



## GENERAL MEAGHER'S DISPATCHES

August 2023

Volume 11, No 8

**President:** Bob Fitzgerald; **Chaplain:** Deacon Aaron Zaccagnino; **Vice President:** Shawn Lenahan; **Recording Secretary:** Bill Halpin; **Financial Secretary:** Jeff Everett; **Treasurer:** Dave McLaughlin; **Standing Committee:** Bobby Murphy; **Marshal:** Chuck Gleason; **Sentinel:** Jack Kelly; **Webmaster:** Bob Fitzgerald; **Organizer:** Vacant; **Newsletter Editor:** Bill Halpin ([billhalpin@irshcultureva.org](mailto:billhalpin@irshcultureva.org))

### OUR NEXT MEETING IS AUGUST 15<sup>TH</sup>

**Pray to Mary Immaculate Patroness of the United States** for the strength of mind and heart to defend our religious freedoms, for national moral guidance, and that our country will always be “one nation under God”. This is critically important in this time of contrary moral agendas and the threats from patently evil elements.



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### President's Corner

Brothers,

I hope that you and your families are enjoying the summer. I know some are not fond of the hot and humid summers in Virginia, but I guess we have to put up with it to enjoy the other three seasons.

I have recently updated the Division website to include some of our latest activities so I encourage you to take a look at it for the latest news. I am certainly not a trained webmaster, but it is a task that I have taken on and have found it to be interesting (but I am glad I do not have to do it for a living). Any input on desired content or format is welcome. Of particular note, the draft June meeting minutes have been added, and I ask you to take a minute or two to review these draft minutes as we get closer to our business meeting - on Tuesday, 15 August. I hope to have a quorum at that meeting so we can move forward with prompt approval.

Trip for Two to Ireland raffle ticket sales continue and I want to thank those of you who have helped and will help at the sales weekends at our churches. If you cannot help for an entire weekend, please try to stop by the sales table at any of the Masses you attend to help out as the presence of Hibernian brothers who are known to the parishioners is very beneficial to our sales totals. Many thanks to Shawn Lenahan for working the details on this effort.

One final but important topic - we have our officer elections coming up in the fall, so please consider how you can serve the Division as an officer starting in January 2024. I am hoping to get new blood into the leadership roles so I strongly encourage all of the newest brothers to consider becoming an officer. The tasks are not that difficult and the former officers will always be there to help as needed. Slainte!

In our motto of Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity,

Bob Fitzgerald, President

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### Meagher Division's Hibernian Charity



Bob Fitzgerald presents one of the two annual \$1500 scholastic awards to Holy Cross Academy graduate Rebecca Root. The second award was presented to Emilia Basil, a St. Patrick graduate (see the July Dispatches). Rebecca and Emilia will attend St. John Paul the Great High School in the fall.

The Gen. Meagher Division has been supporting Catholic High School education since 2011 and has provided about \$36,000 in scholastic awards. Recipients of our scholastic awards are selected by their school's faculty and administration based on scholastic performance, civic duty, and related and agreed upon criteria.

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### New Virginia AOH Division on the Horizon

The prospect for chartering a new AOH Division is excellent. The decision on whether it will be chartered in Culpeper County or Fauquier County will be made soon. However, the seven Precious Blood brothers/applicants have agreed that a Warrenton based division might offer more opportunity for the new division. O'Brien's Irish Pub owner Jerry O'Brien submitted application

to join AOH and offered space in his restaurant for meetings. Of special note three of these new brothers have received our Order's Major Degrees this year!

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### The 24<sup>th</sup> Virginia AOH Biennial State Convention

The convention was hosted by the Herbert-Cady Division at the Old Town Hilton Hotel 27-29 July. "Irish Night" was held at Murphy's Irish Pub on the 28<sup>th</sup> and was attended by most delegates and division leaders. Gen. Meagher Division delegates were Shawn Lenahan, Jeff Everitt and Dave McLaughlin. The business meeting began at 0830 on the 29<sup>th</sup> (all reports are online at <https://aohvirginia.org>). The assembled remembered the 29 Hibernians who died since the 2021 convention, including our own Brothers Jerry Timmons and John Hogan.

**FFAI:** National FFAI Director Martin Galvin presented an outstanding talk on why Freedom For All Ireland continues to be an important AOH mission. He commended Virginia's co-FFAI chairmen Jim McLaughlin and Terry Riley for their outstanding work in highlighting FFAI in Virginia. As a result of their effort and the generosity of six division plus the state board, Virginia was among the top four contributors nation-wide.



Pictured are representatives of the six divisions and VA state board, along with National Director Dan Devinney (far left), and on the far right, National FFAI Chairman Martin Galvin, State Chaplin Fr. Joseph Farrell, and VA state co-chairs Jim McLaughlin and Terry Riley. (Note Shawn Lenahan sixth from left) represented General Meagher Division

**National Director for Virginia:** Dan Devinney spoke for a while on the need for all appointed state board positions to be filled and on recruiting, mentoring, and retention at the foundation of

AOH – the divisions. He informed conventioners that he will be running for national secretary in 2024.



**Major Degrees:** Sixteen brothers stood for our Order’s Major Degrees on Saturday afternoon. Two of them, Bill Shanley (third from right) and Randy Tyson (sixth from right), join Chris Green (DRG 23) as the potential core of the new division in Fauquier County.



**Officer Installation:** After Mass on Saturday evening, the newly elected state officers for the 2023-2025 term were installed by National Director Devinney. They are (L to R): President

Bob Fay, Vice President Vince Eikmeier (Jay McCarthy standing in), Recording Secretary Edmund Hanson, and Treasurer Pat Sullivan). We wish them the best for the coming two years!

### Some “Take Aways”:

**Blake Cahill** (St. Patrick Division) was honored as VA State Hibernian of Fraternal Year 2022.

**Pat Shea** (State Webmaster) was honored with the St. Columille Award for Superior Performance as the state and multidivisional webmaster.

The **Brian Boru Degree Team** is recruiting for new members. The Team requires about 25 men and current membership is 14. For more information contact Brian Kieran ([bri1v1@comcast.net](mailto:bri1v1@comcast.net)).



### Philosophy 101(a) Extracted from the Political Education report submitted to the State Convention on July 29<sup>th</sup>.

#### Political Scene in the U.S.A:

Troubling anti-Catholic incidents are now frequent occurrences.

- The FBI’s Richmond office memo on recruiting informants to infiltrate Catholic parishes and report on parishioners, especially those attending the Tridentine Mass.
- The heavily armed FBI SWAT team arrests a pro-life Catholic at his home, before breakfast and in front of his children.
- Statues honoring Virgin Mary’s apparitions in Fatima. The four statues were toppled and decapitated at the Nativity parish grotto.
- Fairfax County public schools stereotyping “middle-aged, male Catholics” in a test question given to 12<sup>th</sup> grade AP students. When challenged, the “school system” said it will remove the question from “future” tests and the “school system” would “begin to review” tests administered to that 12<sup>th</sup> grade class.
- Incredibly the LA Dodgers celebrated a blasphemous, anti-Catholic transgender “act” to coincide with Corpus Christi Sunday.
- The concerted effort to rewrite American history and promote absurd, outrageous moral standards: men can have babies, “identity” is valued more than skill and ability, free speech and religious freedom are challenged, and parents expressing concern their children are propagandized in public schools have become targets of violence and arrest.

To quote George Orwell “*One has to belong to the intelligentsia to believe things like that; no ordinary man could be such a fool*”.

Hibernians should reflect on the centuries of our mission as protectors of the Faith and how we can use our Hibernian tradition, heritage and Catholic Faith to right the ship. Flood the public square (e.g. letters to the editor) with rational narratives on values, morals, and the need for schools to choose “reading, writing and rithmetic” instead of delusional, bandwagon agendas. Prayer works: pray to Mary Immaculate Patroness of the United States for the strength of mind and heart to defend our religious freedoms, for national moral guidance, and that our country will always be “one nation under God”.



*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.*

## **The Feast of Lughnasa**

One of the happy events of the Celtic year is Lughnasa (August 1), the beginning of the annual harvest. The ancient Celtic calendar was based on nature’s cycle and the start of each season was celebrated: Imbolc (spring), Beltaine (summer), Lughnasa (autumn), and Samhain (winter). All honored the life-giving sun, but only Lughnasa derives its name from a legendary hero: Lugh Samhioldanach (The Multi-Talented). Lughnasa literally translates to “abundance, feasting and celebration”. It is the beginning of the harvest season and the end of “Hungry Month.”(July) when food stores from the previous year were dwindling. Centuries have passed but the legacy of this Celtic festival lives on in modern Ireland. Lughnasa, August 1<sup>st</sup>, is an official Irish holiday. (derived from multiple sources)



***Upcoming Division Events***



**August 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>:** T4T Raffle Ticket sales at St Patrick and St. Matthew Churches. Please **make yourselves available** to support this important fund raising activity!

**August 15<sup>th</sup>:** **Division meeting.** We will be considering several application for membership. **We require a quorum** to conduct this and other business. Please attend either in person or via the internet option.

**August 21 – Feast of Our Lady of Knock**

**September 16<sup>th</sup>:** Halfway to St. Partick Day and T4T raffle drawing, Irish dancers and music at the Colonial Tavern – Home to the Irish Brigade in Fredericksburg!



### ***Our Division Prayers***



***Keep our brothers, family members and friends in your prayers***

- Bob Fitzgerald: detached retina
- Joe Daley: 100% blocked carotid artery, COPD, and hemoptysis.
- Peggy Dowd, Dick Dowd's wife requires in-home professional assistance
- Russell McLaughlin: Dave McLaughlin's brother - frontotemporal dementia
- Jerry O'Brien: Paul O'Brien's brother – cancer
- Ruth Pettinger: Shawn Lenahan's aunt (Vietnam Vet) inoperable brain tumor
- Margaret Casey: Tim Lynch's aunt has Dementia
- Mary Lou and Keith Bowers: St Jude parishioners/friends of Deacon Aaron
- Alice Wilkowski (stroke) associate of PDP Shawn Lenahan

***Pray for the repose of the souls of deceased Brothers and family members***

- Brother Jerry Timmons, died on June 3, 2023
- Shelagh Hornung: Neil Hornung's sister-in-law died on January 14, 2023.
- Loretta Larzelere: Bob Fitzgerald's sister-in-law died on January 19, 2023
- John K. O'Brien: Hugh O'Brien's brother died on March 15, 2023

Send notifications to Committee of the Sick Chair Bobby Murphy  
([smurphy823@gmail.com](mailto:smurphy823@gmail.com)) Send requests for inclusion in our newsletter to  
[billhalpin@irishcultureva.org](mailto:billhalpin@irishcultureva.org)



## Hibernian Attire

*Every brother should have these articles of clothing*

**Green Jacket:** Brothers procure their own green jackets -- Kelly green is the color.

- 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.
- Second source used by Major James Dooley Division:  
<https://www.uniformsinstock.com/collections/blazers/products/executive-apparel-winston-mens-kelly-green-blazer>

**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 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, a raincoat/overcoat (and a growing waistline). Sashes are available from:

- **D. & E. Morrissey (954-426-3514/ <http://www.hibernians-shamrock.com>.** The National Hibernian usually has an ad for D & E Morrissey.
- **Gettysburg Flag** offers tri-color sashes and “special prices” for larger orders.  
<https://www.gettysburgflag.com/custom/irish-parade-sash>

**Division Logo Items:** Contact Shawn Lenahan for division logo polo shirts, sweatshirts and ball caps ([s\\_lenahan@verizon.net](mailto:s_lenahan@verizon.net))

### The AOH “uniform”

- ***Semi-formal/formal occasions*** are 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.
- ***For Informal events*** (i.e. Division outings (ball games, picnics, meetings, etc.) the division logo polo/sweatshirt and optional ball cap are appropriate.





**This newsletter is an unofficial publication providing information to members of the Gen. Thomas F. Meagher Division (44SP01) and others who may have an interest in division activities. It is published by Bill Halpin and unless shown otherwise, he is responsible for content interest in division activities.**