

VAAOH State Board 2025-2027

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 Vice President

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 have lived in Alexandria, Fredericksburg, Arlington and now Leesville in the great Commonwealth of Virginia.

Edwin has been a member of the General Thomas F Meagher Division in Fredericksburg and Father John Lynch Division in Roanoke. Edwin and Leanne have been married for 43 years and are blessed with 3 children and 8 grandchildren, all of whom live in Virginia and North Carolina. Edwin and Leanne moved to their forever home in Leesville, Virginia in 2021 to be centrally located and now attend Holy Name of Mary Catholic Church in Bedford, Virginia.

Edwin was recruited into AOH by Life Member and past State and Division President, Hugh O'Brien, in 2017. He served 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 Division Financial Secretary in 2019, Virginia State Treasurer in 2021, Virginia State Secretary in 2023, and Virginia State Vice President in 2025.

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 fully retired in 2024 after working for the Army for 42 years. Edwin now spends his time conducting genealogical research, restoring antique furniture and volunteering his time with several community organizations.

Brendan Cooney

SECRETARY

Brendan was born in Louisville, KY, and lived in Radcliff, KY for many years while his father was stationed at Fort Knox, KY. Growing up in the military lifestyle with his father as a mentor, he chose to serve as well. He attended The Citadel Military College of S.C. and enlisted as a U.S. Army Cavalry Scout in 1999 in the S.C. Army National Guard. Due to the tragic events on September 11th, 2001, he was activated to active duty. While deployed, he attended Officer Candidate School and returned to The Citadel and was commissioned into the Military Police Corps. His 25-year career spanned across the SC. Army National Guard, the U.S. Army Reserve, the Army Staff, and the Joint Chiefs of Staff, with positions such as Army ROTC Instructor, Base Provost Marshal, Chief of Insider Threat, and Military Police Battalion Commander. He now serves as a Lieutenant Colonel (LTC), in a joint staff headquarters in Norfolk, VA.

Brendan is a Workforce Development and Training Instructor for the Pentagon Force Protection Agency (PFPA). He instructs and facilitates leadership and developmental courses for PFPA employees and assists with the on-boarding of new federal police officers.

Brendan values service to others and spends his free time in many community organizations that assist veterans or Irish Culture. In addition to the AOH, he is a member of the Travis Manion Foundation, Police Emerald Society of Washington D.C., The Citadel Club of Greater Washington, the American Legion Post 24, the International Police Association, and the Order of the Kentucky Colonels Chapter of Washington D.C.

Brendan is committed to life-life learning, shown through graduate certificate programs or degrees from the Harvard Business School, Cornell University, Henley-Putnam University, The Citadel, and Carnegie-Mellon University.

Brendan joined the AOH in Charleston, S.C. in 2007, and has been a member in Charleston S.C., Columbia S.C., and Alexandria, VA. He received his Major Degree at the National Convention in New Orleans, and has served as a division and state Veteran's Chair, division treasurer, and past division president of the Herbert-Cady Division in Alexandria, VA. He also shows his love for the Irish culture by playing Gaelic Football with the Michael Collins Gaelic Football Club.

Brendan is a member of the Herbert-Cady DIV of Alexandria, VA, and he and his wife Sara are parishioners of the Basilica of ST. Mary.