



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



**GENERAL MEAGHER'S DISPATCHES**

November 2020

Volume 8/No11

**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:** Ed Hennessy; **Organizer:** vacant; **Newsletter Editor:** Bill Halpin  
([sisconsulting@comcast.net](mailto:sisconsulting@comcast.net))

*Lá an Altaithe Sona Daoibh*  
(Law on Awl-tee-ha Sun-ah Deev)

**Veterans Day, November 11<sup>th</sup>**: November 11, 1918 marked the end of WW I hostilities. In November 1919 President Wilson proclaimed November 11 as “Armistice Day”, a day that included parades, public gatherings, and a moment of silence in business and school activities at 11AM.

On November 11, 1921, an unidentified American soldier killed in the war was buried at Arlington National Cemetery. On the same date in 1920 unidentified soldiers were laid to rest at Westminster Abbey and at the Arc de Triomphe.

On June 4, 1926, Congress resolved that the anniversary would be officially known as “Armistice Day”. Then in 1954, the Congress replaced the word “Armistice” for “Veterans” and made November 11<sup>th</sup> a federal holiday. President Eisenhower signed the legislation and November 11 became a day to honor American veterans of all wars.

In 1968 Congress passed the Uniform Monday Holiday Act to ensure three-day weekends and encourage tourism and travel. In 1975, President Ford signed a new law returning the observation of Veterans Day to November 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Marine Corps Birthday:** On November 10, 1775, the Second Continental Congress established the Continental Marines, but then disestablished them at the end of the Revolutionary War (1783). The Marine Corps was re-established by President John Adams in July 1798 and in 1921, the original date, November 10<sup>th</sup>, was declared the official holiday of the Marine Corps

## President's Corner

My Brothers,

Last month I reported that we had successfully completed our primary charity fundraisers for the year and will be able to fully support the rest of the charitable organizations remaining on this year's budget.

Now, it is time to develop and approve our charity giving plan for next year as it is the major element of our budget. The members of the Charity Committee are: Brothers Jack Grey, Shawn Lenahan, Bob Fitzgerald and Jack McGrogan. If you have any inputs about what is or should be on this list, please contact any of the committee members or me.

I strongly ask you to participate in our monthly Division meeting. Attendance has been terribly disappointing – we have been unable to even get enough of you to form a quorum. Without a quorum, we can't vote to approve required actions such as pay bills, approve the budget and support our charities and parishes! Due to covid, they have been virtual-only meetings – you don't even have to leave your home. By not participating, you are letting the division down and it is inexcusable to not make such a small effort once a month.

Slainte, and In Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,

Brother Dave McLaughlin



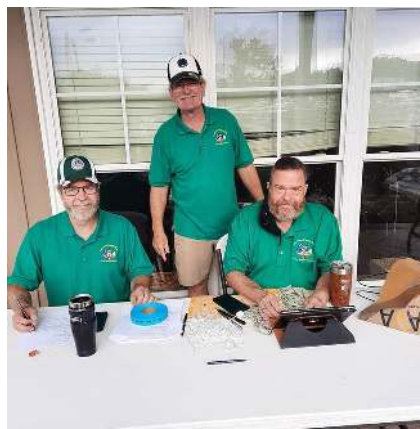
Everyone has other priorities. If you can find some available time, consider volunteering for the division organizer position. This is a key position in every AOH jurisdiction from division to state and national levels. The duties include developing a recruitment and retention programs and administering applications. Beyond that you'll enjoy the

feeling of pride, fellowship, and common loyalty shared every brother in our Division. Contact Division President McLaughlin for more information.

### *Seventh Annual Shamrock Charity Golf Classic*



Hibernians from 3 Divisions



The registrars - Hanson and O'Leary with President McLaughlin



PDP Lenahan with sponsor signage

Delayed from early April, the tournament was played on September 28<sup>th</sup> 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 raffle prizes. The first place foursome consisted of Al Sauter, John Creamer, Michael Paul and Ian Valentine with a winning score of 47. Second place belonged to the foursome of Rev. John Ziegler, Edwin Hanson, Larry Miller and Chris Talty (51).

The success of this event represented outstanding work by all involved. President McLaughlin praised VP O'Leary as the "person who made the golf tourney a success". We gratefully thank the twenty companies and individuals that sponsored holes and encourage everyone to patronize our commercial hole sponsors included on our website ([www.aohfredericksburg.org](http://www.aohfredericksburg.org)).



### *Twelfth Annual Trip for Two to Ireland Raffle*

And ... **the winners were** -- Sally Black and family of Cinnaminson, New Jersey. The Blacks are annual supporters of our raffle. Here's a very happy Black family:



Eamon, Lily, Sally and Mark Black



*As the 2020 baseball season ends, let's take another look at how the Irish influenced the National pastime: Jimmy McAleer's Opening Day Legacy*

**This Irish-American baseball legend introduced the POTUS opening day pitch.** Edited for space from an article by Cathal Coyle in *Irish America Magazine*, April / May 2017

James Robert, “Jimmy,” McAleer, the youngest of eight children, was born in Ohio on July 10, 1864. He gained fame and notoriety for being a player, manager, and stockholder in Major League Baseball who assisted in establishing the American League. Apart from his career highlight of leading the Boston Red Sox to the 1912 World Series, McAleer is most often remembered for initiating the customary request that the president of the United States throw out the first ball of the season.

McAleer was born in Youngstown, Ohio and came from a strong Irish background. It is believed his father, Owen McAleer, and English mother, Mary (née Miller), emigrated in the early 1850s. His father was a boilermaker and all of Jimmy’s siblings found employment as factory laborers when they were old enough to work. McAleer’s first foray into baseball was in 1882, when he played center field with a Youngstown minor league club. Later, he played for teams in South Carolina and Tennessee before breaking into the major leagues with the Cleveland Spiders in 1889. With the Spiders he was known as an outstanding outfielder “blessed with



excellent speed,” according to newspaper accounts. He played his last major league game in July 1907 with St. Louis Browns.

McAleer’s subsequent career was a manager. He was managing the Washington Senators, when he initiated what became a baseball tradition. On opening day 1910, he asked President William Taft to throw out the first ball. President Taft, an ardent baseball fan, agreed and the tradition began.

Jimmy McAleer resigned from the Senators after the 1911 season and became a major stockholder in the Boston Red Sox, a team with a huge Irish American support. McAleer enjoyed the major success when the Red Sox defeated the New York Giants to win the 1912 World Series. Following a dispute McAleer fired Red Sox manager Jake Stahl and replaced him with Irish American Bill Carrigan. (*see Meagher’s Dispatches September 2019!*) Other Red Sox executives grouped together to force McAleer to sell his shares in the club and he never returned to the game.

**BUT**, his contribution to baseball tradition is celebrated at the start of each new season.



***“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.*”**



## **Ireland’s Perspective on Unity**

Ireland's Minister for Foreign Affairs Simon Coveney pushed back on the prospect of a Border Poll in the near future, appealing to Irish-America to support the Irish government's efforts to "solve one problem at a time".

Responding to a question on Irish unity, Coveney criticized those who conflate the issue of Irish unity with Brexit. "I think that argument is flawed and has made finding solutions to the Brexit challenges much more difficult. We have a solution on Brexit. It's in the Irish protocol . . . I am a constitutional nationalist. I would like to see the unification of Ireland in the future but I also recognize that there is a process that we all need to follow, of reassurance, of bridge building of reaching out to communities that may see themselves as very vulnerable to that change. It is important to solve one problem at a time," he added.

Speaking about the future of the [European Union](#), Mr. Coveney said he would like the EU to be "more assertive and clearer in terms of global and international messaging," adding that it is "regrettable that the EU and the US take a different approach to a lot of foreign policy issues in recent years." Foreign policy in the United States in the last few years has been about "transactional diplomacy and bilateralism" in relation to foreign policy, he said, adding that the absence of the US from international bodies "allows other powerful actors globally to fill that vacuum."

"We want to see a US presence in all these multinational fora," Mr. Coveney said as he outlined Ireland's priorities as it assumes a seat on the UN [Security Council](#) in January.



## Upcoming Division 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!

***17 November:*** Division meeting (location TBD)

***TBD November:*** Annual Memorial Mass

***12 December:*** In all likelihood the annual Irish Brigade commemoration at the City Dock will be virtual with NPS videos posted on their website. More to come on this as information becomes available.



## 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](mailto: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:

- **Peter Carroll:** Recently diagnosed with Pancreatic Cancer
- **Rusty O'Brien,** undergoing radiation treatment 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
- **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** – 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](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.