

IN FRIENDSHIP, UNITY AND CHRISTIAN CHARITY



GENERAL MEAGHER'S DISPATCHES

<http://www.aohfredericksburg.org/>

September 2016

Volume 4/Number 9

President: Andy Link **Chaplain:** Father Jerry Wooton **Vice President:** Dan Mulhern
Financial Secretary: Jeff Banks **Treasurer:** Dick Dowd **Recording Secretary:** Jack Grey
Standing Committee: Vacant **Marshal:** Shawn Lenahan **Sentinel:** Paul O'Brien, **Newsletter**
Editor: Bill Halpin (sisconsulting@comcast.net)

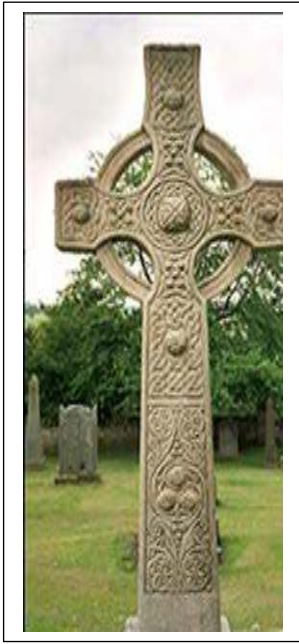


At our August meeting we ceremonially draped the Division Charter, shared a parting glass in honor and memory of our Fallen Brothers: Larry Pratt, Ron Cullen, and Ed Cranshaw. Ed, Larry and Ron died within two weeks of one another in June and July.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Mary's shelter 10th Anniversary Gala event was a wonderful evening and the Meagher Hibernians occupied two tables of eight. I just want to recognize Ms. Elena Doyle and her coordination over the past couple of months to make sure we were well taken care of. The charity work of our division namely the Trip for Two to Ireland Raffle and our Shamrock Golf Tournament was tremendous. You all have worked hard to make our charity goals possible and thank you to all of you who have been working very hard this year.

During the month of August we conducted our 4th Shamrock Degree Exemplification and I would like to welcome our new Brothers John Tracy and Joseph Monaghan. Also in August we welcomed Father Jerry Wooton as our new Division Chaplain. Thank you to Father Kevin Fimian for your service as our chaplain over the past three years.



Prayer for the Faithful

*May the Strength of God guide us.
May the Power of God preserve us
May the Wisdom of God instruct us.
May the Hand of God protect us.
May the Way of God direct us.
May the Shield of God defend us.
May the Angels of God guard us.
- Against the snares of the evil one.*

*May Christ be with us!
May Christ be before us!
May Christ be in us,
Christ be over all!*

*May Thy Grace, Lord,
Always be ours,
This day, O Lord, and forevermore, Amen
Saint Patrick*

There are three major events during the month of September, the first will be our Halfway to St. Patrick's Day on Saturday, September 10, the second event will be the Virginia State Board of AOH Quarterly meeting with Tower Degree Exemplification on Saturday, September 17, and our third event is the Trip for Two to Ireland raffle drawing on Saturday, September 17.

At our Tuesday, September 20 meeting this month, I will appoint three committees, the Charities, Nominating and the Division Hibernian of the Year Committee. I may call upon you to support one of these committees to the betterment of our Division, please support me in this process. I will call on the parish representatives for the Charities Committee asking one of them to become a Chairman. The actual committee work will begin in the October and November time frame to present their recommendations to the New President and to our Division to vote on in January 2017. Our Nominating Committee will independently select and announce the next team of 2017 Meagher Division Officers during our October meeting. The third committee will be for the Meagher Division Hibernian of the Year based on an individual Brother during the fraternal year of 2016. Without service, there is no charity.

After reading the President's Corner, please take time to read about our history, culture, and heritage. Also follow our Division activities and thank you Brother Bill Halpin for giving us the General Meagher's Dispatches month after month. Please continue to pray for our sick and convalescing Brothers, our families and friends.

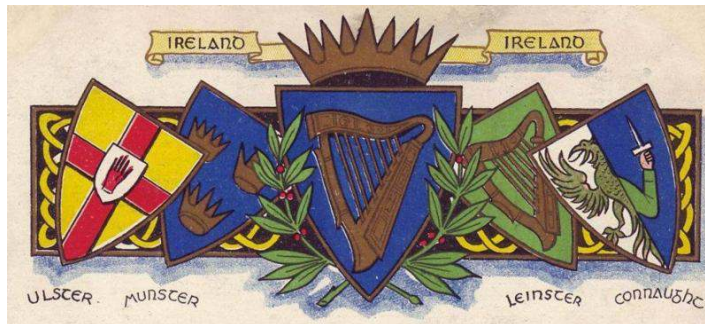
In Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity

Richard Andrew Link, II
President

NEW BROTHERS



In August we welcomed (left) John Tracy, USAF (ret.) and (center) Joe Monaghan, USMC (ret.) into our Division. Also pictured is division president Andy Link who led the Shamrock Degree Ceremony.



“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.”

From the Desk of Neil Cosgrove

Political Education Chairman

Brexit and its consequence to the Northern Irish Peace Process

On June 23, 2016, the voters of the United Kingdom voted to remake the map of Europe and leave the European Union (EU). The motivation for this mandate can be simplified to two reasons: (1) a frustration with an alien and seemingly detached alien government (sound familiar?) based in Brussels enacting policies and decisions that were felt to impinge on British sovereignty and (2) the inability off the UK to control immigration, heightened by the middle east refugee crisis, given the EU's "freedom of movement" provisions. Since the Brexit vote, the British government has made a conspicuous effort to downplay the ill effects of the "Leave" decision, particularly when it comes to Northern Ireland. However, the belief that Brexit is not a major impact to the peace process can only be viewed as a naive optimism or calculated misinformation.

Perhaps the most tangible impact of the Brexit decision would be the imposition of a "hard border" between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland as opposed to the free and unfettered passage of people and goods which currently exists. With Brexit, the border between Northern Ireland and the Republic has now been transformed into a border between the United Kingdom and the European Union. Currently there are no EU borders with non-member states that do not have border controls. Advocates of Brexit, and post Brexit politicians in Ireland and the United Kingdom seeking to minimize its impact to a nervous constituency, have attempted to dismiss this fact by citing that the UK and Ireland have had a "common travel area" which long predates their EU membership. While the long existence of the "common travel area" is a fact, it is not relevant one in the current Brexit scenario. The "common travel area" was an agreement between a sovereign Ireland and a sovereign United Kingdom, not an independent Britain and EU member Ireland. Given a prime motivation for the Brexit vote was British frustration with EU immigration policy, the idea that Brexit Britain is going to leave an open door with an EU member Republic of Ireland can only be described as naive or disingenuous. Additionally, those who cite the "good old days" of the pre-EU "common travel area" also conveniently forget the significant British military presence which was an integral part of the British security policy during the "common travel area" era. The psychological effects of seeing what can only be described as a new partitioning of Ireland cannot be underestimated and threatens to undermine all the work to build trust between both communities. The imposition of a hard border would be an abrogation of key terms of the 1998 Good Friday agreement.



The second implication of Brexit is economic. Former Northern Ireland Secretary and European Trade Commissioner Lord Mandelson have estimated that the economic fallout from Brexit could see the Northern Ireland economy shrink by 3% with 50,000 jobs at risk. History has shown whenever the British economy has experience a prolong downturn it shrinks inward toward London with Scotland and Northern Ireland bearing a disproportionate burden of job loss and economic impact. History also teaches us that in Northern Ireland when jobs are scarce sectarian based discrimination rises and is a precursor to a resumption of violence.

Finally, in a related vein, Brexit means the loss of an independent observer and advocate of the Irish peace process. The Good Friday agreement emphasizes Britain and Ireland's joint membership in the EU as an area of common interest which can be built upon to lead to greater peace and understanding. The EU has backed up the peace process with considerable funding of

initiatives that promote cross-border co-operation such as the PEACE IV initiative where the EU now picks up 85% of its €229 cost. Exit from the EU also raises question on human rights protections for Northern Ireland. Current Prime Minister Theresa May has been an ardent critic of the European Convention of Human Rights as "binding parliament's hands", only softening her tone when she launched her bid to become Prime Minister.

The Brexit vote takes the United Kingdom and the people of Ireland into uncharted waters in the fragile boat that is the Good Friday Agreement. While having voted by a much wider majority to stay in the EU than the broader population of the United Kingdom to leave, the long suffering people of Northern Ireland are being involuntarily swept along with the Brexit tide to an area of the map where it says "*Here be Dragons*". In a sea off uncertainty and political instability there is reason to be legitimately concerned that the old Dragons of "Playing the Orange Card" and sectarianism which have been fitfully sleeping for nearly two decades may once again awaken with the violent consequences that impact the people of all communities of Northern Ireland.

Brexit and the severing of ties with the EU which has served as an independent guarantor to the Northern Irish Peace process has created a dangerous leadership vacuum. The United States has a significant investment in the Northern Irish peace process and if it does not wish to see the dividends of peace that the Good Friday Agreement delivered squandered it must again become an active advocate for peace and justice. History has sadly shown that progress for justice in the Anglo-Irish relationship only occurs when the United States, led by calls from Irish America, is actively involved. Unfortunately, in recent years peace and justice in Northern Ireland has erroneously fallen off the U.S. Government agenda in a mistaken belief of "mission accomplished". It is up to us, Irish America, to educate them. We must immediately stop the erosion of the MacBride principles; now is the wrong time to signal that America is disengaging from the Northern Irish peace process. We must make justice in Northern Ireland a precondition to any trade agreement or treaty that Britain seeks with the U.S. if it seeks to develop U.S. markets to replace what it will lose as a result of its E.U. exit.

Peace is too precious to wait until it is lost and the violence begins. Shame on us if we do not take proactive action and it takes the sacrifice of another Terence MacSwiney or Bobby Sands to motivate us. It is time to make Northern Ireland a U.S. priority now before a Brexit iron curtain descends upon Ireland.

IRISH HERITAGE



ANOTHER IRISH HERO

John Keegan Casey (1846-1870)

Irish poet John Keegan Casey known as the Poet of the Fenians was born in County Westmeath. While still in his teens Casey began writing poetry for *The Nation*. At the age of fifteen, he wrote his best-known song, *The Rising of the Moon*, which commemorates the Irish Rebellion of 1798. Later he studied to become a teacher, but gave up the profession to work for the Fenians (Irish Republican Brotherhood). Following the failed Rising of March 5, 1867, Casey was imprisoned without trial for eight months in Mountjoy Prison. He was sentenced to seven years penal servitude; however, his health was so poor he was released after less than a year on the condition that he'd leave for Australia and not return to Ireland. However, he chose to stay on in Dublin in disguise and continued to write and publish in secret, using the nom de plume "Leo".

Casey had articles published in *The Shamrock*, *The Irish People* and *The Boston Pilot*. He published two collections of verse and is best remembered for two poems: *Máire, My Girl* and *Rising of the Moon*, which was turned into one of the best known of rebel songs made popular by the Clancy Brothers. Casey died of tuberculosis on St Patrick Day 1870, and was buried in Glasnevin Cemetery, Dublin.

PRESERVING TRADITIONS

The Division must prepare for the future. As the Blue and Gray Brewery fades into AOH history, we need to be proactive in protecting and continuing what has become an annual Irish tradition in the Fredericksburg area – the **St Patrick Day Parade and Irish Festival** that Brother Jeff Fitzpatrick organized for 12 successful years. Should the Adventure Brewery decide not to support these traditions, we'll need to look elsewhere.

Among the many other ways we can continue our traditions might be:

- ✓ Reach out to other Irish and/or Celtic organizations and approach the City of Fredericksburg to solicit support for an **Irish/Celtic parade down Caroline Street**. Seek sponsorship from local establishments (Red Dragon, Capital Ale, Irish Brigade, Irish Eyes, *et al*).
- ✓ **Organize a Fredericksburg Celtic Festival** (at the fairgrounds or similar large open area). In 2000-2005 Col Cunningham Division helped organize

and participated in an annual Leesburg Celtic Festival that featured the six Celtic tribes (Irish, Scots, Manx, Welsh, Breton, and Galatians). Many booths (about 50) were set up to display traditional Celtic craftsmen at work, to sell heraldic products, food, etc. Traditional games were scheduled (hurling and pole tossing exhibitions, etc.). Regrettably, the property was sold and the festival couldn't find a new location. However, I'm fairly certain the supporting organizations still exist. **AOH always led the opening parade.**

- ✓ **ADD YOUR IDEAS: DAN BUTLER DID:** If we decide to coordinate a Fredericksburg Celtic Festival, Dan offered to assist in planning. He suggested we include a Pipes and Drums competition, noting the mid-east representative for the Eastern United States Pipe Band Association lives in our area. Dan cautions that planning for such an event must begin at least a year in advance.

For Football Season: Irish Game Day Recipes

From *Wild Geese*, Posted by Margaret M. Johnson September 1, 2016

Breakfast Bread Puddings

Makes 18 puddings

Bread pudding is a classic Irish sweet. When the "sweet" is omitted, the recipe quickly becomes a breakfast bread pudding that can be made in a large casserole dish or in muffin cups for individual service. Perfect for early morning game day!

4 slices bacon

6 tablespoons butter.

1/2 pound white mushrooms, chopped

1 (16 ounce) loaf hearty white bread, sliced and cut into cubes

1 1/2 cup shredded cheese (Swiss or mixed variety)

Salt and freshly ground pepper to taste

5 large eggs

2 1/4 cups half and half

1. Preheat oven to 350° F. Place oven rack in center of oven. Spray 2 standard muffin pans with nonstick cooking spray.

2. In a large skillet over medium heat, fry bacon until crisp. Transfer to paper towel-lined plate to drain. Cool and crumble; set aside.

3. Wipe out skillet. Melt 2 tablespoons of butter and cook mushrooms for 3 to 5 minutes, or until soft but not browned; set aside.

4. Place bread cubes in a large bowl and toss with cheese, bacon, and mushrooms. Melt remaining 4 tablespoons butter.
5. Beat the eggs with an electric mixer on medium for about 2 minutes, and then beat in butter and half and half. Pour over the bread mixture, toss to coat, and let stand for 8 to 10 minutes, or until most of the liquid is absorbed.
6. Spoon mixture into 18 muffin cups and press down gently. Place the pan on a baking sheet and bake for 25 minutes, or until tops are golden (puddings will deflate slightly when removed from oven). Serve immediately.

Peter Foynes' Potato-Apple-Butter Bake Serves 8

No Irish meal would be complete without a healthy dose of potatoes, and this casserole, by way of Peter Foynes, director of Cork Butter Museum in Cork City, is perfect for a morning or midday gathering.

- 4 large baking potatoes, peeled and cut into 1 1/2-inch pieces
- 4 large cooking apples, peeled, cored, and cut into 1 1/2-inch pieces
- 6 slices bacon
- Freshly ground pepper to taste
- 6 tablespoons salted Kerrygold Irish butter
- Chopped fresh chives for garnish

1. Preheat oven to 400°F. Lightly butter an 11- x 7-inch ovenproof baking dish
2. In a large pot of boiling salted water, cook potatoes for about 8 minutes or until slightly tender. Add apples and cook for 5 minutes longer, or until potatoes and apples are tender. Remove from heat and drain.
3. Microwave the bacon for 5 to 6 minutes, or until crisp; cool and crumble.
4. In a large skillet over medium heat, melt butter. Add potatoes and apples and toss well to coat; season with pepper. Cook, stirring once or twice, for about 5 minutes, or until lightly browned.
5. Transfer to prepared dish and toss with bacon. Bake for about 15 minutes, or until top is brown. To serve, divide mixture onto plates and sprinkle with chives.

HALFWAY TO ST PATRICK DAY CELEBRATION

The 5th Annual Halfway to St Patrick Day Celebration will be held on September 10th at Lake of the Woods. At this writing, reservations are closed and the final list of meal selections has been sent to the club manager.



In July 2016 Pope Francis declared “*We are living in a moment of annihilation of man as image of God*”. He recalled Pope emeritus Benedict’s pronouncement: “It’s the epoch of sin against God, the Creator.”

Pray to Mary Immaculate, Patroness of the United States, for preservation of our religious freedom and for an unambiguous national moral compass. Prayer and votes are critically important in this era of progressive secularism and multiple threats from evil organizations.

Please pray for the repose of the souls of deceased General Meagher Division brothers, especially Ed Cranshaw, Ron Cullen and Larry Pratt all of whom died within a few weeks, and all deceased Hibernians and family members including Gene McKenna’s brother-in-law Richard Mulcahy.

Please pray for the comfort and healing of our Brothers Jeff Fitzpatrick (melanoma) Dick Dowd (recovering from cancer), Jim McMorrow (recovering - cancer & knee replacement), Jack Grey (foot Surgery), and Neil Mulcahy.

Keep in your prayers our family members and friends: Joe Monaghan’s sister-in-law, Donna Maffeo (cancer) and his father Joseph Monaghan Sr. who is caring for his mother and uncle (dementia/Alzheimer’s); Hugh O’Brien’s brother, John O’Brien (recovering from stroke); Rochelle Grey (hip surgery); Bob Doan’s sister-in-law Latisha Howard (Parkinson’s disease); Barbara McCoy (cancer); Amy Whittaker (cancer), and Andy Link’s mother, Eileen and his father Dick (Eileen’s care giver), Matthew Carroll (Irish Viet Nam Veterans Memorial Project)



Multiple Dates: Bingo! Every Thursday and Saturday evening 6:30PM at **St Michael the Archangel High School**, 6301 Campus Drive, Fredericksburg, VA 22407 (540) 548-8748). Bring the family!

Multiple Dates: Roller Derby at Golden Skate World (Five Mile Road) -- Family Friendly Fun. For more information, contact Jill Lenahan (Brother Shawn's wife) at 540-295-2464. John Hogan attended the Derby and reports it is terrific family oriented fun!

September 17:

- ✓ **VAAOH** third quarter **state meeting** hosted by General Meagher Division at Holy Cross Academy. All are welcome! Major Degree exemplification included – given sufficient number of candidates.
- ✓ **Trip for Two Raffle drawing!**

September 20: Division Meeting

October 19: Presentation of the 2017 Officers slate

November 15: 2017 Officers Election

December TBD(4th?): Annual Family Christmas Party (Date/Location TBD)

December TBD (10 or 11): Wreath presentations at City Dock and Marye's Heights

December 20: Installation of 2017 Officers



GENERAL MEAGHER DIVISION ATTIRE

In a perfect world every brother would have these articles of clothing:

- 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**.
- At **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: The 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 waist line).

Tri-color AOH sashes are available from:

- LAOH Sister Patricia Ankrom. Email Patricia at traceysbydesign@aol.com
She produces 7.5ft long sashes costing \$ 40.00 and guarantees satisfaction: if you're not satisfied send it back for a full refund.
- D & E Morrissey (954-426-3514) 1978 S.W. 17th Drive, Deerfield Beach, FL 33442
- Gettysburg Flag: <https://www.gettysburgflag.com/custom/irish-parade-sash#all-variations>