

Ancient Order of Hibernians



Major Dooley Division Richmond, Virginia

The Dooley Dispatch

December 2017

Celebrating 38 years of Friendship, Unity, and Christian
Charity

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Next Meeting – Tuesday December 12, 2017 7:00 p.m. St. Paul's Church



President's Message:

Hello Brothers,
Thank you for allowing me to be your President for 2017. I am truly honored to be a part of this GRAND organization. My thanks to all the Officers of the Dooley Division who served with me this year and to the Lord of the Bar, Jim Donahue, who tirelessly provides our beverages at each and every meeting. A special thank you to Pat Shea for organizing the newsletter for me; to Tim McDonnell for getting out the emails to the division in a timely manner; and to Dan Caffrey for all of the emails and guidance you have given me throughout the year. Go raibh míle maith agat (a thousand thanks).

I would like to welcome our incoming President Scott Nugent and his officers for 2018. And thank you to all AOH members new and old for making a contribution to this division.

I am looking forward to the Annual AOH Christmas Party at 1pm at Saint Mary's Catholic Church. This is always a great family event where Santa interrupts his busy schedule and manages to stop by to see us. We will also announce Gael of the Year. Please be sure to add this to your family's holiday calendar and let us know if you are attending.

I would like to remind everyone that we will be accepting donations for the Pregnancy Resource Center of Metro Richmond at the Christmas party as well as at the Officers installation meeting on December 12. 'Tis the season of giving and I hope you can give mothers in need a little help this time of year. Make checks out to PRC of Metro Richmond to make a monetary donation. Items that they need include: Baby gowns and shoes, bottles, diapers (sizes 1 and 5), baby towels, washcloths and baby toiletries. Only new items can be donated. For more information and a full list of items contact Mike Smith (mike@capstoneaccess.com).

Thank you again for a grand ride this year. May God hold you in the palm of his hand and I wish you all a blessed Christmas.
Slán go fóill
(goodbye for now)

In Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,
Brian P. Hegarty Jr.

Upcoming Events:

Business meetings second Tuesday of the month except July, August.

- **December 10, 2017, Sunday at 1 pm at St. Mary's Catholic Church – Family Christmas Party.** (Chair Mike Muldowney)
Contact Dan Caffrey with # attending, dish bringing (side, appetizer, salad, dessert) and if you can help set-up, bartend or clean up.
- **December 12, 2017, Tuesday 7:00 pm St. Paul's~ Installation of Officers** at our meeting.
**Family members are invited to attend installation of Officers.*

Prayer List – Please Pray for the following:

From and since November meeting (updated and new):

- **Laura Fredenburg - friend of John Mulligan** and Godmother to his daughter Katie, is undergoing surgery for breast cancer.
- **Gary McAuliffe - Jim Gemmell**, a very good friend of ours, who is in a major league fight with colon cancer.
- **Hugh Naughton**, old friend, **Dick Brennan**, has cancer. **Mike Brennan**, friend, had depression and died. His **sister-in-law** has breast cancer, tumors removed.
- **Jim Woods' sister-in-law, Wendy**, diagnosed with breast cancer and has 2 young children- chemo therapy – 8-week process. Dad, blockage in carotid artery – procedure.
- **Tom Forbes**, wife **Lori** had knee replaced, speedy recovery.
- **Chad Costello's mom** hip replaced.
- **Johnny Cates, brother Tim**, 16 months of hell – PLS (cousin of ALS0, prognosis not great).
- **Scott Nugent, mom Karen**, valve replaced in heart.
- Prayers for a **new Bishop of the Diocese** of Richmond to replace Bishop DiLorenzo.
- **Sue Gerloff, mom of Fred**, recovering from stroke.
- **John Quinn's daughter Maureen** – cancer treatment.

From Prior Meetings:

- **Bill Hutchins, friend of Jim Whelen**, for recovery from major stroke.
- **Kevin Kitrick**, AOH Brother, recovering from a motorcycle accident. Had shoulder surgery, still recovering from head injuries.
- **Keith Wandtke**, AOH brother, please pray for him.
- **Fr. Zahn** for spinal stenosis, back spasms. **Not** considering spinal surgery anymore, pray for less pain and discomfort. Next year will be 50 years as a priest.
- **Pat McGowan's** uncle Warren Henderson. Pat's mom, **Mary Margaret**, atrial fibrillation was in hospital doing better.
- **Hugh Naughton recovering from foot surgery.** His wife **Jessie** might need to replace a plate in her hear; **brother John** is recovering from stroke, progress is slow, working on his speaking; **brother Mike** – diagnosed with Parkinson's or MSA is deteriorating.
- **Patricia Dore and Andrea Dworkin, 1st cousins of Steve McGann**, undergoing chemo and radiation treatments for cancer.
- **Sean and Matt Costello's mother and sister Maura**, had hysterectomy and is in chemo for cancer treatment.
- **Brother John McCann** who is undergoing chemotherapy treatment for metastatic prostate cancer.
- **Brother Chad's parent-in-laws** – MRI on father-in-law (Jim) for bulge on aorta. Mother-in-law (Sally) has irregular heartbeat and is getting valve replaced.

Prior to March Meeting:

- **Elizabeth Moore** (girlfriend of division Treasurer **Patrick Knightly**). She underwent significant intestinal surgery. Pray for continued recovery.
- **Deacon Wayne Snellings** – inoperable cancer.
- **Rich Aleksy, Past State Pres.** - Rich had surgery to remove the lower node of his left lung and several lymph nodes which will be sent out for biopsy.

Contact Steve McGann, Chair of AOH Dooley Division Sick

Announcements

from Right to Life Chair **Mike Smith**

A call out that I will be collecting items or monetary donations for the [PRC of Metro Richmond](#) at the Dooley Division Christmas party.

Please make checks out to **PRC of Metro Richmond**

OR

accepting donations of the following...

- Baby Gowns
- Lightweight Sleepers
- Onesies, neutral or white only [0-3 months]
- Bottles
- Diapers [sizes 1 & 5]
- Pull-Ups
- Diaper Cream
- Girl Pacifiers
- Baby Shoes
- Baby Brush & Comb Set
- Baby Towels & Washcloths
- Receiving Blankets
- Baby Toiletries
- Vaseline
- Ladies toiletries
- Bottled Water

Due to ever changing safety regulations and recalls, they are only able to accept NEW items.

This is a wonderful organization that provides ultrasound confirmation of pregnancy, pregnancy options counseling, parenting classes, and prenatal vitamins.

CALLING ALL DOOLEY DIVISION MILITARY VETERANS

If you are a veteran of military service -- AOH wants to know! Starting in 2018, AOH membership cards will identify veteran status for those who have their service reflected in the National AOH database. A list was passed around at the November meeting and we've identified 12 members who are veterans -- it's certain there are more. If you're a veteran and missed the meeting or the list, please contact Financial Secretary **John Costello** (owenson357@comcast.net), [804/920-0534](tel:8049200534), to let him know your status and which service. At this point, the US Army leads the pack with 6 (4 Navy & 2 Air Force).

Irish Songs contributed by Fran Gawkins

[Seo Linn - Óró Sé do Bheatha Bhaile](#)

[The Parting Glass](#)

[Legendary concert of the Dubliners 40 years Reunion](#)

IRISH CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

Ireland has a wide number of Christmas traditions that are steeped in the Gaelic and Catholic heritage of the country.

THE WREN BOY PROCESSION

The Wren Boy Procession has been revived in recent years with parades being held on St. Stephens Day in Sandymount in Dublin and other locations. There are several legends regarding the 'wren boy'.



One such tale tells of a plot in a village against some British soldiers during Penal times. The soldiers were surrounded and were about to be ambushed when a group of wrens pecked on their drums raising the alarm. The plot failed and thus the wren became known as 'The Devil's Bird'.

To commemorate this deed a procession takes place where a pole with a holly bush is carried from house to house and families dress up in old clothes and with blackened faces. In ancient times an actual wren bird would be killed and placed on top of the pole.

It is possible that the very Irish tradition of visiting houses of friends and relatives on St. Stephens Day traces its origin to these events.

THE CANDLE IN THE WINDOW

A tradition that was very widespread in the 1970's but which seems to be dying out somewhat and especially in urban areas is the 'candle in the window'. Symbolically the candle represented a welcome to Joseph and Mary as they wandered in search of lodgings. The candle indicated to strangers and especially to the poor that there may be an offering of food in the house within.



During the Penal Times in Ireland Catholic priests were forbidden to perform Mass so the candle acted as a covert signal that the occupier was a Catholic believer and that mass could be held on the premises.

MARY

Mary the mother of Jesus was especially revered in Ireland at Christmas. There are many traditions involving girls named Mary which at one time was by far the most popular female name in the country. The candle in the window was often to be lit by a girl named Mary and only extinguished by her. The removal of decorations in January were also often to be punctuated by a visit from a Mary.

THE LADEN TABLE

The centre-piece of the Christmas holiday in Ireland is the Christmas Dinner. After the often lavish meal the kitchen table was again set and on it was placed some bread and milk and the table adorned with the welcoming candle. If Mary and Joseph, or any wandering traveller, happened by then they could avail of the hospitality.

LITTLE CHRISTMAS

All Christmas decorations are usually taken down and put away on 'Little Christmas' (January 6th.). It is considered very bad luck to remove the decorations and Christmas tree before this date.



MORE MODERN TRADITIONS

Modern Ireland has changed vastly from the times when these Irish Christmas traditions flourished and have often been replaced with newer more secular ones. St. Stephens Day is still regarded as a day to visit family and friends but is also a great sporting day with horse-racing, football and a myriad of other sports taking prominence.

Many workers take the entire week off between Christmas Day and New Years Day with many businesses completely closing down during this time.

Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve is also very well attended and is often adorned with a choir, the Church with a Manger and Nativity scene.

A Christmas Day swim is practised in certain parts of Ireland with perhaps the most famous being at the 'Forty Foot' tiny beach in South Dublin.

THE TRADITIONAL GAELIC GREETING

The Gaelic greeting for 'Merry Christmas' is:
'Nollaig Shona Duit'
.....which is pronounced as 'null-ig hun-a dit'.

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM IRELAND!

Irish Christmas Traditions - An article provided by [The Information about Ireland Site](#).

by Michael Green [Google+](#)
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Drop us a line - we **will** reply!

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GOOCHLAND
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RICHMOND
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To order sashes, click on the picture:

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