



GENERAL THOMAS F. MEAGHER DIVISION



SPOTSYLVANIA DIVISION NO. 1

OCTOBER 2011 HIGHLIGHTS

Our Division convened on schedule at 7:30PM, October 18th ; eleven brothers attended.

New Members: We have new members to greet.

- First, Father Don Rooney, pastor at St Mary of the Immaculate Conception, has joined the division -- now we have two Catholic priests as members. How good is that!
- Second, Bill McCarthy transferred into the division from Mgr. Bradican Division (Arlington). Bill is a St Patrick parishioner, retired Army colonel, and I can see he'll be a tremendous asset.
- Third, we welcome Dan Donahue as a new member. Dan is a St William of York parishioner, is employed with the USCG, and volunteered to update and manage the division website.

Raffle Update:

The 2011 Trip for Two to Ireland is history! I can report our third annual raffle was a great success as measured by ticket sales! This was made possible because of the outstanding effort by nearly every division brother, especially participation after Masses at St Patrick, St Mary, and St Jude parishes and at the Oktoberfest.

This year we sold 83.8% of available tickets. By comparison, in 2010 we sold 78.5% and in 2009 82.1% of available tickets.

This year's winning ticket was pulled by ten year old Reagan Green at 5PM on September 24th. Our division presented the 2011 winner, Tonya Lynn Denault (yes, she's Bruce's daughter!), with a check for \$2500.00.



Officer Nominations for 2012: Hugh O'Brien chaired the nominating committee this year. Thank you Hugh for taking the time needed to identify nominees for 2012 officer positions. By no means is this the final slate, others may step forward and nominations can come from the floor prior to election. We will vote on each position at the November 15th meeting.

- President: Incumbent Bill Halpin is nominated
- Vice President: Jeff Fitzpatrick is nominated. Bruce Denault is stepping aside to devote more time and energy to his position as vice president of the Virginia State Board.
- Treasurer: Incumbent Shane Quinlan is nominated
- Financial Secretary: Bill Gilhooly is nominated
- Recording Secretary: Incumbent Gene McKenna is nominated
- Sentinel: John Hogan is nominated
- Marshal: Bud Logan is nominated
- Standing Committee: Bill Phillips is nominated

Committee Happenings:

- **Birthright:** We were advised that stronger, younger backs from University of Mary Washington will assist in Birthright's move to their new location. The Division's assistance is no longer required.
- **Scholastic Stipend:** Based on current tuition fees, we discussed increasing the scholastic stipend for St Patrick and Holy Cross students entering Catholic high schools. For AY 2011-12, Pope John the Great tuition is nearly \$10,000/year and St Michael the Archangel tuition is nearly \$7,000/year. Although there is consensus among attending brothers, the Charities Committee will include this increase in their recommendations for 2012 to be presented at our January 2012 meeting.
- **Rose of Tralee:** We may have as many as three young women competing for the Fredericksburg area Rose in 2012.
- **2012 Budget:** A draft 2012 budget was favorably reviewed. It will be finalized and presented for approval at the January 2012 meeting.
- **Special Events:**
 - **Irish Heritage Night:** Still working this event with Nationals management and Tri-state AOH. Given our request for a weekend game (preferably a day game), the Nat's will be playing Phillies 5-6 May; Orioles 19-20 May; Braves 2-3 June; Yankees 16-17 June; Rockies 7-8 July; Mets 18-19 August; Cardinals 1-2 Sep; and the Brewers 22-23 Sep. Although neither weekend nor regular season, **the Red Sox will be in town on 3 April!**
 - **Golf Tourney:** The discussion continued on sponsorship our own Meagher Division golf tournament in 2012 at Lake of the Woods (LOW) CC. Given the high number of tournaments in August and September each year and the resulting competition for hole sponsors and players, we entertained a suggestion to consider late spring/early summer dates. I will explore this with LOW. I ask brothers who enjoy connections with major vendors (Air Lingus, Guinness, Pepsi Cola, etc.) to contact them now for merchandise donations/suitable for prizes at the tourney

Division Christmas Party: For the first time in collective memory, we favorably discussed a family oriented Christmas Party. The most likely venue is Leesø Retreat Pub at the Blue and Gray Brewery. Every brother attending the 18 October meeting enthusiastically supported the idea, so we can expect a minimum of 24 attendees and probably between 35 and 45 attendees. Date, menu selection, and precise cost (probably less than \$32/person) are TBD and will be the subject of a future email.

State AOH Board Vacancies:

The Virginia State Board continues to solicit volunteers for several positions; Assistant Organizer, Historian, Catholic Action, Freedom for All Ireland, Immigration, Buy Irish, Irish Awareness, Newsletter/Publicity, and Convention Chairman -- contact our Worthy State President Chuck Curran IRL4FR@aol.com

Division Attire:

- **Green Jacket:** Menø Wearhouse (1210 Carl D. Silver Parkway in Central Park) offers Hibernians a \$390 green sports jacket for \$89.00. Typically, the AOH ñuniformö for parades and other semi-formal occasions is green sport coat, white shirt with Irish theme tie, and black trousers. Our point of contact is the Assistant Manager, Ms. Bushra Elmalki (540.785.2449).
- **AOH Sash:** I have six orders for AOH sashes. If you want one contact me prior to 31 October
- **Division logo polo shirts, sweat shirts, and ball caps:**
Another order is in the works; if you want to place an order send me size and style you want. Prices are:
 - Long sleeve polo: \$22.75
 - Short sleeve polo: \$19.75
 - Sweat shirt: \$21.25
 - Ball Cap: \$14.00

TFM Off Campus:

Several Brothers recently visited Ireland: John Hogan, Neil Buttimer, Bill Phillips, and Father Don Rooney. Neil Buttimer sent this photo enjoying an Irish beverage of choice!



Below, John Hogan shared some photos of local interest from his trip:



T.F. Meagher Street enters Grattan Square in the middle of Dungarvan, Waterford, Ireland. It was from the balcony of Lawlor's Hotel (on the right) that Michael Collins gave a speech, just days before his tragic end in Cork. (Courtesy of John Hogan)

The Virginia State Board: The photo was taken during the State Convention in July. The state board members serve two year terms ó until the next biennial convention to be held in 2013.



From left are Father Timothy Harris (Chaplain), Chuck Curran (President) Bruce Denault (Vice President), Gene Bransfield (Secretary) and Bill Halpin (Treasurer)

Prayer List: Please pray for the repose of the soul of Past State President James Herlihy who died last week at age 91, and the return to good health/speedy recovery of our Brothers Bob Errickson, Bill Callahan, Jim Hagerty, and Ron Cullen.

Next Meeting: November 15th!

In Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,

Bill Halpin
President
Gen. Thomas F. Meagher Division
Ancient Order of Hibernians
540.972.5903
202.213.5625

