



GENERAL MEAGHER'S DISPATCHES

May 2023

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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:** Bob Fitzgerald; **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.



May 4 – 187th Anniversary of the Founding of the AOH in America



In 1836 Hibernian immigrants in America asked to organize a branch of the Order in New York City. They communicated this request to their brothers in Ireland and received the following instructions from the Ancient Order in Ireland. Be it known to you and all it may concern, that we send to our brothers in New York full instructions with our authority to establish branches of our society in America. The qualifications for membership must be as follows: Roman Catholic, of Irish or Irish descent, of good and moral character, not a member of any secret societies contrary to the laws of the Catholic Church, and at all times and at all places your motto shall be: “**FRIENDSHIP, UNITY AND TRUE CHRISTIAN CHARITY**”.

President's Corner:

Brothers,

"Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity"...the Hibernian motto that succinctly describes and defines our organization. Perhaps it could be argued that I have too much time on my hands lately, but I have been thinking about these words and how they apply to me. Of course, they are not only specifically referring to how we should interact with our Hibernian brothers in the Division, but rather the world as a whole. If you haven't thought about the words in our motto lately, I encourage you to take a few minutes to reflect on them. That said, we have quite a few opportunities to embody these words in the upcoming months. The golf tournament on Monday, 08 May, will be a busy time so please stop by to lend a hand at the LOW golf course if you are not playing and have some time in the early morning. We also have the T4T to Ireland ticket sales ongoing with tickets being mailed to brothers for their purchase or sales as well as several dates for ticket sales at each of the parishes over the summer. If you see a sales table at your church, please stop by to lend a hand for a few minutes. As a recognized parishioner, your presence at the table is invaluable as you lend credibility to our event. We also have two dates in June where we will be awarding a total of \$3000 in scholastic awards to graduating students at St. Patrick School and Holy Cross Academy.

On Friday evening, 19 May, we are participating in Celtic Night festivities at the Fred Nats stadium along with the Scottish Society of Fredericksburg. Come out and enjoy the night with friends and family! Hope to see you there and at any of our upcoming events. Sláinte!

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

Bob Fitzgerald, President





Northern Ireland Protocol Update

Yogi Berra said it best: “It’s like *déjà vu* all over again”. We are seeing a repeat of Home Rule promises in 1893, 1896, and 1912? The English parliament couldn’t muster the votes to pass Home Rule because of Ulster loyalist opposition. Now, in late April 2023 the UK/EU agreed changes to the original Irish Protocol were rejected by the DUP and it refuses to participate in Northern Ireland's power-sharing government.

Brings into question: How long will the UK and EU tolerate the fanatical DUP? As a reminder, the 2021 census shows the Catholic population in NI is now greater than the Protestants population: 45.7% Catholic vs 43.5% "Protestant, other Christian or Christian related". Also, 33.3% of the people living in NI identify as "Irish." This is up from 28.4% in 2011. The number of NI residents holding Republic of Ireland Irish passports increased by 60% since 2011.



The Education Gap in the north of Ireland

In 1998, young school children in Northern Ireland were taught about the Good Friday Agreement and became excited about the opportunity to shape a better future. However, in today’s Northern Ireland schools the Good Friday Agreement is not a core study curriculum. Neither are the decades of conflict that preceded it.

In NI only a small number of students learn about the Troubles. Students who don’t choose GCSE history (rough equivalency to U.S. “college prep” courses) are not taught about the Troubles or the GFA. Even some GCSE history classes teachers choose not to include the Troubles. Students who don’t take any history classes learn nothing about the Troubles. Also, the NI the education system is segregated: 40% of “Protestant/state” schools do not teach about the Troubles or the GFA, while 90% of Catholic schools require it. This exacerbates the sectarian division that every child experiences at school and in their communities. The NI education system seems designed to maintain ignorance.

NI youth should understand the importance lesson learned from the Troubles and the way ahead the Good Friday Agreement promises. They should not be resorting to unregulated and unreliable social media sources for information. Keeping them in ignorance is a disservice to all those who lost their lives, and to everyone trying to build a better, more peaceful, future. The question is: How can they implement the GFA if they don’t know it exists? (condensed from Emma DeSouza in *The Guardian* 7 April 2023)



IRA POW **Bobby Sands MP** died on May 5th 1981 in the Maze Prison (aka Long Kesh) succumbing to a hunger strike he began on March 1, 1981. On April 10th 1981, Sands was elected Member of Parliament for the NI county of Fermanagh and South Tyrone. He won the seat with more than 30,000 votes destroying the British policy that the IRA was a criminal organization will little or no popular support



April Trivia Question: What subatomic particle has its name taken from the James Joyce’s "Finnegans Wake"? **Answer:** the Quark

May Trivia Question: What are the symbols of Ireland?



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.



Historic Tidbit On English Monarchy

The English *Act of Settlement* (1701) specifically prohibited any heir to the British Crown from marrying a “Papist”. Anyone who became a Roman Catholic, or who married one, was disqualified from inheriting the British throne. For 210 years the renunciation of all “Papist” associations was a key phrase in the Coronation oath. More than 300 years passed before the *Succession to the Crown Act*, implemented in 2015, removed the prohibition. Although the ban

was removed, it is still impossible for a Catholic to ascend to the throne. Catholics simply are not accepted as part of the English ruling establishment. For example, Tony Blair waited until after he stepped down as Prime Minister to convert to Catholicism. (Based Mary Kenny's article in *The Irish Post*, 16 Dec 22)



Upcoming Division Events



May 4: Anniversary of the Founding of the AOH

May 8: 10th Annual Shamrock Charity Golf Classic at Lake of the Woods Golf Course

May 13: Virginia AOH Quarterly Meeting Saint Michael Catholic School
7401A St. Michael's Lane, Annandale, VA 22003

May 16: Division meeting

May 19: Celtic Night with the FredNats



Our Division Prayers



Keep our brothers, family members and friends in your prayers

- Joe Daley: 100% blocked carotid artery, COPD, and hemoptysis.
- Dan Mulhern: radiation treatments (prostate cancer)
- Lisa Halpin: Bill Halpin's wife is being monitored by UVA neurology department following a minor stroke.
- Peggy Dowd, Dick Dowd's wife requires in-home professional assistance;
- Russell McLaughlin: Dave McLaughlin's brother - frontotemporal dementia
- Jerry O'Brien: Paul O'Brien's brother – cancer
- Ruth Pettinger: Shawn Lenahan's aunt (Vietnam Vet) is refusing treatment for an inoperable brain tumor;

- Margaret Casey: Tim Lynch's aunt has Dementia
- Ken Fishback: Bob Fitzgerald's neighbor's cancer has metastasized
- Donna Maffeo: Joe Monaghan's sister-in-law and his father Joseph Sr. care giver for his mother and uncle (dementia/Alzheimer)
- 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 K. O'Brien: Hugh O'Brien's brother died on March 15, 2023
- 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)

Send requests for inclusion in our newsletter to 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 Shawn Lenahan for division logo polo shirts, sweatshirts and ball caps ([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/sweatshirt and optional ball cap are appropriate.

This newsletter is an unofficial publication providing information to members of the Gen. Thomas F. Meagher Division (44SP01) 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.

