

VAAOH State Board 2023-2025

Robert A. “Bob” Fay PRESIDENT

Bob is a native of Brooklyn, New York, and the youngest of 4 children. He attended St. Brendan’s Catholic Elementary School and then Nazareth Catholic High School, staffed by the Xaverian Brothers, in Brooklyn. He now resides in Potomac Falls, VA, with his wife, Linda. They are active Parishioners at Our Lady of Hope Church in Sterling, VA.

Bob and Linda have been married for more than 30 years, and are the proud parents of three children, two boys and a girl. Both of Bob’s sons are active members of the AOH. His oldest son was a commissioned U.S. Naval Officer and his youngest son is actively serving in the U.S. Air Force.

Bob graduated from SUNY Maritime College in New York with a commission in the U.S. Navy and a U.S. Coast Guard License as a deck officer in the U.S. Merchant Marine. He sailed on numerous American flagged vessels in worldwide service and served for fifteen years as Captain of a Fast Sealift Support ship in support of U.S. military operations around the globe, including Desert Storm and operation Restore Hope to Somalia.

Bob retired from active sailing in 2002 and came ashore to work for an international ship registry firm based in Reston, VA, providing his experience in support of more than 3500 commercial vessels operating around the world. He is currently a Senior Vice President in charge of Maritime Operations assuring compliance with a multitude of international safety and pollution prevention regulations.

Bob joined the AOH, Col. Thomas J. Cunningham, Jr. Division, when he moved to Virginia in 2003, and has held many appointed and elected positions there including Historian, Charities Chairman, Vice President, and President in 2014/2015. He was awarded the Hibernian of the Year award by the Virginia State Board of the AOH in 2013.

Bob has also been an active Fourth Degree member of the Knights of Columbus and has held many positions at the Council and Assembly levels including Faithful Navigator.

Vince Eikmeier
VICE PRESIDENT

Vince is a native of Central Minnesota, raised on a dairy farm near the town of Rockville. As the second of nine children, he attended St. Boniface Grade School and High School, being part of the last graduating class of that High School in 1978.

Vince attended the St. Cloud Business College, left school to join the US Navy and volunteered for Submarine Duty serving for 8 years, 5 years aboard the USS Andrew Jackson, SSBN 619, as a First Class Electronics Technician in the Navigation Division.

Vince married the love of his life in July, 1970, and is blessed with two children, son Vince Jr. resides in the Richmond area and daughter, Jennifer lives in Buckingham County with her husband and two sons. Vince and Linda are active members of Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Henrico County where Vince is a regular cantor and both sing in the adult choir.

In 1978, Vince accepted his honorable discharge and started work for Storage Technology Corporation in Virginia Beach. At StorageTek, he rose to Senior Field Engineer and then to Technical Specialist and Field Manager for a period of 3 years. After StorageTek was bought by Sun and then by Oracle, Vince completed 37 years in that company in October of 2015. He is now officially retired.

Vince joined the Knights of Columbus in 1979 and has held the offices in Council 395 of Grand Knight, Faithful Navigator, and 3 years as District Deputy. In 2007/2008, Vince accepted the appointed position of State Membership Director, attaining 138% of the goal that year. Vince continues to serve on the K of C ceremonial teams for the First, Second, Third, & Fourth Degrees. He currently serves as the Director of the Cross & Dove Choir of the Bernice C. Williams Fourth Degree Corps.

Vince was recruited into the AOH in 2007 by Past State President, Patrick Naughton. He has served as Vice President and President of the James H. Dooley Division in Richmond. Vince also serves on the Division Shamrock Degree Team and leads in all the singing during the division meetings. He is very proud that his mother's maiden name was McDonough and that he was elected Gael of the Year by the Dooley Division in 2018.

As a member of the Brian Boru Major Degrees Team, Vince has played a part in the exemplification of the Major Degrees to many Hibernians in these past few years in St. Louis, MO., Helena, MT., and several cities in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Vince leads the singing in the Major Degrees as well.

Edwin Hanson SECRETARY

Edwin is a third generation American of Irish and Norwegian descent and the eighth of 10 children. His Irish grandmother fell in love with one of her Norwegian students when she was teaching English to the immigrant families. Edwin was born at Fort Benning, Georgia and raised in a military family at various locations in Georgia, Kentucky and Indiana. Following a year at Purdue University, Edwin joined the Army and served in 6 states and 3 overseas locations until his retirement in 2002. Edwin and his wife Leanne moved to Fredericksburg, Virginia in 2006 and were Parishioners at St Mary of the Immaculate Conception and St Jude for 14 years.

Edwin and Leanne have been married for 38 years and are blessed with 3 children and 8 grandchildren, all of whom live in Virginia and North Carolina. Edwin and Leanne recently sold their home in Fredericksburg and purchased a home in Leesville, Virginia and now attend Holy Name of Mary Catholic Church in Bedford, Virginia. At the end of 2021, Edwin will transfer to the Fr John Lynch Division in Roanoke.

Edwin was recruited into AOH by Life Member and past State and Division President, Hugh O'Brien, in 2017 and is now serving a 2-year term as Division Financial Secretary of the General Thomas F Meagher Division and is active with many fundraising and community awareness events for AOH. Edwin was elected to the Virginia State Treasurer position in 2021.

Edwin is an avid genealogist and joined AOH to gain a better understanding of his Irish heritage and culture and to help spread awareness to others. Of particular interest to Edwin are the struggles his family endured because of their Catholic roots. Edwin's Irish and Norwegian great-grandparents immigrated with their children and settled briefly in Massachusetts before settling in Wisconsin and Minnesota. Most of his relatives now reside in Wisconsin, Minnesota and Alberta, Canada.

Edwin has served a variety of parish communities as a lector, Eucharistic minister, Religious education teacher, a Marriage preparation counselor and a presenter for Worldwide Marriage Encounter. Edwin spends his evenings and weekends conducting genealogical research, restoring antique furniture, and repairing furniture donations for the St Vincent DePaul Thrift Shop. Edwin has been working as a contractor in the Pentagon since his retirement from Active Duty. He is a Program Manager and Data Analyst with Hyperion Solutions Group responsible for analyzing force structure changes.

Patrick Sullivan
TREASURER

Patrick is a Native the Garden State: Scotch Plains, New Jersey. Attended Saint Bartholomew's Catholic School from first through eighth grade. New Jersey was a great place to be a kid in the late 50's and through the 60's. Attended public school for his freshmen high-school year when his family moved to Lexington Ohio for only his Sophomore year and completing his Junior & Senior high school years in sunny hot Miami Florida.

During his Senior high school year, Patrick joined the United State Navy Submarine Force in early 1975 attending boot camp in San Diego California. His chosen naval profession was a submarine sonar technician. Still in San Diego in early 1976 and while attending STS A school, basic submarine sonar training, Patrick met his lovely wife to be, Anita Kay Ward and they wed later that same year.

Patrick spent the next 20 years gratefully serving his nation aboard USS Sturgeon SSN-637, USS Greenling SSN-614, USS Houston SSN-713, USS Key West SSN-722, USS Albany SSN-753 attaining the rank of Senior Chief Sonar technician Submarines (STSCS-SS). Also in that time, Patrick served as the COMSUBDEVRON TWELVE Sonar Chief and finishing up his carrier at Naval Submarine School New London Connecticut as the Leading Sonar Senior Chief Petty Officer responsible for the curriculum and training of several sonar training courses including the school in which he started: STS-A school.

Following naval service, Patrick worked in the government sub-contracting arena working for companies Loral, Lockheed Martin, and then 20 years with Progeny Systems. His first tasks were developing and teaching sonar training courses and also had the singular opportunity to create the Royal Navy Tomahawk training package for the first tomahawk capable Royal Navy submarines.

Moving from submarine specific training, Patrick developed testing and integration programs for surface warfare Combat System (CS) programs which are currently employed onboard our most modern naval ships.

Somewhere in about 2009 or 2010, Patrick joined the AOH with the Father Kelley Division in Manassas Virginia. He worked his way up the chairs: Sentinel, Recording Secretary, Vice President and finally President for 2022 – 2023.

Patrick and Kay are blessed with three fantastic children and now five super grandchildren. Patrick's latest and best job now is Retirement!