



# The Cunningham Chronicles

The Colonel Thomas J. Cunningham, Jr. Division

The Ancient Order of Hibernians

January 2016

News/ Views/ History/ Irrational Thought & Other Good Stuff

## HAPPY NEW YEAR

### From the Col. Cunningham Division



*Attendees at the January Division meeting took time after the business meeting and the installation of new officers to pause for a photo before they began discussions on "the Good of the Order". AOH State President Eugene Bransfield joined the members at the meeting and conducted the installation ceremony. More news and photos from the January meeting are in this issue of the Chronicles.*

### Inside this edition of the Cunningham Chronicles:

The Division Christmas Party, the Leesburg Christmas Parade, the election and installation of new officers, officer reports, news from Division meetings, new members, division announcements, plans for the next trip to Ireland Raffle, a potential Division trip to Ireland and lots more.

## New Cunningham Division Officers are Elected and Installed

During the December general meeting of the Cunningham Division elections were held for the new officers for 2016. At the January Division meeting all new officers were sworn in and officially installed by Virginia AOH President Eugene (Gene) Bransfield. The new slate of officers for 2016 are:

President: John (Jay) McCarthy  
Vice President: J. Cole Slattery  
Recording Secretary: John Farmer  
Treasurer: Tim Kinslow  
Financial Secretary: John (Jack) Devins  
Chairman of the Stranding Committee: Tim Melia  
Marshal: Robert (Bob) Connors  
Sentinel: Robert (Bob) Carmack



The 2016 Colonel Thomas J. Cunningham Division Officers for 2016  
(Left to Right) Tim Melia, Bob Carmack, Jack Devins, AOH Virginia State President Gene Bransfield, Jay McCarthy, Tim Kinslow, Cole Slattery, Bob Connors, and John Farmer.

## News and Photos from the January Meeting

### Installation of the New Officers



*In a solemn ceremony, outgoing President Bob Fay presents The gavel and control of the meeting to State President Bransfield for the installation of new officers*



*Newly elected officers assembly before the State President for installation*



*Officers form ceremonial crosses for their oaths.*



*As officers form crosses, all the other members gather in a circle around them*



*State President Bransfield recites the oath of office to new officers*



*State President Bransfield presents each officer with their the medallions of office.*



After installation, it's back to business as usual. President Jay McCarthy continues the business meeting



Newly installed Vice President Cole Slattery presents a lesson in Irish History to the Division as part of the business meeting.



Division President Jay McCarthy thanks Virginia State AOH President Gene Bransfield for his participation in the meeting.



Four new brothers Dennis Rotherham, Jim Hall, Greg Wholean, and Clyde Slick joined during the January meeting.

## A Special Message form the New President Jay McCarthy



*The following is a message from newly elected Cunningham Division President Jay McCarthy*

January 31, 2016

Good day my Brother Hibernians of the Thomas J. Cunningham Division!

First of all, my apologies for the rather late letter to you in as much as I have been your newly elected President officially since January 13<sup>th</sup>. In short, a long awaited family cruise to the Caribbean (it was

fantastic) followed by getting “stuck” in Florida an extra 4 days due to the weather in NVA (we made the most of the 70\* weather), and then addressing 904 e-mails upon my return to NVA (I do turn off my cell phone when I am on vacation), I have finally gotten to the point of getting some correspondence completed.

Secondly, I am privileged to serve as your new Division President for the upcoming term! We as a Division are blessed with a lot of talented and committed Brothers who will serve in a significant position as either an Officer or a Project Chairman to continue the success and achievements already accomplished (our Division continues to be one of the most active Divisions in the state, year after year.....) Which brings me to my next point.....

I wish to take this opportunity to thank Brother Bob Fay for a fantastic 2 year run as the previous Division President. Bob’s enthusiasm and “Irish spirit” came across so often with all of the events conducted by our Division. I sincerely hope that I can at least maintain the momentum that Bob has generated over the past few years. Which brings me to my next point.....

I can honestly say that I know most of you in our Division. We now have over 70 members. Through AOH meetings, events, a drink or two at O’Faolain’s, or through the Knights of Columbus for many of you, I have had the privilege of fraternity with you and continue to look forward to more fraternity. Candidly, this is the main reason why I ran for Division President. However, there remains a number of Brother AOH members that I must admit I do not know (or have not seen for many a year – you know who you are!) I’d like to fix that this year.....consider this a cordial welcome to reengage with your Division in some way. We meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month; we will shortly have a list of upcoming events for your consideration; we want to hear from you! At a minimum, please keep your dues current. This allows our Division to meet not only State and National assessments but allows us to continue to deliver needy scholarships for instance to many deserving Parochial school children and to support local Veterans issues. Thanks in advance – the process of collecting past due fees is a time consuming event for some of your Brother Hibernians.

Finally, as for the monthly meetings, we have attempted to keep the business side crisp and relevant to allow for more Good of the Order time (a bit of Irish History, good appetizers, good drinks, a fun raffle, and above all, good fraternity). You are invited to participate and share your thoughts and good will.....

Sincerely, I want to thank all our officers and chairmen for their service and all of our Brothers for their support as we look forward to continuing another terrific year for the Col. Thomas J. Cunningham Division in 2016!

In our Motto,

*Jay McCarthy*

Jay McCarthy

President

Col. Thomas J. Cunningham Division, AOH 44LO01

VA AOH State Secretary

Vigor2@aol.com

## A Special Tribute and Thanks to Past President Bob Fay

The January Division meeting marked the beginning of President Jay McCarthy's term in office, but it also marked the end of Bob Fay's two years of service as Division President. It's always a joyful occasion when a new Division President takes office, but it's also a bit sad when a truly great servant and leader of the AOH steps down to past on the office of President.

Bob Fay has served as the Colonel Thomas J. Cunningham Jr. Division President for the past two years with great distinction, honor, wisdom, and his always ready sense of humor. He has lead the Division through unprecedented growth in membership, fund raising, charitable donations, and increasingly popular division social activities. Bob Fay has raised both the vision and the visibility of the Cunningham Division while in office. He lead a Division contingent to the National AOH Convention in St. Louis, represented the Division and our interest at the State Board meetings, presided over two years' worth of officer and Division meetings, growth in our Ireland Trip raffle sales and some of the greatest social events ever held by the Division. He has exemplified our motto; *"Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity"* through his example as a servant of the Church and his leadership as a member of the Ancient Order of Hibernians. Bob Fay is a great leader and a great friend to all of the membership. We now look forward to his leadership and council as the Immediate Past President of the Division. Thank you Bob.

We must also pause and give special thanks to Bob's wife, Linda who put up with rowdy officer meetings and gatherings at their home, countless hours of Bob's absence on AOH business (when he wasn't traveling for his other business), and in general just putting up with the whole lot of us and our shenanigans for the past two years. Thank you Linda.



*New President Jay McCarthy presents Past President Bob Fay with a gift of appreciation from the Cunningham Division for his two years of excellent leadership and service as the Division president.*

## New Committee Chairmen Appointed

At the January meeting President Jay McCarthy announced appointments for the Division Committee Chairmanships for 2016. The following is the full list of the Division Officers and Committee Chairmen for 2016. This list is provided to both the National Virginia State AOH Boards.

**Officers and Chairmen for 2016**

| <b>Title</b>                   | <b>First Name</b> | <b>Last Name</b> |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| PRESIDENT                      | John J. (Jay)     | McCarthy         |
| VICE PRESIDENT                 | J. Cole           | Slattery         |
| RECORDING SECRETARY            | John F.           | Famer            |
| FINANCIAL SECRETARY            | John E.           | Devins           |
| TREASURER                      | Timothy P.        | Kinslow          |
| CHMN. STANDING COMM.           | Timothy G.        | Melia            |
| MARSHAL                        | Robert E.         | Connors          |
| SENTINEL                       | Robert H.         | Carmack          |
| CHAPLAIN                       |                   |                  |
| HISTORIAN                      | Robert A.         | Fay              |
| ORGANIZER                      | Timothy G.        | Melia            |
| CHARITIES & MISSIONS, CHAIRMAN | Robert A.         | Fay              |
| CATHOLIC ACTION, CHAIRMAN      | John J. (Jay)     | McCarthy         |
| F.F.A.I., CHAIRMAN             | <b>Robert M.</b>  | <b>Anderson</b>  |
| PRO-LIFE, CHAIRMAN             | Daniel P.         | Whalen           |
| P.E.C., CHAIRMAN               | David P.          | Lawlor           |
| IMMIGRATION, CHAIRMAN          | Francis G.        | Thomton          |
| VETERANS AFFAIRS               | J. Cole           | Slattery         |
| WEBMASTER                      | Robert E.         | Connors          |
| HIBERNIAN HUNGER PROJECT       | David T.          | Crew             |
| PROJECT ST. PATRICK            | Robert H.         | Carmack          |

**Other Cunningham Division News**

**Two New Members Join in October**



*President Bob Fay congratulates new brothers Joe Bomeman and James McCabe, who took their oaths at the October Division meeting.*

## Highlights of the November Meeting



*New brother John McCarthy is welcomed to the Division by Vice President John (Jay) McCarthy*



*Brother David Wilson shares some of his thoughts during a discussion on the Irish participation in the American Civil War*



*The Division listens to a presentation by Division Historian Cole Slattery on the Irish in the American Civil War*



*Brother and native Irishman Francis Thornton provides his perspective on Irish immigration at the time of the Civil War*

## Highlights of the December Meeting

The November Division meeting highlights included a final report on all raffle ticket sales, a report on the raffle winner, final distribution of funds from the Charities and Missions Budget, nomination of candidates for offer positions, a reading on Irish history and some together to celebrate the good and welfare of the order.



*The business meeting is over and it's time to socialize with Fellow brothers.*



*Tim Melia, Jack Devins, Bob Fay and Jay McCarthy pause for some liquid refreshments*



## 2015 Trip to Ireland Raffle Drawing Party

Over 100 members of the Cunningham Division and their guests gathered at O’Faolain’s Irish Pub in Sterling, Virginia on October 15<sup>th</sup> to celebrate a great year of raffle ticket sales and draw the winning ticket for the Divisions Trip for Two to Ireland Raffle. The winning ticket was No. 1809 and belonged to Christine C. of Alexandria. Christine and her husband were thrilled and plan to take the trip next spring or summer. Christine reported that she got her ticket at the Alexandria Irish Festival. Many thanks to all of the Division brothers who helped out with sales at that event and at all other events and parishes, and a special thanks to Cole Slattery who organized the Cunningham Division Booth and the sales effort at the Alexandria Festival.



*Bob Fay and Jay McCarthy as Masters of Ceremony*



*Cole Slattery and family having a good time*



*A portion of the large group at O’Faolain’s for the party*



*Jim Sinnott, Connie Anderson and Sam Wilson*



*Tim Kinslow, Sean O’Hara and Jack Devins*



*It can’t be an Irish party without Irish music*

## Cunningham Division 2016 Christmas Party

The Cunningham Division came together once again on December 17<sup>th</sup> and O’Faolain’s Irish Pub to hold our annual Christmas Celebration. Brothers, wives, friends, and prospective members enjoyed celebrating the Christmas and New Year’s Holidays together in typical Hibernian fashion and had the pleasure of some great Irish music provided by Cunningham Division brother Steve Toole and his group Capitol Celtic.



*Steve Toole and Capitol Celtic*



*Small portion of the large group at the Christmas Party*



*Dan and Maureen Whalen*



*Bob Fay served as Master of Ceremonies*



*Kris Kringle (AKA Bob Connors) was there*



*Bob Fay presenting Bob Anderson with the Division's Man Of the year award*

### More Christmas Party Photos

The 2015 Christmas Party was truly outstanding! Thanks to Brother Francis Thornton and the crew at O'Faolain's for another great night of fun, food, and cheer. If you didn't make the party, start making plans to be there for 2016.



## Hibernians in Action

### Sweats for Vets at the VA Hospital

On Saturday, January 16<sup>th</sup> a delegation of brothers of the Colonel Cunningham Division traveled to the Veteran’s Administration Hospital in Martinsburg, West Virginia to pay tribute and give thanks to the many veterans at the hospital through the Sweats for Vets program. The Sweats for Vets Program was initiated several years ago by the Knights of Columbus to thank the veterans at VA Hospitals for their service and to provide the much appreciated sweat suits. The program has grown over the years and for the last several years the Colonel Cunningham Division has joined with the Knights and participated by donating seat suits and a monetary contribution to the veterans at the hospital in Martinsburg.

The event is much more than simply donating sweat suits, however. Brother Hibernians and Knights who journey to the hospital for the occasion get to spend time visiting the veterans, listening to their stories, and providing a friendly smile and listening ear to everyone who wants to visit. This year’s attendees met with many interesting veterans including a 108 year old Army veteran who is still active and mobile. This year 10 AOH Brothers from the Colonel Cunningham Division were in attendance. Along with their brother Knights, they helped to distribute over 600 sets of sweat suits and presented checks to the Hospital Director for \$1000 from the AOH state Board & the Cunningham Division. The Sweats for Vets Program is an annual event for the Cunningham Division, and a great way to show our appreciation to these fine men and women who have served our country.



*Past President Bob Fay presents a check from the Cunningham Division to the Hospital Director*



*Bob Connors, Bob Fay, Rick Parker and Bob Carmack visit with one of veterans at the hospital*



*Part of the AOH and Knights of Columbus contingent at the hospital to visit the vets*

### 2015 Leesburg Christmas Parade

A number of Cunningham Division Brothers and their families joined with the Knights of Columbus, local school bands, churches and other local organizations to march in the annual Leesburg Christmas Parade on December 12<sup>th</sup>. This event is held on a Saturday night in historic downtown Leesburg and it brings out thousands of viewers in all ages and sizes to cheer on the marchers as they celebrate the coming of Christmas.



### Honor Flights for World War II Veterans

Many times during recent months brothers of the Cunningham Division have had the privilege and honor to serve as part of the welcoming party for World War II Honor Flights arriving at Dulles Airport. The Honor Flight program brings veterans of WWII to Washington, DC as a tribute to their service and provides these heroes with a chance to visit the World War II Memorial and other sites in Washington. We have so much to thank these men and women for, and now there are fewer and fewer of them left for us to pay tribute to. If you might be interested in participating in an Honor Flight welcoming party please contact Division President Jay McCarthy. The following are photos of some of the participants at the September Honor Flight Reception.



*President Jay McCarthy and Brother Dan Whalen prepare to meet the vets.*



*Brother Jim Mullen (at left) and President Jay McCarthy (center-left) with Members of the Knights of Columbus who came out to welcome the vets to DC.*

## The President's Report From Immediate Past President Bob Fay



**Bob Fay, Immediate Past President of the Colonel Thomas J. Cunningham Jr. Division of the AOH**

*The following is excerpted from the Col. Cunningham Division President Bob Fay's Report to the Virginia State AOH Board at its Quarterly meeting in January of 2016. This is Bob Fay's last report to the State Board as the Cunningham Division president.*

8 January 2016

Worthy AOH State President, State Officers and Representatives  
Worthy AOH Division Presidents, Officers and Representatives  
Brothers

Subject: January 2016 Quarterly Report: Report of Fall/Winter Activity 2015  
Col. Thomas J. Cunningham Jr. Division, Loudoun 1, Virginia (44LO01)

The Cunningham Division was quite active through the late months of 2015. Regular meetings of the Division were held on the second Wednesday of each month, at the Belmont Greene Community Center, 43003 Chesterton St., Ashburn, VA 20147, and member attendance has been outstanding.

September was a busy month for the Division as we kicked off our Parish Raffle Ticket sales campaign at St. Joseph's Church in Herndon with a Corporate Communion Mass attended by several Brothers and family members, followed by a group brunch at O'Sullivan's Pub.

Parish sales continued for three weekends at St. Theresa's in Ashburn and Our Lady of Hope in Sterling. Sales were robust and I am happy to report that the Division took in record revenue which will allow us to expand our charitable donations in the New Year.

More than a hundred members and friends of The Cunningham Division gathered at O'Faolain's Pub in Sterling on October 15<sup>th</sup> for our Grand Prize Raffle Drawing. The winning ticket for our annual "Trip for Two to Ireland" drawing was No. 1809 and belonged to Christine C. of Alexandria. Christine and her husband were thrilled and plan to take the trip next spring or summer. A grand time was had by all in attendance and Irish music, refreshments, food and fun flowed in abundance.

A new slate of officers for election was proposed at our Division meeting in November. Thanks to Bob Anderson, Past President, for heading up the election committee and recruiting a fine group of candidates to lead the Division in the New Year.

Elections were concluded at our December meeting and Congratulations are in order for Brother Jay McCarthy, who was elected as our new Division President, and Brother Cole Slattery who will be the new Division Vice President. Congratulations to all of our Brothers who will be taking office and installed at our next meeting on January 13. We look forward to having our State President, Brother Eugene Bransfield, in attendance for the Installation

The Cunningham Division's final event of 2015, saw more than thirty-five of our members, family and friends, in attendance, in green, (some in red felt and white fur) at the Division Christmas Party held at O'Faolain's on December 17<sup>th</sup>. Once again, a great time was had by all!

Thanks to Brother Francis Thornton, Manager at O'Faolain's for providing the venue and making sure all were well fed and definitely not thirsty, to Brother Bob (Kris Kringle) Connors for donning the red suit, and special thanks to Brother Steve Toole and his group CAPITOL CELTIC for providing the fine Irish music and entertainment.

The Division continues to search for a new Chaplain and we are hopeful that we may have some good news in this regard early in the New Year.

I want to take a final opportunity to thank all of my Division Brothers for having me as their President these past two years. It has been a wonderful honor and a humbling experience to lead such a fine group of Irish, Catholic gentlemen. God Bless one and all!

The next issue of our "Cunningham Chronicles" newsletter is expected soon. Please visit our Division website at: [www.aohloudoun.org](http://www.aohloudoun.org) ---to check it out!

In our Motto,

*Bob Fay*

Bob Fay

Past President

Col. Thomas J. Cunningham Division, AOH 44LO01

## Cunningham Division Planning a Potential 2017 Trip to Ireland

Cunningham Division Brothers,

If you have been at any of the recent division meetings you have heard some of the discussions regarding a potential division sponsored trip to Ireland in 2017.

For those of you who haven't been able to attend one of the recent meetings (shame on you), here is some basic information.

- The Cunningham Division is in the preliminary stages of trying to plan and organize a trip to Ireland for the division.
- The itinerary is completely up in the air, and the exact date of the trip hasn't been determined yet, but it would occur in the late spring (May) or late summer (middle of September). (Yes 2017- we are Irish and it takes a while for us to get organized, and it gives everyone enough notice to plan ahead).

- The trip is initially being planned for division members, wives and girlfriends (please guys don't bring them both on the same trip). Other guests are a possibility, but that is yet to be determined and may depend on total participation by division members.
- It has been initially suggested that the itinerary would include several days of activities and tours together as a division, and then perhaps some time for individual or smaller group side trips. That would need to be determined.
- Tentatively we would travel to and from Ireland together, but it would probably be possible to extend individual trips.
- A committee, chaired by newly installed President Jay McCarthy, is being formed to start preliminary planning, which is the point of this email.

As we start preliminary planning, we would like to try and gauge the interest within the division for such as trip. We ask that all members who would be interested in a division trip to Ireland please respond to the planning committee with your name and potential number of travelers. If you have any questions, suggestions, or other notes to pass along to us please send them as well.

We ask that you please respond by email to [cunninghamnews1916@gmail.com](mailto:cunninghamnews1916@gmail.com) (the Cunningham Chronicles email), or be present at the February meeting to let us know your interested. No responses will be considered a final commitment in any way. We are simply trying to get an idea of the potential level of participation for planning purposes.

There will be additional emails coming out soon to all Division brothers, and more information in upcoming editions of the Cunningham Chronicles. Thank you in advance for your response.

## Cunningham Division Member News

### **A Birth Announcement**

Brother Sam Wilson and his wife Tara are happy to announce the birth of their daughter, Louisa Gallagher Wilson, who was born on November 3, 2015. Congratulations Tara and Sam.

### **Reminder- The New Cunningham Division Website is Up & Running**

Thanks to Brother Bob Connors, our new Division website is fully functional and is up to date with all its content. The site features Division news, calendar of events, AOH and Division history, information for potential members, links to several great Irish and AOH sites, and last but not least archives of the Cunningham Chronicles. If you haven't seen the website yet, check it out; [www.aohloudoun.org](http://www.aohloudoun.org). Let Brother Bob Connors know if you have any comments, questions, or ideas for information to be added.

### **New Address for Cunningham Division Brothers and Officers Email**

Cunningham Division Webmaster Bob Connors wants everyone to know that there is a new address from emailing all brothers and officers in the division.

The new address for brothers is: [brothers@aohloudoun.org](mailto:brothers@aohloudoun.org)

The new address for the officers is: [officers@aohloudoun.org](mailto:officers@aohloudoun.org)



### **Next Division Meeting**

The next Colonel Cunningham Division meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, February 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM.** The meeting location is the Belmont Greene Community Center. 43003 Chesterton St., Ashburn VA 20147. All AOH Brothers are encouraged to attend our next meeting---and bring a friend. New members will be sworn in at this meeting.

### **The Power of Prayer**



This beautiful young lady is Declyn, and she is the grandniece of Bob Fay. Bob wanted to extend his heartfelt thanks to our Cunningham Division Brothers for their prayers over the last eighteen months.

If you have been to the Division meetings during the last 18 months you will remember Declyn's story. She was born more than 12 weeks premature and weighed less than 2 lbs at birth. She is now 18 months old and normal in all respects and was asked to be the poster child for March of Dimes in California! Thank you to all who have been praying for Declyn.

The Brothers of the Colonel Cunningham Division open and close every meeting with prayers, and we ask for prayers for all those who are on our prayer list at every meeting. The prayer list grows every month, but our faith and our trust in the power of prayer also continues to grow. We publish our prayer list in every edition of the Cunningham Chronicles and ask that our readers join with us in prayer for all of those listed and all others in need of prayer. We are all praying for many more stories such as Declyn's.

## The Colonel Cunningham Division Prayer List

We respectfully ask all Cunningham Division Brothers and all friends of the Cunningham Division to please remember the following in your prayers:

|                             |                            |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Noah Wilson                 | Kay Melia                  |
| Catherine Grethel           | Gertrude Hippchen          |
| Edward Kennedy              | Fr Mike Morris             |
| Michael Goodwin             | Goodwin and Weber families |
| Jimmy McCluster             | Bill Walsh                 |
| Bill and Shiobhan Cahillane | Michael Matthews           |
| Samantha Wanagel            | Marvin Carmack             |
| Esther Connors              | Brother Dave Wilson        |
| Joe Kober + (ROS)           | Betty Kober                |
| Bill and Meray Delaney      | Max Hall                   |
| Jennifer Schadowsky         | Frank Kessell              |
| Susan Meserole              | Mike Keeghan               |
| Garber Family               | Gene Bransfield            |
| Bill Halpin                 | Sheila Duval               |
| Mal Goslee                  | Heather Bye                |
| Frank Costanza              | Pat Korten                 |
| Neil Arena                  | Will Gilford               |
| Pat Colleran                | Sister Beth Hays           |
| Daughter of Sylvia Coffey   | SGMT. David Harding        |
| Earl "Easy" Ezzell          | Lisa Zuran                 |
| Cindy Zaland                | Scott Lawson               |
| Jim Detrick                 | Pat Cohen                  |
| John Eschmann's Mother      | Charlie Muse               |
| Jim Hall                    | Dave Gagnon                |
| Vivian Roach                | Jack Whalen                |
| Phil Patton                 | Matthew Meserole           |
| Doug Anderson               | Joe Samssock               |
| Edwin Gilford               | Jim Ryan                   |
| Howie Roman                 | Angelina Crew              |

*If there is someone who you would like to add to our prayer list please forward their name, and if possible a brief description of their circumstances (serious health problem, special needs, etc.) to [cunninghamnews1916@gmail.com](mailto:cunninghamnews1916@gmail.com) (that's the news email address for the Cunningham Chronicles).*

## Trip to Ireland Raffle and Cunningham Division Charities

The Colonel Cunningham Division will be kicking off sales of its Trip for Two to Ireland Raffle again this coming March in time for St. Patrick's Day celebrations. The raffle is the Division's largest fund raising event and provides for the financial support of all of our Division's charities.

Past President Dave Lawlor has again volunteered to lead the ticket sales committee. There will be more details and ticket sales plans at the upcoming February meeting and in emails to individual members. Please remember all of the good that this fund raiser does and give of your time generously when asked to help with ticket sales or promotions.

As a reminder, the following charities, organizations, and activities are supported by financial assistance from the Col. Cunningham Division of the AOH in Northern Virginia:

### Parish School Educational Grants for Deserving Students at:

Our Lady of Hope School, Potomac Falls

St. Theresa's School, Ashburn

St. Joseph's School, Herndon

### Parish Summer Work Camp Programs for Teens at:

Our Lady of Hope, Potomac Falls

St. Theresa, Ashburn

St. Joseph, Herndon

St. John the Apostle, Leesburg

St. Francis de Sales, Purcellville

Project St. Patrick Seminarian Support and Grants

Diocesan Vocation Support, Diocese of Arlington

Boys State & Girls State Leadership Programs in Virginia

Sweats for Vets Program w/Knights of Columbus & American Legion

Birthright and March for Life Programs

Hibernian Hunger Project

Loudoun Interfaith Relief Support

National Hibernian Charities

Catholic Charities and Parish Special Needs

## Irish Wit & Wisdom



### Good-bye Grandpa

A father put his 3 year old daughter to bed, told her a story and listened to her prayers which ended by saying, "God bless Mommy, God bless Daddy, God bless Nana, and good-bye Grandpa."

The father asked, "Why did you say good-bye Grandpa?"

The little girl said, "I don't know Daddy, it just seemed like the thing to do."

The next day Grandpa died. The father thought it was a strange coincidence.

A few months later the father put the girl to bed and listened to her prayers which went like this, "God bless Mommy, God Bless Daddy and good-bye Nana."

The next day the Grandmother died.

"Holy cow" thought the father, "this kid is in contact with the other side."

Several weeks later when the girl was going to bed, the dad heard her say, "God bless Mommy and good-bye Daddy."

He practically went into shock. He couldn't sleep all night and got up at the crack of dawn to go to his office.

He was nervous as a cat all day, had lunch and watched the clock. He figured if he could get by until midnight he would be okay. He felt safe in the office, so instead of going home at the end of the day he stayed there, drinking coffee, looking at his watch and jumping at every sound. Finally midnight arrived; he breathed a sigh of relief and went home.

When he got home his wife said, "I've never seen you work so late. What's the matter?"

He said, "I don't want to talk about it, I've just spent the worst day of my life."

She said, "You think you had a bad day, you'll never believe what happened to me. This morning the postman dropped dead on the door step just as I was getting the mail!"

## Elk Happiness!



**Two Norwegians are drinking in a bar. One says, "Did you know that Elks have sex 10 to 15 times a day?"**

**"Aww, darn!" says his friend, "and I just joined the Knights of Columbus!"**

## Wise Decision

"An old, blind Irishman from Dublin wanders into an all gay bar in London by mistake... He finds his way to a bar stool and orders a shot of Jameson's and a Guinness. After sitting there for a while, he yells to the bartender, 'Hey, you wanna hear a good Brit joke?' The bar immediately falls absolutely silent.

In a very deep, husky voice, the man next to him says, 'Hey Before you tell that joke, pal, I think it is only fair, given that you are BLIND, that you should know five things:

1. The bartender is a Brit and has a baseball bat.
2. The bouncer is an off-duty Brit Bobby and has a 'Billy-Club'.
3. I'm a 6-foot tall, 255-pound Black Brit with a black belt in karate.
4. The man sitting next to me is a Brit and a professional weight lifter.
5. The man to your right is a Brit and a professional wrestler.

'Now, think about it seriously, fella ... do you still wanna tell a Brit joke?'

The blind Irishman thinks for a second, shakes slowly his head and mutters, 'NO! ... Not if I'm gonna have to explain it five times!'

## LEAVE 'EM LAUGHING

It was England v. Ireland at Wembley Stadium. And it was at that very match when the two Clancy brothers approached the turnstile. "How much is it?" asked Michael. "Twenty pounds." said the ticket-seller. "Well, I've only got one eye and so I'm only paying ten!" And, wonder of wonders, the man let him in. "And I'm only paying ten pounds." said Owen. "Hang on," said the ticket seller, 'you've got two eyes!' "Yes," said Owen, "but I've only come to see Ireland."

## **The Job Interview**

While being interviewed for a job, the personnel manager said to the Maguire brothers:

'We're going to give you a written examination. Ten questions. Whoever gets most right we'll hire.'

Papers were produced and the boys set to work answering the general knowledge questions. When the time was up the personnel manager collected and marked the papers.

'Well,' said he, 'you've both got nine out often, but I'm giving Mick the job.'

'Why's that?' asked Pat.

'Well,' said the manager, 'you both got the same question wrong but he had

'I don't know this' and you had 'Neither do I!'

## **The Blizzard of 2016**

We can't let this edition of the Cunningham Chronicles be issued without some mention of the Blizzard of 2016, and how it was dealt with by those who have true Irish Wit and Wisdom (and who happen to hail from more northern regions). Past president Bob Fay sent in the following photographs to show how the "New York Irish Tough" cope with a little snow. Thanks Bob.



**Remember Lent begins Wednesday, February 10<sup>th</sup>.  
Get all your over indulgences out of your system by Strove Tuesday.  
And join us for the Colonel Cunningham Division  
Membership Meeting at 7:30 on February 10<sup>th</sup>.**

## Celebrate St. Patrick's Day with Some Great Irish Music

The Fr. Mychal Judge division is presenting a concert of great Irish music on 18 March at 8 PM. The site will be Forest Park High School Auditorium which is near Woodbridge, Virginia - the concert website, The website for the concert is [www.celtic-crossingsdc16.org](http://www.celtic-crossingsdc16.org) has a map. Tickets are from \$36 to \$49 and all seats are reserved seats. Our last concert featuring Andy Cooney was a complete sell out, and we want to pass the word along to all Hibernians so they can enjoy this one. The website has a link to InstantSeats where you can purchase tickets. If the site asks for a pre-sales password the password is celtic. Please be sure to print your ticket and bring it with you.

Phil Coulter is one of the largest record sellers in Ireland, and was the artist behind the music in Celtic Thunder. Andy Cooney is referred to by the New York Times as "Irish America's Favorite Son" and has a terrific voice and stage presence. He has sold out Carnegie Hall in New York. He is a proud member of the AOH, and that is part of the reason we were able to obtain this booking.

You would be hard pressed to find a finer evening of Irish entertainment than this one at any price. Please come and enjoy!

In Faith, Unity, and Christian Charity

Dan Sullivan, President

Fr. Mychal Judge OFM Division

Fr. Mychal Judge O.F.M. AOH Division proudly presents

# Celtic Crossings

Live In Concert

**PHIL COULTER** • **ANDY COONEY**

Legendary Songwriter and Performer  
Creator of "Celtic Thunder"

"Irish America's Favorite Son" - New York Times  
Star of Carnegie Hall

with Special Guests  
Geraldine Branagan & The Irish Pops Ensemble

**FRIDAY, MARCH 18, 2016 • 8PM**  
**FOREST PARK HIGH SCHOOL**  
15721 Forest Park Drive at Rt. 234, I-95 exit 152B

Buy tickets at [www.celtic-crossingsdc16.org](http://www.celtic-crossingsdc16.org) • \$49, \$42, \$36  
Questions: 703-634-2378 ext 5 • e-mail: [celticcrossingsdc16@gmail.com](mailto:celticcrossingsdc16@gmail.com)



## Recommended Irish Owned/Themed Businesses

You've asked for and here it is (well maybe you didn't exactly ask for it but we knew that you needed this information, so here it is).

The Col. Thomas J. Cunningham Division of the AOH recommends the following:

### **O'Faolain's Irish Pub & Restaurant**

Dining & catering for all occasions! *"A real taste of Ireland"*

20921 Devenport Drive

Sterling, VA 20165

Ph: 703-444-9796

Web: [www.ofaolains.com](http://www.ofaolains.com)

### **Hunters Run Wine Bar**

Wine, tastings & light fare in a lovely country setting ---within an *Irish Cottage!*

40325 Charles Town Pike

Hamilton, VA 20158

Ph: 703 926-4183

Web: [www.huntersrunwinebar.com](http://www.huntersrunwinebar.com)

### **Ned Devine's Irish Bar & Restaurant**

Irish & Australian Pub & Sports Bar

2465 Centreville Road

Herndon, VA 20171

Ph: 703-793-7376

Web: [www.neddevines.com](http://www.neddevines.com)

### **O'Sullivan's Irish Pub**

754 Elden St

Herndon, VA 20170

Ph: (703) 464-0522

Web: [www.osullivanpub.com](http://www.osullivanpub.com)

### **ShamrockRs**

*Irish Step Dancers & Music for Party or Event!*

Web: [www.shamrockrs.com](http://www.shamrockrs.com)

All of the above businesses and enterprises have been supportive of the Colonel Cunningham Division, please support them.



## AOH Jackets, Shirts, Sashes and Name Badges

As in most organizations, there is AOH specific attire. If you are new to the Division or if you have just never gotten around to getting one of our great Cunningham Division Shirts, or one of those Kelly Green Sport Coats, this information is for you.

### **Wearing of the Green (When and what to wear):**

**For 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**. The jackets are also appropriate at all Division meetings and events.

For **informal events** (i.e. Raffle ticket sales, Parish events, Division outings (ball games, picnics, meetings, etc.) the Division logo polo or sweatshirts (optional ball cap) are appropriate. Many brothers have already ordered the division polo and sweat shirts.

### **Cunningham Division Attire:**

#### **Name Badges:**

The Division name badges can be order directly from President Bob Fay at any meeting or by email. President Fay’s email is on the last page of the edition of the Chronicles.

Name badges should be worn at all Division and AOH events, and when selling raffle tickets. You don’t need to be wearing a Division polo shirt or green jacket to wear a name badge. The badge has your name and identifies you as a member of the Colonel Cunningham Division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians.

**Green Jacket:** Brothers procure their own green jackets and sashes. One source:

[http://blazerdepot.com/pages/mens\\_blazer/augustagreenblazer.html](http://blazerdepot.com/pages/mens_blazer/augustagreenblazer.html). Visit the website to see what they have, be sure that you know the size you want; then call the 800 number to order. Tell them you’re with AOH and the \$5.00 small order fee can be waived. Kelly green is the color.

**AOH Sash:** The AOH tri-color sash represents the national flag of Ireland and should be worn over the right shoulder (green closest to jacket collar) crossing to the left hip. Tri-color AOH sashes are available from:

- LAOH Sister Patricia Ankrom. Email Patricia at [traceysbydesign@aol.com](mailto:traceysbydesign@aol.com)
- D. & E. Morrissey (954-426-3514) <http://www.hibernians-shamrock.com/donations.html>

(The National Hibernian usually has an ad for D & E Morrissey.)

**Division Polo Shirts:** Polo shirts with the Cunningham Division logo can be ordered in a variety of colors and materials from Deirdre Noonan at Sew Fabulous Embroidery. The web site is [www.sewfe.com](http://www.sewfe.com). Ms. Noonan’s email address is [Deirdre@sewfe.com](mailto:Deirdre@sewfe.com), and her phone number is 845-821-6183. You can order a variety of other AOH apparel from this site (sweatshirts, hats, jackets, etc.). Go to the web site to see the different shirts and other AOH items that are available. They have already done a number of Cunningham Division shirts so they already have the artwork for our logo. Because this is the most popular thing for brothers to order we have included the order form and additional information on the following pages (total of four pages).

## “Faugh A Ballagh”

### **Colonel Thomas J Cunningham Jr. Division Contact Information**

|  |  |
|--|--|
| President: Jay McCarthy                      | <a href="mailto:vigor2@aol.com">vigor2@aol.com</a>                   |
| Vice-President: Cole Slattery                | <a href="mailto:slatteryjc@aol.com">slatteryjc@aol.com</a>           |
| Chairman of the Standing Committee Tim Melia | <a href="mailto:tim@themeliateam.com">tim@themeliateam.com</a>       |
| All Members Email                            | <a href="mailto:brothers@aohloudoun.org">brothers@aohloudoun.org</a> |
| Division Officers                            | <a href="mailto:officers@aohloudoun.org">officers@aohloudoun.org</a> |
| The Cunningham Division Website              | <a href="http://www.aohloudoun.org">www.aohloudoun.org</a>           |
| The Virginia State AOH Website               | <a href="http://www.aohvirginia.org">www.aohvirginia.org</a>         |
| The AOH National Website                     | <a href="http://www.aoh.com">www.aoh.com</a>                         |

### **Return of the Cunningham Chronicles**

*This is the new Cunningham Chronicles, named after our original Division newsletter. This newsletter is a little bit different than the original in that it is intended to be distributed by email to all the members, friends, and sponsors of the Colonel Cunningham Division. Our hope is to publish the Chronicles every quarter. We want to include news of the Division and our members. Please forward information to us if you are taking any trips to Ireland, have any stories of personal Irish history to share, news of family events (births, deaths, marriages, special anniversaries, awards, etc.). We would like think of our Division and our brothers as a big Irish Catholic family, and we would like to share our family stories and news.*

*If you have any member news, photos, suggestions, ideas, stories, better jokes, prayer requests, etc., please send them on to Bob Anderson at the Chronicles new email address:*  
[cunninghamnews1916@gmail.com](mailto:cunninghamnews1916@gmail.com)

*Thank you to all of those who provided photos and stories for this edition of the Cunningham Chronicles.*

*Brothers, In Our Motto,  
Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity*



*“To be Irish is a Blessing. To be a Hibernian is an Honor”*