



Ancient Order of
HIBERNIANS
 Irish • Catholic • American



GENERAL MEAGHER'S DISPATCHES

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cehbhltaín shona

President: Dave McLaughlin **Chaplain;** Father Jerry A. Wooton; **Vice President:** Dennis O'Leary; **Financial Secretary** Edwin Hanson; **Treasurer:** Jeff Everett; **Recording Secretary:** Bill Halpin; **Standing Committee:** Ed Hennessy; **Marshal:** Chuck Gleason; **Sentinel:** James Lenahan; **Webmaster:** John Hogan; **Newsletter Editor:** Bill Halpin (sisconsulting@comcast.net)

President's Corner:

Brothers,

Here's to a Blessed and Happy New Year. Please join me in thanking Shawn and the outgoing officers for their service, accomplishments, and long lasting contributions to our esteemed Division. The bar is high; the shoes are big. Thankfully these brothers have pledged to provide their guidance and advice to the new officers so that we may be successful in continuing along the course they have set. The incoming officers have stepped up and made a significant commitment to serve the division for the next two years. I don't expect you, my brothers, to be as generous with your time as they are but I ask each of you to make a New Year's resolution to support our division more fully this year. There is much to do. Please reflect deeply to determine how you can best share your God-given talents and time in support of our motto: Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity.

Dave McLaughlin



Please support our elected officers with *Hibernian Zeal*. This means attending our monthly meetings and working to recruit and retain brothers; Supporting in word and deed Irish cultural projects and programs in our community; supporting local and national charities; and enjoying good times with brothers and their families.



As is our routine, below is some background on our new officers:

♣Dave McLaughlin, President: Dave was born and raised in Washington, DC. He attended Catholic elementary school, Georgetown Preparatory School (six forms) and obtained a BS at Georgetown University. Immediately after graduating, he entered the U. S. Air Force and began an almost 25-year career with tours served around the world. The highlight of his career was flying as an aircrew member (Weapons System Officer) accumulating more than 1,500 flight hours in the F-4 Phantom II. After retiring, he remained in Las Vegas, NV supporting the Air Force's test and training activities at Nellis Air Force Base and the massive Nevada Test and Training Range. In 2004, he moved back East and supported the USMC as a contractor and Government Service civilian until his retirement in August 2016. He has three children and their families scattered around the country.

His great-grandfather entered the United States at New Orleans and his father and grandfather were from Pittsburg. On his mother's side, the McPikes resided in Washington, DC for at least four generations. He joined the Gen. Thomas F. Meagher Division in 2015 and has served as Chair of the Standing Committee and Vice-President.

♣Vice President Dennis O'Leary: Dennis joined the General Meagher Division in 2015, received our Order's Major Degrees in 2016 and was elected to serve as Marshal for the 2018-2019 term. Dennis is an Army Brat born in Frankfurt Germany and moved around until his father retired in southern New Mexico. He attended High School in Las Cruces and graduated with a B.S. in Biology from the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque in 1983 where he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps. He served 13 years active duty and several years in the reserves. He holds a M.S. in Information Systems from Strayer University. Following his military service, he worked more than 10 years as a defense contractor for SAIC and Skylla Engineering. In 2009, Dennis was offered a government Program Analyst position with Marine Corps Systems Command where he still works in the acquisition of Information Technology for the Marines.

He and Celeste have been married for 33 years. They have three grown children. They are active parishioners at St. Jude where Celeste works part time in the Parish Office and Dennis serves on the Building Committee and as a Eucharistic Minister.

♣Edwin Hanson, Financial Secretary: Edwin was born at Fort Benning, Georgia and raised in a military family at various locations in Georgia, Kentucky and Indiana. Following a year at Purdue University, Edwin joined the Army and served in 6 states and 3 overseas locations until his retirement in 2002. Edwin and his wife Leanne moved to Falmouth in 2006 and have been Parishioners at St Mary of the Immaculate Conception and St Jude since. They have been married for 37 years and are blessed with 3 children and 7 grandchildren, all of whom live in Virginia and North Carolina.

Edwin was recruited into AOH by Life Member and past State and Division President, Hugh O'Brien, in 2017 and is now serving as Division Financial Secretary. Edwin joined AOH to gain a better understanding of his Irish heritage and culture and to help spread awareness to others. Of particular interest to Edwin are the struggles of his family's Catholic roots. Edwin's Irish and Norwegian great-grandparents immigrated with their children and settled in Wisconsin. Most of his relatives now reside in Wisconsin, Minnesota and Alberta.

Edwin has served a variety of parish communities as a lector, Eucharistic minister, Religious education teacher, a Marriage preparation counselor and a presenter for Worldwide

Marriage Encounter. Edwin spends his evenings and weekends conducting genealogical research, restoring antique furniture, and repairing furniture donations for the St Vincent DePaul Thrift Shop. Edwin has been working as a contractor in the Pentagon since his retirement from Active Duty. He is a Program Manager and Data Analyst with Edgesource Corporation responsible for a custom built database application for the Army.

♣Jeff Everett, Treasurer: A Canton Ohio native, Jeff joined the AOH in March 2016 and received our Order's Major Degrees in June of that year. Jeff has also lived in Upper Arlington and Vermilion before moving to Fredericksburg. He graduated from Canton South H.S, received a B.S. in Chemistry and Biology from Walsh University and M. S. Biochemistry from the University of Akron. His Master's thesis dealt with release of pharmaceutical agents from biodegradable microsphere capsules. He worked with Daniel Smith, a biomedical engineer whose sole research focused upon wound healing. Jeff also received a B.A. Classics from The Ohio State University.

Jeff was a substitute teacher and attended Ashland University where he earned certification in Secondary Education for the Natural Sciences. Since mid-2005, Jeff has been employed at North Stafford High School teaching courses in Latin, Chemistry, Biology, and Earth Science. In addition to teaching high school students, Jeff taught Organic Chemistry, Anatomy and Physiology, Chemistry for Engineers, and Biology at Germanna Community College. He also taught A.P. & DE courses in Biology and Chemistry as a faculty member for the Commonwealth Governor's School as well as honors level courses for Chemistry and Biology to the STEM courses.

Jeff is a member of the Virginia Foreign Language Supervisory Association and hold the Department Chair for the World Languages at North Stafford High School. During this school year, he teaches Latin to 8th graders at H.H. Poole. and Shirley Heim Middle Schools. For the past two years, Jeff has enjoyed the experience of teaching gifted children Chemistry through John Hopkins Center for Talented Youth Program. These children have the opportunity to receive credit for AP Chemistry as early as the 7th and 8thgrades. This is a very intensive program where the student learns an incredible amount of knowledge and skills through hands-on activities, laboratory work, and self-reflection.

♣Bill Halpin, Recording Secretary: A Rhode Island native, Bill graduated from La Salle Academy, Bryant University (BS), Boston University (MS) and completed the National Security Programs at the John F. Kennedy School and the Federal Executive Institute.

He joined the AOH (DC Division No. 1) in 1984; however, in 1986 he was reassigned overseas. In 1998 joined the Col. Cunningham Division where he served as vice president, president, and on numerous committees. He initiated the Trip for Two to Ireland raffle. He received our Order's Major Degrees (2000) and was the Virginia Hibernian of the Year in 2003. He transferred to the Gen. Meagher Division (2008) and served two terms as treasurer, four terms as president, chaired several committees, and currently publishes the newsletter. He received the Virginia St Columcille Award in 2011 and was honored to represent the AOH as a Marshal in the 2013 Washington D.C. St Patrick Day Parade. At the state level Bill served as appointed historian, veterans affairs chair, publicity chair and currently the political education chair. He was elected treasurer of the State Board in 2011 and "climbed the ladder" to become Virginia AOH state president for the 2017-19 term. In October 2019 he incorporated *The Irish Cultural Center of Virginia, Inc.* as a means to better promote Irish heritage, culture and traditions.

Bill's career included 20 years overseas and assignments in Washington, D.C., culminating as chief of operation, Defense Clandestine Service. Post retirement he was recruited as the Human Intelligence Mission Manager at Northrop Grumman. After five years with Northrop, he

established a consulting company and continued to support the SOF/HUMINT communities. Bill received a U.S. Army commission, served with the 5th Special Forces in Viet Nam and in numerous active/reserve positions, including attaché duty and brigade command. He is a graduate of the U.S. Army War College.

Bill and Lisa married in 1968 and have two adult daughters. The family enjoyed the extraordinary life experiences with Bill's overseas postings. He is a communicant at St Patrick Church where he serves as an Extraordinary Eucharistic Minister.

♣**Ed Hennessy, Chairman, Standing Committee:** Ed joined the AOH in April of 2019. He always wanted to be part of an Irish American Organization since my Family is predominantly made up of Irish immigrants who arrived in the US in the 1840's and 1850's.

A native of Queens, New York, he lived in New York City until he was 35 years old. Except for 3 years active duty with the US Navy in San Diego, he has only resided in Queens and Fredericksburg. Ed graduated from high school 1981 and worked for a neighbor who owned an AC/Heating company. While there he joined the Steamfitters Union Local 638B and attended City University New York night school studying History. He joined the US Navy to broaden his horizons, inspired by a quote from President Kennedy that if anyone asked what you had done with your life it would be sufficient to say: "I served my country in the US Navy". After being honorably discharged he returned to NYC and refocused his education on engineering studies and soon received an offer from Time Life (Time Warner) as a Mechanical Engineer in their Data Center on 6th Avenue, NYC.

He eventually became interested in Data Communications and worked for several companies in NYC. In 1996 he accepted a position with Travelers Insurance (Melville NY) and that lead to setting up a new data center in the Fredericksburg area. Through contacts in the Insurance industry he began work with GEICO Insurance as an IT consultant. In 2014 he was hired as a permanent full time Engineer with GEICO.

Ed's wife Kelly's family immigrated to the US in 1967 and we are close with her extended family in Northern Ireland. We still have most of our immediate family in the NYC area and visit several times a year.

♣**Chuck Gleason, Marshal:** Chuck joined AOH in 2019 and is the Meagher Division Marshal. Born in Cleveland OH, Chuck's family moved several times while growing up (Cincinnati OH, Charleston WV, Downingtown PA and finally settling in Williamsburg VA, where his father worked as a Real Estate Developer, building hotels and large housing developments.

After 20+ years in healthcare, Chuck runs an advisory and consulting firm to the healthcare industry. He has worked for Aetna, United Healthcare, Cleveland Clinic and other clinical research organizations. He has spoken at several industry associations and academic centers on Healthcare Innovation.

He graduated from Virginia Tech's Mechanical Engineering program with emphasis on Biomedical Engineering and Chemistry, and a Marshall Hahn Engineering Merit Scholar. He holds a Duke MBA with a specific focus on Corporate Finance, Strategy, and Accounting and a Fuqua Fellow. Once designed a hip implant for senior engineering project.

Chuck has been a volunteer throughout his career: As Lector, Eucharistic Minister, Finance Committee Member at several Catholic parishes. In college as Justice, College of Engineering VPI Honor System; Elected Senator, College of Engineering, Student Government Association. He belonged to Phi Kappa Sigma fraternity. Professionally as Finance Chair, Virginia Legislature's Joint Commission on Technology and Science (JCOTS), developing legislation for increasing funding for Development and Commercialization of new emerging technologies within Virginia.

When not working, Chuck is restoring a 200-year-old, 130 acre farm, “Liberty” in King George, VA. On the farm is one of the last cavalry remount stations built by the US Army in c1905. He and Josette enjoy international travel.

Still researching his complete Irish Heritage, his ancestors have fought in World War II with 101st Airborne Infantry, with Teddy Roosevelt’s Rough Riders in Cuba, the battle of Petersburg during the Civil War. Still trying to establish ancestral connections to Thomas Gleason of Boston and possibly Lady Godiva. Still looking for definite information that ties the early Gleasons to Tipperary Gleeson clan. Any information on sources in Ireland greatly appreciated.

Chuck is married to Josette Lourdes (nee Radelat), no children. He has five siblings (one deceased). His nephew is with US Army Intelligence in Korea and Afghanistan. He is expecting to be a grand uncle next spring.

♣**James Lenahan, Sentinel:** James is a senior at Massaponax High School. A third generation Hibernian, he joined the AOH in 2018 and received our Order’s Major Degrees in 2019. James is an Eagle Scout and an Altar Server at St Jude Catholic Church. He enjoys camping with the Boy Scouts, playing ultimate frisbee at school, reading, and playing video games. James plans attend college next year and study engineering.

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Again in 2019, the division collaborated with the National Park Service to commemorate the Battle of Fredericksburg. Edwin Hanson and Jeff Everrtt presented the AOH boxwood wreath at the Irish Brigade memorial.





***“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.”***

As we enter the new decade, the situation in the north of Ireland is of critical importance. To better understand the political climate, here’s a brief tutorial on the four major political parties of the north.

**The Democratic Unionist Party (DUP)** is a unionist political founded in 1971 during the Troubles by Ian Paisley. Since 2015 it has been led by Arlene Foster. It is the fifth-largest party in the House of Commons of the United Kingdom.

The DUP evolved from the Protestant Unionist Party. During the Troubles, the DUP were opposed to power-sharing with Irish nationalists or republicans as a means of resolving the conflict, and rejected attempts to involve the Republic of Ireland in Northern Irish affairs. It campaigned against the Good Friday Agreement of 1998. In 2006, the DUP agreed to share power with the republican party Sinn Féin who agreed to support the Police Service, courts, and rule of law.

The party has been linked to various loyalist paramilitary groups, such as the Ulster Resistance (URM), their stated mission is to "take direct action as and when required" to defeat republicanism.

The party described as right-wing and socially conservative. It is anti-abortion and opposes same-sex marriage. The DUP sees itself as defending Britishness and Ulster Protestant culture against Irish nationalism. The party supported the UK's withdrawal from the EU.

**Sinn Féin** was founded on 28 November 1905 "to establish in Ireland's capital a national legislature endowed with the moral authority of the Irish nation". It is a left-wing, democratic socialist (some say Marxist) Irish republican political party active in both the Republic of Ireland and in the north of Ireland. In February 2018, Mary Lou McDonald was announced as President of Sinn Féin and Michelle O'Neill was elected as Vice President. McDonald has made clear that her ambition is to be in government north and south – and is willing to work in coalition as the major or minor party of government in the southern jurisdiction, a shift in policy compared to Adams ambition to govern as a minority government in the Oireachtas.

Sinn Féin is opposed to Northern Ireland leaving the European Union and suggesting a referendum on the reunification of Ireland immediately, a stance reiterated by Mary Lou McDonald as a way of resolving the border issues raised by Brexit. Sinn Féin supports "critical

engagement with the EU" but has a "principled opposition" to a European superstate. It opposes an EU constitution because it would reduce the sovereignty of the member-states.

**The Social Democratic and Labor Party (SDLP)** is a social-democratic, Irish nationalist political party in Northern Ireland. The SDLP currently has 12 MLAs in the Northern Ireland Assembly and two MPs in Westminster. Since 2015 Colum Eastwood, an Irish nationalist, has led the SDLP. He was also the SDLP candidate in the 2019 European Parliament election to represent Northern Ireland. In December 2019 he was elected as Member of Parliament for Foyle.

The SDLP advocates Irish reunification and the further devolution of powers while Northern Ireland remains part of the United Kingdom. During the Troubles, the SDLP was the most popular Irish nationalist party in Northern Ireland, but since the Provisional IRA ceasefire in 1994, it has lost ground to Sinn Féin. Established during the Troubles, a significant difference between the SDLP and Sinn Féin is the SDLP's rejection of violence, in contrast to Sinn Féin's support for the Provisional IRA and physical force republicanism. Since February 2019, the SDLP have been in partnership with Fianna Fáil.

The SDLP was a key player in the talks throughout the 1990s that led to the Good Friday Agreement. In June 1998; the SDLP emerged as the second-largest party and the largest nationalist party, with 24 out of 108 seats. The SDLP took office alongside the Ulster Unionist Party (UUP), the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), and Sinn Féin, and the SDLP's Seamus Mallon became Deputy First Minister alongside the UUP's First Minister, David Trimble.

The SDLP and Sinn Féin sought speaking rights in Dáil Éireann, the lower house of the Republic's parliament. In 2005, Taoiseach Bertie Ahern leader of Fianna Fáil put forward a tentative proposal to allow MPs and MEPs from Northern Ireland to participate in debates on the region. However, it met with vociferous opposition from the Republic's main opposition parties Fine Gael and the Labor Party, and the plan was subsequently shelved.

There had been a debate on the prospects of a merger with Fianna Fáil (Rep of Ireland party founded by de Valera) and in January 2019, Fianna Fáil and the SDLP announced a partnership arrangement but insisted they were not merging and would retain distinct identities.

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**Ulster Unionist Party (UUP)** is a unionist party. Founded in the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries, the party governed Northern Ireland between 1921 and 1972. It is currently the fourth-largest party in Northern Ireland. It's political ideology favors the continued unity of England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland as one sovereign state. It was supported by most unionist voters throughout the conflict known as the Troubles. Steven Aiken has been the leader since November 2019. . The UUP maintained a formal connection with the Orange Order until 2005.

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### **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](mailto: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**, son of former FS Jeff Banks. Nolan is recovering from soft tissue sarcoma (RMS). *Pray for the intercession of Father Augustus Tolton, a candidate for canonization (the prayer: <http://www.toltoncanonization.org/prayer/canonizationprayer.html>)*
- **John Tracy**, COPD
- **Joe Daley**, COPD
- **John Hogan**, vascular irregularities
- **Bill Phillips**, severe arthritis
- **Gene McKenna** recovering from heart by-pass surgery
- **Brian Kiernan**, VAAOH Vice President, lymphedemic edema
- **Angelique Bolling**, Edwin Hanson's sister in law - brain tumors
- **Jake Ruppert's** mother, cancer -- recovering from surgery
- **John O'Brien** Hugh O'Brien's brother-- recovering from stroke
- **Jerry O'Brien**, Paul O'Brien's brother – cancer
- **Ruth Pettinger**, Shawn Lenahan's aunt (a Vietnam Vet) diagnosed with inoperable brain tumor.
- **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

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## General Meagher Division Attire

In a perfect world every brother would have these articles of clothing:

**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.

**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:**

Point of Contact for Division logo polo shirts, sweatshirts and ball caps is Shawn Lenahan ([s\\_lenahan@verizon.net](mailto:s_lenahan@verizon.net))

**Green Jacket:** Brothers procure their own green jackets. One source:

[http://blazerdepot.com/pages/mens\\_blazer/augustagreenblazer.html](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 waistline).

### **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](mailto: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.