



**Col. John Fitzgerald Division  
#1  
Ancient Order of Hibernians  
5115 Little Falls Rd.  
Arlington, VA 22207**

support has been ascending to greater heights, accomplishments, members, and

**September, 2021**



## **President's Message**

**John M. Hampson**

Dear Brothers,

Again, apologies for delay in sending this newsletter. My fault completely. We had a very busy month and I want to update you on everything!!

### **Biannual State AOH Convention – August 20-22, 2021 – Richmond, Va.**

Past President Jim Carmody, Alex Wilson, and I attended this event at the Hilton Garden Inn. It was an interesting first event for me and I was able to put a face with many of the other Division presidents and Virginia State AOH Representatives. Several National AOH officer were present and so was the LAOH!! I had limited time due to work commitments but did attend the entire business meeting from 9:00 am. to 12:30 pm ish. The new State AOH President, VP and Treasurer were sworn in. See the State AOH website for details.

One of my missions was to thank two people in person – Former State President Jay Mc Carthey for his support to our Division as we now ascend from virtual dissolution a few years ago. His

charitable contributions to our community. I also finally met in person Pat SHEA who is the “master webmaster” for the State AOH. Pat helped us set up our current Division website and is working with our new webmaster now.

### **Arlington National Cemetery – Honoring AOH Brother and American Hero - Father Kevin Devine**

I will provide more details at our meeting but several Brothers (Leo Donahoe, John Delaney, and myself) plus our Brothers in Alexandria Herbert-Cady Division attended the military honors ceremony of Father Kevin Devine from NY on Monday, August 23, 2021 at Arlington National Cemetery. I was asked by Brendan Cooney, State AOH Veteran Affairs representative and Alexandria Division member to support this funeral procession as there was minimal representation that could attend from NY. We had Jay Mc Carthey and others from the State come to this event. The Devine family really appreciated our support and honor of Father Devine. I personally wanted to honor him as my uncle died in Vietnam and Fr. Devine

served with distinction as a Catholic chaplain in Vietnam. Fr, Devine was also at 9/11 serving in the morgue during the sad days following the attack on the World Trade Center. I was in NYC for the rescue and wanted to honor and thank Fr. Devine for his service to our first responders and countrymen who did not survive that day. See the photos I sent to our new webmaster and the notes from the family thanking us for attending. It was a sad but proud military ceremony, with a horse drawn caisson, Army band, taps, riderless horse, 21- gun salute and other military traditions bestowed upon our heroes. Thank our Country for honoring Brother AOH member Fr. Kevin Devine from NY.

**Our current Charity – St. Charles**

**Church in Arlington:** I spoke with the new coordinator Theresa last week and she said the food delivery and collection for mostly COVID stricken parishioners is winding down so we do not need to collect food for them until further notice. I will still drive for the church each week as our Division's representative until further notice.

**NEW CHARITY IDEA FOR OUR**

**DIVISION:** With this new void in our charitable mission, I have an idea????????????? Many of us have connections with the war in Afghanistan and the immigrants who helped our war effort are here in the USA and Virginia!! They will slowly melt into our society and become contributing members to the nation and hopefully be able to fulfill the "American dream." How about we help them? I am galvanizing several organizations and hope our Division 1 can be one of them to support our new

Afghan immigrants and future US citizens. Thus far, I am hearing they need everything but clothing and bathroom supplies are sorely needed now. We can discuss more at our meeting and please, Brothers, throw out your ideas now and at our September meeting on this idea to help those who helped our troops and US embassy these last 20 years.

One more thing that makes me want to help these new immigrants. Remember our history, we were all immigrants to America due to strife, war, economic hardship, hatred, oppression, etc., in Ireland. We can return the favor without repeating what was done to our ancestors when they arrived here in the USA. Just a thought as we are a better people and a better Nation now. I would like us to follow the words on our Statue of Liberty. You all should know what these words say. Let's emulate these words.

**IMPORTANT: DATE CHANGE for September Monthly MEETING:**

Gentlemen, I must go to Pittsburg and my son is getting married on our scheduled 11 September Sunday meeting. Last minute and no, not a shotgun wedding!! I would like to change the meeting date to **Sunday, 19 September** and I will be virtual from Florida. Chris and a few others prefer this date as well.

So, unless we have major objections, our meeting is rescheduled for **19 September 2021 at 1:30 pm at the KoC. I will be virtual with help from Alex Wilson who will attend.**

Brothers, it has been a rough month for our Country, we lost some of our own and we are grieving. Let us recover, stay strong, and show the world we look after those Friends, regardless of their religious beliefs, who cross our shores for help. Our charity is from our heart and our beliefs. Our Division has a large heart with strong American/Irish beliefs and traditions. We must offer a helping hand to support these new immigrants/victims of religious oppression.

5013 S 12<sup>th</sup> St  
Arlington, VA 22204

Bail o' Dhia ort.

John M. Hampson  
President, AOH Arlington  
Col. John Fitzgerald Division 1.



## **October Events**

September 19<sup>th</sup> – Division Meeting  
1:30pm – EDW – old home

## **Dues are Due**

Brothers, please remember to pay your 2019 dues. If you have not sent in your dues, if you haven't already; please send your \$35.00 (\$70 for two years) to:

Chris O'Connor









