

Ancient Order of Hibernians



The Dooley Dispatch

June 2023

Celebrating 44 years of Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity

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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 June 13, 2023 7:00 p.m. St. Michael's Church

President's Message: President's Message:

Dia dhuit(Hello) my Brothers!

During our May business meeting we conducted our first Shamrock Degree in several years. The Shamrock Degree is an instruction in the motto of our Order. The Division also participated in the Montpelier Celtic Festival last month. We got an early start to the 2024 raffle season. I'm hoping this festival becomes an annual tradition with the Division.

The Virginia AOH State Convention will be held the weekend of July 28th in beautiful Old Town Alexandria. The State Board has negotiated a group rate(mention VA State AOH Convention) at the Hilton on King Street. The block of rooms is expected to sell out so please call Hilton soon at 800-445-8667 to reserve your spot. A Major Degree of the Order will be offered on Saturday, July 29th at 1:00. The AOH alternates years between State Conventions and the National Convention. Next summer the National Convention is being held in Orlando.

I would encourage you to read the most recent edition of the National Hibernian Digest. It details the first time a Taoiseach has made a visit to a Hibernian event as an item on his itinerary. He attended an event commemorating the Good Friday Agreement in Washington on March 16th. The National Digest also details the Grants given out by the Freedom For All Ireland Committee in Belfast. Among the many worthy recipients were the Relatives for Justice, the Bloody Sunday Trust, and support for former political prisoners. This support is crucial as the British attempt to push through an amnesty bill. Our Division recently made a \$1,500 contribution to Freedom For All Ireland.

Should be a great night at the Flying Squirrels game on June 9th. We will be joined by members of the Msgr. Kelly Division and the LAOH. Our business meeting will be held on June 13th. This will be our last business meeting until September.

In Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity,
Mike Smith

Upcoming Events:

(TBC) 4th of July Picnic at Columbian Center (Family Event) with the KOC 4th Degree Assembly. Ashland Parade.

July 28-29, 2023, Fri. thru Sun.- AOH State Convention in Alexandria, VA. Registration info available on State Board Website:
<https://aohvirginia.org/2023/05/30/virginia-2023-state-board-convention-registration-information/>

AOH Dooley Division Prayer List For June 13, 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:

- **John Condon** – Knee issues

From Prior Meetings:

- **PJ George's Father** – Fell from vertigo. Hard to stand.
- **Mary Margaret McGowan** – Mother of *Patrick McGowan* – Spent a few nights in hospital. Is out and adjusting to assisted living.
- **Betty McGowan** – Wife of *Joe McGowan* – Recovery from head surgery
- **Theresa** – Sister of *Mike Canning* – Diagnosed with cancerous lesion on her face. Undergoing surgery.
- **Molly Nugent** – Daughter of Scott Nugent – Diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis. Beginning treatment.
- **Caitlyn Woychik** – Daughter of *Dave Woychik* – was hospitalized for kidney issues. Is home now recovering.
- **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** – Moved to extended care in Northern VA. Being looked after by his son
- **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 Stelman** – 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

The Good Friday Agreement

Contributed by Brian P. Hegarty Jr.



On April 10, 1998, the Good Friday Agreement (also known as the Belfast Agreement) was signed. To travel around Northern Ireland, you would have to pass through checkpoints. The Good Friday document changed that. The Good Friday Agreement is basically a political deal designed to end ‘the Troubles’ – thirty years of violent conflict in Northern Ireland which claimed more than 3,600 lives and injured 47,000 people.

What were ‘the Troubles’?

In 1921, Ireland was partitioned into a six-county region creating a new state called Northern Ireland. While the rest of Ireland became an independent “Free State.” This created a split among the general population. Nationalists wanted the whole of the island of

Ireland to be unified. While the Unionists wanted things to stay the same, to keep the union with the rest of the U.K. The Catholic minority experienced discrimination in jobs, housing and other areas in the Protestant-dominated state. By the 1960’s, a Catholic civil rights movement demanded change, but faced a harsh response from the government and police, so tensions exploded into violence. The situation deteriorated into a conflict involving armed groups on both sides, in particular the Irish Republican Army (IRA), the Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF) and the British Army. We are all familiar with the British Army’s murder operation in Ballymurphy and Derry’s Bloody Sunday. Tens of thousands of people still bear the physical and mental scars to this day. It is hard to find a family who was not touched by ‘the Troubles’ in some way.

What led to the peace deal?

By the early 1990’s, the armed conflict had reached a “hurting stalemate.” There was a recognition on the part of the British government and army, and on the Irish republican side as well, that there was never going to be an outright victory. The Irish Republican Army called a cease-fire in 1994, allowing its allied party, Sinn Féin, to join other nationalist and unionist parties in peace talks co-sponsored by the British and Irish governments. The United States played a key role – former Senator George Mitchell chaired the talks, spending 22 months in Belfast overseeing the delicate multi-party negotiations. The Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) did not participate in protest at the inclusion of Sinn Féin.

The talks came close to collapse several times. But after a marathon weeklong negotiating session that stretched long past deadline, agreement was reached on April 10, 1998 – Good Friday.

What does the Good Friday Agreement say?

The agreement focuses on cooperation between both protestant and catholic communities. It created a new government for Northern Ireland with Nationalists and Unionists sharing power. It says that Northern Ireland will remain part of the U.K. until a majority of people in Northern Ireland decide to join the rest of Ireland. If you were born in Northern Ireland, you can decide to be British or Irish or both. Armed groups agreed to give up weapons. Controversially, people involved in violence were released from prison. The U.K. government agreed to aim for peacetime security arrangements which meant scaling back the British army presence and getting rid of those border checkpoints. People and goods could flow freely across the all-but-invisible border between Northern Ireland and the Republic.

Has the Good Friday Agreement worked out?

Northern Ireland has mostly enjoyed peace for the past 25 years. Only a small number of splinter groups have been involved in sporadic attacks. But their document is vague in parts which means it can be hard to implement. Power sharing has broken down a few times because some political parties could not agree on how to work together. It broke down again last year due to post Brexit trade rules. The Belfast government remains suspended. And it is not back up and running yet. For the 25th year anniversary there were a series of high-profile events. This is not just a historical document; it shapes the future of Northern Ireland.

On a final note - the impetus behind getting the parties to agree to sit down for The Good Friday Agreement led to a joint 1998 Nobel peace prize for David Trimble and John Hume, leaders of the Ulster Unionist party (UUP) and Social Democratic and Labor party (SDLP). Hume also received the Gandhi Peace Prize and the Martin Luther King Award. He is the only person to receive the three major peace awards.

Summer Vacation starts on Wednesday June 14, 2023

Reminder: Our last business meeting for the summer is Tuesday June 13. We will not be holding a business meeting in the months of July or August. For updates on Dooley activities over the summer, please check the website event page:

<https://aohrichmond.org/events/>

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



«First_Name» «Last_Name»
«Street»
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