



Ancient Order of
HIBERNIANS
Irish • Catholic • American



GENERAL MEAGHER'S DISPATCHES

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

President's Corner

My Brothers,

I am pleased to report that our two primary charity fundraisers were completed this past month and, most importantly, that the division was successful!

- The winning ticket to determine who won the annual “Trip for Two to Ireland” raffle was drawn on Saturday, September 19th, during the Halfway to Saint Patrick’s Day Festival at the Colonial Tavern, Home to the Irish Brigade. We thank our Past President, Brother Shawn, for leading this effort. We thank the Parish Liaisons who organized ticket sales opportunities and the volunteers who stood outside the church doors after numerous Masses. Many of you bought or sold the tickets that we mailed directly to you – without your extra effort the project would have been a failure.
- On Monday, September 28th, we conducted the 7th annual Shamrock Charity Golf Classic fundraiser. Thank you to the event committee who organized and executed this large undertaking and the small and busy handful of volunteers the morning of. Thank you to the brothers who played in the outing, recruited others to play and/or solicited sponsors and donors – some brothers did all three!

I said above that the division was successful. By that I mean we were able to raise enough donations, along with some reduced expenditures, that we will be able to fully support the rest of the charitable organizations remaining on this year's budget. A month ago, I reported that the officers were concerned that we would not be able to earn enough revenues and would have to reduce our charity expenditures. We prevailed, however, in spite of the many hurdles caused by the virus: initially, no Masses or events to have ticket sales; later, Masses with only dozens of parishioners. Also, some businesses who have regularly donated were unable to help this year because of their financial uncertainties.

The raffle and golf committee chairs will publish more detailed and specific reports.

The officers have already begun to develop our charity giving plan for next year as it is the major element of our budget. If you have any inputs about what is or should be on this list, please let me know.

Slainte, and In Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,

Brother Dave McLaughlin



Twelfth Annual Trip for Two to Ireland Raffle

Special Thanks to Shawn Lenahan for an *unbelievably successful* 2020 *Trip for Two to Ireland* raffle in a Wuhan virus riddled year. This year most organizations struggled to make benchmark goals. Shawn's challenges included limited after Mass ticket sales. Only two parishes participated this year and limited church capacity only exacerbated the situation. After Mass sales have been our bread & butter opportunities through the years.

Shawn's planning and execution of this year's raffle included mailing 15 tickets to every brother. That move ensured the division will meet the majority of our charitable

goals for 2020. More than 1100 raffle tickets were sold, representing gross revenue exceeding \$9,000. Shawn had some help from the parish liaisons at St. Patrick and St. Jude parishes and the brothers who volunteered their time to sell tickets after Masses: Bob Fitzgerald, Neal O’Leary, Jack Kelly, Dick Dowd, and Bill Halpin.

And ... **the winner was** -- Sally Black of Cinnaminson, New Jersey. Sally and Mark Black are annual supporters of our raffle.



Shays’ Rebellion

Daniel Shays’ 1786 Protest Against Economic and Civil Rights Injustices

Edited from *Irish America* September 26, 2020, by Ray Cavanaugh
(Daniel Shays, leader of Shays' Rebellion. Public domain / Wikipedia)

Shays’ Rebellion captured everyone’s attention. Some, such as Thomas Jefferson, felt that “a little rebellion now and then is a good thing.” But George Washington considered it a serious threat to the stability of a nascent country.

Daniel Shays was born in 1747 in Hopkinton, Mass. Multiple sources report his parents were Irish immigrants, other sources claim only his father was Irish born. It appears Shays was one of seven children and he grew up poor. Prior to the Revolutionary War, he worked as a farmhand in central Mass. In 1772 he married Abigail Gilbert and they had as many as ten children.

When the American Revolutionary War erupted, Shays joined the Continental Army and served first as a lieutenant in a Massachusetts regiment and later as a Captain. He fought at Bunker Hill and Saratoga, suffering non-life threatening wound. Shays was discharged in 1780 and settled in Pelham, Mass. His military background helped him win election to a series of local offices.

Shays encountered disapproval from fellow veterans when he sold a ceremonial sword presented to him by the Marquis de Lafayette. He was not seeking to disrespect the legendary Frenchman’s gift; he needed the money to pay down personal debts. At that time, there were many who shared Shays’ financial woes.

The United States had beaten a superpower but faced colossal war-related debts. Debts accumulated at federal and state levels. Mass sought to mitigate its debt through rigorous taxation. Many felt these taxes were predatory, a sentiment especially acute among Revolutionary veterans. They were paid with paper currency which, due to inflation was now barely worth the paper on which it was printed.

Veterans had shed blood and devoted years of their lives to achieve independence. But, instead of benefiting from this sacrifice, they had to contend with financial exploitation. Many veterans and others began facing huge personal debts, confiscation of their

properties, and even imprisonment. Prisons had more debtors for inmates than criminals.

Residents of western and central Massachusetts felt their best interests were excluded from the decision-making in Boston. Debates gave way to protests, which escalated to riots. As 1786 came to an end, the agitation reached a tipping point. Men from the western and central regions would comprise the majority of Shays' fellow rebels, known as "Shaysites". On Jan. 25, 1787, more than 1,000 Shaysites attacked the federal armory in Springfield. The Shaysites were outgunned by the state militia guarding the armory. The Shaysites may have had the moral high-ground, but they did not have superior weaponry. Shays' Rebellion met its demise at Petersham (Worcester County) on Feb. 4, 1787, when 3,000 soldiers funded largely by Boston businessmen defeated them resoundingly.

In the aftermath of this defeat, Mass authorities began seizing the ringleaders.

Shays fled to the backwoods of Vermont. Shaysites who absconded were tried in absentia; Shays and 17 others were sentenced to death.

Shays' Rebellion may have been a consideration for the framers of the U. S. Constitution composed the same year the insurrection was put down. The framers sought to strengthen the authority of the federal government, enhancing its ability to suppress similar revolts.

Shays relocated to New York State and lived a quiet life on a small farm. He never returned to Mass; however, the Commonwealth pardoned Shays in 1788. Shays' later years were lived in poverty. He died in Sparta, New York, on Sept. 29, 1825 at age 78. His name on the original tombstone was misspelled as "Shay." This error was corrected in 2016, when a descendant raised money for a new tombstone.



“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



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On October 3, 1981 seven months after 27 year old Bobby Sands refused food, the Long Kesh hunger strikes ended.

Sands died after 66 days. While on the hunger strike he was elected MP for Fermanagh and South Tyrone.

Ten men died having starved themselves to death. We remember these men on this day and all lives lost in the struggle for Irish independence through the centuries.

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Here We Go Again – Will British Duplicity Never End?!

New Concerns on Brexit Protocol on Northern Ireland

From *Irish America* 26 September 2020, by Deaglán de Bréadún, a freelance journalist and columnist with *The Irish News*. Edited for space Phrases within brackets [...] were not in the original article.

Under the terms of the BREXIT withdrawal agreement, a transition period ends on December 31. This is to allow for negotiations on a long-term trading relationship. If agreement cannot be reached, what is known as “a no-deal Brexit” will take effect on January 1, 2021.

The existing withdrawal agreement includes a **Northern Ireland protocol**. The six northern counties would effectively remain within the European single market, applying EU customs rules and product standards.

The 310-mile border between the two parts of Ireland is the only land border between the UK and the EU. During the BREXIT debate, concern was expressed that a “hard border” with customs posts at crossing-points would jeopardize the peace process.

Instead of a “hard border” on land, there would be a regulatory and customs border in the Irish Sea. Inevitably, some unionist politicians had concerns about the protocol

which they felt was weakening the link between Northern Ireland and the rest of the UK.

The withdrawal agreement is an international treaty. Its terms take precedence over domestic legislation. But the UK proposed the *Internal Market Bill* which would allow the British to set aside certain provisions in the Northern Ireland protocol. [*The bill will be presented to the House of Commons on Tuesday 29 September 2020.*]

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Brandon Lewis confirmed that the legislation would break international law in “a very specific and limited way”. Legislation that would deliberately breach international law has caused shock even in conservative quarters in Britain. Five predecessors of current the Prime Minister Theresa May, Sir John Major, Tony Blair, Gordon Brown and David Cameron all criticized the proposed legislation.

Ireland's Minister for Foreign Affairs Simon Coveney told Dáil Éireann: "Even if we get an agreement on a future relationship, I do not believe it will be ratified if there is still a threat by the UK to undermine the withdrawal agreement and break international law. Why would the EU ratify a new agreement with a country that is threatening to break an agreement that is not even 12 months old?"

During a US visit, UK Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab said: "What we cannot have is the EU seeking to erect a regulatory border

down the Irish Sea between Northern Ireland and Britain."

After a meeting with Mr. Raab on Capitol Hill, with Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee **Congressman Richard Neal**, **stressed: *there can be no bilateral trade agreement between the US and the UK if the Good Friday Agreement is under threat.***

Speaker Pelosi said: "*If Brexit undermines the Good Friday accord, there will be absolutely no chance of a US-UK trade agreement passing the Congress*".



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!

20 October: Division meeting (location is TBD)

17 November: Division meeting (location TBD)

TBD November: Annual Memorial Mass

12 December: Tentative -- Annual wreath presentation at City Dock



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:

- **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
- **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)

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.