

Shillelagh Sentinel

February 2008 Vol. II, No.975
Thomas Francis Meagher Division
Ancient Order of Hibernians
P.O. Box1916
Helena, Montana 59624



**PLEASE BE ON TIME IN THIS
MARCH WORLD**

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This monthly newsletter is the official publication of the Thomas Francis Meagher Division, Ancient Order of Hibernians. Its purpose is to inform members of all activities of the Division.

**REGULAR FEBRUARY MEETING
NEXT TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11TH 7:00
KC HALL. PLEASE COME**

OUR ANNUAL DAY OF RECOLLECTION

Well, it's that time again to start thinking about our spiritual lives and to take the opportunity to experience a renewal. The annual trip to the mountains to pray will take place on Saturday, February 16th at Brother Jack Ward's elegant chateau on Mullen Pass road. And our spiritual leader will again be Brother Gabe Brennan. Honestly, fellas, this is one experience that should not be missed. It's a real genuine opportunity to be with Hibernian brothers to think not only about our Christian faith, but to do it in connection with our Celtic heritage. Please make the effort to attend, you'll not regret it. Ask anyone who has been there. We'll begin arriving at around 8 AM, have some coffee and a donut, and begin at 9. We have a really fine lunch and close at around 3 PM. We usually carpool, so let Jim Hammill or Neil Connole if you want a ride. Try it! You'll love it!

“POOR MAN’S SUPPER”

That's the theme chosen for a fund raiser by our Division to aid The Good Samaritan Ministeries. After meeting with our wonderful Bishop George Thomas, a committee composed of Tom Huddleston, Mike Murphy, Pat Connors, Neil Connole, and Hank Burgess, are busy working up the details of this event to be held next spring, on Thursday, April 10th to be exact. The Bishop graciously agreed to fully support us in our endeavor. A meal of “hobo stew”, along with bread, coffee, water, or koolaid and pudding. will be prepared by our fine cooks and served to local parishioners with an eye toward establishing the right atmosphere at the Brondel Center. We'll have some prayer, music, exhortation, and a whole lot of fun. Obviously, there's a need for some extra effort on behalf of Hibernian brothers but, after all, that's what we're all about isn't it? Please offer your support. This is a really worthwhile event, and we are going to make it a success.

Saint Patrick's Day 2008

As you might know, Saint Patrick's Day this year falls in Holy Week of Lent; therefore, we must celebrate it earlier than usual. On Saturday, the 15th we'll have Holy Mass at 9 AM in the Cathedral. The Annual Parade will begin at noon, and the Dinner in the Brondel Center will occur after the 5 PM Mass, probably at 6:15. Lots of planning goes on to make the day a success, so please be ready to offer some help. On Monday, the 17th, we'll have the raising of the Tricolor, national ensign of the Republic of Ireland, at the State Capitol at 8 AM. Then we'll enter the Rotunda for a rousing program of good Irish piping, dancing and political blather. You'll have all the details in the March Shillelagh Sentinel which will be out by March 4th.

IRISH ENTERTAINMENT

Sure a grand show is in store for Helena to see on March 8th produced by our own Hibernian Division. Siamsa (On Shee-um-sa) An Eireann or An Evening of Irish Entertainment will take place at **Carroll College, Lower Commons** beginning at 7 PM. Twelve performances by a whole variety of local talent will provide the community with Irish entertainment at its best. We'll have pipers, dancers, singers, a Seanache or storyteller, poetry reading, Irish traditional music, and even a leprechaun! This is a major fundraiser for our Division so the price is certainly reasonable--\$12 for adults, \$6 for kids 12 and under, plus a family ticket of \$25 for 2 adults and 2 kids under 12. Hopefully, this show will bring us back to a tradition started 20 years ago and will be an annual event. We have some really fine local people helping out on the show to make it a success. Please come and enjoy some of your cultural heritage. Get your tickets early.

TRIP TO IRELAND

Plans are moving ahead for the Hibernians' journey to the Old Sod in latter September of this year. All members have been given a copy of the intended plan plus a sheet requesting some suggestions as to what travelers would like to visit. Now is the time to respond to Joe Calnan or any of the officers as to your wishes. And now is the time to look into securing a passport.

Dublin is one place for sure, because there you'll visit Trinity College to see the book of Kells, on to Kikmainham Jail where the leaders of the Easter Rising were murdered, see the General Post Office, some Irish pubs, and hopefully have a session with The Irish Republic's President, Mary McAleese.

Then maybe on to Waterford, the home of The Meagher family and the marvelous glass factory. Now might go across southern Ireland to the Rock of Cashel, Cobh Heritage Ctr, Cork City, the Bere Peninsula, Ring of Kerry, Galway Bay, The Aran Islands, then north to Knock, Sligo, Donegal. Well, there many places to see, but get your wishes in early so a travel plan can be set. Remember, there's great possibility that the whole trip could be around \$2000 each. And you'd be enjoying Ireland with Hibernians! Wow! Soon invitations will be sent to other Divisions around the state.

BROTHER JACK WARD'S MOTHER

Catherine, "Dubby" (Vaughan) Ward, mother of Jack Ward, passed away last week here in Helena. This wonderful lady will be remembered as the hostess at her home on 5th St. where she served up her famous "Hairy Green Buffalos" each Saint Patrick's Day for many years. And you might also recall her mother, Julia Vaughan, born in Ireland, present for the fun. Dubby was a native Anacondan, an Army nurse during WWII, and a charter member of the Helena Ladies AOH.

HELENA HIBERNIANS
P O BOX 1916
HELENA MT 59624

Hibernians that there are nearly 70 Helena members, but so far only 46 members are paid up. So here's the deal. If some of you out there don't want to be bothered anymore, let one of our officers know. Or better yet, send in the addressed envelope to us with a note that you are not interested in celebrating your Irish heritage as a Hibernian. But please, let someone know. And thanks ahead of time for your courtesy, the mark of a true gentleman.

IMPORTANT DATES

Tuesday, February 05, 2008, Regular monthly meeting. 7:00 KC Hall

Saturday, March 8, 7:00 @ Carroll College, Lower Commons. An Evening of Irish Entertainment. Get your tickets early.

Saturday, March 15th, Saint Patrick's Day Celebration.. Mass at 9 St. HelenaCathedral.
Parade at Noon. Dinner at 6:00 Brondel Ctr.

Monday, March 17th, Raising of the Tricolor, 8:00 AM at the Capitol, followed by the Rotunda event.

Thursday, April 10th, Poor Man's Dinner, Brondel Ctr. Circle it on your calendar.

A NON REPORT ON DUES

Since our officers do not want to bother anyone about dues, nothing will be said about it in this notice. But for some of you our regular annual dues are past due, unless a check is in the mail. We report to the National