



The Dooley Dispatch

February 2023

Celebrating 44 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 14, 2023 7:00 p.m. St. Michael's Church

President's Message: President's Message:

Brothers All:



At our January business meeting we introduced Fr. Jim Arsenault as our new Division Chaplain. Fr. Jim has been a Hibernian for several years and we are thankful for his leadership. He is the Pastor at St. Elizabeth's and the Dooley Division will host a breakfast after the 10:00 Mass at St. Elizabeth's on April 23rd. Our longtime, beloved Chaplain,

Fr. George Zahn, passed away last year.

The Division celebrated the birthday of our namesake James Dooley on January 21st. His actual birthday is January 17th. Dr. Mary Lynn Bayliss gave a great presentation highlighting what the Maymount Estate would have looked like at the time the Dooley's moved in. I didn't realize it was a dairy farm at the time. After the presentation there was a get together at Rare old Times to raise a toast to Major Dooley.

The AOH Virginia State Board held its quarterly meeting on January 28th in Fairfax. Our very own Brian Kiernan is currently the state president. Please save the weekend of July 15th. The state convention is being held this year in Old Town Alexandria. More details to come.

The turnout for the raffles sales at St. Bridget's and St. Michael's was outstanding. Special thanks to our Gael of the Year John Condon. I believe John was at every Mass over the two weekends. Our last major ticket sale opportunity will be at St. Mary's the weekend of February 25th and 26th. Let's keep the momentum going as we get ready for the best month of the year!

Our next business meeting will be Tuesday, February 14th at 7:00 at St. Michael's Lake House. I realize this date presents a conflict for many brothers, but we were not able to get a different day to use the Lake House. This is the busiest time of the year, so I didn't want to skip a month. We'll do our best to pass along any information needed to ensure we a great St. Patrick's Day.

In Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity,
Mike

Upcoming Events:

Raffle Ticket Sales:

Feb. 25-26, 2023 – St. Mary's; 5:30 pm Sat; 9 am and 11 am Sun.

January 21, 2023, Saturday at 3:30 pm – Dooley Ceremony at Maymont; proceed to Dooley's Mausoleum for flower laying; Presentation by Dr. Bayliss in Garden Hall; Rare Olde Times for a Toast. Dooley DOB 1/17/1841.

March 11, 2023, Saturday; Doors open at 6 pm, dinner at 6:30 pm. LAOH Irish Gala at St. Michael's Catholic Church (Food, Drink, Donnybrooks). [Mary Ryan Division \(laohmaryryandivision.com\)](mailto:Mary.Ryan.Division@laohmaryryandivision.com) Contact is Terry Duke – teresa.duke@verizon.net

March 17, 2023, Friday– St. Patrick's Day Mass at 9 am – Mass at St. Patrick's Church, 213 North 25th Street, Richmond, VA 23223, JP Carroll Memorial Breakfast to Follow; 11:00 am – Rosie Connolly's Pub; Pub Crawl.

March 24, 25 and 26, 2023 – 37th Church Hill Irish Festival – Street Festival in front of St. Patrick's Church on North 25th Street and on Broad Street and will run from 10:00 am to 7:00 pm on Saturday and Sunday. Volunteers needed for Festival set-up, Festival Gate (8-7; 8-6), selling Raffle tickets & recruiting new members at Booth.

March 24th, Friday – happy hour, local get together

March 25th, Saturday – St. Patrick's Day Parade at 10 am – <http://www.churchhillirishfestival.com/>

March 26th, Sunday – recruit & sell Dooley Raffle tickets– Annual Raffle Drawing at the end of day. (5:00 pm)

April 23, 2023, Sunday, St. Elizabeth's Catholic Church – Providing and Serving Breakfast to Parishioners (Fr. Jim).

April 21-24, 2023 (Fri-Mon) – Golf Trip to Myrtle Beach – Big Dan Caffrey

AOH Dooley Division Prayer List For February 14, 2023 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:

- **Father Stephen McNally** – Died on January 4
- **Caitlyn Woychik** – Daughter of *Dave Woychik* – was hospitalized for kidney issues. Is home now recovering.
- **Zoraida Colarte** – Mother-In-Law of *Tim McDonnell* – Died on November 28
- **Nancy Namen** – Wife of *Joe Namen* – Recovering from ankle surgery

- AOH lost three Chaplains last month from Roanoke, Williamsburg and Arlington

From Prior Meetings:

- **Andy Cox** – Diagnosed with metastatic adenocarcinoma of the right lung. Having further tests and putting together a treatment plan.
- **Dick Kemper** – Undergone medical procedure in late September
- **Melissa Atchison** – Daughter of *Mark Atchison* – Stage 3 cancer
- **Jack Griffin** – Experiencing shortness of breath
- **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
- **Bill Shelton** – *Chad Costello's* sister's father-in-law – Covid
- **Barbara Muldowney** – Wife of *Mike Muldowney* – Having knee replacement surgery in December
- **Anne Gillikin** – Wife of *Ed Gillikin* – 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.
- **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
- **Siobhan Nolan** (53) – Sister of *Tom Nolan* – Having open heart surgery
- **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.
- *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

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. Two teams battle it out for the honor to hoist hurling’s most coveted trophy – The Liam MacCarthy Cup. On a Sunday in mid-July, 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*, a legendary tale from early Irish literature, which describes the exploits of the Ulster hero Cú Chullainn, (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 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 180 km/hr. (110 mph) and players can hit the ball up to 120 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.

My cousin invited me to a hurling match in July 1989. That experience still lives with me and is one of my favorite Ireland memories. 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 (ka – moh – ghee)

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:



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