



GENERAL MEAGHER'S DISPATCHES

March 2023

Volume 11No 3

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.



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### **45th ANNUAL GAELIC MASS IN HONOR OF ST. PATRICK**

MONDAY, MARCH 13 @ 7:00PM, St. James Catholic Church 905 Park Ave., Falls Church, VA 22046 (Reception/refreshments to follow in Heller Hall) For more information, contact Alex Wilson (703) 969-7703 or [ajwilzn@gmail.com](mailto:ajwilzn@gmail.com)

**Check Coming Events for IAHM celebrations**



### *President's Corner:*

Brothers - March is a wonderful time to be a Hibernian! In addition to St. Patrick's Day, the entire month is recognized as Irish-American Heritage Month and there are plenty of local events to enjoy. I encourage all of you to celebrate your Irish roots and traditions by participating in at least one of the Division's local events during the month including the IAHM presentations at three of the local libraries and the St. Patrick's Day potluck at St. Jude Church.

The month of March also kicks off our two fundraisers for the year - the 10th Annual Shamrock Classic Golf Tournament in May as well as the beginning of the Trip for Two to Ireland raffle sales through the summer. We have a small group of Brothers doing a lot of the preparatory work for these two events, but they cannot execute the events without your help, so I am asking each Division brother to do what they can to make these two fundraisers successful. Please pass the golf sponsorship and player sign-up sheets out to all of the businesses you frequent and sign up with your golfing friends to play. If you are not a golfer or not planning to play in the tournament, consider providing a donation of cash or items of value for the raffle held during the tournament.

For the Trip for Two to Ireland raffle, please purchase or sell as many tickets as you can. In addition to individual sales, the parish liaisons are working with the churches to have T4T ticket sale weekends throughout the summer. If you see the sales table at your church following Mass, please stop by to lend a hand for a few minutes. Many hands make light work and the Division needs your help to continue to be viable and make a difference in the community. Sláinte!

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

Bob Fitzgerald





*Jack Kelly -- 2022 Hibernian of the Year*



Division Sentinel Jack Kelly was selected to be the Meagher Division's 2022 Hibernian of the Year. Well beyond his sentinel duties Jack was ever present and contributing to Division activities whether it be selling raffle tickets at multiple parishes after Masses, presenting the annual wreath at the Irish brigade memorial, or supporting Division functions, such as the Halfway to St. Patrick Day celebration. Jack was always present for duty. Congratulations on an award well earned!



**MARCH IS IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH  
IN VIRGINIA!**



This year the Irish diaspora will commemorate the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the historic Good Friday Agreements. These agreements signed in 1998 ended the “Troubles” that plagued the north of Ireland for thirty years and cost an estimated 3600 lives.

Hibernians from the General Thomas F. Meagher Division will be present at three area libraries during the afternoon hours as follows: Salem Church Branch March 7, 8, 9; Howell Branch (English Run area) March 14, 15, 16; and the Central Rappahannock Regional Library March 21, 22, 23.

The display will review 30 years of the “Troubles”, explain the Good Friday Agreements, discuss the United Kingdom’s treaty obligations resulting from BREXIT, the Irish Protocol. It will highlight the roles of President Clinton, George Mitchel, Irish politicians John Hume and David Trimble who brokered the agreements and received the 1998 Nobel Peace Prize.

The Division has donated more than \$100,000 to local charities and for scholastic awards. Funding derives from community support for the annual *Trip for Two to Ireland Raffle* and the *Shamrock Charity Golf Classic*.



February Trivia Question was: What is the origin of the city name “Dublin”?

**Answer:** The capital of Ireland, Dublin means "black pool," from Irish *dubh* "black" + *linn* "pool." It's a reference to the dark waters of the River Liffey.

**March Trivia Question:** What is the significance of St. Patrick’s fire at Slane?





*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.*

### **NI Update:**

On Monday (27 Feb) British Prime Minister Sunak and European Commission President Von der Leyen announced what may be a “decisive breakthrough” regarding the Northern Ireland Protocol. It remains to be seen if this will end the protocol stalemate. The UK parliament must vote to approve it and according to the UK PM Sunak, that vote will be held “at the appropriate time”. Also ... will the DUP approve? Some DUP leaders have already commented that this breakthrough does not go far enough.

Soon we’ll learn if the DUP Stormont boycott is really over the NI Protocol or a just a reaction to the Sinn Féin victory in May 2022 and Michelle O’Neill’s position as first minister.

*(Déjà vu?* This feels like Irish Home Rule promises in 1893, 1896, and 1912. The English parliament couldn’t muster the votes to pass due to NI/loyalist opposition.)



*Upcoming Division Events*



- **1-31 Mar: Irish American Heritage Month**

**Library Duty:** the afternoon hours at three area libraries:

Salem Church Branch March 7, 8, 9;

Howell Branch (English Run area) March 14, 15, 16;

Central Rappahannock Regional Library March 21, 22, 23.

**Kick Off** Trip for Two to Ireland Raffle 17, 18, 19 March at St. Jude Church

- **4 Mar: St. Patrick's Day Parade, Alexandria, VA**  
(<https://www.ballyshaners.org/parade.html>)
- **11 Mar: St. Patrick's Day Parade, Manassas, VA**  
(<https://www.stpatparade.net>)
- **11 Mar - Shamrock the Block Festival, Richmond**  
(<https://www.shamrocktheblock.com>)
- **11 Mar: Freedom First St. Patrick's Day Parade and Shamrock Festival, Roanoke** (<https://www.downtownroanoke.org/events/signature-events/st-patricks-day-parade-and-festival>)
- **12 Mar: Hooley, Basilica of St. Mary/Herbert-Cady Division, Alexandria, VA** (<https://forms.ministryforms.net/viewForm.aspx?formId=aa807e08-92db-4e3a-9b6e-ad5d2890f61f>)
- **13 March: 45th ANNUAL GAELIC MASS IN HONOR OF ST. PATRICK** 7:30 PM @ St. James Catholic Church, 905 Park Ave., Falls Church. Reception/ refreshments follow. **More info: Alex Wilson (703) 969-7703 or [ajwilzn@gmail.com](mailto:ajwilzn@gmail.com)**
- **17 March: Division sponsored** Corned beef potluck dinner at St. Jude followed by Stations of the Cross led by Deacon Aaron
- **18-19 March:** T4T Raffle ticket sales after all Masses at St. Jude
- **18 Mar: St. Patrick's Day Parade, Norfolk** (<https://norfolkparade.com>)
- **18 Mar: St. Patrick's Parade, Onancock, VA** (City founded 1680 about 20 mile s. of Chincoteague (<https://visitesva.com/events/listings/8th-annual-onancock-st-patricks-parade>))
- **19 March:** Irish music Old House Irish Pub [info@oldhousevineyards.com](mailto:info@oldhousevineyards.com)

○ **21 March: Division meeting!**



***Keep our brothers, family members and friends in your prayers***

- **Joe Daly**, COPD
- **John Needham**: back surgery
- **Frank Connors**: abdominal surgery
- **Neil Hornung**: knee surgery
- **Dan Mulhern**: Undergoing radiation treatments (prostate cancer)
- **Russell McLaughlin**: Dave McLaughlin's brother - frontotemporal dementia
- **Jerry O'Brien**: Paul O'Brien's brother – cancer
- **John O'Brien**: Hugh O'Brien's brother-- recovering from stroke.
- **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
- **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***

- **Shelagh Hornung**: Neil Hornung's sister-in-law died on January 14, 2023.
- **Loretta Larzelere**: Bob Fitzgerald's sister-in-law died on January 19, 2023
- **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, died suddenly on 13 January 2022.
- **Bob Phillips**: Brother of Bill Phillips died on 30 January 2022

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

Send requests for inclusion in our newsletter to [billhalpin@irishcultureva.org](mailto:billhalpin@irishcultureva.org)



**Hibernian Attire**

*Every brother should have these articles of clothing*

**Green Jacket:** Brothers procure their own green jackets -- Kelly green is the color.

- 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.
- Second source used 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>

**Division Logo Items:** Contact for division logo polo shirts, sweatshirts and ball caps is Shawn Lenahan ([s\\_lenahan@verizon.net](mailto:s_lenahan@verizon.net))

**The AOH “uniform”**

- ***Semi-formal/formal occasions*** are 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.
- ***For Informal events*** (i.e. Division outings (ball games, picnics, meetings, etc.) the division logo polo/sweatshirts and optional ball cap are appropriate.

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