

GENERAL MEAGHER'S DISPATCHES

August 2022

Volume 10/No 8

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

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



President's Corner:

Brothers all, Sláinte!

Brothers Bill Halpin, Dave McLaughlin, Jeff Everett, and I participated as voting delegates at the AOH National Convention in Pittsburgh, PA, on 14-16 July. With 1002 delegate slots available, there were 408 voting delegates present and Virginia was the only state in which all of our voting delegate slots were filled - 30 delegates for 30 slots! The complete minutes of the convention will be shared with us soon, but of particular note was the vote on the proposed Constitutional amendment to remove the requirement for all members to be male. After several minutes of lively discussion, this proposal was overwhelmingly voted down.

Even with the heat and humidity of the Virginia summer, the work of the Division continues. Thanks to the efforts of the parish liaisons, successful raffle ticket sales events have already been held at St. Jude, St. Matthew, and St. Mary Churches. There are two ticket sales weekends scheduled at St. Patrick Church at all Masses on 06-07 Aug and 10-11 Sep. If you attend Mass at St. Patrick Church, please stop by before or after to help man the table. We have noticed

that if brothers of the parish help at the tables, the parishioners see the familiar face, stop to say hello, and they are more likely to buy raffle tickets.

Speaking of raffle tickets, we only have about 150 tickets on hand to sell and these will go quickly. If the tickets you received with your membership card are still unsold, please let me or Shawn Lenahan know as soon as possible so we can arrange to get them back to sell at one of the upcoming sales events and also at the Halfway to St. Patrick Day event on 17 Sep when the winning ticket will be drawn.

In closing, please add the upcoming Division meetings on the third Tuesday of each month to your calendars. The next meeting is on 16 Aug, and we are planning to conduct the next Shamrock Degree ceremony at the 20 Sep meeting. Hope to see you all there!

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

Bob Fitzgerald, President



Trip For Two to Ireland raffles ticket sales in high gear.



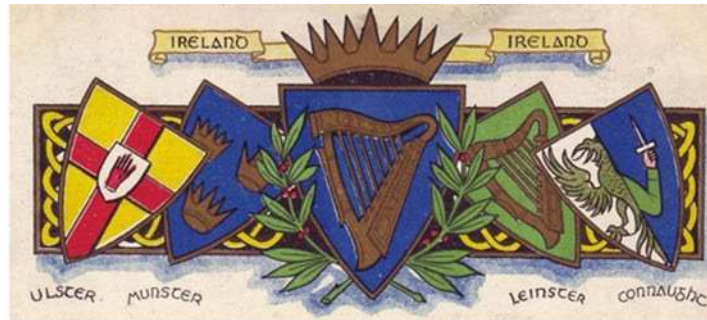
Shawn Lenahan is managing sales again this year. We kicked off sales this year on 25-26 June at St. Jude Parish where Shawn, Dennis O'Keefe and Jack Kelly sold 160 tickets. This was followed by the sales at Lake of the Woods on 2 July and then another banner weekend at St. Matthew Parish. Parish liaison Frank Connors, Jack Kelly and John McGrogan assisted Shawn and they sold another 108 tickets. At St. Mary sales were limited to one Mass (*why?*) where 52 tickets were sold.



One Convention Take Away: According to an “Irish expert” AOH is: (1) too Catholic; (2) too aligned with Irish nationalists/republicans (i.e. Sinn Féin); and (3) too male. However,



brothers Jeff Everitt, Bill Halpin, Dave McLaughlin and Bob Fitzgerald represented the Gen. Meagher Division at the July 2022 biennial national convention. Our delegates understand AOH is historically anti-treaty (**26+6=One**); and reject the arrogant claim that we're "too Catholic". And, yes, we remain a 100% male fraternal organization.



The Celt would forfeit his title to the respect of the civilized world, did he not fight with all his heart and all his soul and all his cunning against the empire which has despoiled him and murdered his kin, now with arms, now with artificial famine. There can be no peace between the two people until either Ireland is a desert or is free. There can be neither truce nor compromise.

Did You Know?



In Ireland, the last Sunday in July is called Reek Sunday (aka: Garland Sunday), the day when pilgrims climb Ireland's holiest mountain, Croagh Patrick. Located five miles outside the County Mayo town of Westport, Croagh Patrick is a conically-shaped mountain that commands the surrounding countryside. It's 2,500 feet high, and the path at a 60° incline is rough, littered with loose rocks to navigate with every step.

Tradition has it Saint Patrick completed a 40-day Lenten fast in 441AD at the peak. A statue of the Saint marks the start of the steep climb. Amazingly, many pilgrims make the climb in bare feet. At the summit there is a chapel where a priest celebrates Mass for the thousands of pilgrims who climb the mountain on that special day.



David Trimble 1945-2022

David Trimble, 77 died on Monday, July 25. Trimble and John Hume, former Social Democratic and Labor Party (SDLP) leader, were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1998 for negotiating and enacting the Good Friday Agreement marking the end of an era known as “The Troubles”.

Sinn Féin leader Mary Lou McDonald wrote: “His contribution to building the peace process in Ireland will stand as a proud and living legacy of his political life. Condolences to his wife Daphne and family. Ar dheis De go raibh a anam,” she wrote.



Special Envoy to the north of Ireland

Northern Ireland First Minister and Sinn Féin Vice President Michelle O’Neill met with U.S. Senators and State Department officials on Capitol Hill last week. O’Neill urged the Biden administration to appoint a Special Envoy to Northern Ireland. “It is particularly important as we move into the 25th anniversary of the Good Friday agreement. In the past we have benefited from special envoy, and I would like to see that in place again”. She met with Senators Chuck Schumer, Chris Murphy, and others.

Irish Protocol

On 12 June, U.S. SecState Blinken spoke with UK Foreign Secretary Elizabeth Truss. Truss is a leading candidate to replace Boris Johnson. Blinken urged Truss to continue good faith negotiations with the EU to preserve the Good Friday Agreement.

Note: Truss sponsored the legislation designed to nullify the Irish Protocol and she is determined to see it pass into law. Although many experts believe this legislation is a breach of international law, the bill cleared the House of Commons. Last week the European Commission launched legal action against Britain.



Upcoming Division Events



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

6-7 August: T4T ticket sales at St Patrick Church

16 August: Division meeting 7:30 PM, K of C Hall, 4724 Harrison Road, Fredericksburg

17 September: Halfway to St. Patrick Day @ Colonial Tavern/T4T drawing

20 September: Shamrock Degree @ Division meeting 7:30 PM, K of C Hall, 4724 Harrison Road



Our Division Prayers



Keep our brothers, family members and friends in your prayers

- Joe Daley: COPD
- Russell McLaughlin: Dave McLaughlin's brother - frontotemporal dementia
- Loretta Larzelere: Bob Fitzgerald's sister-in-law suffering from seizures and Alzheimer's
- 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 (Vietnam Vet) 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)
- Brian Kiernan: VAAOH President, lymphedemic edema
- Nolan Banks: Former FS Jeff Banks' son (chemo-compromised immune system) *Pray for the intercession of Venerable Father Augustine Tolton:*
<http://www.toltoncanonization.org/prayer/canonizationprayer.html>
- Mary Lou and Keith Bowers: St Jude parishioners/friends of Deacon Aaron
- Alice Wilkowski (stroke) associate of PDP Shawn Lenahan

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

- John Hogan: Gen. Meagher Division 2015 Hibernian of the Year, died 14 Feb 2022
- Christopher Grey: son of Brother Jack Grey, died 15 February 2022
- Dawn Forest: Wife of Brother Dean Forest, suddenly on 13 January 2022.
- Bob Phillips: Brother of Bill Phillips died on 30 January 2022
- Lois M. Hanson: mother of Edwin Hanson who died peacefully on 18 November 2021
- Mary O'Brien Gardner: mother of Jill Lenahan, mother-in-law of PDP Shawn Lenahan who died on 12 November 2021

Send notifications to Committee of the Sick Chair Bobby Murphy (smurphy823@gmail.com)

Send requests for inclusion in our newsletter to billhalpin@irishcultureva.org



General Meagher Division Attire

Every brother should have these articles of clothing

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 Masses, funerals, dinners, parades, State and National conventions, and other public events.

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: 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. A second source recommended by Major James Dooley Division:

<https://www.uniformsinstock.com/collections/blazers/products/executive-apparel-winston-mens-kelly-green-blazer>

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

D. & E. Morrissey (954-426-3514/ <http://www.hibernians-shamrock.com>). The National Hibernian usually has an ad for D & E Morrissey.

Gettysburg Flag offers tri-color sashes and “special prices” for larger orders.

<https://www.gettysburgflag.com/custom/irish-parade-sash>

This newsletter is an unofficial publication providing information to members of the Gen. Thomas F. Meagher Division and others who may have interest in division activities. It is published by Bill Halpin and unless shown otherwise, he is the author of the contents.