



The Dooley Dispatch

June 2022

Celebrating 43 years of Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity

Editor – Pat Shea 804.516.9598 (pshea1128@gmail.com)

Photographer – Patrick Shea (patrick.shea@aohrichmond.org)

Webmaster – Patrick Shea (pshea1128@gmail.com)

Major Dooley Division Richmond, Virginia

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

Chaplain
Fr. George Zahn

President
[Tom Murphy](#) 360-1568

Vice President
[Mike Smith](#) 873-2198

Recording Secretary
[John Condon](#) 980-5649

Financial Secretary
[John Costello](#) 920-1769

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[Fred Gerloff](#) 305-2662

Chairman of Standing
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Marshall
[Rob Kutz](#) 360-1929

Sentinel
[Peter "PJ" George](#)

Historian
[Brian Hegarty](#) 814-3517

Right to Life
[Mike Smith](#) 873-2198

Executive Secretary
[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 June 14, 2022 7:00 p.m. St. Michael's Church

President's Message: President's Message:

Brothers:

We are coming into our Summer break, but there is a lot going on. We have the monthly meeting and baseball game this month, The National AOH meeting and Independence (from the tyranny of the British) Day next month and Our Lady of Knock in August, etc. The social events are a great way to promote two of our guiding principles - Friendship and Unity. I hope we have great turnouts for the events.

After 2 years of Covid, the raffle was fantastically successful. That was due to the efforts of many brothers who participated, plus some extraordinary efforts by a few key members who drove the results over the top. Thanks to all.

That brings up the budget. Several members have commented about our increasing balances, with thoughts on whether there should be changes. We certainly want to maintain a "rainy day" fund, so when events such as Covid arise, we can weather the storm. However, due to the interest demonstrated, the Finance Committee will take a look and present a revised budget if the decision is made to do so. We used old budgets when constructing this year's, so it may make sense to take a fresh look. The budget for the Annual Meeting is \$250, which is probably at least a decade old. We are already over budget in maintenance areas such as new blue books for officers, pins and badges for members, etc. We are approaching higher than expected expenses in other areas such as charity. For example, recently we have not supported charities sponsored by National. In any event, a thorough review will be conducted and a report will be made to membership.

I look forward to a well-attended June meeting.

In Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,

Tom Murphy
President

Upcoming Events:

Friday June 24 5:30 pm Richmond Flying Squirrels

Deadline for tickets is Sunday 06-12-2022. Contact Tim McDonnell.

AOH Dooley Division Prayer List For June 14, 2022 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:

- **Mary Jeanne Canning** – Aunt of *Mike Canning* – Passed away May 31
- **Chris Hill** (53) – Cousin of *Tim McDonnell* – Recovering from a stroke

From Prior Meetings:

- **Melissa Atchison** – Daughter of *Mark Atchison* – Stage 3 cancer
- **Jack Griffin** – Rehab. Was dehydrated and has water around his heart
- **Helene Zaepeel** – Mother-in-law to *Steve McGann* – Covid recovery/rheumatoid arthritis pain
- **Mercedes McGann** – Mother to *Steve McGann* – Recovering from a fall
- **Lori Forbes** – Wife of *Tom Forbes* – Continuing blood pressure/neurological issues
- Temple Bayliss - Dr. Bayliss' husband - He fell and is in the hospital.
- **Bill Shelton** – *Chad Costello's* sister's father-in-law – Covid
- **Barbara Muldowney** – Wife of *Mike Muldowney* – Having knee replacement surgery in December
- **Anne Gilligan** – Wife of *Ed Gilligan* – Recovering from an operation on October 25.
- **Bob Boyle** – Had bypass surgery and is recovering well

- **Kelli Smith** – Wife of *Mike Smith* – Kelli had Gamma Knife surgery and she is at home and feeling good. The doctor said it went really well. They will do scans every six months or so to monitor her progress.
- **Jennifer Bolt** – Covid
- **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.
- **Phyllis Collins** - Mother of *Mark Collins* – She is currently in the hospital
- **Fr. George Zahn** – Keep our Chaplain in your prayers.
- **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.
- **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

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

The Irish Civil War – A Country in Turmoil

Contributed by Brian P. Hegarty Jr.

I can identify with this topic. Although I did not live through it, I heard family stories secondhand. My grandfather Patrick (Chrissy) Hegarty, born in Monkstown, Co Cork, joined the Irish Free State Army in 1922. His mother (my great grandmother) persuaded him to join the Michael Collins side as opposed to the Republican (anti-treaty) side. She told Chrissy that the Hegartys were related to Michael Collins and family does not fight against family. The Hegarty family that live in Ireland today believe in the Collins relations to this day, but I do not. I just think a mother will do what she can to protect her son. The free state side had the backing of the English and the Irish population, so the logical position, the safer position, was to support the side that negotiated the Anglo-Irish Treaty signed in December 1921.

My grandmother, Ellen (Nellie) Roche was born to a Republican family in Kilbrittain, Co Cork. She served her country well in the Irish War as a courier, delivering messages through enemy positions and setting up billets for the IRA as an active member of Cuman na mBan. Nellie worked as a domestic servant in Monkstown, where she met Chrissy and started a courtship around 1924. Nellie's older brother Jack Roche just spent eight years on the run from the English army fighting the good fight as a republican soldier under Tom Barry. Jack was a decorated IRA veteran earning numerous medals for his battlefield engagements. Chrissy traveled to Kilbrittain, Co. Cork to visit Nellie and to meet the Roche family. I did not know this about this first meeting until I traveled to Ireland and heard it directly from the Roche relatives. Jack was unhappy with his sister's choice of a suitor. When Chrissy knocked on the Roche front door to introduce himself, Jack walked out the back door, refusing to meet and shake hands with my grandfather, Chrissy. I confess, when I heard this story, it bothered and disappointed me very much as I was close to my grandparents. Jack Roche had nothing to do with Chrissy, he had fought against the Free-State army, and he resented him, they were enemies a year earlier. And Chrissy never mentioned him. They were dead to each other.

This is one heart-breaking story coming out of the turbulent Irish civil war. One thing for certain is it changed family dynamics and political affiliations to this day. I am about to tell you two other tragedies.

Kevin O'Higgins was an Irish statesman who attempted severe repression of the Irish Republican Army in the aftermath of the Irish Civil war (1922 – 23). He was described as a man of intellectual power and was an excellent administrator. Following the Easter Rising in 1916, O'Higgins joined the Sinn Féin national movement and was imprisoned. In 1918, while still in jail, he was elected to British Parliament from County Laois, and in the next year became assistant to the minister of local government under William Cosgrave.

Although originally opposed to any settlement short of republican status for Ireland, O'Higgins did accept the treaty and dominion status. He was highly critical of Eamon de Valera, then president of the Dáil Éireann (Irish parliament), for his condemnation of the signatories, O'Higgins deferred to the judgement of Michael Collins and Arthur Griffith. O'Higgins was a leading supporter of the dáil debates, working for a united Ireland within the British Commonwealth. After the acceptance of the treaty by the dáil, he became minister for economic affairs (January 1922) in both the Dáil Éireann government headed by Arthur Griffith and the provisional government headed by Michael Collins. During the first half of 1922 he went frequently to London, in negotiations concerning the implementation of the treaty, the transfer of assorted governmental powers, and the tentative constitution of the Irish Free State.

After the outbreak of the civil war, he was relieved of his cabinet position and given a military staff position as assistant to adjutant general (July 1922). Following Michael Collins's death in August 1922, O'Higgins was made minister for home affairs (retitled Justice in 1924) as well as vice-president of the executive council (December 1922) when the Free State constitution came into force. He promoted the passage of the Army Emergency Powers Resolution, which authorized internment, military courts, and executions as legal instruments for the national army.

As minister for Justice, O'Higgins organized an unarmed police force known as the Civic Guard and took measures to restore order following the civil war between the Free State forces and the IRA. His part in signing 77 republican death warrants in 1922 – 1923 made him many enemies. His cynical wit, his inflammatory speeches during the civil war, and his curtailment of the liquor trade did not enhance in reputation. Here are two such death warrants signed by Kevin O'Higgins.



Left is a picture of Kevin O' Higgins's wedding party taken in October 1921 during the Anglo-Irish Treaty negotiations. O'Higgins is center and his two best men, to the right Rory O'Connor, and to the left Eamon de Valera, took opposing sides in the Civil War. Fourteen months after the wedding Kevin O'Higgins signed the death warrant of his school friend Rory O'Connor and three others, who had joined the anti-Treaty IRA and was captured at the Four Courts. These were retaliatory executions of four republican prisoners who included Rory O'Connor, after the republicans assassinated dail member, Sean Hales. Consequently, these executions were seen as martyrs by the republican movement. The aftermath of the Four

Courts battle, during which the Free State troops used British artillery for the first time, provided impetus for the divided Irish marking the beginning of the Civil war. O'Higgins made a case for his best man, Rory O'Connor, but rather than be the dissenting voice he decided to sign the death warrant.



Another unfortunate incident occurred after Michael Collins' assassination. Emergency laws announced the death sentence for anyone caught armed without authorization. Nationalist, Robert Erskine Childers (picture left); author, staff member of the Anglo-Irish negotiating team, arms smuggler for the Republic; was arrested in November 1922 in the home of his cousin Robert Barton (signatory of the Anglo-Irish Treaty) for carrying an unlawful firearm. By an order signed by O'Higgins, Childers was executed by the Free State government several days later. Ironically, the pistol had been a gift from Michael Collins. Childers supported the Anti-Treaty forces in the vicious Irish civil war. Before they shot him, Childers shook the hand of each member of his firing squad and forgave them. His last words were: "Take a step forward, lads. It will be easier that way." In the prison cell the night before he died, Childers made his son promise to forgive those who were about to kill him. Fifty-one years later his son would be elected president of the Irish Republic.

One Sunday in July 1927, Kevin O'Higgins was shot several times by three gunmen while walking from his Dublin home to Mass at his parish church and died a few hours later after explicitly expressing forgiveness for his assailants. The gunmen were never captured, but nearly sixty years later, after all were dead, their identities were revealed in the memoirs of an IRA veteran.

Taking sides in the Irish Civil War often placed a wedge among families causing political divisions for years to come. Having a family wrapped up in these unfortunate circumstances is nothing new in the birth of a new Irish Nation.



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



«First_Name» «Last_Name»
«Street»
«City», «State» «Zip»