

IRISH BRIGADE CAMP # 4
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
Department of the Chesapeake
Fredericksburg, Virginia

On Monday, January 5, 2026 at 03:18:57 PM EST, Ross H Schwalm
<rhschwalm@verizon.net> wrote:

2025 was focused on relationship building and some fundraising. Partners in the project now include Jubilation Senior Community (they host our fundraising dinners), SUV Brady Camp (Tidewater area of Virginia), Ancient Order of Hibernians (Meagher Division in Fredericksburg), The Irish Cultural Society of Virginia and of course, your regiment.

Bob Heath became sick about midyear just when we were about to start visiting with civic leaders to determine location options for the new monument. We have also yet to meet with the National Park Service which was impacted by the government shut down and the absence of a key member of the camp who has a relationship with the new Fredericksburg NBP Superintendent.

Fundraising is ongoing and I will send you a report once Mike closes out our camp financial status for 2025. We have had two fundraising dinners at Jubilation and the third one is planned for Feb 7, 2026, at 5 PM. I will send you the invitation for consideration by your regiment.

On the good news front, my other monument to the Prince William County Rev War Patriots is on contract to build the memorial park and install the monument we purchased. So, my citizen leader duties for that project are now to do a groundbreaking event and a dedication event in 2026. The leader of the Irish Cultural Society completed a monument project in Alexandria VA in 2025 and is now turning to helping with IB monument.

2026 priority items are to regain contact with the artist, nail down our location and then we can start raising real money for this endeavor. I was very pleased and encouraged by all the folks who attended the annual Dec wreath laying event and those that attended the social afterwards.

This email should bring you up to speed on status minus our year end funding report. I was reelected as Camp Commander for 2026, so my job is external communication to include the Monument Project.

Let me know if you have questions and/or what you think you can help with going forward.

Very Respectfully,
Ross H. Schwalm
Camp Commander, Irish Brigade Camp #4