



Ancient Order of
HIBERNIANS
Irish • Catholic • American



GENERAL MEAGHER'S DISPATCHES

February 2021

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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:** Vacant; **Marshal:** Chuck Gleason; **Sentinel:** James Lenahan; **Webmaster:** Vacant; **Organizer:** Vacant; **Newsletter Editor:** Bill Halpin (sisconsulting@comcast.net)

February 1st is the feast day of St. Brigid of Ireland. St. Brigid, St. Patrick and St. Columcille, are Ireland's three patron saints. She was a nun, abbess, and founder of several monasteries. St. Brigid's Cross, made from straw, is placed in homes for blessing and protection. Her feast day is the traditional beginning of spring in Ireland.



President's Corner:

My Brothers,

Typically, at this time of the year we are ramping up to 'make it happen' once again during the coming spring. This year, however, is quite different. We are still sorting out what we will be able to do next month during Irish American Heritage Month. How will we celebrate Saint Patrick? What sort of festivities will there be? Any parades? What can we do instead of our annual outreach in the local libraries?

Your officers are working hard to be creative and flexible. I ask you to do the same. Please give us your ideas and suggestions and when, as this year's activities come together, demonstrate your flexibility and your willingness to support and actively participate in our division activities.

As always, in Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,

Brother Dave McLaughlin



U.S. Special Envoy to Northern Ireland

This critical position was vacant for three years until the appointment of Mick Mulvaney in March 2020. Special Envoy Mulvaney resigned on 7 January 2021 and so, it is vacant once again. Today, the position is as critical as in was in 1997-98 when George Mitchell chaired negotiations resulting in the Good Friday Agreement. Now, as BREXIT is finalized and Irish internal relationships and the island's connection to the European Union are being established, the U.S. voice in Irish negotiations may be more important.

I've asked every Virginia Hibernian to write to Senator Kaine in his capacity on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Urge him to make Mulvaney's replacement a top priority in the new administration. [Contact Tim | U.S. Senator Tim Kaine of Virginia \(senate.gov\)](#)

Presidents Day is February 15th

This is a good time to remember our Past Division Presidents, men whose selfless dedication to our Order is sometimes overlooked:

John S. Ahearn* (1987, 1988)	Bob Sullivan (2002, 2003)
John F. Parker (1989)	Bob Ghormley (2004, 2005, 2006)
John W. Cook (1990)	Bruce Denault* (2007, 2008, 2009)
Dr. Harry Crisp (1991, 1992)	Bill Halpin* (2010, 2011, 2012, 2013)
Phil Booty (1993)	Bill McCarthy (2014)
Bill Callahan (1994)	Jim O'Donnell (2015)
Hugh O'Brien* (1995, 1996, 1997)	Andy Link (2016) Note: Kevin Doyle elected but resigned.
James Hagerty (1998)	Shawn Lenahan (2017, 2018, 2019)
Mike McGee (1999, 2000, 2001)	

*Served eight years on state board culminating a Virginia AOH State President



You can *Shop Irish* by clicking: <http://www.shopirish.com>



“Anything for a T-Shirt” !

On Saturday, January 23rd eight brothers held an unofficial gathering at the Maltese Brewery. We were there to witness one of our own take on The Maltese Brewery Signal One Challenge. Shawn used his iron will (*and stomach*) and succeed he did! He was a little worse for the wear and didn't linger.

Genealogy Anyone?

Also, the group discussed genealogy and as a result thought is being given to inviting Shannon Combs-Bennett, a genealogy author and lecturer back for another discussion. Her last visit to the division was in April 2015. Take a look at what she provided to us then:



Ireland Genealogy
Handout.docx



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. There can be neither truce nor compromise.



You probably thought the meaning has to do with extreme good fortune, but originally the phrase had a different connotation. According to Edward T. O'Donnell, an Associate Professor of History at Holy Cross College, the term is not Irish in origin.

During the gold and silver rush years in the late 19th century, a number of the most famous and successful miners were Irish and Irish-Americans. Over time this association of the Irish with mining fortunes led to the expression ***"Luck of the Irish"***. ***But***, it was a derisive term intimating only by sheer luck, as opposed to brains and ability, could these Irish fools succeed. (Makes me wonder if the confusion between the Irish shamrock and the four leaf clover symbol of good luck, is tied in there somewhere?)



Irish American Heritage Month

For decades, the Meagher Division has created awareness and celebrated IAHM with an annual St Patrick Day parade, an Irish festival, presentations spanning three weeks in local libraries, and speaking engagements hosted by other fraternal groups (VFW, etc.). In past years we've collaborated with Blue & Grey Brewery, A. Smith Bowman Distillery, the Colonial Tavern – home to the Irish Brigade and the National Park Service.

As was the case in 2020, none of the "routine" IAHM activities will be possible in 2021. So, we've sought alternatives. The Free Lance Star has agreed to publish one article in the Communities Section and another on the Opinion page. These are under construction at this time. Also, although we cannot be physically present at the local libraries, they will feature IAHM, will review content we'd like to share for their blog, and have solicited our recommendations for a booklist .

Every brother has the opportunity to celebrate Irish American Heritage Month. Be visible in your communities as proud Irishmen. If you're vaccinated (or not), **wear your green jacket** to Mass every Sunday in March.



Upcoming Division Events



Government restrictions make everything tentative!

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

February 16th: Division virtual meeting will begin at 7:30PM

March 1st : **Irish American Heritage Month begins!**

March 15th: **43rd Annual Gaelic Mass 7:30PM**, Cathedral of St. Thomas More, 3901 Cathedral Lane, Arlington, VA. (we usually car pool)



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@yahoo.com//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 and more recently diagnosed with Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma; John started chemotherapy in January.
- **Peter Carroll:** Currently undergoing chemotherapy for pancreatic cancer.
- **Rusty O'Brien:** completed radiation for prostate cancer, remains under observation.
- **Joe Daley:** COPD
- **Brian Kiernan:** VAAOH Vice President, lymphedemic edema
- **Gene McKenna:** recovering from by-pass surgery in Dec 2019.

- **Loretta Larzelere:** Bob Fitzgerald’s sister-in-law suffering seizures and Alzheimer’s
- **Norma Cristiano:** Dan Mulhern’s 91 year old mother-in-law, fractured back and hip injury suffered in a fall.
- **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:** Shawn Lenahan’s friend (cancer)
- **Nolan Banks:** Former FS Jeff Banks’ son (chemo-compromised immune system)

Pray for the intercession of Venerable Father Augustus Tolton:
<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 Masses, funerals, dinners, parades, State and National conventions, 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 "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.

