

# Lady Hibernian Herald

Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians - Irish · Catholic · American

November 2025

## President's Message

Mary Ann Lubinsky

Dear Sisters,

I am including most of the things mentioned in my Hibernian Digest article because many of you do not receive the digest.

I have had a very exciting Spring and Summer. I was so lucky to be able to travel to the State Conventions in New Jersey, Massachusetts, Ohio, and my own in Pennsylvania. My congratulations to the other states who also had conventions. I wish I could have attended every single one!

Thank you to all who attended the Interim Board Meeting on September 13, and/or the Presidential Dinner that evening, as well as the reception on Friday evening. It was a wonderful weekend for me, and I hope you enjoyed the festivities.

Congratulations to Dolores Desch for receiving the Constance Markievicz Award and the four new National Life Members! It was an honor to have our National Chaplain Bishop Alfred A. Schlert celebrate our Mass and to attend the dinner with Father Keith Mathur. It was also an honor to have the new NY Consul General Gerald Angley at the

dinner. His territory covers NY, NJ, CT, DE, PA and OH, A special thank you to everyone who gave me a gift. I still have not had the time to go through all of them, but I will during November. **Most importantly, very special thanks to the Committee who did all of the work!**

October was New Jersey month and turned out to be the busiest month by far. As some of you may know, the U.S. Navy is celebrating their 250th anniversary which started with a kickoff reception honoring Commodore Barry from Philadelphia on October 3 on board the Battleship New Jersey. Thank you to Keith Carney for inviting Marilyn Madigan and me to be involved with the planning from the very beginning. It was a great working group of AOH and LAOH members from both Pennsylvania and New Jersey. It was an honor to be a part of this! Some of the attendees included Ambassador of Ireland Geraldine Byrne-Nason, and NY Consul General Gerald Angley!

On October 11, I attended a luncheon celebrating the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Camden LAOH and 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Gloucester AOH in New Jersey. It was a great event beginning with a special Mass celebrated by Father Ken Hallahan.

**Story continued on next page**



## In this Issue



National Secretary	Page 2	State News	Page 5
LAOH/AOH Convention	Page 2		
USGAA	Page 3		
FFAI	Page 5		



Next edition deadline is January 31st



## **President's message continued**

On October 18, I attended AOH President Sean Pender's testimonial in New Jersey. That, too, was another great event.

For those of you who may not know, SOAR! Support Our Aging Religious, is honoring the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians with the Saint Katharine Drexel Award at their Washington DC Awards Gala on November 7 at the Italian Embassy. I think it is wonderful that our award is named after Philadelphia's own Katharine Drexel. Another person receiving an award that evening is Robert Cardinal McElroy, the Archbishop of the Washington Archdiocese. I will be accepting our award on behalf of each and every one of you, my Sisters.

Happy Thanksgiving, a blessed and Merry Christmas to you and yours!

## **National Secretary**

### **Cathy Turck**

Hello ladies. I hope you are all enjoying the changing leaves and gearing up for the season. Fall? Winter? Thanksgiving? No, I am referring to the Annual Membership Report season of course!! There are some important changes to note in this year's Membership Report. We have added a tab for any "Members at Large" on the State Board reports. As you may recall, Members at Large are recorded and tracked at the State level in States where we already have a LAOH presence. In States with no LAOH presence the National Board records and tracks our Members at Large. Also, you will note on the report that our National per capita is now \$6.00 per taxable member with an additional \$1.00 assessment for the Appeals for Aide fund, for a total of \$6.00 per taxable member.

I will be holding a Zoom meeting on December 4, 2025, at 8:00pm EST for any Secretaries who wish to attend and review the Membership report process. Hope to see you there.

If you can't make this meeting but have questions

about the Membership reports, please feel free to reach out to me at [natlssecretarylaoh@gmail.com](mailto:natlssecretarylaoh@gmail.com) or call me at 518-369-2813.

I hope you all have a wonderful Thanksgiving, a blessed Christmas season and a Happy New Year!!

## **LAOH/AOH National Convention**

### **Kathie Linton**

The 2026 AOH/LAOH Biennial National Convention is scheduled to take place at the beautiful Hilton located in downtown Omaha, Nebraska from July 15-19, 2026. All events and meetings will take place at the Omaha Hilton and the Convention Center that is located directly across the street from the Hilton via a sky bridge. The hotel room rate is \$132.00 per night plus taxes effective July 11-19.

The Eppley airport is 3.4 miles away from the hotel. The Omaha Hilton has a complimentary shuttle service that runs to Eppley Airport every 30 minutes. This is a 24-hour service. There will be a 50% discount for overnight self-parking in the hotel's attached garage. Valet parking is also available. The hotel is in an excellent location with plenty of restaurant options, shopping, and entertainment.

Please note that the LAOH Constitutional Convention will be held prior to the opening of the National Convention. It is tentatively set for Tuesday and Wednesday, July 13 and 14, 2026.

Further details regarding the Constitutional Convention, National Convention, Degrees, website, hotel reservations, convention registration, journal ads, merchandise, etc. will be forthcoming soon. The local committee is working hard and promises that this will be a Convention to remember!

A little history lesson. Omaha, Nebraska is the birthplace of The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians. The women were recognized as the

**Story continued on next page**

## LAOH Convention continued

“Daughters of Erin” at the AOH National Convention held in Omaha, Nebraska in 1894. The women sought their own identity, and it was at this Convention that the AOH relented and allowed the formation of the “Daughters of Erin.” In 1906, their name was changed to the Ladies Auxiliary to the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America. In 1984, the ladies voted to change their name to the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians. The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians was incorporated in 2004. Plan on attending this Convention and celebrating the LAOH at their birthplace!

### USGAA and the LAOH

#### LAOH recognizes one of our own

The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians (LAOH) is proud to have a partnership with the United States Gaelic Athletic Association (USGAA). This past August, the LAOH was invited to have a table at the USGAA Finals in Philadelphia to promote this partnership.

At the Finals, some of our Pittsburgh and Cleveland members stopped in at the LAOH table. What a pleasure to meet Hibernian Sisters from around the Country. The LAOH were extremely proud to attend the Finals and cheer on the many Clubs from around the country. As a former member of the Cleveland Emerald Camogie Club, I am proud of all the Cleveland Teams participating but was extremely proud to see the Ladies win two National Championships in Football and Camogie. Three women participated in both Championships. What a remarkable achievement. I would like to highlight one of those women: Maureen Mohney.

The success of ladies participating in the Cleveland GAA is due to Maureen’s efforts. This is not the first Championship Team that Maureen was a part. She was a member of the Ladies Football Team when they won the Nationals in 2023. Maureen made Cleveland GAA history by being one of 3 that played on two National Championship Teams in the same year.

Maureen is not just a Champion on the pitch but in her involvement with the Cleveland Irish Community. This past May, the Irish Echo honored her as one of the Heroes of Irish America recognizing her involvement with the GAA, LAOH, West Side Irish American Club, Irish American Club and the United Irish Societies.

Since 2001, Maureen has been an active member of St. Pat- St, Jarlath’s GAA as a player and board member. Her dedication to the Club includes actively recruiting players along with promoting the GAA Community in Cleveland. She served as a Delegate representing the GAA on the St. Patrick’s Day Committee and in 2016 was appointed Deputy Director. As one of the Deputy Directors, Maureen has taken on the responsibilities of Secretary and managing the needs of the Parade committee ensuring the success of one of Cleveland’s most cherished traditions.

#### LAOH proud supporters and strategic partners with USGAA.



Brianna Curran, Marilyn Madigan, Katie Daughen (Deputy Consul General Ireland - NY) Kathleen, Gareth Hargadon (Deputy Consul General Ireland – NY) Mary McNamee

## Camogie Champions Cleveland



Marilyn Madigan, National LAOH Organizer standing with two young women from the team.

## National Board Fundraiser

Ellen McCrane

# The 2025-2026 National Board Raffle Fundraiser is now underway - YOU can win!



### Prizes

- Early Bird Drawings:
  - Thanksgiving - \$100
  - Christmas - \$100
- Other drawings:
  - St. Patrick's Day - \$100
  - National Convention - \$1000
  - Plus: 26 weekly drawings for \$25 each
  - Six months of prizes!



### Tickets: \$20 each

- Two tickets each have been mailed to the National Board, State Presidents, County Presidents and Division Presidents. Please send your checks in so you can be part of the **Early Bird Drawings**.
- Please consider selling some additional tickets if possible – just send me an email and I will be glad to send out additional tickets for you
- Email: [nationallaohrafflechair@gmail.com](mailto:nationallaohrafflechair@gmail.com)
- Thank you for all you do for our order!
  - Ellen McCrane  
LAOH National Fundraiser  
21 Titus Court  
Richboro, PA 18954

## LAOH National FFAI

**Co Chairs Kathleen Varady and Rita O'Hara**

Peace Players International Northern Ireland is drawing new attention from our LAOH sisters looking to support freedom in the six counties. PPNI is a future focused, co-ed, cross community, youth program with a great track record of bringing together young people from divided communities through sport.

The focus at PPNI is to prepare young leaders to work together so they can move on from hate to hope and deliver on the promise of peace and prosperity. You can learn more about their mission and proven results from their web page. Please also note links found on the web page to follow their social media: <https://peaceplayers.org/northern-ireland/>

In 2007, PPNI was awarded the ESPY Arthur Ashe Award. This 14 minute film clip narrated by Christian Slater featuring Samuel L Jackson presenting the award to Trevor Ringland and David Cullen tells their story. [PeacePlayers International - 2007 ESPYs Arthur Ashe Courage Award](#)

As LAOH sisters, we recognize the importance of girls being involved in sport and appreciate that this organization is unique in their approach to developing amazing young female leaders. This five minute video tells the story of Rachel & AJ. It also introduces you to our primary contact Gareth Harper pictured above center and also Joanne Fitzpatrick who are both integral to driving continued success. <https://peaceplayers.org/northern-ireland/>

We hope that you will spread the good word about PPNI to friends and family via the above links and also that when you fundraise for FFAI, you will consider requesting that your donations be directed to change makers like these.



The 2024 LAOH FFAI trip included a stop at Peace House in Belfast where we delivered our donation to Managing Director Gareth Harper and Chairman of the Board Jim FitzPatrick.

## State News

### Kentucky

The Kentucky LAOH State Board held its 2025 State Convention on September 6, 2025, in Louisville, KY at St. Brigid of Kildare Parish. Thank you to all the 2023-2023 KY State Board officers for their tireless work and dedication to improving and carrying out the mission of our Order.

## State News– Kentucky continued

We would like to congratulate our new 2025-2027 Kentucky State Board Officers elected during the 2025 Convention and wish them the very best as they lead the Commonwealth of Kentucky in advancing the work and expansion of our Order.



2023-2025 State Board: left: Beth Favier, Irish Historian; Mary Ann Fages, Treasurer; Kathleen Prezocki, Secretary; Molly Dobson, President; Natalie Peterinelli, Vice-President; Rebecca Abel-Kennedy, Missions & Charities; Maureen Toner, Catholic Action.



2025-2027 KY LAOH State Board President with Immediate Past President Molly Dobson: 2025 KY LAOH State Convention.



President: Natalie Peterinelli (2<sup>nd</sup> from right); Vice-President: Claire Haysley (front row, far left); Treasurer: Mary Ann Fages (back row far left); Secretary: Clara Fulkerson (back row 2<sup>nd</sup> from far left); Missions & Charities: Maureen Toner (front row 2<sup>nd</sup> from left); Catholic Action: Rebecca Abel-Kennedy (backrow center); Irish Historian: Beth Favier (back row right of center); Immediate Past President: Molly Dobson (back row third from left).

## Massachusetts

LAOH sisters from across the state were joined by National Board Officers at the wake and funeral services for Past National President Mary Ryan. May she Rest In Peace

Congratulations to State FFAI Chair Kathleen Savage who was recently granted State Life Membership in recognition of her many contributions and work for the FFAI

Division 10, Lynn is collaborating with the North Shore Gaelic Athletic Association in the hopes of establishing a presence for youth interested in Gaelic football and hosted their first annual “Clan” Souper Bowl where members made soup and competed in categories for presentation and taste

Division 14 Watertown hosted a successful craft fair attended by members of the division and local members of the community

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## State News Massachusetts continued

Division 2 Holyoke participated in their local “Trunk or Treat” event.

Members of Division 36, Worcester will be participating in their annual 0.5K road race, “A Race for The Rest of Us”.

Several members from across the state joined their AOH brothers at the commemoration of The Brig St. John in Plymouth in hopes of possibly seeing the possibility of starting a new division in that area.

Division 1 Lowell ladies have been very busy supporting community events throughout the city.

Division 8 Lawrence have been busy with fundraising activities for their charities and attending various functions throughout the state.

## Virginia

Daughters of Erin in Loudoun County, VA, Collected and donated 73 Hygiene Kits to Catholic Action in August 2025. The kits were collected by four divisions. The kits were delivered by Margie McCarthy (VA state Catholic Action Chair), Kay Grill (VA State Secretary), and Linda Fay (VA State Mistress at Arms)



## Delaware

Deacon Jim celebrated his 25th anniversary as a Deacon and LAOH Chaplain. Deacon Jim has been our LAOH Chaplain for the past 2 ½ Years.



St. Patrick's Day Parade and brunch- Kimberly Kelly was our mascot.

**Story continued on next page**

## State News Continued– Delaware



St. Brigid (aka) Karen Coombe



Honor guard for our LAOH sister who passed away.

The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Division I, Sussex County, DE, Celtic Cross Division held their first fund raiser of the 2025-2026 year on August 7, 2025 at the Lewes Library. More than 30 attendees enjoyed the demonstration of host to cook a great meal in less than 30 minutes by Michelle Moyer, Associate Training Director and Consultant for Pampered Chef. A great time was had by all and the fund raisers were extremely successful in their efforts. Everyone is enjoying their Pampered Chef purchases and are looking forward to next year's event!



Baby Shower to donate items to the Pregnancy Center.

**State News continues next page**

## State News continued

### Pennsylvania

Allegheny County, Division 21 held its annual card party fundraiser on Oct. 4 in the newly renovated Harkins Hall at St. Paul of the Cross church. About 100 people attended and enjoyed a lunch of croissant sandwiches and strawberry pretzel Jell-O salad, while playing cards at beautifully decorated tables with fresh mum centerpieces. Dozens of prizes were raffled off to raise money for local charities, including dozens of baskets donated by members, lottery trees, 50/50 and a framed offering of gift cards. Members sold tickets for chances to win a \$500 gift prize, which was the grand prize. Money raised will be donated to several local charities. It was a big success and reflected the efforts of dedicated members.

Members of Div. 21 volunteered to help at the Jessie Games, an annual event raising money for Catholic Charities of Pittsburgh. The event was created 12 years ago by Div. 21 member Clare Ansberry Smith and her husband, Matt, in honor of their daughter, Jessie who died in 2013. Proceeds go to youth and family programs at Catholic Charities. President Trish Conley helped with bingo. Peggy Bond and Kathy McCarty helped distribute T-shirts and Mary Ann Raymer brought her popular puppy race game and was assisted by member Virginia Gates. More than 500 people attended the event, which was held Aug. 9, at an indoor sports complex. It went smoothly thanks to the wonderful volunteers, including our Div. 21 members. Div. 21 members have also generously donated to the Jessie Games, with members taking up a collection at the annual Christmas party and making individual donations. This year's event raised more than \$50,000.

Div. 21 President Trish Conley received her Golden Rose Pin recognizing her 20 years of service in the LAOH. Trish was honored following Our Lady of Knock Mass on Aug. 17, organized by the Allegheny County LAOH. The mass was followed by fellowship after Einstein Brothers Bagels, where donations of goods were collected for Mary's Place, which helps women experiencing unplanned pregnancies.



Tara Chevdar and Helen Rafferty



Eileen O'Malley



Becky Ricci at card party

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## State News Continued—Pennsylvania



Peggy Bond, Donna Matty, Eileen Sheridan



Trish Conley 20 years award



Peggy Bond and Kathy McCarty at Jessie Games



Trish Conley, Mary Ann Raymer and Virginia Gates at Jessie Games

**Pennsylvania Proud**  
On a beautiful fall weekend in early September, our very own Pennsylvanian National President, MaryAnn Lubinsky, was honored at the National Interim Board Meeting.

At the meeting, two of our members earned National Life Membership. Congratulations Colleen and Maureen.



Past Presidents Colleen Bowers and Maureen Lavelle honored with National Life Membership.

**Story continued next page**

## State News continued– Pennsylvania

Congratulations to our State President, Carolyn Killion, who was named one of the 2025 Honorees for the Delaware Valley Irish Hall of Fame.



Our State Freedom for All Ireland Chair, Terry Walsh, coached the Pennsylvania Special Olympic Bocce Ball team at the USA Games.



National President Maryann Lubinsky with members from Pennsylvania at the Interim Board meeting.

Allegheny Council President Pat Catena and Councilman Bob Palmisino sponsored a county council proclamation to honor Colleen Bowers for her dedication in representing her daughter, Melissa Bowers, through the 'You Are Not Alone' campaign fundraiser, which benefits The Center for Victims. Colleen's passion for keeping Melissa's memory alive while promoting domestic violence awareness is truly inspiring.

So proud of our Ladies at Division #3 ~ Marie Drumm, as they were surprised with a generous donation from the Loyal Order of Lederach Turkey Club (LOLTC).

In September, our Hibernian Hunger Project Committee gathered to march in the North Wildwood Irish Fall Festival Parade. This is a Philadelphia County AOH/ LAOH fundraiser to support local families at Christmas. It was a great day celebrating our motto.

In August, Counties and Division throughout Pennsylvania hosted Our Lady of Knock Masses and sponsored a variety of food and school supply collections.

Each Division of State Missions and Charity Chair, Maria Figura's and Publicity Chair Maura Roszyk's Divisions collected school supplies for local schools.

Allegheny County honored all Sisters who have been members for 20 years .



Division One ~ Lehigh Valley



Division One ~ Molly Maguires

Division# 3 ~ Marie Drumm



Division #2 ~ JFK ~ Pottsville



Division #2 ~ St. Columcille ~ Berks County

In October, we were honored to assist and celebrate at a reception honoring "The Father of the American Navy," Commodore John Barry, as well as the Navy's 250th Anniversary. Commodore John Barry, the first commissioned officer of the United States Navy, was born in Wexford, Ireland, and immigrated to Philadelphia around 1760. After the Revolution, Barry became the first captain of the new United States Navy and played a pivotal role in training a generation of naval leaders. The event took place on the Battleship New Jersey, located on Camden's waterfront, which is the most decorated battleship in the US Navy. Special guest speakers included Garry Laffan, the Lord Mayor of Wexford, Ireland, and Geraldine Byrne Nason, Ireland's Ambassador to the USA. We were honored that

## State News Continued– Pennsylvania

National President Maryann Lubinsky was able to join us.



**Pennsylvania wishes all Sisters across America a wonderful holiday Season**



## State News Continued

### Texas

Texas has been active these past few months with initiating 6 new members and enjoying the growth and new ideas and personalities. We started out the year our 6th Annual St. Brigid Day Tea supporting Saint Louise House, our designated community charity. We raised over \$2000 to support women and children in Austin at risk of being homeless.



In March of this year, we also had a visit from the Irish Taoiseach, Michael Martin, during the South by Southwest Event in Austin to promote the Irish collaboration in the tech community. The Irish Consulate invited LOAH to attend a reception along with the Irish Community in Austin. This was an honor since he only visited two sites in the US at that time.



We celebrated St. Patrick's Day by going to Mass with our members at St. Patrick's Church in Hutto, Texas, we then joined them afterward for their annual festival. This was our 2<sup>nd</sup> year to celebrate with the community.



During the Lenten season, we came together for a rosary on multiple occasions. Our spiritual leader does a great job of leading us through this and always makes you feel connected more to our Catholic Faith afterward.

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## State News Continued– Texas



In Mid-July, we co-hosted the AOH/LAOH State Convention in Austin, Texas. We had representatives from the Irish Consul General Robert Hull as well as National AOH Representatives. Although our 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary is on November for LAOH, we celebrated at the convention. Texas LAOH, AOH and the Irish Consulate all were formed the same year. Both the LAOH and AOH founding members were in attendance.



## Connecticut



The Stamford, Ct. LAOH and AOH worked together to offer enthusiastic support for our 2025 Hibernian Golf Tournament. A sold out roster of golfers enjoyed a fun day on the course and awards ceremony back at the Hibernian Hall. Hibernian brothers and sisters were thrilled to fulfill their mission of "Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity" by donating \$3,000 to the Food Bank of Lower Fairfield County. A great combination of golfers, volunteers and sponsors made the day a tremendous success demonstrating that when we work together we can move mountains in terms of Christian charity. We were thrilled that enthusiasm from our sponsors and

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## State News Continued– Connecticut

raffle supporters allowed us to also support our shared Hibernian Hall. Photos from the tournament and dinner can be viewed at <https://www.facebook.com/LAOHStamford>. Photo credits [kbrowne@capturedbyKristen.com](mailto:kbrowne@capturedbyKristen.com)



Stamford Secretary Margie Kelley, Catholic Action Kerry Cimbalo, Vice President Monica Welch and President Monica Di Costanzo teamed up in the spirit of sisterhood to represent the LAOH



Young Hibernian volunteers had a big impact on the tournament's success.

### Danbury, Connecticut St Patrick's Day Parade



Hibernian Golf Committee volunteers present check to the Food Bank of Lower Fairfield County.



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## State News continued– Connecticut



Ladies Tea/May Crowning May 4th

