



## Major Dooley Division Richmond, Virginia

# The Dooley Dispatch

## April 2010

Celebrating 30 years of Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity

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Webpage <http://aohrichmond.org> Check out the web page for better pictures.



### President's Message Dan Caffrey

What a month to be Irish.

#### March 13, Irish Night at the Columbian Center (KofC 395)

There were over 80 in attendance.

Corned beef, cabbage, Guinness were served in abundance. Irish Step Dancing and Celi Call Group Dancing. Thanks to Steve and Helene McGann for organizing and cooking for the event

Thanks to KofC 395 for hosting the event. Proceeds were donated to KOVAR

#### March 17, St. Patrick's Day

What a great day our Dooley Division of AOH had on St. Patrick's Day, March 17, 2010. I could not be prouder to be a Hibernian than I am right now.

#### St. Patrick's Day Mass and JP Carroll Breakfast

As is our tradition, we celebrate Mass on St. Patrick's Day at 9 am at St. Patrick's Church on Church Hill. The Mass was celebrated with Irish flair by Bishop Emeritus Walter Sullivan. There were over 100 in attendance, of which 30 were AOH Members. We were served a great breakfast afterwards.

Thanks to Mark Collins for organizing, Pat Shea for putting together an outstanding program for the Mass, Vince Eikmeier for leading the singing during Mass and for singing a great rendition of "Danny Boy" at the breakfast, Cooking Team - JP Carroll, chief Mike Muldowney, we had close to 10 brothers show up at 8 am to help cook.

Keep Fr. Zahn in your prayers on the death of his mother (100% Irish)

Rosie Connolly's well attended after the breakfast

#### Presentation to First Lady Maureen McDonnell at Governor's Mansion

There were over 20 AOH brothers in attendance, see picture elsewhere in newsletter. We presented the First Lady with a Galway Crystal Pillar Hurricane and with an offer of a complimentary portrait from Mary Ellen, wife of Paul McFadden. Mary Ellen did Roxanne Gilmore's portrait. We also

presented the First Lady with a Celtic Cross Pin and an AOH application for her husband. The First Lady was very gracious (hugging each one of us). It was a great event for our division.

Please check out the website [www.aohrichmond.org](http://www.aohrichmond.org) for more pics.

The Mass and Breakfast are annual events

We are planning the presentation to the First Lady again next year. Plan on taking the day off and joining us on March 17, 2011.

#### March 20 and 21, Church Hill Irish Festival

We had a great turnout for the Parade that kicks off the Festival. We had over 20 AOH members marching in the Parade. Our very own Jack Cassells was dressed as St. Patrick and was awarded a trophy for best dressed. We also had a booth for selling tickets and recruiting new members. Thanks to all of those who participated in the Parade and helped at the booth. Thanks again to Paul for manning the booth the entire weekend.

#### Trip to Ireland Raffle

We had a very successful Trip to Ireland Raffle. Thanks to Paul McFadden, co-chair, for organizing and selling tickets. Also, thanks to other members for selling tickets at churches, bars, etc. Our success will allow us to continue our contributions to Catholic Education in the Richmond area. It will also allow us to continue to fund and host many AOH events for the remainder of 2010 and into 2011.

#### April 24, 2010- AOH State Meeting and Degrees in Richmond

St. Mary's Church, 9505 Gayton Rd, Richmond, 9:30 am State Meeting, 11:30 am Lunch, 12:30 pm Shamrock Degree, 1:30 pm Major Degree We are hosting this event, so it would be great to have a lot of our members in attendance. We will also need help with serving lunch before the Shamrock Degree and food after the Major Degree. All are welcome to attend the State Meeting. If you haven't received your Shamrock and Major Degree this is a great opportunity to do so. Our newly formed Degree team led by Brian Keirnan will perform the Shamrock Degree for the first time. This is probably the first time the Major Degree has come to Richmond. It is usually offered at the State Conventions (which isn't happening this year but will be in 2011).

As an AOH member you will great appreciate the Major Degree, I guarantee it. Please let me know if you are planning on receiving one or both of these degrees.

## Big Dan

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 Organizer (membership) vacant

### AOH Dooley Division Social Calendar Events

- AOH Dooley Division Business Meetings at 7 pm every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of Month, except for July, August and December, at St. Paul's Church, Chamberlayne and Rennie Avenues. 2010 Meeting Dates - 4/13, 5/11, 6/8, 9/14, 10/12, 11/9
- Golf Outing April 23<sup>rd</sup> Sycamore Creek an afternoon round of fun. Cost \$50 contact Tom Walsh [twalsh4440@aol.com](mailto:twalsh4440@aol.com) 527-0941

### Prayer List

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Margaret Zahn, mother of Father Zahn. He was very active in the LAOH in Northern VA and Maryland.

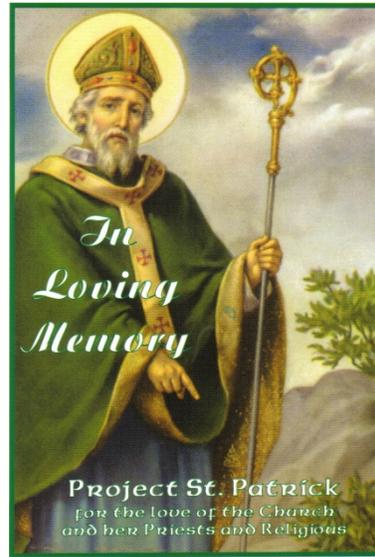
Please pray for **Bill McKay** who continues to struggle with back pain, and Walt Fergusson's sister is battling a long illness, **Dick Moore** and **Jack Polly**.

Those who are suffering from chronic illness or receiving medical attention:

**Charlie Kelly, Dick Moore, and Thomas Zahn**, brother of Father Zahn.

Please pray for the members of our Division who are serving in the Military. **Father David McGuire**, is serving as Chaplin at the Hill Air Force Base in Utah. **CW2 David Bulger**, US Army has been deployed to Iraq with "B" Co. of the 5/159th Aviation Regiment. **Please keep us informed of family members that are receiving medical care and in need of our prayers.**

*The reason the Irish are always fighting each other is they have no other worthy opponents.*



### **Project St. Patrick Sympathy Cards**

Project St. Patrick is a Catholic action program of the Ancient Order of Hibernians and the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians created to support Priests, Seminarians and Religious spiritually, emotionally, and financially.

Contributions to this project go into an endowment fund. Interest from the endowment will

be given to seminarians, priests, and religious in the form of scholarships and grants for continuing education and retreats.

A contribution in memory of your Loved One enables the vision of St. Patrick to continue to bring the Gospel and the Eucharist to all people.

To requests these beautiful cards send a note, a donation is encouraged, to Frank Kearney Jr., Project St. Patrick, 315 Chamberlain Highway, Meriden, CT 06451.

### **Irish Heritage**

#### **Sweeney Clan**



**Clan Sweeney** is an [Irish clan](#) of [Scottish](#) origin. The clan did not permanently settle in [Ireland](#) before the beginning of the fourteenth century, when they became [Gallowglass](#) soldiers for the [O'Donnell dynasty](#) of [Tyrconnell](#).<sup>1</sup>

The Gaelic surname "[Suibhne](#)" (derived from the Clann tSuibhne of Ireland and Scotland) was a real challenge to the spelling skills of

early American record keepers. So if you were born in the USA - whether you are a Swinney, Swinny, Swiney, Swinea, Swinnea, Swenney, Sweney, or Sweny - you are probably a descendant of the early "Suibhne" migrations of the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries.

The Clann tSuibhne descends from the Irish High King Niall of the Nine Hostages (4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> century). Two of his sons assumed power in the North in areas which adopted their names: Tír Connell and Tír Eoin. Families descended from them are known as the Northern Úa Niall and include the O'Neills, O'Donnells, the Suibhnes and others.

A few centuries later, around the turn of the last millenium, the clan moved to Scotland over a dispute regarding a Kingship succession. The clan prospered in Scotland, gaining lands in Cowal and Knapdale in Argyle and building Castle Sween on Lough Sween. The clan kept up their Irish ties through marriage and (after backing the wrong side at Bannockburn when Robert the Bruce assumed the throne in Scotland) largely returned to

## Terence MacSwiney, Lord Mayor of Cork The Triumph and Tragedy of the Hunger Strike

The hunger strike is a weapon which is designed to turn weakness into strength, a political and propaganda tool which has the power to cast the striking prisoners as victims and the government being struck against as the oppressor. The hunger strike has been used particularly often, and taken to deadly extremes, by Republicans seeking freedom for Ireland in the twentieth century. The most prominent and influential hunger strike, and one of the earliest, was that of Terence MacSwiney, the Lord Mayor of Cork. MacSwiney died on hunger strike in 1920, while a prisoner of the British government. Although the strike failed to achieve its stated aim of MacSwiney's release, his death was a major blow to the British government, and marked a turning point in the Irish War of Independence. MacSwiney's sacrifice changed the way the public in Ireland and around the world viewed the struggle for independence: he came to symbolize Ireland itself. MacSwiney's "martyrdom" was thus a triumph in the struggle for Irish independence, but this triumph could only be achieved through the deaths of MacSwiney and two of his fellow-striker, who never lived to enjoy the freedom they helped to win. More tragically, MacSwiney's success inspired generation after generation of Irish Republicans to sacrifice their own lives, but never again with the same triumphant outcome. MacSwiney's "victory" was a fortuitous result of unique circumstances. MacSwiney was a public servant at a time when the war was reaching its climax, and one of the first to carry a hunger strike through to its conclusion; his cause thus achieved a greater urgency and impact than any other hunger striker.

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## Ireland ends free Guinness after blood donation

One of Ireland's most unusual traditions, drinking a free pint of Guinness after donating blood, is to be ended. Diageo, the Guinness parent company, has decided to end the tradition. "We felt this style and type of donation was not best suited to us now," said Grainne Mackin, for Diageo. "Guinness has long stopped promoting the product as medicinal and we want to be in full alignment with our voluntary marketing code. It wasn't driven by any commercial agenda."



Paddy Bowler, the director of operations at the Irish Blood Transfusion Services, agreed. "The government is going to lower the blood alcohol limits for drivers," he said. "So we didn't feel it was appropriate to supply alcohol at the clinics any more, particularly those down the country."

However some donors are less than pleased. David Fitzpatrick, 37, a postman from Gorey, Co Wexford, who has been giving blood for 20 years, said he was shocked when he did not receive his pint after a recent donation. "I thought they'd decided I was getting too old or they'd given me enough black stuff after 20 donations," he told The Sunday Times. "This won't deter me. My main reason for giving blood is to help people."

Fitzpatrick said he had always enjoyed his post-donation Guinness: "I was always informed that Guinness is good for replacing your iron levels and when is a better time to do that than after relieving yourself of a pint of blood?"

## 'Your Country, Your Call' competition looks for winning ideas to kick-start Irish economy

Your country, your call, Mary McAleese is heading an initiative to discover economic ideas that will lift the Irish economy

[Irish President Mary McAleese](#) has taken a leaf out of [Barack Obama](#)'s presidential campaign book by encouraging and empowering the Irish people to be the ones that make a change in their country.

Now Irish Americans are also being asked to contribute ideas to the "your country your call effort," and come up with the best ideas to kick start the Irish economy. The two winning entries will win close to \$150,000 dollars each.

"The goal is to pick two truly transformational proposals so big that, when implemented, could secure prosperity and jobs for [Ireland](#). Proposals that could help change the way we do things, allow businesses to grow, employment to be created and prosperity to flourish," the website explains.

Two winning ideas and their creators will win \$150,000 each, and the campaign is offering a development of up to \$850,000 to implement the proposals. The competition is open to people from every walk of Irish life.

The brainchild of the President's husband, Dr. Martin McAleese, the campaign encourages a sense of community and echoes of "Yes We Can".

At a time when unemployment is high and Government support is low, this fresh new project may be just what the country needs. "We are looking for Irish American input as well," Martin McAleese told [IrishCentral.com](#). "We know there is a deep affection for Ireland among Irish Americans and we look forward too their ideas and suggestions."

There are eight categories in which to submit ideas.

They are: Communications & Technology, Design, Engineering And Manufacturing, Education & The Arts, Energy & The Environment, Food & Agriculture, Health, Sport & Nutrition, and Professional Services. There is also an 'Other' category, leaving an extremely wide ambit for the ideas.

President McAleese appears in a video on the website, and speaks of the past, present, and future of Ireland. Our strength, she explains, is in working together.

"It's time to shake off the doldrums and get back on our feet," she says. "We have the will".

Now they just need to find the best way.

Deadline is less than two weeks away. For more information visit

<http://yourcountryyourcall.com/>

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Virginia's First Lady, Maureen McDonnell, and members of the Dooley Division and President Mike McGee of the new Division on the southside of Richmond on St. Patrick's Day.