

Ancient Order of Hibernians



The Dooley Dispatch

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

Next Meeting – Tuesday February 8, 2022 7:00 p.m. St. Michael's Church

President's Message:

Hibernian Brothers:

Our upcoming meeting this Tuesday needs to focus on St. Patrick's Day. Time is short and we are behind schedule. I would like all members that don't have something needing immediate action, to hold those items until the next meeting. Similarly, if anyone is reporting or presenting, please try to keep your time to a minimum.

Due to calendar issues, the Major James Henry Dooley Memorial service, usually held in January, has been moved back. This takes some time pressure off the Division during this busy time of the year. Hopefully the event will be re-scheduled during warmer weather, with a potential outdoor event following. I also want to start tidying up some procedures.

The first item on that agenda is officer responsibilities. If officers haven't familiarized themselves with our by-laws (on the website), please review them prior to the meeting. Also, anyone who has moved out of an officer position, please bring your folder, notes, and materials to the meeting to transfer to the officer who has assumed your former position.

Larry has found a space to hold the property of our division. Anyone who has any division property, please bring a list. This will allow us to determine which items can fit in the designated storage area, while also making the required audit much easier.

I know a lot of brothers have been heavily involved for a lot of years. That has resulted in smooth running operations and success in meeting Dooley Division goals. However, in order for me to fulfill my obligations, I need to be made aware of any changes or proposed changes to existing policies and procedures before they occur. Similarly, any presentations should be made known to me, as it is important that the recipients see the full support of the Division. If I can't make a presentation, I would probably write a letter expressing my thankfulness and apologizing for the conflict in my schedule.

Next, if members are planning on making purchases, or spending Division resources, please check our budget and request approval for amounts exceeding those in the approved budget.

That's the end of housekeeping items.

The last issue is the raffle. We are really far behind many years due to event cancelations due to Covid. If everyone could please exert a little more effort in selling to others, that would allow us to meet the level of funding required to achieve a balanced budget.

Our time of year is coming up quickly. I'm looking forward to enjoying it with a great group of brothers.

Yours in Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,
Tom Murphy
President
Major James Henry Dooley Division
Ancient Order of Hibernians

Upcoming Events:

Feb 12, 2022 5:00 pm Raffle Ticket Sales St. Mary's Church

Feb. 13, 2022 10 am & 11 am Raffle Ticket sales at St. Mary's Church

Feb 19, 2022 5:00 pm Raffle Ticket Sales St. Michael's Church

Feb. 20, 2022 7:45 am, 9:15, 11:15, 5:00 pm Raffle Ticket sales at St. Michael's Church

Feb. 26, 2022 11:00 am – Paul McFadden Funeral Mass Church of the Redeemer Mechanicsville.

Feb. 26, 2022 5:30 pm Raffle ticket sales St. Bridget

Feb. 27, 2022 7:30, 9:00, 11:00 am Raffle ticket sales St. Bridget

March 12, 2022 6:00 pm LAOH Mary Ryan Irish Gala St. Michael's Church

March 17, 2022 8:30 am Mass at St. Patrick's Church followed by Rosie Connelly's

March 25, 2022 Irish Festival Church Hill Setup on Friday evening. Festival is starting on Friday afternoon for the neighborhood residents.

March 26, 27 2022 Irish Festival 8:00 am Parade and sell tickets at booth. **Raffle drawing on Sunday at 5:00 pm.**

AOH Dooley Division Prayer List For February 8, 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:

- **Paulie McFadden** – Passed away. Funeral is Saturday, February 26th, 11am at [Church of the Redeemer](#) in Mechanicsville.
- Temple Bayliss - Dr. Bayliss' husband - He fell and is in the hospital.

From Prior Meetings:

- **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
- **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
- **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

- **Mrs. George** – Mother of *PJ George* – Having a pacemaker installed. Also pray for George family.
- **Melissa Stelman** – 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

2022 Raffle Ticket Sales

The 2022 Trip for Two to Ireland raffle has started. Tickets will be available this week. Chairman Jim Woods will be sending out a letter with the details on how brothers can sell tickets to pay for their annual dues. Tickets sales are also set up at St. Mary's, St. Bridget's, and St. Michael's. See the Event Calendar for date and times.

<https://aohrichmond.org/events/?month=mar&yr=2022>

We are also selling tickets online. Share this link with your friends and publish on your social media accounts.

<https://go.eventgroovefundraising.com/aohraffle2022>

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



Stephen Roche – Ireland’s Greatest Athlete

Contributed by Brian P. Hegarty Jr.



Road cycle racing is the ultimate test of endurance. This is a sport which tests the outer limits of the body and mind. For well over 100 years road cycling has broken the hardest men in sport. Of those that survived only handful have starred. The three most coveted races in the world are the Giro d’Italia, Tour de France, and the UCI World Road Race Championship. It’s a mere four months from the first day of the Giro in May to the climax day of the Worlds in September. To win any one of these races is to secure a place in cycling history. To win two is the stuff of legend. On the 6th of September 1987, on a damp day in a small Austrian town, a maintenance fitter from Dundrum, Co. Dublin crossed the finish line in Irish colors. He won all three races and he done it in the same season, over in just 15 weeks. His name is Stephen Roche. He had won the Triple Crown of Road Racing. To put this in perspective, this has only been achieved by cycling great Eddy Merckx. It may just be the greatest individual achievement in the

history of Irish sport.

In Roche’s early years, his coach Noel O’Neill remembers organizing a sprint to test the speed of individual riders. Fifteen riders showed up including 13-year-old Stephen Roche. In the first set of sprints Roche finished 15th; the second race he moved up to 5th; and the third time the group raced he finished 2nd. Normally in sprinting you slow down after each race which is what happened to the other riders. But Roche’s time remained the same. The coach realized that Roche had natural talent and stamina. But natural talent is not enough to win a race that runs for three weeks. What it takes is a desire to win and take whatever the race throws at you. Roche had the determination for greatness. A good friend described this as “any rider that stood in his way was an enemy.” In 1979, he became the youngest rider at age 19 to win the Rás Irish Road cycling race. He turned professional but sustained a knee injury in 1985 which would plague the rest of his career. This destroyed his 1986 cycling season, but after winning several races in early 1987 things started to improve.

Roche would ride 2433 miles in 23 days in the Giro d’Italia for the Italian Team Carrera. The rules of cycling demand total loyalty to the team leader and Roberto Visentini, was the man that Roche had to ride for. If Roche won the Giro d’Italia, the winner of the pink jersey, he would be the first English speaking rider to do so in its 70-year history. To do so he needed the help of his team, but he had one problem...his team was Italian. So, there was no surprises to where the loyalty laid. Roche started the race as second in command and behind the 1986 winner Roberto Visentini. The two riders had agreed that Roche would help Visentini win a second Giro d’Italia and then the Italian would ride for Roche in the Tour de France. However, when Visentini revealed he had no plan to spend July in France, Roche decided to ride for himself. It sparked a war of words within team Carrera but created an epic version of the Giro d’Italia. This was going to be a tense and dramatic race.

During stage 15 of the Giro, Roche ignore orders from his team and broke away early, wrestling the pink jersey from defending champion Visentini. It was a decisive and divisive moment. They could have sent Roche home, but that meant Team Carrera would lose the pink jersey. From that point on Roche was a marked man as far as his Italian team-mates were concerned. The team fell out on him, crowds spit red wine mixed with half-chewed pieces of rice on him, and people in the crowd came out to punch him. Roche said, “I’d never been so afraid on the bike.” Roche was able to survive that pivotal Marmolada Mountain climb on stage 16. Roche had to be protected by the police, spending the rest of the tour staying and eating alone in his bedroom. A mechanic was assigned to his bike in case of sabotage and his masseur was assigned to make his food in case of poisoning. This all proved the strength of the inner man. He found out that he could only rely on a Belgium rider, Eddy Schepers, his domestique. A few days later during stage 22, Visentini fell and retired from the race, helping Roche to maintain his lead. When he claimed his second individual stage, winning the time trial on the final leg of the tour, Roche claimed victory in the Giro. Roche skipped the ceremonies and drove back to Paris that night.



The Tour de France was just 18 days away, an even longer race covering 2672 miles over 25 days of riding. The pink jersey was a past conquest, now all eyes were on the yellow jersey. He rode the first two and half weeks quietly winning only one stage but stayed in contention by keeping his head down. He eventually took possession of the yellow jersey (*le maillot jaune*) deep into the French Alps for the first time after stage 19. The very next day Roche lost the yellow jersey, to Pedro Delgado – a pure climber and stood at a time deficit going into the final great climb of the tour. Things were not going Roche's way during the 115-mile stage through the Alps. He gambled on attacking Delgado early, which looked like a wise move, but Delgado steadily reeled him in and gradually

built up a stage lead of 2 minutes. Roche's plans seemed to be in tatters but then his legendary chase began. This would be Roche's defining moment. This is the moment when the Giro winner raised his cycling to a new level and proved he was a cut above the rest. As Roche pounded along, Delgado maintained his steady pace. The race radio had broken down there where no camera motor bikes with Roche. All anybody knew was he was somewhere on the mountain two minutes down. When the Spaniard crossed the line, the crowd were astonished to see the sight of Roche just five seconds behind. Phil Liggett's commentary is legendary: "Just who is that rider coming up behind – because that looks like Roche! That looks like Stephen Roche. It's Stephen Roche, who has come over the line! He almost caught Pedro Delgado; I don't believe it! Stephen Roche is now going to win the Tour de France!" He had saved the day by putting his head down and burying himself in pain on the climb. Delgado still led by 21s after stage 22, and Roche was confident with the upcoming time trial. Roche came in second place in the 24-mile time trial and secured a 40-second lead before the final stage. He wore the yellow jersey through Paris to claim victory of the Tour de France.

Ireland's Taoiseach, Charles Haughey didn't miss a chance to greet Roche in Paris. Crowds not seen since the Pope's visit in 1979, an estimated 250,000 people lined the streets of Dublin to welcome him back to Ireland. But there was no rest for Roche, as the next day after his reception in Dublin he was off to Eindhoven to prepare for the World Championships in Austria.

The World Road Race Championship in September was the final piece of the Triple Crown. The 173-mile race was contested over 23 laps of a challenging course. There was not the drama as in the previous two championship races but for once you ride in your national colors. Ireland had a team of 5 riders, one-half of the other teams, which means double the work. But in the end, to the surprise of Sean Kelly, Ireland's world class sprinter, Stephen Roche won. When Roche crossed the finish line first to win the World Championships rainbow jersey, he joined the great Eddy Merckx in winning the Triple Crown of cycling.

Despite winning one more stage in Tour de France, his knee injury came back and forced his retirement in 1993. It will probably never be achieved again but the Roche and Merckx championship trifecta goes down as the greatest achievement in cycling history. Stephen Roche could very well be Ireland's greatest athlete.

«First_Name» «Last_Name»
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