



Ancient Order of
HIBERNIANS
Irish • Catholic • American



GENERAL MEAGHER'S DISPATCHES

April 2019

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President: Shawn Lenahan **Chaplain:** Father Jerry A. Wooton **Vice President:** Dave McLaughlin **Financial Secretary:** Bob Fitzgerald **Treasurer:** Jeff Everett **Recording Secretary:** Bill Vanderveer **Standing Committee:** Jake Ruppert **Marshal:** Dennis O'Leary **Sentinel:** Jack Grey; **Webmaster:** John Hogan **Newsletter Editor:** Bill Halpin
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Update on Nolan Banks. Nolan is doing fantastic; his chemotherapy port was removed and his hair is growing back. The prognosis is great given he needed a miracle when cancer was diagnosed in September 2017. The family thanks all for our prayers and asks that we keep praying so that Nolan does not have a relapse. Jeff writes: The Division prayers to Fr. Augustus Tolton have been a blessing. And there is an Irish connection! Fr. Peter McGirr, an Irish immigrant from County Tyrone, taught the faith to Augustus and pushed for his studies in Rome after American seminaries rejected him. Tolton was ready to give up but Fr. McGirr kept pushing, often alienating fellow priests and parishioners. His persistence paid off for and Father Tolton was ordained.

President's Corner

Brothers:

A great big "THANK YOU" to all who volunteered their time and talents to make the 2019 iteration of Irish American Heritage Month a success! We had a great showing at the libraries, parade, mass, and brunch. Now we must turn our attention to raffle ticket sales and our golf tournament coming up in a few weeks.

I will make my final appeal here for each of you to contribute in some way to the success of the tournament. If you are able to play, please put together a foursome and come on out! If you would rather help the day of the tournament, you could check in golfers, sell mulligans and raffle tickets or answer questions about the Order. If you are not able to attend, please consider donating a door prize, one purchased yourself, or donated from an establishment you frequent, any little bit will help us immensely!

Remember, the success of the Trip for Two Raffle and the Golf Tournament are essential to support the good works we as Hibernians do for our faith community. And their success is dependent on you!

For those of you who may not be aware, there is a troubling situation developing in Ireland. Specifically, how the border between Northern Ireland and the Republic will be handled once Brexit actually takes place. In the 2016 referendum, 55.8% of Northern Ireland voted to remain in the EU perhaps to avoid a hard border and an almost certain return to the violence of the Troubles such a barrier would mean. Please pray for peace and that a solution is reached that does not entail the repartition of Ireland

As always, pray for your fellow brothers and those on our prayer list. Pray also for the success of the new Archbishop of Washington, Archbishop Wilton D Gregory. May God give him the strength to resolve the many problems facing the Church.

In Our Motto,

Shawn M Lenahan



Irish American Heritage Month

Gen. Meagher Division's Two New Projects



Our 2019 budget included funding for donating of age appropriate Irish history books to Catholic school libraries. Here, John Hogan presents **Historopedia – The Story of Ireland From Then Until Now** and **The History of Ireland** to St Patrick Elementary School Principle, George Elliott. These books are colorfully illustrated and should be a big hit with the children. Mr. Elliott said the school librarian is “ecstatic” about these books! The identical books were donated to the Holy Cross Academy library.



Another innovative means of connecting with children (and their parents) is the *St Patrick Coloring contest* for children in grades K-3 at St Patrick Elementary and Holy Cross Academy. Adapted from the AOH Division in Louisville Kentucky, 57 children from St Patrick competed as did 80 from Holy Cross Academy. (Note: We do not have pictures from HCA.)

On left, St Patrick School principal George Elliott presents an award and on right the K, 1,2, & 3 winners



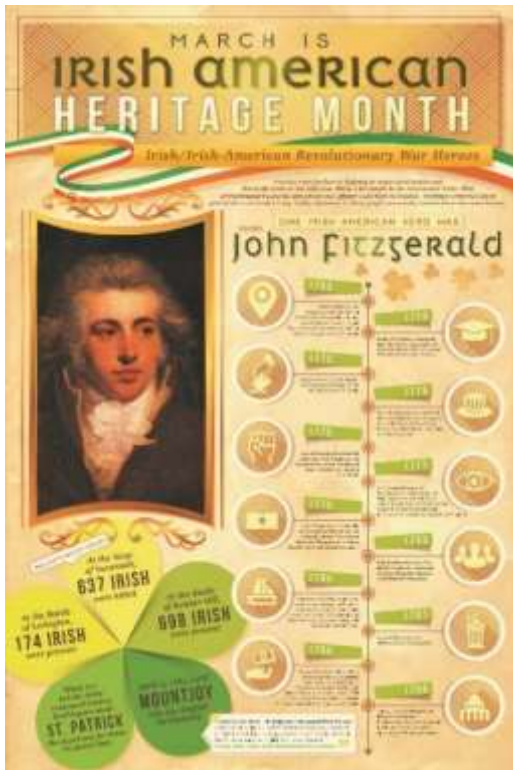
These beautiful two-tone bags were designed and sewn by Lynne Hogan. They contained twenty golden U.S. dollars. Hopefully the “rare” golden dollars will inspire saving and perhaps coin collecting

IAHM in Practice

2019 IAHM Theme: Irish/Irish-American Revolutionary War Heroes

America won freedom by fighting 36 major land battles and hundreds more on the high seas. Many Irish fought in the Continental Army. Nine of Washington’s

generals and about 1500 officers were born in Ireland. Irishmen composed about 30% of the Continental Army. Sadly, references to these people are mostly omitted from American history. This year we featured Colonel John Fitzgerald's remarkable contribution to the founding of the United States of America.



IAHM was supported by our brothers who volunteered about 90 hours over a three week period at three area libraries. Displays included the above posters and numerous information sheets on Irish/Irish Americans who contributed to the building of America. Volunteers were (alphabetically): Neil Buttimer, Pete Carroll, Dick Dowd, Bill Halpin, John Hogan, Dave McLaughlin, Dan Mulhern, Hugh O'Brien, and Jim O'Donnell.



Jeff Fitzpatrick Memorial St Partick Day Parade March 16th
accompanied by St Patrick (Jim McLaughlin)



IAHM Mass on the Seventeenth with Division Piper Dan Butler



“The Celt would forfeit his title to the respect of the civilized world, did he not fight with all his heart and all his soul and all his cunning against the empire which has despoiled him and murdered his kin, now with arms, now with artificial famine. There can be no peace between the two people until either Ireland is a desert or is free. It is war to the knife, and the knife to the hilt. There can be neither truce nor compromise.”

NEWS FLASH: If there's no BREXIT deal, there's no backstop. Without the backstop (defined as border/customs controls checks in the Irish Sea) The border between the Republic and the six counties in the north will become the EU frontier.

The official Irish position remains “there will be no Border”, but the EU wants to “to preserve the integrity of the single market”.

Bottom Line: We need the backstop agreement.

Word of the Day: The word "Tory" derives from the Middle Irish word *tóraidhe*; modern Irish *tóraí*; modern Scottish #Gaelic *Tòraidh*: it means outlaw, robber or brigand

Speaking of the English, many have watched BBC programming in these days of severely diminished U.S. television entertainment. One recent mini-series featured Queen Victoria. This is what BBC didn't tell you:

Victoria, the “Famine Queen,” hated Ireland and the Irish. The criminal policy of her reign inflicted 60 years of organized famine and eviction. Every eviction for 63 years (1837-1901) was carried out in Victoria's name. One of the cruelest aspects of the treatment of the Irish poor was the mass evictions that accompanied the mass hunger. Records were not officially maintained until 1848, so precise numbers are not known, but it is estimated that as many as 400,000 individuals were driven out of their dwellings in the late 1840s.

Taken from an essay by Christine Kinealy entitled “Window on the Past: Victoria & the Battering Ram”



Our DIVISION Prayers



Jack Grey, Committee of the Sick Chairman. Prayer requests should be sent to Jack not later than the Wednesday prior to the business meeting (RHGrey@cox.net//540-373-4496).

Pray for the repose of the souls of all deceased Hibernian Brothers. Keep in your prayers our family members and friends:

- **Nolan Banks**, 4-year-old son of former FS Jeff Banks. Nolan has soft tissue sarcoma (RMS). Essentially, Nolan needs a miracle. *Pray for the intercession of Father Augustus Tolton*, a candidate for future canonization (for the prayer visit: <http://www.toltoncanonization.org/prayer/canonizationprayer.html>)
- **John Tracy**, COPD
- **Joe Daley**, COPD complicated by pneumonia
- **Jake Ruppert's** mother, cancer -- recovering from surgery
- **Richie Doherty**, Jim O'Donnell's brother-in-law; died on 16 March
- **John O'Brien** Hugh O'Brien's brother-- recovering from stroke
- **Jerry O'Brien**, Paul O'Brien's brother – cancer
- **Jim Sullivan**, past president Father Lynch Division who died on 10 February

- **Dan Rhoades**, past president Cardinal Cushing Division and Fairfax County Board died on 23 January
- **Loretta Larzelere**, Bob Fitzgerald' sister-in-law -- recovering from pneumonia
- **Donna Maffeo**, Joe Monaghan's sister-in-law and his father Joseph Sr. care giver for his mother and uncle (dementia/Alzheimer)
- **Patricia Stephen**, mother of Rusty O'Brien's friend Ann-Marie Sharratt -- acute myeloid leukemia
- **Amy Whittaker** -- cancer



Mark Your Calendars!

Bingo! Every Thursday and Saturday evening 6:30PM at St Michael the Archangel High School, 6301 Campus Drive, Fredericksburg. Bring the family!

April 16: Division Meeting

April 29: Sixth Annual **Shamrock Charity Golf Classic**, Meadows Farms Golf Course

June 8: Second Quarter AOH State Board Meeting hosted by the Major Dooley Division at St Mary Catholic Church 9505 Gayton Rd, Henrico, VA 23229

August 16-18: Biennial State Convention at the Leesburg Hotel & Conference Center 726 East Market Street, Leesburg, Virginia. Register now at: <https://aohvirginia.org/2019/02/21/aoh-va-state-convention-2019/>



General Meagher Division 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 optional ball cap. These occasions include AOH State and National conventions, Masses, funerals, AOH dinners, parades, and other public events.
- At **informal events** (i.e. Division outings (ball games, picnics, meetings, etc.) the division logo polo or sweatshirts (optional ball cap) are appropriate.

Division Logo Items: The Point of Contact for Division logo polo shirts, sweatshirts and ball caps is Shawn Lenahan (s_lenahan@verizon.net)

Green Jacket: Brothers procure their own green jackets. One source: http://blazerdepot.com/pages/mens_blazer/augustagreenblazer.html. Visit the website; call the 800 number; tell them you’re with AOH and the \$5.00 small order fee can be waived. **Kelly green is the color.**

AOH Sash: Brothers procure their own sashes. The AOH tri-color sash represents the national colors of Ireland and should be worn over the right shoulder (green closest to neck/collar) crossing to the left hip. Measure from right shoulder to left hip in inches; keep in mind the sash will normally be worn over a jacket, possibly a raincoat/overcoat (and maybe a growing waist line). Tri-color AOH sashes are available from:

- LAOH Sister Patricia Ankrom produces a 7.5-foot sash; satisfaction guaranteed. Send a personal check for \$60. Turnaround time is about 10 days. The sash will be sent to you via Fed Ex or UPS -- signature required. Her address: Patricia Ankrom, 7400 Airport Dr., Quinton, Va. 23141-2400. Email traceysbydesign@aol.com
- Gettysburg Flag offers tri-color sashes and offers “special prices” for larger orders. <https://www.gettysburgflag.com/custom/irish-parade-sash>

This newsletter is an unofficial publication providing information to members of the Gen Thomas F Meagher Division and others who may have interest in division activities. It is published by Bill Halpin and unless shown otherwise, he is the author of the contents.