



Ancient Order of
HIBERNIANS
Irish • Catholic • American



GENERAL MEAGHER'S DISPATCHES

February 2020

Volume 8/No.2

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)

February 1 is St Brigid's (451-525) feast day!

The Patron Saint for Irish nuns, newborn babies, midwives, dairymaids, and cattle

President's Corner:

Brothers,

Wow! The Hibernian Express train flew out of the station at the beginning of the year. This means there are a lot of activities coming up; a lot of work to do; and not much time to do it. A lot of rewarding work to raise funds for the charities that we support. The new officers are committed and the brothers, listed below, have volunteered to coordinate these events. But they can't do this without *your* help – it must be a team effort. I ask you to examine the list, determine where you can help, and contact these brothers, or any of the officers.

We owe these brothers our support, as well as our gratitude:

- Saint Patrick Day Festival -- coordinator is Brother **Ed Hennessy**.
- Trip for Two to Ireland raffle tickets -- coordinator is PDP **Shawn Lenahan**.
- Irish American Heritage Month at the libraries -- coordinator is PDP **Shawn Lenahan**.
- Division's Saint Patrick Mass on March 17 at St Patrick Church -- coordinator is Brother **John Hogan**.
- Elementary school's Saint Patrick coloring contest -- coordinators are PDP **Shawn Lenahan** and Brothers **John Hogan** and **Jack Grey**
- Shamrock Charity Golf Classic on May 4th -- coordinators are DP **Dave McLaughlin**, PDP **Jim O'Donnell**, and Brother **Al Sauter**.
- **Coordinator needed** -- The Halfway to Saint Patrick Day Celebration in September

Please reflect deeply to determine how you will share your God-given talents and time in support of our motto.

In Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity.

Brother Dave McLaughlin

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**Religious Freedom 2020**

In the late 18<sup>th</sup> century (1777) Thomas Jefferson established the principle that “no man shall suffer on account of his religious opinions or beliefs.” That Virginia statute was incorporated into the U.S. Constitution as the First Amendment of the Bill of Rights.

The Ancient Order of Hibernians traces its heritage of religious freedom to the mid-16<sup>th</sup> century (1565) in Ireland and to the dark days of the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century (1836) in America when Irish Catholics organized in opposition to anti-Catholic and anti-Irish prejudice and violence.



Photo by Neil Buttimer

The weather on January 12, 2020 was perfect -- warm and sunny -- for the 243rd anniversary of Jefferson’s Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom.

Five General Meagher Division brothers attended the ceremony. So here’s a *Tip of the Hat* to the five: Division President *Dave McLaughlin*, who marched from the train station to the Religious Freedom Monument and *Neil Buttimer*, *Peter Carroll* and *Bill Halpin*. Father Don Rooney, who remains on our division roster, was the featured speaker. Dave was interviewed by a *Free Lance Star* reporter. This is what he said:

“Jefferson’s work is timeless, and although there are struggles associated with religious differences and beliefs, the historic document has survived the challenges to benefit all Americans. Jefferson’s document became the bedrock, the foundation of what became freedom of religion as espoused in the First Amendment. It’s a beautiful document, it’s survived centuries of challenge, and we’ve dealt with it. The document has worked over the centuries.”



Sometimes we need perspective... My longtime colleague and friend lives in Canberra, Australia. The massive fires are currently (29 Jan) about six miles from his home. He’s ready to evacuate. He has roots in Belfast and may be heading that way.

He’s sent photos and updates for the past few weeks. I think we can relate to this one that shows the area the fires have consumed (light green) relative to Ireland . . . a better perspective than the 30 second sound bite reports we see on the evening news.





## Four Chaplains Day...The Story

On ***Feb. 3, 1943***, an enemy torpedo struck the Army transport ship *Dorchester* as sailed across the North Atlantic. Onboard were 902 officers and enlisted men, merchant seamen and civilian workers.

As *Dorchester* took on water, four Army chaplains – Lt. George L. Fox (Methodist), Lt. Alexander D. Goode (Jewish), Lt. John P. Washington (Roman Catholic), and Lt. Clark V. Poling (Dutch Reformed) – calmed frightened soldiers, aided the wounded and guided the disoriented toward safety.

On deck they opened a storage locker and began distributing life jackets. When there were no more the chaplains removed their life jackets and gave them to four young men. “It was the finest thing I have seen or hope to see this side of heaven,” said John Ladd, a survivor.

As the ship went down, men in rafts saw the four chaplains, arms linked and braced against the slanting deck, singing hymns and praying. The Coast Guard cutter escorts *Comanche* and *Escanaba* rescued only 230 men.

Congress attempted to confer the Medal of Honor on the chaplains but was prevented by strict requirements of heroism under fire. It authorized a one-time posthumous Special Medal for Heroism, awarded by President Eisenhower in 1961; it was intended to have the same weight and importance as the Medal of Honor.

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Why Irish Single Malt Whiskeys Deserve Your Attention

by Jake Emen, Published January 27, 2020 in *VinePair* (*edited for Dispatches*)

When people think of buying single malt whiskies, Scotland probably come to mind. Yet the originators of whiskey itself — the Irish — are making a wide range of excellent single malts, with a modern renaissance now matching their storied history and tradition.

“[Jameson](#) has been the top for the category, but there are more new single malt releases. “People are discovering, enjoying, and — perhaps most importantly — valuing Irish single malts in a way that was long reserved for Scotch.”

While [Irish whiskey](#) flourished for centuries, its modern story has been one of economic downturn and depression that nearly killed off the industry, while the survivors produced a more narrow breadth of styles with mass-market appeal. “Strong corporate forces have for decades influenced what people believe Irish whiskey ought to be, as opposed to what the global consumer actually wants,”

Eventually there were only two distilleries in Ireland, both under one corporate umbrella. One of those survivors is [The Old Bushmills Distillery](#), and today Bushmills is at the forefront of the movement to push forward quality and innovation. “We always say, ‘we’re not good because we’re old, we’re old because we’re good’,” says master blender Helen Mulholland.

Bushmills’ lineup includes 10 year, 16 year, and 21 year old expressions, along with limited-edition releases, such as the Distillery Exclusive. Irish single malts are growing in popularity as more people discover that Irish whiskey is wonderfully approachable.

At Waterford Distillery, the focus is exclusively on single malt and an ambitious initiative to highlight and differentiate the flavor of different types of barley along with the impact of terroir. That means making single malt whiskey and making the best expression of barley. Ireland it is perhaps the best barley-growing region in the world.

There are dozens of upstart distilleries in Ireland and many of them are showcasing the potential of Irish single malt whiskey. They’re joining Bushmills to make (single malt) an exciting mix of history and heritage while recreating a thriving industry.

Five Irish Single Malts to Try

Bushmills 21 Year Old

Christmas cake in liquid form, with zesty orange peel, spicy oak, chocolate, toffee, and dried fruits all mingling together. The whiskey is aged for 19 years in a combination of bourbon and sherry casks and is then finished for its final two years of maturation in Madeira casks.

Tyrconnell 16 Year Old Oloroso & Moscatel Cask Finish

This limited-edition expression from Tyrconnell was released in summer 2019. The whiskey is finished in casks that first held oloroso sherry and then were further seasoned with Moscatel wine. The resulting flavor is an enticing combination of honey, fruits, and spice.

Teeling Single Malt

[Teeling's](#) self-distilled single malt, currently a non-age statement whiskey, is matured in a combination of five different wine casks, providing a complex base of rich, fruity flavors. Of course, should you be able to find any of the limited Teeling single malts bearing names such as Reserve, Revival, or Renaissance, snatch them up, too.

Glendalough 13 Year Mizunara Cask Finish

[Glendalough](#) took one of its core whiskeys, a sourced 13 year old single malt, and finished it in prized Japanese Mizunara oak casks. Though a limited release from 2018, you can still track down some remaining bottles that sport Mizunara's trademark incense and spice flavors.

Knappogue Castle 12 Year

The 12 year from [Knappogue Castle](#) is Murphy's go-to choice in the category, with the festival founder saying, "This is a favorite of mine, and the best part? You can pick up a bottle for under \$50." The bottle shows easy-sipping maturity beyond its age.

Waterford Distillery Single Farm Origin Series*

Keep looking for the initial offering from Waterford. The Single Farm Origin Series will be a side-by-side release showcasing the differences in terroir, and taste, between single malt distillate made from barley grown on two different farms.

**Expected availability: summer 2020.*

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*“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.”*

# A Citizen's Assembly on a United Ireland



*Irish-America*, by Sharon Ní Chonchúir, contributor (December / January 2020)

## **A united Ireland seems more possible now than at any point in our history**

“Brexit has catapulted this issue forward,” says Pádraig Ó Muirigh, advisor to the Republican Sinn Féin Party. “There is a real sense that we’re living in historical times.” In October, U.K. Prime Minister Boris Johnson effectively agreed to place the de facto future border in the sea between mainland Britain and Northern Ireland. This put both Irelands – the Republic and Northern Ireland – in one economic zone. It also showed Unionists that the English Conservatives considered them expendable. In the Republic, Taoiseach Varadkar has said that Irish unification is something that he would like to see in his lifetime, but only with the consent of the majority of people in Northern Ireland. A group calling itself Ireland’s Future – consisting of 1,000 academics, artists, and public figures, including musicians Christy Moore and Mary Black – made an official request to the Taoiseach in October. It asked him to establish a citizen’s assembly on a united Ireland, in the hopes of holding a referendum on the issue in the near future. The government responded by saying that now was not the time for such action, but that it would consider the issue further.

A recent poll carried out in Northern Ireland found that 46 percent of people would vote for a united Ireland, while 45 percent would vote for the North to remain in the U.K. When those who said they didn’t know or wouldn’t vote were excluded, it broke down as 51 percent for unification and 49 percent against. Some 69 percent said they felt Brexit had made Irish unity more likely in the foreseeable future. ♦

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Upcoming Events

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!

February 18: Division meeting

1-31 March: Irish American Heritage Month

Libraries: The 2020 theme is Irish signers of the Declaration of Independence (**Need volunteers!**)

- ✓ **3-5 March:** (12-6PM) CRRL main library (Caroline Street)
- ✓ **10- 12 March:** (2-6PM) Howell Branch Library (off Rt 17 near Geico)
- ✓ **17-19 March:** (12-6PM) Salem Church Branch Library (Note: Muggivan School is put on an Irish Dance exhibition on 18 or 19 March)

7 March: Alexandria Parade A great event; all Meagher Division brothers are encouraged to march behind our division banner

9 March: The **42d Annual Gaelic Mass** (42d annual?) will be celebrated at St Thomas More Cathedral, Arlington at 7:30PM. This Mass is celebrated in the Irish language. Entertainment in the parish hall follows Mass (we generally carpool to this)

14 March: CANCELLED 18th Annual Jeff Fitzpatrick Memorial St. Patrick's Day Parade – unilaterally and without consultations cancelled by the Adventure Brewery. The Bowman Distillery followed suit and the Irish Festival was cancelled as well.

TBD: Trip for Two to Ireland raffle kick-off

17 March: The **Division Mass** at St Patrick Church 6:30PM. Fellowship will follow at a nearby establishment.

28 March: First quarterly Virginia **AOH State Meeting** hosted by Col Fitzgerald Division. Meeting starts at 9:30AM at the Knights of Columbus house, 5115 Little Falls Road, Arlington.

30 March: "**Welcome Home Viet Nam Veterans Day**"

4 May: **Seventh Shamrock Charity Golf Classic** at Meadows Farms Golf Course. (AM shotgun start)

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**Our DIVISION Prayers**



**Jack Grey chairs the Division Committee of the Sick:** 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 double 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)

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 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

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.