

Ancient Order of Hibernians



**Major Dooley Division
Richmond, Virginia**

The Dooley Dispatch

May 2012

Celebrating 32 years of Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity

Editor – Pat Naughton 360-2969 (p.naughton@comcast.net)

Photographer – Pat Shea (pshea1128@verizon.net)

Webmaster – Charlie Connell (connell.home@verizon.net)

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

President
Jim Whelen -794-3154
traderjw@mac.com

Vice President
Mike Strutton - 896-3729
mike.strutton@gmail.com

Recording Secretary
Mike Smith 873-2198
pats3xchampz@verizon.net

Financial Secretary
Mike Sweeney 559-4717
mjcasweeney@comcast.net

Treasurer
Conor Shiel 513-8998
ShielRichmond@aol.com

Chairman of Standing
Committees
Patrick Shea 516-9598
pshea1128@verizon.net

Marshall
Brian Keirnan 754-1938
bri1v1@comcast.net

Sentinel
Tim McDonnell 678-9764
tmc1918@verizon.net

Right to Life - vacant

Political Education
Tom Murphy - 360-1568
TJfMurphy@comcast.net

Organizer (membership)
Mitch Irvine 360-3391
mirvine@dadepaper.com

Next Meeting - Tuesday May 8th 7:00 p.m. St. Paul's Church



President's Message

Brothers,

Please keep brother Charlie Kelly Sr and brother Andy Jennings and their families in your prayers, Charlie was born to eternal life on 4/25/12, his warm cheerful presence will be missed at our meetings. Andy left us on 5/2/12, there are certain signature songs that Andy did that will always bring back fond memories of him.

Paul McFadden pointed out a wonderful way to show support for our veterans. On Armed Forces Day, May 19th, there is a welcome home parade here in Richmond, tentatively scheduled to start at 10am at the Diamond and travel the Boulevard to the Carillon in Byrd Park. See the website Americaforvets.org for more details.

On a similar note, Bob Strutton also found a great way to show support for our veterans. The National Veterans Wheelchair Games will be held here in Richmond on June 25th-30th. There are many volunteers needed for this event and many Knight councils are involved as well . See more details at www.va.gov/opa/speceven/wdg/index.asp

Thanks to Tim McDonnell for stepping into the role of treasurer, which means we need someone to step into the role of Sentinel-please consider if you can help!

The 2012 AOH National meeting will be held this July, please let us know if anyone is available to attend, we have some money budgeted to help defray some of the expense if someone can make the trip. It is held at Turning Stone Resort & Casino in upstate NY, July 9-12th.

In our Motto

Jim



Prayer List - Please pray for those who are suffering from chronic illness or receiving medical attention: **Hugh Naughton** recovering from double knee replacement, **Wanda Walsh**, wife of Tom, receiving treatments for cancer, **Michael Maynes**, son of member Ed Maynes, has completed a lengthy round of cancer treatments and has received a good report from the doctors, **Bill McKay** who continues to struggle with back pain, and Walt Fergusson's sister is battling a long illness, **Jessie Naughton**, **Dick Moore**, **Thomas Zahn**, brother of Father Zahn. **Mike Hayes**, brother-in-law of **Jack Griffin**, **Jeannie Barrett** wife of Tom Barrett, and **Don Reilly**. Please pray for the members of our Division who are serving in the Military. **Father David McGuire**, is serving as Chaplain 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

Fort Lee Celtic Festival May 12th, Saturday

Ft Lee Celtic Festival 2012 Ft Lee, VA (Petersburg area) - Fort Lee Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation (FMWR) presents the Celtic Festival on Saturday, May 12 from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. at the Hide Away. The Hide Away is located on 5th Street, Bldg. 15013. The festival is free and open to the public. The festival opens at 10 a.m. with authentic Celtic food, music, vendors and more. FMWR's Kid Zone, inflatable rides and games for kids will also be there. For Additional information - See <http://www.leemwr.com/celticfestival.htm>

Upcoming AOH Dooley Events

- June 15, 2012, Saturday at 6:35 pm – Richmond Flying Squirrels Baseball Game Outing (Family), The Diamond, 3001 N. Boulevard, Richmond, VA 23230 - Pat Naughton, Chair (ph 360-2969), pnaughton09@gmail.com.
 - July 4th picnic Columbian Center (Family Event) with the KOC 4th Degree Assembly.
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Whelen Clan

There are many variations of the name Whelen which have evolved since the time of its initial creation. In Gaelic it appeared as O Faoilain, which is derived from the word faol, which means wolf. Scribes in Ireland during the Middle Age recorded names as they sounded. Consequently, in this ear many people were recorded under different spelling each time their name was written down. Research on the Whelen family name has found numerous spelling variations, including Phelan, O'Phelan, Whelan, O'Failin, Phalon, Phealan and many more. The Whelen genealogy extends back to County Waterford in Ireland.

If you think all Whelens, like our worthy president, hail from New York, guess again. Whelen Springs was founded in 1898 in Arkansas. The town has grown to a population of 84.



Bobby Sands(March 9, 1954 – May 5, 1981)

This month marks the anniversary of the death of Robert Gerard "Bobby" Sands. He was an Irish volunteer of the Provisional Irish Republican Army and member of the British Parliament who died on hunger strike while imprisoned in HM Prison Maze.

He was the leader of the 1981 hunger strike in which Irish republican prisoners protested against the removal of Special Category Status. During his strike he was elected as a member of the British Parliament as an Anti H-Block/Armagh Political Prisoner candidate. His death resulted in a new surge of IRA recruitment and activity. International media coverage brought attention to the hunger strikers, and the republican movement in general, attracting both praise and criticism.

Sands was born into a Catholic family in Abbots Cross, but also lived in a house in Doonbeg Drive, Newtownabbey, County Antrim, Northern Ireland, and lived there until 1960 whereupon the family were forced to move to Rathcoole, Newtownabbey. On leaving school, he became an apprentice coach-builder until he was forced out at gunpoint by loyalists.

In June 1972, at the age of 18, Bobby moved with his family to the Twinbrook housing estate in west Belfast, being obliged to leave Rathcoole due to loyalist intimidation.

In 1972, Sands joined the Provisional IRA. He was arrested and charged in October 1972 with possession of four handguns which were found in the house where he was staying. Sands was convicted in April 1973 sentenced to five years' imprisonment and released in April 1976.

On his release from prison in 1976, he returned to his family home in West Belfast, and resumed his active role in the Provisional IRA's campaign. He was charged with involvement in the October 1976 bombing of the Balmoral Furniture Company in Dunmurry, although he was never convicted of this charge with the presiding judge stating that there was no evidence to support the assertion that he had taken part. After the bombing, Sands and at least five others were alleged to have been involved in a gun battle with the Royal Ulster Constabulary, although he was not convicted due to lack of evidence. Leaving behind two of their wounded friends, Seamus Martin and Gabriel Corbett, Sands, Joe McDonnell, Seamus Finucane and Sean Lavery tried to make their escape in a car, but were apprehended. Later, one of the revolvers used in the attack was found in the car in which Sands had been travelling. His trial in September 1977 saw him being convicted of possession of firearms (the revolver from which the prosecution alleged bullets had been fired at the RUC after the bombing) and Sands was sentenced to 14 years' imprisonment within HM Prison Maze, also known as Long Kesh.

The 1981 Irish hunger strike started with Sands refusing food on 1 March 1981. Sands decided that other prisoners should join the strike at staggered intervals in order to maximise publicity with prisoners steadily deteriorating successively over several months.

The hunger strike centered around five demands:

1. the right not to wear a prison uniform;
2. the right not to do prison work;
3. the right of free association with other prisoners, and to organize educational and recreational pursuits;
4. the right to one visit, one letter and one parcel per week;
5. full restoration of remission lost through the protest.

The significance of the hunger strike was the prisoners' aim of being declared as political prisoners (or prisoners of war) and not to be classed as criminals. The *Washington Post*, however, reported that the primary aim of the hunger strike was to generate international publicity.

Sands died in the prison hospital after 66 days of hunger-striking, aged 27.



Cliffs of Moher

The Cliffs of Moher, also known as the Cliffs of Mohair, are situated in the parish of Liscannor at the south-western edge of the Burren area near Doolin, which is found in County Clare, Ireland. The cliffs rise 120 meters above the Atlantic Ocean at Hag's Head, and reach their maximum height of 214 meters just north of O'Brien's Tower, 8 kilometers away. The views from the cliffs fascinate close to one million visitors per year. On a vibrant day, the Aran Islands are evident in Galway Bay, as are the valleys and hills of Connemara.

Patrick J. Naughton
12400 Perrywinkle Road
Glen Allen VA 23059-5319

Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity



Fr. Jim Arsenault and Fr. Dan Brady receive a donation for St. Michael's Church



Fr. Michael Renninger, receives a donation for St. Mary's Church and school