



# The Dooley Dispatch

## October 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

Chaplain  
Jim Arsenault

President  
Dan Caffrey 512-6288

Vice President  
Mike Valacer 516-4004

Recording Secretary  
[John Condon](#) 980-5649

Financial Secretary  
Tim McDonnell 678-9674

Treasurer  
[Fred Gerloff](#) 305-2662

Chairman of Standing  
Committee  
Dave Woychik

Marshal  
Dan McLaughlin

Sentinel  
[Peter "PJ" George](#)

Historian  
[Brian Hegarty](#) 814-3517

Right to Life  
[Mike Smith](#) 873-2198

Executive Secretary  
[Dan Caffrey](#) 512-6288

Raffle Chairman  
[Jim Woods](#) 747-9286

Chair of the Sick  
[Scott Nugent](#) 503-9888

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

Next Meeting – Tuesday October 8, 2024 7:00 p.m. St. Michael's Church

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

Dear Brothers,

Looking forward to our meeting on Tuesday, October 8 at 7 pm at St. Michael's.

We'll be presenting our **Slate of Officers for the 2025 Fraternal Year**. It's not too late to let us know if you'd like to be an Officer in 2025. We need a Vice President and Recording Secretary. Please let Immediate Past President **Mike Smith** know if interested in serving. You certainly won't be left out on your own...there are many Dooley brothers by your side who will be able to assist those new to a role. The Officers will be voted on at the November meeting and installed at the December meeting. Please contact:

**Mike Smith**  
[mike@rvawm.com](mailto:mike@rvawm.com)  
804-873-2198

We should have some new members to install. We'll also be praying and learning about our Irish History from Brian Hegarty. Also, we'll have pizza and drinks and socializing after the meeting.

### **CALLING ALL MEMBERS WHO NEED THEIR TOWER/MAJOR DEGREE:**

The Major Degree will be offered on Saturday, October 19 at 12 pm at St. Mary's Catholic Church. Lunch and registration (\$25 fee paid there) are at 12 pm. Degree starts at 1 pm. Plan to be there until 4 pm (maybe 3 pm). Entrance is at the lower-level side door of the Church. This is a great opportunity to take the Degree being offered in Richmond. We need at least 16 people to be able to hold the Degree at St. Mary's. To sign up please go to [Sign Up Sheets – AOH Virginia State Board](https://aohvirginia.org) <https://aohvirginia.org>. Also, you're welcome to attend the State AOH Quarterly Meeting at St. Mary's that starts at 9:30 am on October 19 at St. Mary's.

**Gael of the Year** – the Officers and Past Presidents will be considering nominations for Gael of the Year for 2024. Please consider nominating someone who has served the AOH/Community well in the past year. Please email nominations to Dan Caffrey at [kkcaffrey@hotmail.com](mailto:kkcaffrey@hotmail.com).

Thanks to all of those who attended or assisted with the following events since our last meeting in September:

- **September 15, 2024, Sunday from 4:30 to 7 pm – Halfway to St. Patrick's Day at Rare Olde Times.** Our AOH Brother, Jim Guy, will be performing along with others. Great time was had by those who attended.
- **October 6, 2024, Sunday – Commemorate Commodore Barry Day Picnic**

(9/13/1803- date of death) at 1 pm at St. Michael Catholic Church. Family Picnic. Thanks to Mike Corcoran for providing the food and to Pat McGowan and Dan McLaughlin for the beverages.

Following are our upcoming events for the remainder of the year:

- **AOH Golfing** - we have up to 12 of us on average play 9 holes every Thursday afternoon (4:30 pm) at Sycamore through the end of October and every Sunday afternoon (2 pm) at Hanover Golf Club through the winter weather permitting. Please let me know if you'd like to join us. Email Dan Caffrey at [kkcaffrey@hotmail.com](mailto:kkcaffrey@hotmail.com).
- **October 8, 2024, Tuesday at 7 pm – AOH Meeting** at St. Michael's Church.
- **October 16, 2024, Saturday at 9:30 am – AOH State Quarterly Meeting at St. Mary's Catholic Church, 9505 Gayton Rd, Henrico, VA 23229.** Entrance is at the lower-level side door of the Church. Doors open and breakfast at 8:30 am; Meeting at 9:30 am and Lunch at 12 pm.
- **October 16, 2024, Saturday at 12 pm - Major Degree at St. Mary's Catholic Church, 9505 Gayton Rd, Henrico, VA 23229.** Entrance is at the lower-level side door of the Church. 12 pm – Lunch and Registration; 1 pm – Degree. Please sign-up.
- **Richmond Highland Games at Dorey Park was CANCELLED this year.**
- **November 12, 2024, Tuesday at 7 pm – AOH Meeting** at St. Michael's Church.
- **December 10, 2024, Tuesday at 7 pm – AOH Meeting/Officer Installation** for 2025 Officers by a State AOH Officer at St. Michael's Church (family event).
- **December 15, 2024, Sunday at 1 pm at St. Michael's Catholic Church - Family Christmas Party.** (Chair Mike Muldowney).

A reminder to try and recruit **new AOH members** (Irish Catholic men who've received their First Communion, been Confirmed and are in harmony with the teachings of the Faith). Invite them to attend our meeting (they can be installed at the meeting), or invite them to attend one of our events, i.e., Christmas Party.

Reminder to **bring cash to each meeting** for our 50/50 raffle (50% to our Vocations Fund) and donations to the Pregnancy Resource Center.

Hope you can attend our October meeting.

In Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,

Big Dan Caffrey

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**AOH Dooley Division Prayer List**  
**From September 10, 2024 Meeting to October 8, 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:

- **Stokes McCune** – update - went to the hospital recently, TIA – mini-stroke, should be released on Monday. Had Brain surgery, heart issues, lung issues. Stage 4 cancer.
- **Alesia – Jim Whelen’s wife** – had pancreatitis, also in hospital recently for a procedure.
- **Karen Lucas – sister of Chad Costello** – breast cancer, Stage 1.
- **Courtney McGowan - Pat McGowan’s sister-in-law** – breast cancer surgery, double mastectomy.
- **Grey Polson -from Fred Gerloff** – died in sleep at age 65.
- **Lori Forbes** – Wife of *Tom Forbes* – had pacemaker implanted and will be getting a heart ablation procedure soon
- **Tom Forbes** – kidney stones.
- **Debbie Brokaw** – Wife of *Matt Brokaw* – diagnosed with colon cancer and starting chemo
- **Gary McAuliffe** – Diagnosed with Parkinsons and has Lewy body dementia
- **Sean O’Grady** – AOH brother, bone marrow cancer and wife who was in a recent car accident.
- **Celeste Jelen** – *update in recovery, successful surgery at Mayo Clinic* - relation of *Vince Eikmeier* – cancer of the appendix
- **Bill Shelton** – update – passed away; *Chad Costello’s* sister’s father-in-law – Covid
- **Theresa** – update – had successful procedure, in recovery; Sister of *Mike Canning* – Diagnosed with cancerous lesion on her face. Undergoing surgery.

From Prior Meetings:

- **Barbara O’Connor** – Wife of *Charley O’Connor* – has Multiple System Atrophy. In VCU at home hospice program

- **Shyler** – great niece to *Tom Forbes* – pneumonia.
- **Jennifer Jordan** – niece of *Frank Kelly*, age 40, murdered in California.
- **Joe Moore** – friend of *Billy Spicer*, hip repair.
- **Megan Keefe Sprague** – daughter of *Larry Keefe*, gall bladder surgery.
- **John Hegarty** – cousin of *Brian Hegarty* – Diagnosed with cancer. In chemo.
- **Scott Nugent** – Finished initial treatment for his brain tumor. Ongoing treatment now
- **Debra Fitzgerald** – Wife of Past President *Jim Fitzgerald* – Had a bad fall and recovering.
- **Aunt Carol** – Diagnosed with liver cancer
- **Tom Murphy** – low oxygen levels
- **Jim Donohue** – Meniere’s disease
- **Molly Nugent** – Daughter of Scott Nugent – Diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis. Ongoing treatment.
- **Dick Kemper** – Undergone medical procedure in late September
- **Melissa Atchison** – Daughter of *Mark Atchison* – Stage 3 cancer
- **Anne Gillikin** – Wife of *Ed Gillikin* – Recovering from an operation on October 25.
- **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
- **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

Contact Scott Nugent at 804-503-9888 or at [swnugent44@yahoo.com](mailto:swnugent44@yahoo.com)

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



## History of a “Legend-Derry” Irish City

Contributed by Brian P. Hegarty Jr.

Now considered a great tourist destination with the best city walls in Ireland, during the 20th century sectarian struggles plagued Derry. When Ireland was divided up between North and the Republic in the early 1920s, Derry’s water way – the River Foyle – was a logical border. But, for sentimental and economic reasons, the Protestant North kept all this predominantly Catholic Nationalist city. Subsequently, the two sides have fought over its status. Even its name has been a source of dispute. It is “Derry” to the Catholics and “Londonderry” to the Protestants. It should be noted that most inhabitants call it Derry.

The name has a good pedigree, dating back to 546 in Catholic Ireland. In that year, the holy St. Columba established a monastic citadel here. He chose a hilltop site in the middle of an oak grove or “doire.” The name stuck.

Now fast-forward a thousand years to 1613, when the English arrived. To establish a Protestant toehold in this Catholic part of Ireland, they began the “Plantation of Ulster” the region with loyal Protestant colonists imported from Scotland and England. Since many were financed by wealthy London guilds, they changed the name to “Londonderry.”

To keep the Irish out, who have been forced onto less desirable land, the English surrounded the city with a stout defensive wall which was constructed between 1613 and 1618. Today those walls make Derry one of the best-preserved fortified cities in Ireland. They stand almost 20 feet high and nearly as thick, with 24 cannons standing sentinel.

The walls proved their worth in 1688-89, when the Catholic King James II and an Irish army besieged the city. Derry’s determined Protestant defenders, the Apprentice Boys, took the keys for the city’s gates and slammed the town gates shut. The Protestants successfully outlasted their foes for 105 grinding days. The Apprentice Boys made the Walls of Derry an iconic emblem of Loyalism and Unionism.

There are two main celebratory parades held in Derry city every year: The first parade called the “Relief of Derry” parade is held on the second Saturday in August to commemorate the ending of the 105-day siege of the city in August 1689. It took place against the background of an attempt by deposed Catholic King James II to regain his crown from his Protestant son-in-law, King William III. Also known as William of Orange, or King Billy, the new monarch was supported by Protestants in Derry, who shut the gates of the walled city to keep out the advancing Jacobite army. The ending of the siege is known as the Relief of Derry. It is considered the biggest loyal order parade in Northern Ireland making their way around the city’s historic walls as part of the parading of the walls ceremony. This year 5,000 members of the loyal order are expected to take part in the commemoration, accompanied by 130 bands.

The second parade held each year on the first Saturday in December is the “Shutting of the Gates” parade commemorating the actions of 13 apprentices who shut the City’s gates in 1688 and set in place the events which led to the Great Siege. The day concludes with the traditional burning of an effigy of the siege traitor Colonel Robert Lundy.

Sectarian violence in Ireland has given way to a settlement that is working. Both sides have come to the position that “an eye for an eye leaves everyone blind.” In Derry, the growing hope for peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland is expressed in a powerful public-art sculpture of two figures extending their hands to one another. These days, the once divided city sees itself as a shared city. The symbol of that recalibration is the Peace Bridge across the River Foyle. This pedestrian span, built with European Union funds, is intended to bring the two sides together: east bank and west bank, Irish and British, Catholic and Protestant, Nationalist and Unionist. And to the surprise of locals, it is working.

In a sign of the times, a British army base that once occupied prime real estate near the old city wall has been transformed into an outdoor concert venue and a gathering place for all of Derry. It is an emblem of what has happened here; you will find that now the long-divided communities love their “legend-Derry” Irish city.

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



«First\_Name» «Last\_Name»  
«Street»  
«City», «State» «Zip»