**Col. Thomas J. Cunningham Jr. Division**

**LO01 – Loudoun**

**4th Quarter Division Report**

**As of 1/28/2023**

The Cunningham Division maintained a very active schedule following our 3rd quarter report in October. We participated in a Celebration of Life on 10/15 for Fiona (former Manager at O’Faolain’s) who recently passed away way too early. Weekend sales of our annual raffle tickets for a trip for 2 to Ireland culminated in the drawing on 10/20 with a sizable Division gathering at the Bungalow Lakehouse. This year’s raffle exceeded $22K in proceeds which will definitely allow our Division to increase Charitable events in 2023.

During the month of November, several donations were made to our National charities; specifically, Project St. Patrick, The Hunger Project and to FFAI (Freedom for All Ireland) in which our Division once again challenged the other 13 VA Divisions to pledge at least $1K to the cause.

In the month of December, Sweats for Vets initiatives were in high gear by our Division, both in acquiring new outfits through the parishes as well as through the local communities (such as Vistas of Lansdowne and Lansdowne Woods) but also in soliciting funds to support Vets needs. Additionally, our Division worked with 3 schools parishes in obtaining in excess of 1,000 “Thank you for your service” cards and letters for distribution to the Veterans in January. We participated (although a very light showing) in the annual Leesburg Christmas parade on 12/10. Further, we celebrated on 12/14 at the Bungalow Lakehouse with a wonderful (and well attended) Division Christmas Party. Yours truly was privileged to play Santa Claus at the Herbert/Cady Division Christmas Party on 12/19. Several Division Brothers and Daughters of Erin spent the morning of 12/26 wrapping 500 sweat outfits at the Leesburg VFW in preparation for delivery to Martinsburg VA in mid January. Finally, enjoyed an evening of appreciation with our State/Division Chaplain Fr. Joe Farrell on 12/27. A very busy but fulfilling month of activities – I sincerely thank my fellow Brothers and many of their spouses for their support in December!

January’s business meeting on 1/11 included the swearing in of a new Brother who just turned 16! The meeting was well attended. That Sunday 1/15, several of the Division Brothers “surprised” the guests at the LAOH Daughters of Erin Installation at the Bungalow Lakehouse where Charter President Margie McCarthy turned over the gavel after 5 years to the newly elected President, Linda Fay. On a very personal note, I am **very proud** of Margie’s accomplishments these past 5 years in creating and maintaining a very viable LAOH Division in Virginia. Further, I wish much continued success to Linda. On Friday 1/20, I accompanied Fr. Timothy Harris (former VA State Chaplain and now Pastor of St. John Vianney Parish in PA) to the annual March for Life events; National AOH Brunch, Mass, and March to the Capital. A couple of Brothers from the Division were also in attendance for the March. The youth turnout was fantastic and very encouraging! On 1/21, several Brothers and spouses were privileged to take 450 Sweat outfits, along with 500+ pairs of socks and an equal amount of “Thank you for your service cards” to Martinsburg VA. Additionally, checks in excess of $6K ($4+ from our Division and local communities) were presented by Brother Tim Melia to the Senior Management at the facility. This was the 16th year in which the Cunningham Division participated in this annual event!

**The following Division Schedule through Spring looks as follows:**

Participation in the State meeting in Fairfax – 1/28/2023

Exceptional Single Malt Tasting/Dinner (**sold out event for the Military Chaplains**) – 2/1/2023

Col. Thomas J. Cunningham Jr. 25th Anniversary Party @ Finnegan’s Pub – 2/8/2023 (in lieu of the monthly Business meeting)

Participation in the Ballyshaner Parade in Alexandria – 3/4/2023

Division Business meeting @ St. Theresa @ 7:30 pm – 3/8/2023

Participation in the St. Patrick Parade in Manassas – 3/11/2023

Participation in the St. Patrick Gaelic Mass @ St. James @ 7 pm – 3/13/2023

½ way to St. Patrick raffle kickoff – Finnegan’s Pub – 3/17/2023

Division Corporate Communion @ St. Theresa on 3/19 @ 10 am Mass followed by Brunch @ Finnegan’s Pub

Administratively, Forms 9 & 11 (2022 Financial summary and officer list) will be submitted on time with appropriate assessment fees paid. Proud to report that 2022 Charities paid will exceed $15K. Starting February, a thorough review of current membership/dues paid will be conducted. Regrettably, I suspect that several suspensions/terminations will occur involving Brothers who no longer participate in dues payments/activities. On the bright side, we will commence a positive membership drive throughout the upcoming year. For the record, our Division will submit very shortly a Hibernian of the Year report which identifies a Division Brother definitely worthy for consideration for this State recognition in 2023.

Slainte’

Jay McCarthy

Col. Thomas J. Cunningham Jr. President (Past VA State President)