



The Dooley Dispatch

January 2022

Celebrating 43 years of Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity

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**Major Dooley Division
Richmond, Virginia**

Webpage <http://aohrichmond.org> Check out the web page for better pictures, events, green pages, various reports

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Fr. George Zahn

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[Tom Murphy](#) 360-1568

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[Mike Smith](#) 873-2198

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[Dan Caffrey](#) 512-6288

Raffle Chairman
[Jim Woods](#) 747-9286

Chair of the Sick
[Scott Nugent](#) 503-9888

*All phone numbers are area
code (804) unless otherwise
indicated*

Next Meeting – Tuesday January 11, 2022 7:00 p.m. St. Michael's Church

President's Message:

Hibernian Brothers:

Unfortunately, I missed the Installation of Officers as I was diagnosed as having Covid at that time. I want to thank Dan Caffrey for standing in for me. Dan seems always willing to help wherever needed.

I have some thoughts for the coming year.

First, I want to address meeting structure. Two months ago, we had a meeting that lasted only around 45 minutes. The number of people who expressed everything from pleasure to outright exuberance made an impact on me. It has been established that the attention span of most adults is 45 minutes. I will attempt to limit meetings to that length. In doing so, there may be changes that initially may seem unpalatable. I ask everyone's indulgence as we evaluate options and amend procedures, while remaining within the rules and structure of the organization.

The single most important obligation of the President of any organization is the perpetuation of that organization. While the primary responsibility rests in doing so during the term of office, I feel a longer-term outlook is needed. We are primarily a group of old men. When I joined, there were many members under 40. There's nothing wrong with our membership, but age asserts its influence on future active membership. We need to grow our membership with younger applicants. Also, as we lose members, we need a plan to supplant those members, ideally with younger members. The aging of membership and the lack of interest by younger generations is a problem for many religious, civic, and social organizations. I would like to establish a committee to work on ideas for growth among younger members.

Other areas I would like to evaluate are:

- Monthly Officer meetings.
- Reinvolving families.
- Extending Associate Membership.
- Bringing Irish politics back as a focus. PEC and FFAI are key positions.
- Adding subscriptions to the Irish Echo and An Phoblacht to obtain the proper information to share with the membership.
- To raise our visibility, reestablishing an AOH signature event open to the public, such as Halfway to St. Patrick's Day, Irish Feis, Family Picnic, Irish music concert, etc.
- Establishing an informal Council of Elders based on membership seniority.
- Re-stocking our inventory of pins, procedural manuals and other supplies consumed in normal business operations.
- Cataloging Division property by person accountable and creating an availability matrix.
- Evaluating and standardizing the folders passed down each year from officer to officer.

- Expanding an online membership database with password protection.
- Re-establishing an internal Green Pages so members can use other members for needed services.
- Featuring an Irish Clan at the Highland Games.

Parting thoughts:

1. Our motto has 3 facets – Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity. We have vast resources and I think it's important to allocate funds and efforts to all three areas.
2. Committees or positions will remain open to all members, rather than using the first person to raise his hand. Those who hold no existing positions will be given priority. This will allow involvement of new members, and the decentralization of leadership.
3. Each elected position has duties specified in the by-laws. They will be posted in the next newsletter.
4. As respects meetings, if any member intends to speak on a specific topic, or to bring up something during the business section, ideally, they will advise the senior officer before the meeting to better maintain a proper business pace, yet leave adequate room to address those things in which members have an interest.

We have a great group of involved members. Things are working extremely well. I don't want to upset the apple cart, but neither do I think we should remain in stasis. Membership should drive the direction of the Dooley Division, and all comments, ideas and constructive criticism are welcome. With your feedback, I will do my best to serve your needs and wishes.

In Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,
Tom Murphy

Upcoming Events:

Monthly Business Meeting: Tuesday Jan. 11, 2022 St. Micheal's Lake House 7:00 pm

AOH Dooley Division Prayer List For December 14, 2021 Meeting

Please contact Fr. Jim Arsenault if you need him to visit and pray for and with someone in the hospital. Contact him at M 804-221-1508 and/or jarsenault@stelizcc.org

From Previous Meeting and since then:

- **Bill Shelton** – *Chad Costello's* sister's father-in-law – Covid
- **Jack Griffin** – Going through physical therapy for his leg.
- **Barbara Muldowney** – Wife of *Mike Muldowney* – Having knee replacement surgery in December
- **Patty Eikmeier (63)** – Sister of *Vince Eikmeier* – Passed away in early October
- **Barbara and Brian Hutchins** – Sister and brother-in-law of Bill Casey – Tragic events led to fostering grandchildren
- **Anne Gilligan** – Wife of *Ed Gilligan* – Recovering from an operation on October 25. Want to have home by Christmas
- Pray for all of those who have enabled the crime and harbor of abortion
- **Bob Boyle** – Had bypass surgery five weeks ago and is recovering well

- **Kevin Cole** – First cousin of *John Costello* – Passed away November 17 from lung cancer

From Prior Meetings:

- **Hugh Naughton** – Passed away on October 31
- **Stephanie Slate** – Friend of *Tim McDonnell* – Passed away October 23 leaving her husband and two children 9 and 5
- **Kelli Smith** – Wife of *Mike Smith* – Suffered a brain aneurysm on November 4. Had angiogram and under close watch
- **Jennifer Bolt** – Covid
- **Lori Sbatos** – *Tim McDonnell's* neighbor
- **Eileen Schwagerl** – Sister of *Mike Canning* – Recovering from surgery from removing tumor in her breast
- **Persons Family** of Baltimore – Friends of Mike Smith – Son committed suicide
- **Mrs. George** – Mother of *PJ George* – Having a pacemaker installed. Also pray for George family.
- **Melissa Stellman** – Daughter of *Mark Atchison* – Has Stage 3 colon cancer. Finished chemo in early Sept.
- **Paul McFadden** – Memory loss has caused him to be admitted to an assisted living facility
- **Phyllis Collins** – Mother of *Mark Collins* – She is currently in the hospital
- **Fr. George Zahn** – Keep our Chaplain in your prayers.
- **Mary Kelly (96)** – Mother of *Frank Kelly* – Mary is diagnosed with Covid-19

- **Siobhan Nolan** (53) – Sister of *Tom Nolan* – Having open heart surg
- **Gary McAuliffe** – Dealing with tremors in his hand
- **Jim Calpin** – Recovering from stroke
- **Edward Maynes** – is having an upcoming heart procedure (date is not yet known)
- **Rita Hastings** – *Tom Hastings*' mother – Hip operation, gallbladder removed
- **Joanne Kennedy** – Aunt of *John Kennedy* – Breast cancer. Operable. Good success for recovery.
- **Siobhan Mooney** – Sister-in-law of *Jack Griffin* - Had lung removed. Also cancer of the spleen.
- **Dover Harper** (Social Member, Good friend of *Jack Cassells*) – Recovering from Triple Bypass Surgery

- *Mark Atchison* – Brother **Daniel Atchison** – Quadruple bypass in August, spot on lung discovered, biopsy indicated cancer, determining treatment.
- *Hugh Naughton*'s wife, **Jessie Naughton**, has lower back, migraine issues and other ailments
- *Billy Spicer*'s brother-in-law, **William McCracken**, had an infection on the brain and had brain surgery to remove it.
- **Pat Saizan**, sister of *Larry Keefe*, suffering from Lymphoedema
- **Don Lattanzi**, AOH Brother, had two back surgeries, pneumonia and breathing problems

Contact Scott Nugent at 804-503-9888 or at swnugent44@yahoo.com

December 2021

Hurling

Contributed by Brian P. Hegarty Jr.



Hurling has been popular in Ireland for at least 3000 years with the first literary reference dating back to 1272 BC. Hurling is a powerful mark of Irish identity, culture, and history. Many forms of the game have been played for centuries. Hurling is rough – some call it a cross between sport and murder. It is one of the oldest field sports in the world and certainly the fastest. The men who play it may remind you of the days when American athletes lived pretty much like regular folks do. When the national championship of hurling is held – everything in Ireland stops. On a Sunday in late August, eighty-two thousand fans will attend the All Ireland Hurling final in Dublin's Croke Park.

Hurling is often referenced in Irish myths and legends, the most famous of which is an early account found in the *Táin Bo Cuailgne* (toyn boe kool-ee), a legendary tale from early Irish literature, which describes the exploits of the Ulster hero Cú Chullainn (koo hool-n), (literally *Hound of Cullen*) who was so named after

killing a fierce guard dog by driving a hurling ball down its throat. Such stories often portray Hurling as a form of martial training and proficiency on the Hurling field was equated with skill in battle. Throughout the countryside, Hurling thrived as a wild and often violent practice with few set rules. One 17th century account describes the game as being played on a plain about 200-300 yards long, with victory going to the first team to drive the ball through the goal of the opponent. Hurling is played by men, but the adapted version known as camogie (cumm – oh – gee – okht) is played by women.



The hurling field of today, called the pitch, is far larger than a football or soccer field. Two teams of fifteen men, each carrying a long club, are whacking a little white ball and each other. There are thirty players on the pitch, the ball travels up to 150 km/hr. (93 mph) and players can hit the ball up to 110 yards. The ball is called a sliotar, the stick is called a hurley (or Camán in Irish).

A player can score a point in two ways: The goal is like a soccer net with a goalkeeper in front of the net. If you score inside the goal, you get three points; over the goal or the crossbar is one point.

The skill and toughness needed to pursue those points are hard to take in at full speed. Players strike the ball as hard as any home run hitter. Defenders fearlessly challenge whoever has the sliotar, sometimes blocking the ball or more often blocking the man. Players for both teams fight for every loose ball and catches the sliotar out of the air barehanded. If you catch the ball out of the air you can run four steps, then you either must strike the sliotar with your hurley or go solo. The ability to solo, carrying the ball at the end of the hurley on a dead run – may be the most impressive skill in the game. Running full speed down the pitch with guys chasing you with hurley's, trying to take the ball from you.

One reason people play the game with such ferocity is that everyone is really playing for their home team. It is a matter of fierce pride and honor and who you represent and how much you are willing to put on the line. It is parochial, it is regional, and lastly, it is tribal. You play the game where you were born. Your club is everything, it is who you are. It is your neighbor, friend, and family.

Boys and girls as young as four are taught the basics of hurling. Those too young to balance a ball on a hurley use bean bags. For six-year old's there are higher expectations. And for the ten-year old's, there is hurling skills and a civics lesson. "What's it like to play for the place you are from?" asked one coach. The boy's response, "pride."

One of the most remarkable aspects about the sport of hurling is the sport is completely amateur. None of the players are paid, no matter how famous or skilled. The Gaelic Athletic Association, Hurling's governing body, took in millions from ticket sales from the all-Ireland final. On top of that sponsors pay to have their names plastered all over Croke Park and on the players themselves. There are television rights, radio rights, and merchandise sales and concessions. All this money does not go to the players. The money generated from the game goes back into every corner of Ireland – every town and village. The best sporting facilities in these towns are GAA.

How do the amateur players pay their own bills? Henry Shefflin playing for Kilkenny winning a record ten All Ireland Championship medals and regarded as the greatest hurler of all time, works for The Bank of Ireland. Donal Óg Cusack, playing for Cork is regarded as one of the greatest goal keepers of his generation, winning three All Ireland Championship medals, works for Johnson Controls. And other famous hurlers do the same. What they have in common with all hurlers is they will be back to work come Monday morning. That is an amazing concept for the average American to absorb.

If you have not been to a hurling match, you are missing out on a great and exhilarating sporting match. Consider adding it to your bucket list.

Vocabulary:

Camogie (cumm – oh – gee – okht)

Sliotar (Slit - ter)

Hurley Camán (Com - mawn)

Táin Bo Cuailgne (toyn boe kool-ee)

Cú Chullainn (koo hool-n)

To order green jackets and sashes, click on the picture:



New AOH apparel supplier: irishamericanclothing.com/custom-apparel

Ancient Order of Hibernians
Dooley Division
Patrick Shea
3312 Hard Rock Court
Henrico, VA 23230-1945

MAJOR JAMES H. DOOLEY DIVISION



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