



Ancient Order of
HIBERNIANS
Irish • Catholic • American



GENERAL MEAGHER'S DISPATCHES

January 2021

Volume 9/No. 01

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)

EXTRA! EXTRA!

It will be a Happy New Year! Now we know... BREXIT and Ireland

Irish Foreign Minister Simon Coveney: The GFA & Peace Process has been protected, peace funding has been protected, no return to hard border, Ireland's place in the EU single market has been protected, and no tariffs or quotas on trade

Irish Prime Minister Micheál Martin expressed relief after Britain agreed a last-minute trade deal with the EU. He said: "I believe the agreement reached today is the least bad version of Brexit possible".

President's Corner

My Brothers,

I don't know about you but I feel much better writing 2021, vice 2020! Here's to a blessed and healthy New Year.

On your behalf, I am proud to thank your elected officers for their hard work this year. Other key players are the committee chairs who engineer and lead our activities, such as IAHM, parish support and scholastic awards; as well as our two fundraisers: the Tickets for Two to Ireland raffle and the Shamrock Charity Golf Classic. Due to the pandemic, they faced never-ending obstacles that forced them to make abrupt and significant changes throughout the year. Of course, none of these accomplishments would have happened without *your* active participation, support and donations.

Some of you were less able to participate and contribute your time and energy this past year and that is understandable. As circumstances are forecast to improve this year, however, I ask each of you to

make a sincere New Year's resolution to actively support our division in all its efforts. 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.

Slainte, and in Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,

Brother Dave McLaughlin



We did not have opportunity to honor our deceased brothers at a Memorial Mass in 2019, so as we begin a new Fraternal Year, please take a moment to remember them now

John A'Hearn
Phil Booty
Ronald Cullen
John Cunningham
David Coon
Ed Crenshaw
Jeff Fitzpatrick
William Fitzpatrick
Richard Fleming

John A. Glancy
Thomas G. Leahy
Mick Lenihan
Jim Mannion
Francis Maxey
Joseph McCardell
Bill McCarthy
Neil Mulcahy
Rev. Fr. John Munley

Joe O'Connor
John O'Toole
John L. Parker
Larry Pratt
John Tracy

(if I've inadvertently left a name off the list, please let me know).



What Pandemic?

Yes, the General Thomas F. Meagher Division modified fund raising plans for 2020. However, Division brothers working diligently throughout the year raised the funds we needed to meet our charity goals. Tremendous community support for our *Seventh Annual Shamrock Charity Golf Classic* and our *Twelfth Annual Trip for Two to Ireland Raffle* made these efforts remarkable successes. The Golf Classic originally scheduled for early May was eventually played on September 28th at Meadows Farm Golf Course in Locust Grove. Seventy players registered to play and enjoyed 18 holes on a beautiful fall day of competition and camaraderie, followed by a fine steak dinner and

distribution of raffle prizes. We gratefully thank the twenty companies and individuals that sponsored tournament holes and we encourage everyone to patronize our sponsors. They are listed on our website (www.aohfredericksburg.org). The winning foursome consisted of Al Sauter, John Creamer, Michael Paul and Ian Valentine at 25 under par! Second place belonged to the foursome of Rev. John Ziegler, Edwin Hanson, Larry Miller and Chris Talty at 21 under.

Under normal conditions our Trip for Two to Ireland Raffle would kick-off at the Irish American Heritage Month St Patrick Parade and festival in March. The parade and festival were cancelled. Also, in a typical year Hibernians would have been selling tickets after Masses at area churches. Government limits on church attendance created a second challenge. Shawn Lenahan, our raffle chairman innovated and by using the internet and US Postal Service most of the tickets were sold. The winning ticket was drawn on September 19th at the Colonial Tavern – Home to the Irish Brigade and the winner was Sally Black of New Jersey. Because of current travel restrictions Sally opted for the alternate prize of \$2500.00.

Through innovation, patience and exceptional community support the success of our two annual fund raisers have enabled the General Thomas F. Meagher Division to continue its high level of financial support to local charities and to provide scholastic awards to deserving students -- more than \$12,000 this year.

For more than a decade Meagher Division Hibernians have presented a boxwood wreath at the Irish Brigade Memorial located at the Fredericksburg City Dock. Although the National Park Service's formal ceremonies were cancelled this year, to round out the year Gen. Meagher Division brothers assembled at the memorial on December 13th and presented the traditional wreath. Why boxwood? Prior to the fight at Marye's Heights, General Meagher's Irish Brigade placed a bit of green on their kepi. Meagher knew: *"It is a moral certainty that many of our countrymen who enlist in this struggle for the maintenance of the Union will fall in the contest. But ... if only one in ten of us come back when the war is over, the military experience gained by that one will be of more service in a fight for Ireland's freedom than would that of the entire ten as they are now."*



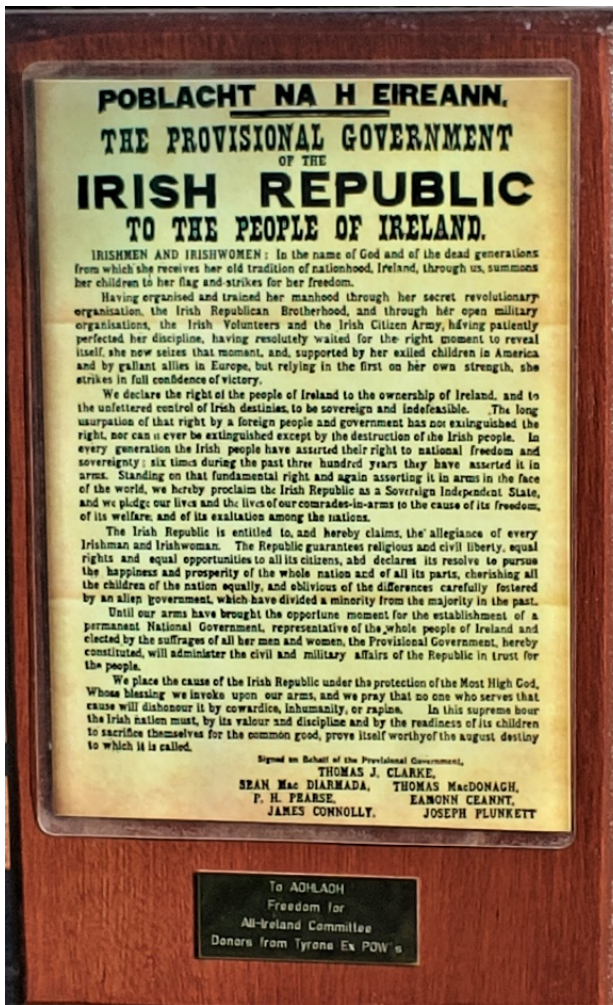
Edwin Hanson, Dennis O'Leary and President Dave McLaughlin registering golfers



(L-R) Brothers O'Leary, Kelly, McLaughlin, Everett, Fitzgerald, Halpin and Ruppert 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. There can be neither truce nor compromise.*”**



This plaque depicting the *Poblacht Na h Eireann*, the Irish Proclamation for Independence, was presented to the Gen. Meagher Division recognizing our \$1000 donation to the 2019 Freedom for All Ireland (FFAI) fund. The plaque was handcrafted by former Irish Republican prisoners of war from County Tyrone. The AOH awards grants to groups working for complete and absolute independence, peace and unity for all Ireland. The categories include (a) supporting former Republican political prisoners, (b) truth and justice groups, (c) cross-community initiatives, (d) Irish culture, heritage and language, (e) preserving Irish Republican history, and (f) cross border programs. Groups applying for donations from the FFAI Christmas Appeal, must submit applications that include a question on how they promote freedom for all Ireland. In 2020 grants were awarded to Relatives for Justice, Belfast National Graves, Pat Finucane Centre, Museum of Free Derry, Passionate Peace Centre-Holy Cross Ardoyne, EALU center for Tyrone Republican ex-political prisoners, Green Cross, Tyrone National Graves, Ballymurphy Massacre Families, Greater New Lodge Commemoration Committee, Conway Mill Trust, Cairde Strabane, St. Patrick Centre, Duchas Oiriail-South Armagh, Bridges beyond Boxing, Down Patriot Graves, Omagh Basketball, Omagh Choir, and the Witness Project.

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!

19 January: Division virtual meeting will begin at 7:30PM



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 starts chemotherapy this month
- **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**, son of former FS Jeff Banks (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.