



Shillelagh Sentinel



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

Volume 3, Issue 171

www.hibernian.org

May (Bealtaine) 2023

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Message from the President

Greetings to All:

Well, we have a busy few months coming up and there is a lot to discuss, so I hope that many of you can come to the meeting and have your input heard and recognized.

To start, we are getting pressure from both National and State to fill the remainder of the appointed Committee Chairs. These are primarily Points of Contact for outreach by National and State to help all the divisions and make sure that one or two of us do not get burned out trying to keep track of a myriad of details. We have a couple that are open, Organizer, that is concerned with recruiting and retention and National is working on a plan that we can probably adapt to our purposes, so that might be an interesting experience. It might also give us a chance to tell National what they are doing wrong with respect to the West, but only if we have someone in the position. Another one is going to be Political Education, it is kind of a touchy one, but it has not been very active from my experience sitting as the Chair at the moment. I am asking and will be asking for volunteers, so let me know if either of these or some of the others interest you, there are a couple of brothers that would like to step back a bit. Thanks.

We have a Rosary at OLV on Wednesday, May 24, 2023, at about 5:30 pm for our deceased members. More details to follow.

The Meagher Exhibit at the Holter and the Play at the Myrna Loy are coming up fast. There are lots of moving parts and we can use help with promotional activities and selling tickets. We stand to either lose our shirts or make a lot of money for the Division, but we need your help and I know that Brother Pat McKelvey would love to get some help with this project.

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HIBERNIAN DATES TO REMEMBER

AOH MEETING

KC HALL

TUESDAY, MAY 9, 2023

6:30 PM

Regular monthly meeting.

The Odyssey of Thomas Francis Meagher

May 19th – July 21st

Holter's Bair Gallery

(see page 3)

Do you want to try your luck at

Road Bowling?

Sunday, May 21, 2023

1:00 pm

Park at the Bed Bath and Beyond parking lot.

(Weather Permitting)

Rosary for Deceased Members

Our Lady of Valley Catholic Church

Wednesday, May 24, 2023

5:30 pm

Virginia City Irish Weekend

June 9th and 10th

(see page 5)

Montana AOH State Board Meeting

Saturday, June 10th

Virginia City, Montana

AOH DINNER MEETING

KC HALL

TUESDAY, JUNE 13 , 2023

6:00PM

Musical: No Coward's Epitaph

Thursday, July 21, 2023

7:30 pm

Myrna Loy

(see page 4)

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Memorial Day is coming up and we have two events planned. The first will be the Flag Raising at Resurrection Cemetery at 8 am followed by the Parade in East Helena at 11 am. This is the day that we remember and memorialize all those who gave "the Last Full Measure of Devotion", as so eloquently described by President Abraham Lincoln in 1863 at the Gettysburg Memorial Cemetery Dedication. Please offer a prayer that day for all of those people, especially those of Irish descent.

We also have Virginia City coming up and things are moving very quickly, so join us and have some fun helping our and celebrating our Namesake.

In August will be our Division (Family) Picnic and in September the State Convention in Anaconda, 15-17 September 2023. There will be a Major Degree exemplification and a lot of other things to do and hear about what is going on around the state.

There is also a major shift occurring in the Veterans arena, stay tuned there will be more information to follow, but if you are interested in taking a more active part in support of the Veteran Members of the AOH, let me know.

Slan'

Patrick♣

Rosary for our Deceased Members

We are planning to say a rosary for our deceased members. The rosary will be at Our Lady of the Valley Church, on Wednesday May 24, 2023, at 5:30 pm. They have a Mass at 6:30 pm that night that we will stay for.

The Holter's Bair Gallery Presents The Odyssey of Montana's Thomas Francis Meagher By Stephen Glueckert From May 19th – July 21st

- **Opening Reception:**
 - Friday, May 19th from 6 – 8 pm
- **Workshop:**
 - Storytelling Through Drawing with Stephen Glueckert:
 - Saturday, May 20th from 10 am – 12 pm
- **Guest Performance:**
 - Neal Lewing of the Port Polson Players Theatre
 - Saturday May 20th from 5 – 7 pm
- **Guided Exhibit Tour:**
 - Historian Michael O'Connor of the Ancient Order of Hibernians
 - Saturday, June 17 from 12 – 1 pm

“Would that he had died on the battlefield”

To describe Meagher's life-journey as an odyssey is not an exaggeration. Like the legendary Odysseus, he was blown by the winds of war and fate to the four corners of the earth.

Art engages the heart as well as the mind and is one of the most effective ways to engross an audience, pique their interest, and increase their awareness of history. As you spend time with Stephen Glueckert's expressive oil pastel drawings you will feel the danger, energy, and emotion of Meagher's odyssey.

Glueckert's 24 colorful vignettes are filled with the celestial, earthly, and man-made symbols that governed Meagher's life:

His birth and privileged upbringing in Waterford City, Ireland in 1823. His leadership in the Young Irelander Rebellion of 1848. His imprisonment in Van Diemen's land and escape to the United States in 1852. As a commander on the bloody battlefields of the American Civil War. And finally, his mysterious and tragic death at Fort Benton, MT in the churning waters of the Missouri River in 1867.

Though Meagher's time in Montana was short, he remains a source of Irish pride in our state and his story continues to capture the imaginations of Montanans of all types.

**The Thomas Meagher Division of the AOH and LAOH
present The Port Polson Players production of:**

NO COWARD'S EPITAPH:

A True Musical Legacy of

Thomas Francis Meagher

THURSDAY, JULY 20, 2023

At the Myrna Loy

7:30 pm (show)

\$35 (adult)

\$25 (student (18 & under))

Talk to an AOH member for tickets

Script and Music by Neal Lewing

An Irish patriot, Meagher became Montana's acting territorial governor before disappearing mysteriously in the Missouri River at Ft. Benton MT. His ongoing legacy of justice and equality is as timely now as in his own brief lifetime [1823-67]. Exhaustively researched by Polson Players Managing Director Neal Lewing, No Coward's Epitaph is the first production of Meagher's incredible story told on the musical theatre stage. The show, including its title, is scripted with many of Meagher's own eloquent words, including the title, and a musical score grounded in traditional Irish folk music. The play comes to vivid life in real time with an ensemble of Montana actors and musicians to celebrate Meagher's 200th birthday this summer.

VIRGINIA CITY's 2023 "IRISH WEEKEND"

Friday, June 9th and Saturday, June 10th

All are Welcome



FRIDAY—June 9th

♣6:15pm—7:00pm **Painting of the “Irish green stripe” down the center of Wallace Street – Everyone can participate.**

SATURDAY—June 10th

♣10:00am **Welcome Speeches & Irish Flag Raising at the Historical Madison County Courthouse.**

♣11:00am **Mass Rocks at the Meagher Cabin on West Idaho St.**

♣12:00pm-1:00pm **Lunch (Baked Potato Bar) & Camaraderie at the Bale of Hay Saloon-A small free will donation.**

♣1:00pm—1:30pm **Annual AOH Parade following the path of Irish green stripe on Wallace St—everyone is welcome to Participate in this.**

♣1:45pm—2:45pm **Tiernan Irish Dancers at the Bale of Hay outdoor stage.**

♣3:00pm—6:00pm **Music at the Bale of Hay outdoor stage – Pickle Band.**

Presented by the Thomas Francis Meagher Division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, the Virginia City Chamber of Commerce and Businesses and People of Virginia City