



Ancient Order of  
**HIBERNIANS**  
Irish • Catholic • American



## **GENERAL MEAGHER'S DISPATCHES**

**October 2019**

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**President:** Shawn Lenahan **Chaplain:** Father Jerry A. Wooton, **Vice President:** Dave McLaughlin, **Financial Secretary:** Bob Fitzgerald, **Treasurer:** Jeff Everett, **Recording Secretary:** Bill Vanderveer, **Standing Committee:** Jake Ruppert, **Marshal:** Dennis O'Leary **Sentinel:** Jack Grey, **Webmaster:** John Hogan, **Newsletter Editor:** Bill Halpin  
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### *If Not You, Who?*

The Nominating Committee is seeking men who are ready, willing and able to fill the remaining two officer positions for the 2020-2021 Term. If you want to be considered email Bill Halpin ([sisconsulting@comcast.net](mailto:sisconsulting@comcast.net)) with the position you're interested in filling. We are one of the Commonwealth's largest divisions ...

### *President's Corner*

Brothers:

Fall weather has finally arrived! It is so nice to go outside and not break a sweat walking to the car.

Thanks to all who came to the Halfway Party. It was a great success and a lot of fun. I've received positive feedback from the management at Colonial Tavern, so I am sure if we decide to partner with them again they will be amenable!

Congratulations to Mr. Kingsley Haynes for winning the Trip for Two to Ireland Raffle this year! Thanks to everyone who volunteered their time to assist us selling tickets. I do not have the exact figure of what we raised, but I know we did very well!

The Brexit situation seems to be heading in a positive direction. Let us stay cautiously optimistic that an agreement acceptable to concerned parties may be reached.

On a personal note, thank you for the prayers for my Aunt Ruthie. Her brain surgery was a success and she has already been through rehab and is back living on her own! How could anyone deny the power of prayer?

As you will see in the upcoming events section, we will have our third annual memorial mass for our fallen brothers on November 5 at 7:30 at St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception. I implore each of you to make every effort to attend this solemn occasion.

Finally, please consider Brother Halpin's request for a position on the board for the next term. The success of the Division depends on you! Remember, you will not be operating in a vacuum, you will have the support of past officers and your fellow brothers helping you help the Division succeed!

Please remember those on the prayer list and let's pray for each other!

In Our Motto,  
Shawn Lenahan



### *Something Irish for Halloween*

*"When an Apple is Ripe, it Will Fall"* by Edythe Preet for *Irish America* (edited for space)

The Celts were brewing hard cider long before Caesar named Ireland "Hibernia". Like potatoes, apples are abundant in Ireland. On the first night of the ancient Samhain celebration (Halloween), apples played a key role in festivities. While merrymakers ate steaming apple turnovers and drank mugs of hot spiced cider, others bobbed for apples floating in buckets of water or tried to bite apples hung from strings. The Brehon Laws, written in 438 A.D. extended legal protection to apple trees.

#### ***APPLE RECIPES FROM IRLEAND***

##### Friar's Omelet

1 pound apples, peeled, cored, sliced  
4 ounces brown sugar  
1 clove  
pinch of mace (nutmeg may be substituted)  
juice of 1 lemon

2 eggs, well beaten  
4 ounces breadcrumbs  
3 tablespoons butter

Cook the apples with 2-3 tablespoons of water, most of the brown sugar, the clove and mace, stirring occasionally until they form a puree. Beat in the lemon juice and 2 tablespoons butter, cool. When quite cold, add the beaten eggs and mix in. Grease an over proof dish with the rest of the butter and coat thickly with breadcrumbs on sides and bottom. Put the mixture in and cover with the rest of the crumbs. Bake in a preheated oven at 350F degrees for approximately 30 minutes. Serve hot or cold sprinkled with the rest of the brown sugar. Garnish with whipped cream if desired. Makes 4 servings. (*Irish Traditional Food*, Theodora Fitzgibbons)

### Caramelized Apple Flan

#### Shortcrust Pastry:

4 oz flour  
1 oz butter or margarine at room temperature  
1 oz lard at room temperature  
pinch of salt  
cold water, to mix

#### Filling:

4 oz dark brown sugar (110g)  
1 tablespoon powdered cinnamon  
2 lbs. peeled, cored and thinly sliced apples (Golden Delicious)

Pastry: Sift the flour and salt into a large bowl, holding the sieve up as high as possible to give the flour an airing. Cut the butter into small cubes and add them to the flour. Using fingertips, lightly rub the pieces into the flour – quickly lifting up your hands up as high as you do this – to incorporate air.

When the mixture looks uniformly crumbly, start to sprinkle 2 tablespoons of water all over. Use a round-bladed knife to start the mixing, cutting and bringing the mixture together. Carefully add more water as needed, a little at a time, then finally bring the mixture together with your hands to form a smooth ball of dough that will leave the bowl clean. (If there are bits that won't adhere to the dough, you need more water.) Rest the pastry, wrapped in foil, in the refrigerator for 20-30 minutes before rolling out.

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Prepare an 8-inch cake pan by brushing with melted butter. Cover the bottom with a circle of greaseproof paper and brush again with melted butter. Cover this with brown sugar, pressing it down evenly. Sprinkle on the cinnamon and arrange the sliced apples neatly. Roll out the pastry to a thickness of approximately half an inch and cut out a circle that will fill the top of the tin. Cover the apples with the pastry, pressing it down gently.

Place in the oven for 40 minutes or until the pastry is golden. When the flan is cold, loosen it around the edges, cover with a plate and carefully turn it upside down, then remove the tin and greaseproof paper. Serve with whipped cream or crème fraiche. A caramelized apple flan looks like this. (*Delia Smith's Complete Illustrated Cookery Course*)





*“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.”*

### Ambassador Mulhall on **“Ireland and the challenges of Brexit”**

This past two years, I have travelled across America telling the story of modern Ireland and seeking to deepen our manifold connections – political, economic and people-to-people – with the United States. I have given numerous speeches at universities, think tanks, chambers of commerce, and Irish community organizations. On such occasions, questions are invariably asked about Britain’s decision to leave the European Union and its implications for Ireland. This reflects a genuine concern among Irish Americans about the risks Britain’s exit from the EU could pose for Northern Ireland and for the precious, hard-won peace there. Here is the answer I try to give on such occasions.

Ireland has been a member of the European Union since 1973 and has manifestly benefited from membership. Membership, with the unhindered access it gives us to European markets, has enabled us to transform our economy. I have little patience for those

who argue that EU membership is incompatible with national sovereignty and independence. That notion is founded on a misunderstanding of the nature of the European Union. As Ambassador to the United States, I represent a fully independent, sovereign Irish State that is also a committed member of the European Union. Our membership of the EU is based on a sovereign choice we have made. There is currently something in the region of 90% support for the EU in Ireland, which reflects a wide public appreciation of the benefits of membership.

These past 45 years, the United Kingdom has been alongside Ireland as a member of the EU. Shared EU membership has helped improve Ireland’s ties with our nearest neighbor as we have more often than not found ourselves on the same side in internal EU deliberations. This improved relationship enabled the Irish and British Governments to work together

successfully, and with support from the United States and the European Union, to bring peace to Northern Ireland through the Good Friday Agreement of 1998.

Ireland did not want to see the UK leave the EU and regretted the outcome of the 2016 referendum. We have, however, always accepted the UK's right to leave the EU. It is in the nature of the European Union that membership is voluntary.

Since June 2016, our Government's priority has been to minimize the negative impact of the UK's EU exit on Ireland and to maximize any potential upsides such as the prospect of increased US investment in Ireland when we become the sole English-speaking country in the EU. We have expressed particular anxiety about the potential impact of Brexit on Northern Ireland and the peace brought about by the Good Friday Agreement.

Ireland continues to be a committed member of the European Union and the negotiations on the UK's exit from the EU and future EU-UK relations are conducted on behalf the EU's remaining 27 members by the European Commission. After many months of painstaking negotiations, a Withdrawal Agreement was concluded between the UK and the EU, which, unfortunately, failed to secure a majority in the Westminster Parliament.

From an Irish point of view, the Withdrawal Agreement contains a vital provision called the 'backstop'. Let me explain the background to that

provision. One of our prime concerns has been to preserve the open border that has existed in Ireland since the mid-1990s with the creation of the EU single market and the end of the 25-year conflict in Northern Ireland. The border in Ireland is 300 miles long and has some 200 border crossings (as many as on the entire eastern border of the EU). It runs through villages, homes, farms and open fields and would be well-nigh impossible to seal.

No-one wants a hard border on the island of Ireland. Indeed, Ireland, the UK and the EU are all agreed on the need to preserve today's open border. The problem is how to achieve this if the UK, and thus Northern Ireland, leaves the single market and the EU Customs Union. In such circumstances, there will be a need to protect the integrity of the EU single market, which is a matter of vital interest for Ireland as the other 26 countries remaining in the EU account for more than 40% of our exports.

An important point I need to make to US audiences is that the challenge that arises on the border in Ireland has to do with the movement of goods and not people. There is a 'Common Travel Area' between Ireland and Britain which, which has been in place for almost a century, and which will continue to guarantee that people on both islands will be able to move freely between their two countries and to live and work without restrictions on both sides of the Irish Sea.

The Withdrawal Agreement's 'backstop' provides a guarantee that whatever happens in the future, there

can never be a hard border on the island of Ireland. As such, it is an insurance policy for the future. The hope is that it will never need to be used, that the EU and the UK will forge the kind of close economic partnership that will remove altogether the need for border controls.

The Irish Government sees the backstop as essential if the open border in Ireland is to be guaranteed in perpetuity. Our Government has made it clear that they would be happy to see further negotiations between the EU and the UK aimed at finding a settlement that can command a majority in the UK Parliament. The Government have said that they are open to exploring alternatives to the backstop provided these are legally workable, but the EU has yet to receive any such proposals from the British Government.

It is our clear preference that Brexit should take place in a sensible, orderly fashion. It is in Ireland's interest that the UK should have a close and constructive relationship with the EU. The prospect of the UK crashing out of the EU without an agreement to regulate future

EU-UK trade ties is a destructive one which we earnestly seek to avoid. It would be economically damaging to Ireland, to the EU and most especially to the UK. It is hard to think of any precedent for a country leaving a free trade area that accounts for 40% of its exports without putting any alternative arrangements in place.

I have been greatly encouraged by the strong expressions of support for Ireland's position I have received from so many Irish Americans, including members of Congress. Let me be clear, Ireland wants Britain to prosper in the future so that our relations can continue to thrive as they have done in recent decades. But, the fallout from Brexit must not be allowed to damage the Good Friday Agreement and to turn the clock back for North-South relations in Ireland and for ties with our nearest neighbor that have undergone such positive change in recent decades. We look to continuing American support for Ireland at this challenging time as we grapple with the profound uncertainties generated by the onset of Britain's departure from the European Union.



**Our DIVISION Prayers**



**Jack Grey, Committee of the Sick Chairman.** Prayer requests should be sent to Jack not later than the Wednesday prior to the business meeting ([RHGrey@cox.net](mailto:RHGrey@cox.net)//540-373-4496).

Pray for the repose of the souls of all deceased Hibernian Brothers. Keep in your prayers our family members and friends:

- **Nolan Banks**, son of former FS Jeff Banks. Nolan is recovering from soft tissue sarcoma (RMS). *Pray for the intercession of Father Augustus Tolton*, a candidate for canonization (the prayer: <http://www.toltoncanonization.org/prayer/canonizationprayer.html>)
- **John Tracy**, COPD
- **Joe Daley**, COPD
- **John Hogan**, vascular irregularities
- **Bill Phillips**, undiagnosed leg issue
- **Brian Kiernan**, VAAOH Vice President, lymphedemic edema
- **Angelique Bolling**, Edwin Hanson's sister in law - brain tumors
- **Jake Ruppert's** mother, cancer -- recovering from surgery
- **John O'Brien** Hugh O'Brien's brother-- recovering from stroke
- **Jerry O'Brien**, Paul O'Brien's brother – cancer
- **Ruth Pettinger**, Shawn Lenahan's aunt (a Vietnam Vet) diagnosed with inoperable brain tumor.
- **Donna Maffeo**, Joe Monaghan's sister-in-law and his father Joseph Sr. care giver for his mother and uncle (dementia/Alzheimer)
- **Patricia Stephen**, mother of Rusty O'Brien's friend Ann-Marie Sharratt -- acute myeloid leukemia
- **Amy Whittaker** – cancer



## Upcoming Events



### *Mark Your Calendars!*

**Bingo!** Every Thursday and Saturday evening 6:30PM at St Michael the Archangel High School, 6301 Campus Drive, Fredericksburg. Bring the family!

**October 15:** Division Meeting: Nominating Committee will announce a slate of nominees who have stepped up to fill division officer positions for the 2020-2021 Term. All positions do not have nominees yet -- if you wish to be considered, send Bill Halpin ([sisconsulting@comcast.net](mailto:sisconsulting@comcast.net)) your name and the position you hope to occupy.

**November 5:** 3rd Annual Memorial Mass, 7:30PM at St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Church



## **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](mailto:s_lenahan@verizon.net))**

**Green Jacket:** Brothers procure their own green jackets. 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.**

**AOH Sash:** Brothers procure their own sashes. The AOH tri-color sash represents the national colors of Ireland and should be worn over the right shoulder (green closest to neck/collar) crossing to the left hip. Measure from right shoulder to left hip in inches; keep in mind the sash will normally be worn over a jacket, possibly a raincoat/overcoat (and maybe a growing waistline).

Tri-color AOH sashes are available from:

- LAOH Sister Patricia Ankrom produces a 7.5-foot sash; satisfaction guaranteed. Send a personal check for \$60. Turnaround time is about 10 days. The sash will be sent to you via Fed Ex or UPS -- signature required. Her address: Patricia Ankrom, 7400 Airport Dr., Quinton, Va. 23141-2400. Email [traceysbydesign@aol.com](mailto:traceysbydesign@aol.com)
- Gettysburg Flag offers tri-color sashes and offers “special prices” for larger orders. <https://www.gettysburgflag.com/custom/irish-parade-sash>



have interest in division activities. It is published by Bill Halpin and unless shown otherwise, he is the author of the contents.