



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

**December 2021**



**President's Message**  
**John Hampson**

Worthy Division 1 Brothers,

I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving Day and were able to reflect on how fortunate we all are and the thanks we should all be thinking about with all that is going on in our country, the world and for most of us, within our own families. I consider myself very fortunate.

For those less fortunate, Division 1 stepped up and made a significant donation to end 2021 by working with St. Ann's Church in Arlington, and Cross Catholic Charities. We gathered during our monthly November meeting and put together 50 boxes and filled them with school supplies, gloves, socks, small games, coloring books, crayons etc. for children less fortunate. We then delivered the boxes to St. Ann's Church in Arlington. This was our second year running donating to Cross Catholic

Charities. I want to thank everyone for organizing this event, making cash donations, time making and filling boxes, and good cheer and support to make 50 children a bit happier this coming Christmas season. Our total estimated donation from Division 1 was \$700

We received a nice thank you from Heather Bryant, the Cross Catholic Charities "Box of Joy" organizer at St. Ann's. quote: "*It helps SO much! Thank you for your help!! Got them.*"  
*(Heather Bryant)*



Brothers C. McGowan and C. O'Connor  
50 packet boxes ready for delivery!!



VP Hines and Alex Wilson filling boxes.

Urgent request – as you are aware from my last several messages at the meetings and via the President’s message, we need a webmaster and we need one badly. We cannot function going into the future without being able to communicate, make money, and discuss urgent national, state and local issues relating to the AOH without a working website run by a webmaster. So far, I have recruited two webmasters who have both resigned for better and greener pastures. We need a webmaster who can stick around for a while!! For now, the KoC and AOH from the State are helping us out but we cannot ask them for continued support for too much longer. Please reach out to your contacts and see if we can find a volunteer or

someone, we can pay a minimal monthly cost as not a lot of time is needed to maintain our Division 1 Arlington AOH site. This, in my opinion, is critical for us to succeed and prosper.

We have our annual Christmas Party coming up at our next meeting on Sunday, December 5th at 1:30 pm at the KoC Council Home. We will combine our Christmas party with our annual elections for officers. Please attend our Christmas event and bring something to share as we always have a wonderful time together.

Please consider running for an officer position this year. I have been the President for the past two (2) years and it is time for another Division member to take the lead as Division 1 President for 2022. I have been laboring the past several months and believe 2022 will be tougher for me to lead as your President. I have an 86-year-old mother who is moving in with us so I have to empty and sell her home in FLA and then move her to Virginia by November 2022 or earlier. I therefore will not be running for Division 1 President for 2022. I believe I can work behind the scenes again to help bring us back to our former numbers, community service strength, and overall participation in AOH Division, State of Virginia and national AOH priorities. I will still be an active member on our Division as much as I am able. Thank you all for your support these past two years and I hope we find superb and dedicated volunteer candidates for this coming 2022.

Finally, I wish you all the merriest of Christmases and I look forward to starting the new year with our preparations for the upcoming March

Gaelic Mass which has been scheduled for Monday, March 14, 2022!!!

I am your worthy and fortunate President,  
John Hampson

Nollaig Shona Duit!!



## **December Events**

December 5th – Division Meeting and Election of Officers for 2021  
1:30pm – EDW Old home

We hope to see you for the meeting and election. Please send a note to the Financial Secretary if you are interested in running for any of the offices:

President  
Vice President  
Recording Secretary  
Treasurer  
Financial Secretary  
Marshall  
Sentinel  
Chairman of the Grievance Committee

New officers will be installed at the end of the meeting.

## **Planning 2022 Events**

Brothers, for the third year in a row we have come together to support the Cross Catholic Outreach Christmas Campaign this year we sent out 50 boxes with clothes, toys and school supplies to help some of the world's neediest children Many thanks to all of you who participated!!!

So, what else should we pursue in the new year. What ideas do you have to make our division more relevant, of greater service to our community and attractive to new members? Please come to the December meeting and share your ideas.



## **Prayer Corner**

Please pray for Brother Colin McGowan as he overcomes coronary issues. Please also pray for the division and our officers that God will direct our activities and grant success to our efforts.

If you know of anything that our members should pray for (in hope or thanksgiving) call Chris O'Connor (703) 283-5720 or send an email to [chris.oconnor@avendra.com](mailto:chris.oconnor@avendra.com)

