



Ancient Order of  
**HIBERNIANS**  
Irish • Catholic • American



## **GENERAL MEAGHER'S DISPATCHES**

June 2020

Volume 8/No.6

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### **14 JUNE: THE U.S. ARMY'S 245<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY**

Some Facts about our Army:

- The U.S Army is older than the United States
- Twenty-four U.S Presidents served in the United States Army
- Army Special Forces are deployed in about 135 countries

[The Army Song \(with lyrics\) performed by The United States Army Band w scrolling](#)

### **President's Corner:**

My Brothers,

Cautious optimism and forward momentum characterized the month of May. We continued to be socially limited and most are still separated from our Lord in Holy Communion and in fellowship with our Hibernians Brothers. On the other hand, things are beginning to improve -- in our area, we are on the eve of entering Phase 2 of the governor's recovery plan.

We held a virtual division business meeting on Tuesday, May 26<sup>th</sup>. However, because the meeting was conducted virtually it was somewhat different from our normal 'closed' meetings. We used a modified agenda (for example, discussion of financial details). The meeting was less than desired: there was miscommunication about the start time and some attendees, most notably the Recording Secretary, could hear but not be heard. Hopefully, we won't have to meet this way again but will be able to conduct our next meeting at the Knights of Columbus hall. Stand by for details.

I am pleased to report that Parish activities are getting back on track:

-- The schools did conduct this year's Saint Patrick coloring contest in March before the schools shutdown. Prizes and certificates will be presented to the winning students.

-- Annual Scholastic Awards will be presented to two students as usual this month.

-- Annual youth summer work camps will be conducted by the individual parishes (not at the usual Diocese level). We will provide financial assistance as in the past.

Our two fund raising efforts will continue:

-- The seventh annual Shamrock Charity Golf Classic has been rescheduled for September 28<sup>th</sup> which is the last Monday of the month.

-- We need to ramp up our efforts to sell raffle tickets to make up for lost time. I request all parish reps to schedule weekends in the coming months when we can sell our annual Trip for Two to Ireland raffle tickets after masses. Even if we find we have to cancel any of the weekends due to virus-related restrictions, we will at least have them on the church calendars. **BTW** the Lt Col Dowd Division (Woodbridge) will be supporting our raffle ticket sales!

Finally, the division needs an Organizer to lead our recruiting and retention efforts. It is obvious that this function is extremely important. We also need a brother to take over as the liaison officer at St. Patrick Parish. Brother John Hogan will be there during the transition and as a back-up.

*Sláinte* and In Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,

Dave McLaughlin



**John Hogan**, long time parish liaison to St. Patrick Parish will be leaving that post. John has done amazing work at St. Patrick coordinating with the school administration to support our donation of age appropriate Irish history library books, organizing after Mass raffle ticket sales, representing the Division at school graduations ceremonies and assuring Meagher Division scholastic awards are properly presented, coordinating the Division's annual IAHM Mass, and last but not least managing the St Patrick Coloring Contest. John's wife Lynne did a magnificent

job creating beautiful, green and gold “Leprechaun purses” to hold the golden dollar coins given to coloring contest winners. *John, we applaud your work at St Patrick!*



## **We're saying Farewell to Father Jerry Wooton.**

Father Wooton has served as our Division Chaplain for the past three years. He has been a mainstay as our religious compass and spiritual advisor to the Brothers of this Division. Father Wooton made himself available to attend most meeting and he celebrated our annual Irish American Heritage Month Mass, as well as our annual Memorial Mass each November. We'll miss his short, meaningful, and sometimes humorous homilies. Father Wooton will transfer to Holy Spirit Parish in Annandale later this month. St Patrick Parish will definitely miss his presence.



## Irish Brigade: Did You Know?

After the battle at Bull Run, the 69<sup>th</sup> regiment was re-enlisted and re-formed as the 69<sup>th</sup> New York State Volunteers. Captain Thomas Francis Meagher was commissioned colonel and the War Department authorized him raise four more regiments to form a brigade. Col. Meagher formed the Irish Brigade – a name chosen not merely to describe the nationality of its men, but also in honor and remembrance of the men who had gained a reputation for valor during the preceding

century in the French Army where names like Fontenoy<sup>1</sup> and other great European battle-fields flew among their battle-ribbons.

The original Irish Brigade was dissolved in 1791. In 1792, Count de Provence (later Louie XVIII) presented them with a 'farewell banner' embroidered with an Irish Harp, shamrocks and fluer-de-lis. The future French King said:

*“We acknowledge the inappreciable services that France has received from the Irish Brigade in the course of the last 100 years; receive this Standard as a pledge of our remembrance, a monument of our admiration, and our respect; and in future, generous Irishmen, this shall be the motto of your spotless flag: Semper et ubique Fidelis (Always and Everywhere Faithful)”*



*“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*

### ***Is It Time for AOH Acknowledge the 800 Pound Gorilla in the Room?***

Our April 2020 edition contained an article on Irish politics (*Self Determination in a reunified Ireland – Think Again*). It described the political positions of the variety of parties vying to key positions in the north of Ireland and eventually in a united Irish Republic.

As Hibernians we are descended from Irish men and women. As Catholics we pray for an end to the scourge of abortion and believe the sacrament of marriage is a union of a man and a woman. Also, as Hibernians, we work through Freedom for

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<sup>1</sup> Battle of Fontenoy (France) in 1745.

All Ireland (FFAI) and other activities for a peaceful unification of the island. As was pointed out at the 2018 AOH National Convention, unification includes the “right to self-determination”. You all know the old saying – “*Be careful what you wish for.*” Maybe Niall O'Dowd's latest book *A New Ireland* will explain how the most conservative country in Europe became the most liberal.

As Hibernians, how do we reconcile the idea that Ian Paisley’s Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) is more in line with our religious beliefs than any of the “traditional” parties we American Irish have supported for decades?

Closer to home, National AOH will confer the 2020 John F. Kennedy Award on Congressman Brendan Boyle of Philadelphia. The JFK Award is the AOH’s most prestigious award. BTW, our Virginia State Chaplain submitted his resignation ... what a shame. For more information visit ([www.aohvirginia.org](http://www.aohvirginia.org)).



***Mark Your Calendars!***

***But keep in mind the Virginia governor frequently changes the rules. He had extended the “stay at home order” until at least 10 Jun , but now that’s changed to Phase II beginning 5 June!***

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

***9 June: Scheduled “Irish Night” with FredNats – suspended until further notice.***

***23-26 July:*** AOH National Convention in Orlando, FL is cancelled. In lieu of Orlando, there will be a virtual meeting. This will be a two day event (four hours each day). Dates, times and related information is TBA.

***28 September: The Shamrock Charity Golf Classic*** will be held at Meadows Golf Course.

***Date TBD: The 2020 Halfway to St Patrick Day Celebration***





## 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:

- **John Hogan**, Pulmonary Fibrosis
- **Joe Daley**, COPD
- **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
- **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 (Vietnam Vet) inoperable brain tumor.
- **Donna Maffeo**, Joe Monaghan's sister-in-law and his father Joseph Sr. caregiver 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
- **Nolan Banks**, son of former FS Jeff Banks. Nolan is recovering from soft tissue sarcoma (RMS). *Pray for the intercession of Fr. Augustus Tolton, a candidate for canonization:*

<http://www.toltoncanonization.org/prayer/canonizationprayer.html>)



### 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.