



Ancient Order of
HIBERNIANS
Irish • Catholic • American



GENERAL MEAGHER'S DISPATCHES

November-December 2024

Volume 12, No. 6

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:** Tim Lynch; **Newsletter Editor:** Bill Halpin (billhalpin@irishcultureva.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.



Congratulations to our Brothers who joined the Gen. T.F. Meagher Division on November 19th: Sean Morrow and Bill Tibbatts.

December 7, 521: Birth of Saint Columcille, Irish bard and monk. The Virginia AOH award for sustained superior performance is the St. Colmcille Award!



Division Administration:

Quorum: This is the minimum number of brothers that must be present at meetings to make the proceedings of that meeting valid. Without a quorum the division cannot vote on critical issues, administer the Shamrock Degree, elect officers, pay bills, or approve the minutes of previous meetings. We need you to attend in person or, if needed, virtually using the Internet connection

provided with the “Call to Meeting” alerts. Our meetings are to the point, generally lasting one hour and followed by a social time with snacks and beverages.

IMPORTANT CHANGE FOR 2025 DUES: At the November 2024 meeting our brothers unanimously voted to increase our annual dues to \$50 for brothers who have not yet celebrated their 75th birthday. As required in division by-laws, brothers 75 and older pay state and national per capita (\$21), an amount that can change year -to-year. The increase was deemed to be necessary as administrative costs have increased, e.g. state and national per capita taxes, cost of pins, name badges, stamps, etc. Reminder, 2025 dues are payable now!

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Volunteerism: All Hibernians volunteer to join our Brotherhood. We all pledge our “sacred word and honor” to be zealous in supporting the interests of the General Meagher Division. Certainly, many of us have obligations to family, employment, church, etc. However, when something truly matters to us, as Hibernians we’ll always find the time to do it. Good examples of division events requiring participation include the annual Memorial Mass, commemorating the Irish Brigade/Battle of Fredericksburg, Irish American Heritage Month, and the Annual Halfway to St. Patrick Day . “Showing up” for these events will take about two hours’ time and are effective, public displays of our motto.

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Fund Raising: The Division has two major fundraising activities each year.

1. The **Annual Shamrock Charity Golf Classic** will be played at Lake of the Woods on April 28, 2025. Success requires every brother’s (non-golfer too) commitment for some time and some effort.

- **Starting now!** Every brother has doctors, dentists, favorite restaurants, and commercial vendors. Each one of these can be a hole sponsor for our tournament, or at least can donate something (dinner for two?) for our raffle. For hole sponsors, we’ll place signage on the golf course that acknowledges the donation and advertises the sponsor. All supporters are noted on our website. Hole Sponsorship will cost about \$125.00
- On April 28th: Volunteers (about 3-4r hours’ time) is needed to assist in placing/retrieving sponsors’ signage at tee boxes, registering golfers, selling items to enhance the golf experience (“red tees”, lengths of string, etc.), and placing “goody bags” on golf carts.

2. The **Annual Trip for Two to Ireland Raffle** also requires a commitment to sell *at least* 15 raffle tickets. We also need volunteers to sell tickets after Mass at one of our four parishes. Ideally, we need at least two brothers per church per Mass. The parish liaison will arrange sales dates (two weekends per parish usually in June and August) and ask for your help.

3. **In Summary:** The General Meagher Division membership is 55 brothers. With minimal effort by every brother, we could sell 900 raffle tickets (\$7500) and 110 hole sponsors (\$13,200!). Keep in mind this money is distributed to our charities.

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Parish Support:

Our Parish Liaisons are busy distributing donations to pastors of our four parishes and to the St. Matthew Baby Closet. Every year the division donates about \$2500 divided among the parishes.



Here we see Frank Connors and family with Father Ebersol at St. Matthew and Bob Fitzgerald with Father Ziegler at St Patrick.



Annual Wreath Presentation at Irish Brigade Memorial

Following our decades long tradition of honoring the Irish Brigade sacrifices on December 13, 1862, Division President O'Reilly presented a wreath at the memorial followed by a talk centering on the Brigade and its impact on the evolution of Irish in America.



Old House Tour

On November 1st several brothers and one spouse toured the Old House Winery and discovered there is more than expected at this vineyard. Ryan Kearney, Old House CEO led the group. First stop was the winery and then on to the distillery and whiskey bar, and later the “beer hall”, and finally the Irish Pub.

The group learned about the history of the vineyard and how the production of wines led to the distilling aspect. The distillery produces excellent corn whiskey (of this I know first-hand), Rum, Spiced Rum, and a Rum/Coffee; Virginia version of a Tequila, Vodka, and Grog (from the “original recipe”). The distillery tasting room is really a museum created and decorated to honor of our World War II Veterans.



The “Tap Room” (aka beer hall) is adjacent to the Irish Pub. It is worthy to note the Old House brews its own beers as well -- IPAs, Stouts, and Lagers.



Annual Memorial Mass

On November 18th eleven brothers remembered our deceased brothers at a Mass celebrated by Father John Ziegler, pastor at beautiful St. Patrick Church. PDP and parish liaison Bob Fitzgerald did the readings and the list of brothers we honored at Mass. Father Ziegler homily stressed our requirement to pray for our 31 departed brothers. Father Ziegler’s homily addressed Church doctrine regarding Purgatory and Indulgences.



John A'Hearn (Charter Member)
(Division Charter & State President)

Lewis M. A. Barrett

Ray Beaver – d. 04 Oct 2017

Phil Booty – d. 12 Feb 2015
(Past Division President)

William J. “Bill” Callahan – d. 02 Mar 2021
(Charter Member and Past Division President)

David Coon (Charter Member)

Ed Cranshaw – d. 21 Jul 2016

Ronald Cullen – d. 19 Jul 2016 (Charter Member)

John Cunningham (Charter Member)

Jeff Fitzpatrick – d. 14 Oct 2016
(Past Division Vice President & Financial Secretary)

William Fitzpatrick (Charter Member)

Richard Fleming – d. Feb 2013

John A. Glancy – d. 01 Feb 2006 (Charter Member)

James Hagerty – d. 30 May 2024
(Past Division President)

Donald A. Hildebrand, Sr. (Charter Member)

John Edward Hogan – d. 14 Feb 2022

Thomas G. Leahy – d. 06 Dec 2007 (Charter Member)

Michael "Mick" Linehan – d. May 2015

Jim Mannion – d. 04 Dec 2012 (Charter Member)

Francis Maxey (Charter Member)

Joseph McCardell (Charter Member)

William (Bill) McCarthy d. 08 May 2015
(Past Division President)

Neil Mulcahy – d. 08 Feb 2017 (past sentinel)

Reverend Father John Munley d. 26 Apr 1995 (Charter Member)

Joseph O'Connor – d. 01 Dec 2015 (Charter Member)
(Past Financial Secretary and Treasurer)

John O'Toole (Charter Member)
John F. Parker – d. 25 May 2010 (Past President)

Larry Pratt – d. 20 Jul 2016

Earl Smith d. 2007 (Charter Member)

Gerard "Jerry" Timmons – d. 03 Jun 2023

John Tracy – d. 21 Apr 2020



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.



Ellis Island closed on Nov 12, 1954. From 1892 – 1954, over two million Irish immigrants entered the U.S. through Ellis Island. The first recorded immigrant was 14 year old Annie Moor from Co. Cork.

It was the busiest immigrant inspection and processing station in the United States. Nearly 12 million immigrants arriving at the Port of New York and New Jersey were processed

Located in New York Harbor, it is the most famous and historically important gateway and is home to one of the country's most moving museums. It pays tribute to the indelible courage of more than 12 million immigrants who passed through the station after journeys that often took weeks and months under difficult conditions. More than 100 million living Americans are the descendants of these arrivals who hoped to attain the American dream for themselves and their children.



Our Division Prayers



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

- Deacon Aaron: Recovering from surgery to remove his thyroid.
- Jim O'Donnell: In PT recovering from surgery to repair a torn quadriceps tendon.
- Bob Fitzgerald – still plagued by a detached retina.
- Joe Daley - COPD and hemoptysis is improving.
- Tim Lynch recovering from back surgery
- Jack Grey recovering from a fall.
- Lynne Mulhern, Brother Dan's wife recovering from back surgery.
- Russell McLaughlin: Brother Dave's brother - frontotemporal dementia
- Hill Hornung: Brother Neil's brother - dementia.
- Margaret Casey: Brother 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.

- Repose of the soul of PSP and National Director J.J. Kelly
- Brother Jerry Timmons, died on June 3, 2023
- Gary Fitzgerald, PDP Fitzgerald's uncle, died 14 February 2024
- Ruth Pettinger: Shawn Lenahan's aunt (Vietnam Vet) died on 19 March 2024
- Linda Mulhern Smith, Dan Mulhern's sister, died on 28 April 2024
- Jack Salvo, Jack McGovern's father-in-law, died in April 2024.

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 \(540-898-7888\)](http://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.

