



Ancient Order of
HIBERNIANS
Irish • Catholic • American



GENERAL MEAGHER'S DISPATCHES

August 2020

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President: Dave McLaughlin **Chaplain** Vacant; **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)

It is vitally important that every brother sells raffle tickets.

Volunteers needed for sales at St Patrick Church 16 Aug & 6 Sept

President's Corner:

My Brothers,

I pray that this finds each of you, your families and your friends healthy and coping well with our current realities. Like me, I hope you agree that things continue to improve and can be grateful for that.

We will conduct our monthly meeting of the division on Tuesday, August 18th at 7:30 PM, as scheduled. It will be a 'virtual' meeting; details about how to connect will be sent out.

Because there has been little organized AOH activity of late, you should be able to concentrate on *your* individual efforts to support our ongoing and essential fundraising events:

- The sale of Trip for Two to Ireland raffle tickets. Brother Shawn has sent you tickets to sell to friends, family, neighbors, acquaintances and strangers.
- The seventh annual Shamrock Charity Golf Classic has been rescheduled for the last Monday in September, the 28th. Golfer or not, you have a role getting people to play in the event and/or be a contributing sponsor.

Finally, about one third of our brothers are from the parish of Saint Patrick but, to date, not one of you has stepped forward to replace Brother John Hogan as your parish liaison. The time required to be the liaison is very manageable and spread out over the year.

Slainte, and In Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,

Dave McLaughlin



2020 Biennial AOH Virtual Convention

Using Zoom (Version 5.1¹), the virtual convention was a great success. The Hibernians who technically engineered the convention deserve high praise. The convention was held in increments -- 4-5 hours each day for five days (17-18 July; 22 July; and 24-25 July). On average about 275-300 Hibernians were logged in a any given time. Some stats of interest: Hibernian presence is in all 50 states; there r 390 divisions, about 35,000 brothers. We elected the new National Board: President Danny O’Connell (Ohio), Vice President Sean Pender (NJ), Secretary Jere Cole (NJ no change) and Treasurer Liam McNabb (New York). We also elected six National Directors. None are from our area and their assignments will be posted on the national website.

Guest speakers included Ambassador Mulhall, and in live feeds from Ireland Sinn Féin President Mary Lou McDonald, Mairtin O Muilleoir (a Sinn Féin member), Bishop Phonsie (no kidding) from Waterford, Ireland; Malachy McAllister, and Peadar Tóibín.

Tóibín was of particular interest. He is the founder of *Aontú*, Ireland’s newest and “fastest growing” political movement. Tóibín resigned from Sinn Féin in November

2018 citing his pro-life/anti-abortion views as incompatible with the Sinn Féin agenda. He formally launched *Aontú* in January 2019. It operates in all 32 counties. *Aontú* translates to “unity” and the party’s major objective is the unity of Irish people north and south. I encourage you to visit <https://aontu.ie/> to learn more about this alternative to the other political options in Ireland.

Hibernian Brother Malachy McAllister related the story of his deportation experience. An incredible story of how ICE treated him after he voluntarily reported for deportation and how he was warmly greeted upon arrival in Dublin.

Conventioneers voted on several proposed constitutional amendments. They will be published on the National AOH website. The most contentious amendment pertained to Article XXVI, the JFK Award. One proposed change was removal of the requirement that persons nominating a candidate for the JFK award “*certify that nominees do not stand in opposition to the moral principles espoused by the Ancient Order of Hibernians*”. Fortunately, this amendment failed. Had it passed the door would be opened to nominees who may promote moralities inconsistent with our Hibernian-Catholic principles. Another proposed change designed to reinforce/expand the current rule was defeated.

The idea that the AOH presented the 2020 JFK Award to a Pennsylvania politician whose official website presents positions that oppose our principles is another step on the “slippery slope”. [**Editor’s Note:** When I joined the AOH in 1984, the membership application stipulated that applicants must be *practical* Catholics. Early in this century “practical” was changed to “practicing” offering a degree of interpretation. In retrospect that may have been the first step on the “slippery slope”.] Most concerning were the several specious arguments in favor of the proposed amendment. Incredibly, one proponent cherry-picked quotes from Pope Francis to argue in favor of removing the certification requirement. These men based their position on specific agendas while appearing to disregard the basic principles of our Hibernian pledge and Catholic faith.

Other topics included:

- Reminder that Life Membership nominations originate at the division. Nominees should have a minimum of 25 years in the Order.
- Need to use social media more, specifically Instagram and Twitter to raise our profile and recruit younger men

- We need to be in contact with both sides of the Congressional aisle to further immigration and related Irish issues
- Need to take seriously reporting our volunteer hours
- In divisions w/o an appointed Organizer, the president must assume the responsibility
- National Board established a “Digital Coordinator” who will define website standards, visit division and state websites to identify inappropriate material, and offer advice and assistance.
- FFAI Christmas Appeal chair prefers that state boards consolidate multiple division contributions of less than \$1000
- Five resolutions passed: AOH rededication to protection of our faith and church property; Hunger Strikers Legacy; Justice for Irish Victims of British attacks; Support for Malachy McAllister; and 2020 Election Participation (details posted on National website)



Trip For Two Raffle Tickets

It is vitally important that every brother sells tickets!

On 19 July, your brothers sold tickets at St Patrick Church. Given the limited number of parishioners permitted to attend each Mass, Shawn Lenahan reported that we did “fairly well”. Joining Shawn were Dick Dowd, Bob Fitzgerald, Bill Halpin and Jack Kelly. We may have recruited three new brothers (they have applications) and renewed the interest of two previous applicants.



Bob and Jack are selling tickets like hotcakes -- it was about 100° that day!

Traditionally after Mass sales have been a major source of revenue. This will not be the case in 2020. *All of us must sell as many tickets as possible.* We are scheduled to return to St Patrick on 16 Aug and 6 Sept. (As of today, the division is obligated to provide \$1500 (one Scholastic Award) and \$2500 (raffle winner).



Continuing the theme of Irish enslaved...

The Irish of Jamaica from *Irish America*, by Ray Cavanaugh, downloaded 8 Feb 2020 and edited for Meagher's Dispatches

Irish is Jamaica's second-most predominant ethnicity.

Between 1641 and 1652, about half the Irish population had been wiped out by war, famine, plague, and slavery. As part of his "Western Design," Lord Protector Oliver Cromwell was expanding his power in the Caribbean. He purposefully enslaved the Irish and transported them to the West Indies.

- Elliott O'Donnell's 1915 book *The Irish Abroad* paints a vivid scene: "Gangs of [Cromwell's] soldiers invaded Connaught and pouncing on all the women and girls they could find, drove them in gangs to Cork." At Cork, the slave catchers began to assess their plunder, among other activities.
- Lerone Bennett, Jr.'s 1969 *Ebony* magazine article, "*White Servitude in America*" mentions various colonial undertakings involving white cargo, including a special 1655 project to bring "some 1,000 young Irish girls to Jamaica for breeding purposes." His article talks about a colonial tradition that saw "whites, blacks, and reds" being "sold from the same stand."
- John P. Prendergast's 1868 work *The Cromwellian Settlement of Ireland* tells of a 1654 law requiring "all wanderers, men and women, and such other Irish" who were lacking a "settled course of industry" be "transported to the West Indies." Also ordered for transport were "all prisoners" and "such children as were in hospitals or workhouses."
- James C. Ballagh's 1895 work *White Servitude in the Colony of Virginia* says: "Oliver Cromwell in preparing for his settlement of Ireland did not hesitate to transport large numbers of the dispossessed Irish as slaves to the West Indies."
- Rev. John Lynch writing in the 1660s authored *Cambrensis Eversus*. He describes the Caribbean-bound Irish: "many droves of old men and youths [and] a vast multitude of virgins and matrons ... the former might pass their

lives in hard slavery, and the latter maintain themselves even by their own prostitution.” Lynch added: “Many priests are sent away to the islands of the Indies that they might be sold by auction.”

- G. Robert Wynne, an Anglican minister, in his Sixth Donnellan Lecture in 1901, remarked: “The victories of Cromwell in the English and Irish wars of the Long Parliament furnished thousands of white slaves to till the fertile Jamaican valleys.”

Catholicism was suppressed in Jamaica faded away within a few generations. However, other signs of Irishness took hold. Among them is the prominence of Irish surnames. In Jamaica today the names Burke, Collins, Kennedy, Mackey, McCormack, McDermott, McKeon, O’Hare, or Walsh, along with many others are commonplace.

Some of the most eminent Jamaicans have been of Irish extraction. Among these are Alexander Bustamante, Jamaica’s first prime minister whose father, Robert Constantine Clarke, was an Irishman, and Claude McKay, the native Jamaican writer who later would migrate to New York City and help spark the Harlem Renaissance.

You might be interested in reading: *TO HELL OR BARBADOS*, by Seán O’Callaghan, publish by Brandon (Co Kerry) in 2000 and *WHITE CARGO*, Don Jordan and Michael Walsh, published by NY Univ. Press, 2007.



“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

Irish history book for you to consider:

I just finished *The Graves Are Walking (The Great Famine and the Saga of the Irish People)*, by John Kelly, published in 2012. Thoroughly researched, well written book detailing the depravity of English decision making during the Great Hunger and the disastrous impact those decisions had on the Irish.



Upcoming Events

Mark Your Calendars -- But keep in mind we're in Phase II so all is tentative!

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

18 August: Virtual Division meeting at 7:30 PM. Instructions on joining the meeting to follow.

19 September Trip for Two to Ireland Raffle Drawing (probably at the Colonial Tavern)

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



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//540-373-4496).

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

- **Rusty O'Brien**, undergoing radiation treatments for prostate cancer
- **John Hogan**, pulmonary fibrosis
- **Joe Daley**, COPD
- **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. care giver for his mother and uncle (dementia/Alzheimer)
- **Amy Whittaker** – cancer
- **Nolan Banks**, son of former FS Jeff Banks. Nolan's chemotherapy treatments for soft tissue sarcoma (RMS) resulted in a compromised immune system. *Pray for the intercession of Fr. Augustus Tolton*, a candidate for canonization:
<http://www.toltoncanonization.org/prayer/canonizationprayer.html>)



General Meagher Division Attire

Every brother should 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.

¹According to experts, Zoom Version 5 or better has overcome the objections I've had to using this platform.