I love the United States. I served in Washington in the mid-eighties for four years, so here I am 30 years later. I feel a tremendous sense of pride and privilege. \_

She thinks that both countries have a lot to bring to the table. 'Ireland is at the cutting edge in its conceptual thinking about world hunger and development issues, so when we work with the US on that we are co-leading something that is a shared agenda for us. \_ She added, 'So I think that's a very healthy place to be, and I look forward to working and building relationships that are beneficial to both Ireland and America. \_

Obama hosted the Ambassador Credentialing Ceremony where Anderson was one of nine new diplomats. New ambassadors included Norway, Grenada and Guatemala.

Ireland has appointed more than 20 new Irish ambassadors in new posts in the past couple of weeks. New ambassadors have been appointed in capital cities including London and Beijing in addition to Washington. These ambassadors will promote Ireland's economic interests in their respective locations.

**Extract from: *Nine U.S. states have more Irish percentage population than any others—can you name them?***

By JAMES O'SHEA, IrishCentral Staff Writer Published Sunday, September 22, 2013

Quick, which are the most Irish states percentage wise in the union? If you said New York and California you are dead wrong!

Montana, Iowa, Pennsylvania, Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine, Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island are the most Irish states in the U.S. with over 17% Irish population. Next ũ are New York, New Jersey, Maryland, Delaware, Ohio, Kentucky, Washington State, Oregon, Kansas, Missouri , Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Michigan South Dakota, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Nebraska, West Virginia, Wyoming with between 15 to 16.9%.

Among the other states (are) Nevada, Arizona, Mississippi, Alabama, Colorado Georgia, Florida, South Carolina, North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, Idaho with between 13 percent to 14.9 percent. Finally under that number come California, Texas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Utah and North Dakota, Hawaii and Alaska.

Irrespective of the population, it is a case of **`Erin go Bragh\_** in most states as only German Americans have more numbers.

The US Census shows over **35 million Americans claim Irish descent**. With five million also claiming Ulster Irish roots the total is over 40 million.

The demographics of the largest ancestry groups in America based on the census can be found in a new book called "Ancestry & Ethnicity in America."