



Ancient Order of
HIBERNIANS
Irish • Catholic • American



GENERAL MEAGHER'S DISPATCHES

February 2024

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President: Dennis O'Reilly; **Chaplain:** Deacon Aaron Zaccagnino; **Vice President:** Jack McGovern; **Recording Secretary:** Bill Halpin; **Financial Secretary** Jeff Everett; **Treasurer:** Dave McLaughlin; **Standing Committee:** Bill Hallahan; **Marshal:** Tim Lynch; **Sentinel:** Neil Hornung; **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.



Breaking News: (30 Jan) The DUP is “in position” to end its two-year boycott of Stormont. It seems the British negotiated “yet to be disclosed terms of agreement” that DUP leaders and the EU find acceptable. (We Irish should be suspicious of undisclosed agreements.)



President's Corner

Greetings Worthy Brothers:

You may think February is a relatively quiet month for Hibernians - time to prepare for the all the festivities that will take place next month. But you may be surprised to know that there is actually a lot going on this month. The annual AOH Coloring

Contest is underway. Children in grades one through four are invited to color an image of Saint Patrick holding a shamrock. As with most things in life, there are rules for this contest. Entries must be completed with wax crayon only. The shamrock must be colored green. All coloring must stay within the lines. Artistic expression is encouraged. Three winners will be chosen from each grade, in addition to one Grand Prize winner. The Grand Prize is \$50. Brother Bob Fitzgerald will collect the completed forms from the participating schools in our area on February 9th. Judging takes place on February 10th.

You all should have received an email invitation to the 11th Annual Shamrock Charity Golf Classic Golf Tournament on Monday, May 13th at Lake of the Woods Golf Course. This is a major fund raiser for our Division. Brothers Bob Fitzgerald, Dave McLaughlin and Tim Lynch are leading our efforts this year. I ask all Brothers in the Division to support their efforts to make the tournament a most successful event. We need to sign up players, recruit sponsors and beg for donations to raffle.

Although Roe v. Wade was overturned by the Supreme Court, the abortion fight is far from over. In fact, it is actually more challenging since the battleground is now at the individual state level. The annual March for Life was held in Washington, DC last month and was attended by our national leadership. The Virginia March for Life will take place in Richmond on February 21st. I invite you all to join me in that march. Please contact me directly so we can make arrangements to carpool.

And finally, our monthly Division meeting will take place Tuesday, February 20th at the Knights of Columbus Hall on Harrison Road. The meeting starts at 7:30 pm with a social gathering following the meeting. Hope to see you all there!

In Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity

Dennis M. O'Reilly

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News from the Quarterly State Convention

The AOH state quarterly meeting was hosted by the Father Kelley Division in Manassas on 27 January.

1. The 130 “Hibernian Bears” are due to arrive in time for Easter (31 March) – a suitable time to sell them. Each division will be asked to buy 20 bears at \$15.00 each and resell them for \$20.00 to \$25.00 each.
2. Every division must have an Organizer. If nobody volunteers for the job, it can be assigned as an additional duty to the Standing Committee Chairman or Vice President,
3. FFAI donations are below expectations. Divisions are asked to “dig Deep” for organizational and/or individual donations. Donations must be prior to 1 Feb.
4. To be considered for 2023 State Hibernian of the Year nominations must be received NLT 15 March
5. The VA State directory was updated on 26 Jan. It is on the VA State website.
6. VA AOH total membership is 757 brothers.
7. Brian Tumulty (Fr. Kelley Div) volunteered to be the State Immigration Chairman.
8. The Fr. Judge Division seeks assistance in recruiting new brothers.
9. The webmaster has changed providers, now using Ultrahost.
10. Sixteen brothers received our Order’s Major Degrees, including four from 44FQ01/Warrenton.



There is increased interest in Ireland and Irish history.

“**Belfast: The Story of a City and Its People**” by Feargal Cochrane a Belfast native, a Catholic who grew up in Protestant neighborhood during the 1960s. Cochrane tells the story of Belfast city and why the people there are the way they are. I read it, highlighted in in the October newsletter, and recommend it.

“**Becoming Irish American – The Making and Remaking of a People from Roanoke” to JFK**” by Timothy J. Meagher. I am currently reading this one and

continuously finding new and interesting information on how Irish immigrants assimilated into a predominantly Protestant country.

“Making Empire” by Jane Ohlmeyer traces the ugly history of England’s domination in Ireland “underscoring the brutalities.” Recently highlighted in the Wall Stret Journal, it is on my “to buy” list.

Perhaps More interesting are some innovative Irish American whiskeys – a balance of traditions.

The WJS’ weekend edition (20-21 Jan) highlighted five “American whiskeys with an Irish soul”, combinations of Irish whiskies and American bourbon and rye.

1. Keeper’s Heart Irish+Bourbon Cask Strength – 2/3 bourbon, 1/3 Irish is bottled at 118 proof. “Best with a splash of water.” (\$50)
2. Hercules Mulligan Eyr & Rye – combination of two Irish whiskeys and three American ryes with cherry juice. “Slightly fruity” (\$50)
3. Restless Spirits Stone Breaker – blend of four-year-old Irish whiskey and American malt whiskey (\$44)
4. BrotherShip Irish American Whiskey – 55% 10-year-old Irish from Connacht and 45% 10-year-old American whiskey. “hints of salt and smoke” (\$52)
5. Four Walls Irish American Whiskey – a blend of malts and grain Irish with American rye. “perfect for hot toddies or chase with a beer.” (\$32)

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### *Hugh O’Brien is 90!*



Past Gen. Meagher Division President, Past Virginia State President and AOH Life Member Hugh O’Brien celebrated his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on 13 January at the Loudoun Crossing Clubhouse in Aldie, Va. About 100 men and women helped Hugh celebrate. In this photo, Hugh assisted by his son Kevin regales the assembly with a “short” – Irish – talk, a thank you and an appropriate Irish joke. Many happy returns Hugh.

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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?

Hurling was inscribed on the UNESCO representative list of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. It is the oldest and fastest field sport in the world, dating back almost 3,000 years and features strongly in Irish mythology.



Republic of Ireland challenges England in European Court

On 19 January 2024, the European Court of Human Rights acknowledged the Republic of Ireland's petition contesting the English *Legacy and Reconciliation Act of 2023*. The English bill passed into laws in September 2023 grants immunity to British military and/or civilians for deaths and injuries they could be criminally liable for between 1 January 1966 and 10 April 1998 in the north of Ireland. Total amnesty for crimes, including murder, committed during the period! The Irish case cites Articles 2 (right to life); 3 (prohibition of torture and inhuman or degrading treatment); 6 (right to a fair trial); 13 (right to an effective remedy); and 14 (prohibition of discrimination) as the basis for its case.



Maryland Public Television has scheduled two episodes of IRELAND WITH MICHAEL in February. The episodes are titled WESTMEATH - THE HEARTLAND and SHANNONSIDE.

You can find the day/time/channel for these by going to the Maryland Public Television Schedule webpage.





Upcoming Events

1 Feb: St. Brigid's Feast Day 2024 marks 1,500 years since the death Ireland's foremost female saint, St. Brigid of Kildare. The values that define St. Brigid include faith, spirituality, sustainability, culture, peace, hospitality, and education.

14 Feb: St. Valentines Day

20 Feb: *Division meeting*

21 Feb: The Virginia March for Life in Richmond

29 Feb: *Yes, there is one!*

2 Mar: Alexandria St. Patrick Parade

9 Mar: Manassas St. Patrick Parade

11 Mar: The 46th Annual Gaelic Mass, 7PM @ St. James Catholic Church, 905 Park Ave., Falls Church, VA 22046

16 Mar: Shamrocks on Kelly Street - An Irish Street Festival – Culpeper - where Irish music and dancing collide in an epic street festival.

16-17 Mar: The Churchill Celtic Festival, Richmond

17 Mar: Warrenton St. Patrick Parade



Our Division Prayers

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

- Bob Fitzgerald - detached retina
- Joe Daley - 100% blocked carotid artery, COPD, and hemoptysis.
- David Lee Chichester - recovering from a December heart attack.
- Gary Lane Fitzgerald – Bob Fitzgerald's uncle - pulmonary and heart conditions in hospice care.
- Peggy Dowd, Dick Dowd's wife requires in-home professional assistance.
- Russell McLaughlin: Dave McLaughlin's brother - frontotemporal dementia
- Hill Hornung: Neil Hornung's brother - dementia.
- Jerry O'Brien: Paul O'Brien's brother – cancer

- Ruth Pettinger: Shawn Lenahan's aunt (Vietnam Vet) inoperable brain tumor
- Margaret Casey: Tim Lynch's aunt - dementia.
- Mary Lou and Keith Bowers: St Jude parishioners/friends of Deacon Aaron
- Alice Wilkowski associate of PDP Shawn Lenahan - stroke

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

- Agnes Alexsy, beloved wife of Past State President Brother Rich Alexsy, passed away peacefully October 26, 2023
- Brother Jerry Timmons, died on June 3, 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 K. O'Brien: Hugh O'Brien's brother died on March 15, 2023

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. Visit the website; call the 800 number; tell them you are 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>
- Third option: <https://www.readygolf.com/trophy-club-green-blazer-jacket-by-readygolf/>

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>

Meagher Division shirts: Order from Minuteman Press [4122 Lafayette Blvd, Fredericksburg, VA 22408 \(540-898-7888\)](https://www.minutemanpress.com)

General AOH Logo Items: <https://aohapparel.com>

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 for 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 its content.