



# The Dooley Dispatch

## March 2024

**Celebrating 45 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 March 12, 2024 7:00 p.m. St. Michael's Church

#### President's Message: President's Message:



Dear Brothers,

Welcome to March, Irish American Heritage Month. Happy St. Patrick's Day!!!

Our next meeting is March 12, 2024 at 7 pm at St. Michael's. Brian Hegarty will be presenting his annual Irish Trivia. We'll have Shepherd's Pie to enjoy and beverages. We'll be discussing a busy weekend at the Irish Festival on March 16 and

March 17:

- Friday set-up - We'll need help on March 15 midafternoon setting up (the Festival needs help that day as well – show up anytime).
- Sign-ups for Booth and Gate - We'll need help at our Booth selling tickets and recruiting and help working one of the entrance gates the entire weekend. Please sign-up.

- Sunday, March 17:
  - 8 am Hibernian Mass followed by breakfast.
  - 10 am – Parade
  - Sell tickets and recruit
  - 5 pm – raffle drawing on the Main Stage

Please go to [www.aohrichmond.org](http://www.aohrichmond.org) to sign-up for the Festival – ticket booth and gates.

We had a very successful Breakfast at St. Elizabeth's after their 10 am Mass on February 18, 2024. Thanks to Fr. Jim for having us and promoting us to his Parish. Thanks to Bill Casey for picking up the food. Also, thanks to Brother Kevin Kitrick who donated a lot of food for the event. As well as, the Ladies AOH. It was a wonderful service, lots of wonderful singing and young people. A true celebration. I was so moved that I'm recommending we donate \$2,000 to St. Elizabeth's for scholarships for their very needy Parishioners.

On March 9, 2024 the Ladies AOH had their Irish Gala at St. Michael's. It was a wonderful event that was well attended by the AOH. Thanks to those who attended and worked the event. Especially, Larry Keefe, Kevin Kitrick, Pat McGowan and John Costello.

In February, we had very successful raffle ticket sales at our Parishes – St. Bridget's, St. Mary's and St. Michael's. Thanks to all of those who helped sell tickets especially John Condon, the Ticket Man.

Please see elsewhere in this Newsletter for upcoming events.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at our Meeting on March 12 and at the Irish Festival on March 15-17. Hope to see you there.

In Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,

Big Dan Caffrey

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### Upcoming Events:

#### March 15, 16 and 17, 2024 – 38th 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 6:00 pm on Saturday and Sunday.

Volunteers needed for Festival set-up, Festival Gate (8-6; 8-6), selling Raffle tickets & recruiting at Booth.

**March 15th, Friday** – set-up booth; volunteer set-up for Festival; happy hour, local get-together.

**March 16th, Saturday** – recruit & sell Dooley Raffle tickets– <http://www.churchhillirishfestival.com/>

**March 17th, Sunday – St. Patrick's Day Parade at 10 am;** recruit & sell Dooley Raffle tickets– Annual Raffle Drawing at the end of day. (approximately 5:00 pm)

**March 17, 2024, Sunday– St. Patrick's Day Mass at 8 am** – Hibernian Mass at St. Patrick's Church, 213 North 25th Street, Richmond, VA 23223. Serve Breakfast after.

**April 13, 2024, Saturday at 3:30 pm – Dooley Ceremony at Maymont;** proceed to Dooley's Mausoleum for flower laying; Presentation on Dooley in the Garden Hall; ROT or Sean O'Grady House for a Toast. Dooley DOB 1/17/1841.

**April 19-22, 2024 (Fri-Mon) – Golf Trip to Myrtle Beach – Big Dan Caffrey**

**May 4, 2024, Saturday, 12 to 5 pm; Montpelier Celtic Festival – Volunteer. Sell Raffle tickets; Irish food, drink, Whiskey tasting, music. Order tickets online at <https://www.montpeliercenter.org/celtic-festival.html>**

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### AOH Dooley Division Prayer List For March 12 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](mailto:jarsenault@stelizcc.org)

AOH Dooley Division Prayer List  
For January 9, 2024 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](mailto:jarsenault@stelizcc.org)

#### From Previous Meeting and since then:

- **Scott Nugent** – On Dec 28 had a seizure. Taken to VCU for MRI. Found a brain tumor. Has surgery at Duke Medical Center on Jan 9 and then determining next steps.
- **Debra Fitzgerald** – Wife of Past President *Jim Fitzgerald* - On Christmas afternoon Debra suffered a fall at home which resulted in her being transported to the Henrico Doctors Hospital and subsequently admitted to the ICU. After consultation, we were advised that she has a cracked skull and bleeding on the brain, however surgery will not be necessary at this time. Her breathing tube was removed and the doctors advised she will be transferred to the step down unit.

#### From Prior Meetings:

- **Diane Woods** – Wife of *Jim Woods* – Complications from hip replacement, metal leaking into blood
- **Caitlyn Woychik** – Daughter of *Dave Woychik* – Having kidney issues. Still recuperating
- **Tom Forbes** – Seeing entire staff working to keep his cancer away
- **Aunt Carol** – Diagnosed with liver cancer
- **Tom Murphy** – Has Covid and low oxygen levels
- **Jim Donohue** – Experiencing extreme vertigo attacks. Cataract surgery Jan 8
- **Greg Hill** – Cousin of *Tim McDonnell* - Being treated for esophageal cancer (48 with young family)
- **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.
- **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
- **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
- **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
- **John Costello** - Ita Wilson of Dublin Ireland, widow of former Tanaiste John Wilson (1990-1993) passed away February 7. Mother of 5, grandmother of 17 (15 living), and great grandmother of 5.
- **Brian Hegarty** - I would like to add my cousin John Hegarty to the prayer list. John had received a cancer diagnosis and has been receiving chemotherapy for several months now. He will get scans next month to determine if the cancer is in remission.
- **Steve McGann** - Linda Sposito, Air Force Colonel retired, 1<sup>st</sup> cousin of Steve. Passed away. Interred at Barrancas National Cemetery, Pensacola Naval Air Station.
- **Helene McGann** - wife, fractured her knee.
- **Mercedes McCann** - mom, celebrating her 97<sup>th</sup> birthday on February 16, 2024.
- **Vince Eikmeier** - Celeste Jelen, cancer of the appendix.
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- **Scott Nugent** - recovering from brain surgery. Doing well.
- **Tom Murphy** - breathing problems, doing well.
- **Stokes McCune** – brain surgery, heart issues, lung issues. Stage 4 cancer.
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Contact Scott Nugent at 804-503-9888 or at [swnugent44@yahoo.com](mailto:swnugent44@yahoo.com)

January 2024

## Irish Road Bowling

Contributed by Brian P. Hegarty Jr.



There is no written evidence as to how or when bowling came to Ireland. One theory is that the sport came with Dutch soldiers when William of Orange came to Ireland in 1689. (A type of bowling called Moors bowling is very popular in Holland to this day). Another theory says that Irish patriots robbed English cannonballs and rolled them down a country lane by the light of a full moon. And a third theory is that the sport was brought from Yorkshire

by linen workers. Bowling has always been a traditional game of weavers, especially in the north of England.

County Armagh in the north and County Cork in the south became strongholds of this rural sport, each independently developing their own distinctive style. The first noted "score" (match) between Cork and Armagh was the September 1928 meeting on the Knappagh Road, Armagh, before 10,000 spectators.

After hundreds of years of localized bowling, Bol Chumann nah Eireann (Road Bowling of Ireland), today's governing organization, was formed in County Cork in 1954. The first "All Irelands" (national championships) between Armagh and Cork were held in 1963. Over 20,000 spectators filled the 3-mile Moy Road Course, in Co. Armagh, to see Danny McPartland of Armagh win over Derry Kenny of Cork, on the final shot by just eleven yards.

In 1969, the first international championships were held in Losser, the Netherlands, in three disciplines – Irish Road Bowling, Dutch Moors Bowling, and German Lofting.

Irish Road Bowling is now mainly played in West Cork, although there are small pockets of enthusiasts all over Ireland and the game is also popular in Armagh. The sport is usually referred to by participants simply as 'Bowls' and is played on public roads, usually on Sunday, all over the West Cork area gathering large and enthusiastic crowds of spectators.

The basic rules of the game are simple. A 'bowl' – a heavy cast iron cannonball – is thrown from a start point to a predetermined end point, usually 1 – 2 miles away. The winner is the person or team that reaches the end of the 'score' (match) with the fewest throws. That is basically it. The bowl themselves vary in weight, adults play with a 7 inches circumference and 28oz bowl while youths use a 14oz one. A road shower advises the thrower about the throw (or shot) much like a golf caddy, while another helper stands ahead of the thrower, feet apart, to show the best line or path in the road. Taking part requires nothing in the way of specialized clothing or equipment – just a bowl and an available road. In spite of its simple rules the best players are truly skillful. Their ability to deal with the bends and undulations in the road and to keep the bowl rolling onward after it lands on different road surfaces is honed by years of experience.

Irish Road Bowling in America can trace its beginnings back to the American Civil War when Irish troops marched over rugged hills and into deep hollers, cutting their way through vast rhododendron thickets all over what is now West Virginia. Union and/or Confederate troops of Irish origin played road bowling as a diversion between battles during the American Civil War. An Irish Road Bowling Association still exists in West Virginia. Today there are other Irish Road Bowling associations in the United States such as New York, Wisconsin, Ohio and Connecticut, just to name a few.

In any event, always remember, if you're participating in the sport of Irish Road Bowling and you just happen to get hit by the 28oz bowl, as the saying goes "it's just too bad."

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



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



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