

SHILLELAGH SENTINEL
THOMAS FRANCIS MEAGHER DIVISION
HELENA, MONTANA JANUARY 2008 Vol II., No. 974
JANUARY MEETING TUESDAY, THE 8TH, 7 O'clock KC Hall

Our first meeting of the new year will be a fine one. We have a new President, Jim Hammill, and a different schedule for meetings—that is, shorter business time and much more social time. We also have a several items for discussion that need lots of input. Please take the time to come to next Tuesday's meeting. We need you.

CARROLL COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS Two exceptional students have been selected as this year's Recipients—Sarah Snell and Megan Rennie. Sarah is an Elementary Education major, Megan, a Biology Major. Both young ladies are of Irish descent and proud of it. Both are active in the Catholic Faith. Megan will come to our meeting next Tuesday to visit and to thank the Hibernians for their generosity. Our Selection Committee of Joe Calnan, Joe Weber, and Neil Sullivan have done a fine job. Thanks lads.

TRIP TO IRELAND (Fall of 2008) Plans are moving ahead. All members have received information on the trip and a request for what places and things you'd like to see. Please give serious thought to making this voyage with your Hibernian Brothers, and let Joe Calnan or any of our officers know. It's time to get people who are interested to let us know so we can get on with planning. Please be considerate.

POOR MAN'S SUPPER--the name selected for our Division's efforts to raise funds for the Good Samaritan Ministry to help pay off a delivery truck. A dinner is being planned for Spring to have not only a Spartan meal but some prayer, music, and entertainment as well. Here's our chance as Hibernians to provide some thoughtfulness regarding the less well off in our society, as well as aid the Good Samaritan Ministry. We'll hear more about the effort at this month's meeting on Tuesday.

SIAMSA NA HEIREANN (Entertainment of Ireland) This is the term that we'll use to publicize our forthcoming Irish artful program for the community. As mentioned, it'll take place on Saturday, March 8th, a week before our Saint Patrick's Day celebration. Right now we've got a nice and varied listing for the event. We will need some help in the week before to transport chairs and to help as stagehands. But we hope to realize some good funds to help us in our good work in Helena. There'll be a story out shortly with the help of our good friend, Lorretta Lynde.

DUES, DUES, DUES---As you might expect, something must be said about our basic income, our annual dues. It is now due, and it surely would be helpful to our Treasurer to have all members send in their paltry \$40 ASAP. You might recall that return-addressed envelopes were sent out in December to aid members in remembering. So now is the time for all good Hibernians to come to the aid of our Division.

ON BEING A HIBERNIAN Try to think of the terrible struggle our forbears have undergone for four centuries at the hands of the British elite (aristocracy, churchmen, military) in trying to maintain some respectability as regards our enlightened Celtic civilization, our deep Catholic faith, and our extraordinary cultural arts. Think a bit about our epic saint, Patrick, the Act of Supremacy, the Penal Laws, The Great Potato Famine and An Gorta Mor, as well as the "No Irish Need Apply signs". And think some more about Easter 1916, Bloody Sunday in Derry, Kilmainham Prison, The orange morons in Portadown, and

The Good Friday Accords. After dwelling on all this, be very proud to be a Hibernian and help to preserve what is sacred in our Irish lives and in our past history.

ONE OF OUR FINEST Recently, our officers had the great pleasure of initiating into our Division, a fine, young soldier, Matt Calnan. The event took place in a most appropriate setting, Saints Cyril and Methodius Church in East Helena. The initiation was blessed by our great friend and Brother, Father Tom O'Donnell. Matt is in the process of transferring to Fort Benning, Georgia to enter into rigorous training to be an Army Ranger. All of our best wishes and prayers go with Matt, who is the son of Brother Marty Calnan and nephew of Joe Calnan.

A FORT BENTON MONUMENT TO THOMAS FRANCIS MEAGHER On a recommendation of Mr. Dan Sullivan of Helena, soon to become a Hibernian, an exploratory effort has been made to place an appropriate memorial to our great Irish hero, Civil War General, and Acting Governor of Montana who was done in at Fort Benton in 1867. Our fine Brother, Bob Morgan studied the possibilities and presented his findings at the past December's meeting. In a remarkable report, Bob listed the possibilities as to the type of monument and ways to finance it. A committee is now being formed to pursue Bob Morgan's study. Here's a really great opportunity to commemorate our Division's namesake where he died, and the community is greatly responsive to the idea.

SAINT PATRICK'S DAY IS COMING UP and our officers are already working on plans to make it memorable. This year the Great Saint's Day is on a Monday, which is part of the Church's cycle, so we'll celebrate on Friday and Saturday, the 14th and 15th. And our officers would like to have a meaningful initiation of new members on Tuesday, March 11th. Now, it's up to us to find and encourage some fine, hopefully younger members to join. You guys know who they are, so let's get them in for the improvement of our organization.

TO ALL MEMBERS We've sent out a shortened version of the Shillelagh Sentinel mainly because of the hurried activity of the Christmas and New Year's Holidays. But we'll be back in February, I hope, with all kinds of Irish Palaver. But in the meantime: "KEEP THE FAITH" AND BE PROUD OF YOUR HERITAGE.

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