



Shillelagh Sentinel



AOH, Thomas Francis Meagher Division, PO Box 1916, Helena, Montana 59624

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Message from the President

Greetings to all,

We are in the Lenten Season and that is a time to reflect upon a lot that we do and are as Irish and Catholic. We all too often say all of the right things, but fall short of being the people we would like to and should be. I know that I am sometimes not the person that I want to be, and it is very hard to admit that, especially to myself, since I know that I will judge myself more harshly than I would judge others.

So, time for reflection. What we do and how we see ourselves is a very complicated issue and I am not sure that I can define or explain the duality of humanity and self in a few short sentences. God may be able to, but I cannot, and that is one of the things that we should reflect upon during this time of our lives. God is here for us and we need to remember that we can ask for help and guidance in our lives, not just during times of stress, but at all times. We need to also remember that help is not automatic, but that it is also based upon what we do. "God helps those that help themselves," may not be axiomatic, but it is a part of our free will. We need to try, but part of trying can be asking for help, whether we need it or whether we are actually asking for support.

I just re-read my last paragraph and I might be waxing a little philosophical, but Easter is time for that, to think about our Faith and how we use it in our lives. I hope that all of us have a blessed Easter and that we all remember that "He is Risen".

In our Motto,
Patrick ♣



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1** Message from the President
- 2** This Month in Irish History
- 3** St Patrick's Day

Veterans Note

Education Bill and the Star Act

The US House of Representatives recently passed a bill that would allow National Guard and Reservists some additional parity with our Active-Duty comrades. The *Guard and Reserve GI Bill Parity Act of 2021* would count any days served on active duty towards the accrual of GI Bill benefits for education. Currently the requirement is that you must serve at least 90 consecutive days to gain partial GI Bill benefits. This bill will make it easier for Guards and Reservists to meet the criteria and therefore allow a greater access to higher education. If you care to track it, it is HR 1836. It still needs to get through the Senate and then be signed by the President.

The Star Act (S. 344 and HR 1282) is an Act that would make it easier for veterans to attain the benefits they have earned. Currently, under the law, if you do not reach 20 years of service and are claiming a “combat related illness” (not a wound), your benefits are subject to an offset.

This means that although you developed an illness as a result of service to your country, you are not entitled to the full services of the VA. This law was written back in the 1980’s after a rash of false and suspect claims and,

HIBERNIAN DATES TO REMEMBER

AOH MEETING

KC HALL

TUESDAY, APRIL 12, 2022

6:30 PM

Regular monthly meeting.

LAOH/AOH SCAVENGER HUNT

SUNDAY, APRIL 24, 2022

AOH MEETING

KC HALL

TUESDAY, MAY 10, 2022

6:30 PM

Regular monthly meeting.

VIRGINIA CITY IRISH WEEKEND

JUNE 10TH AND JUNE 11

NATIONAL AOH-LAOH CONVENTION

PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

JULY 13 – 17, 2022

Veterans Note (continued)

unfortunately, it was designed to smash a fly with a baseball bat. The unintended consequences of this act are being felt today and the Star Act would help to correct matters.

If you are so inclined, call you Representative and/or Senator and discuss the impact that these bills will have on Veterans in Montana and across the US.

The Ladies AOH is having a dinner Tuesday and both the LAOH and AOH are invited. They are having chicken, spaghetti, salad, and bread ready for dinner at 6:00 at the KC Hall for all that want to join.

Thomas Francis Meagher Association

Mike O'Connor and Bob O'Boyle are making a new podcast called "The 33rd County." It is all about the past, present, and future of the Irish in Montana.

They talk about history, place, people, events, and organizations that are important to the Irish of Montana. Mike and Bob have guests that are active in the Montana Irish community and knowledgeable about the history of the Irish. There are a couple of episodes available now! You can listen to it on Apple Podcast or wherever you find your podcast. We will post all new episodes on the Thomas Francis Meagher Association Facebook page and the website meagherfest.org under "Podcast." If there are other places you would like to find the podcast or ideas for episodes, please don't hesitate to reach out to Mike or Bob!

This Month in Irish History

April 1, 1911 - 1911 - The Titanic is launched in Belfast

April 2, 1914 – Cumann na mBan, Irish women's Republican movement, is founded.

April 5, 1961 - Death of Oscar-winning Irish actor of stage and screen Barry Fitzgerald. Born in Dublin in 1888, he pursues an acting career at the Abbey Theatre and then heads for Hollywood where he becomes Paramount's resident Irishman in such films as "Going My Way" for which he won a Best Supporting Actor Oscar. His finest works are under director John Ford, including "How Green Was My Valley" and "The Quiet Man."

April 7, 1947 - Death of Henry Ford, automobile production pioneer and son of Irish immigrants.

April 9, 1981 - IRA hunger striker Bobby Sands wins a seat in the British parliament in the Fermanagh and South Tyrone by-election with 30,493 votes

April 10, 1998 – The Good Friday Agreement for peace in the North of Ireland is signed this day.

April 12, 1861 - The American Civil War begins; 150,000 Irishmen will serve with the Union forces, and 40,000 with the Confederacy

April 13, 1906 –Samuel Beckett, Irish writer born.

April 15, 1840 - The Repeal Association is founded by Daniel O'Connell

April 17, 1875 - Election of Charles Stewart Parnell as MP for Meath

April 20, 1176 - Strongbow, Anglo-Norman lord, dies in Dublin

April 23, 1014 – Brian Boru, High King of Ireland, defeats Vikings of Dublin at Clontarf Ireland.

April 22, 1834 - Daniel O'Connell introduces debate on Repeal of Union bill in the House of Commons

April 24, 1916 - On Easter Monday, the Irish Volunteers and Citizen Army seize the General Post Office (GPO) in Dublin and demand Irish sovereignty

Shamrocks & Shenanigans
presents
A SCAVENGER HUNT!!



APRIL 24, 2022

QUESTIONS AND REGISTRATION:

MONTLAOH@GMAIL.COM

Register your team by April 21st

HIBERNIAN.ORG FOR MORE INFORMATION

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ALL PROCEEDS GO BACK
INTO THE COMMUNITY

St Patrick's Day 2022





Shillelagh Sentinel 6