

# Lady Hibernian Herald

Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians - Irish · Catholic · American

December 2021

## President's message

Sisters,

I must start by wishing each of you a very Blessed and Holy Christmas Season. I am truly thankful for each of you. Whether we know each other personally, only see each other on webinars, or have a real hard time working together, it doesn't matter, we are Sisters and I love each of you. Christmas season is a time of memories which are loving and fulfilling for some and less so for others.

When I was a child, it was about the toys I would get. I remember being so sad because I was born in a hospital with doctors and nurses while Jesus was born in a stable with only his Mom. There is no talk of even a midwife being present, only about the 14-year girl with her husband, cows, sheep, and the Angels. Church Fathers teach us that Mary had no labor or birth pains. I want to believe that is true. Think of today's young teenage homeless mothers and what their Christmas must feel like.

As a teenager, Christmas was about going to Midnight Mass, getting the newest albums or a new radio, and the plans we made for the school

vacation. Praying for snow so we could go sled riding in Prospect Park down dead man's hill or just hanging out without much to do. Carefree with no responsibility, without today's concerns like cyber bullying. Today there are many teenagers, just like when we were young, without a friend, feeling depressed, looking different, talking a different language. How are they spending their Christmas? Hopefully with a family, but still no friend to share the memories and new presents.

As a young adult, I enjoyed all the running around to parties, shopping to make sure I got the right present for everyone on my list. Spending more money than I had and not even worrying about the amount of overtime I would have to work to pay it all off. Seeing the faces of my nieces and nephews and even my Mom when they opened their present was all worth it. I really didn't care if I was too old for presents, that was fine.

When I was first a Mom, Christmas took a completely different turn. It was all about the children and making sure everything was perfectly correct, as if there is a book on what makes

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## President's message continued

Christmas perfect. Our perfect Christmas was staying in our pajamas until the in-laws came over for dessert. No running around. And yet, how many children had nothing.

As an older woman/mother, it is completely different. The children are out on their own, no grandchildren, no family close by; friends are the new family. I see my friends and cousins with their grandchildren and envy the life it breathes into them. I see some of my single friends and love the way they celebrate on their own. None of the things that were important before even matter now. It isn't about how I feel, it is about how we make others feel. Spreading the joy was always the true message of Christmas taught to me by my parents. Whether it be gifts or laughter, spread love and joy!! Adopt that family, answer the bell ringer.

We all celebrate Christmas in our own way. I ask that you remember the Sisters, friends, and family members without anyone to help them celebrate Christmas. Remember the disabled, the lonely, the poor, and the guy in the store who never smiled once in the ten years you have been going there to buy something.

While it is the season of Merry and Joy, it is the hardest season for many people.

Be the light in someone's life this Christmas.

Nollaig bheannaithe a bheith agat,

Karen



## Embracing Our Heritage

### Vice President's Report

This fall has been a very rewarding time. I had the opportunity to visit the Archives of the Daughters of Charity. I spent two days at the Archives doing research for the Nuns of the Battlefield Wayside Marker. The first box that I opened contained an original letter to the Daughters of Charity from Ellen Ryan Jolly. I was in my glory and could feel that Ellen Ryan Jolly is happy that we will be remembering the Nuns of the Battlefield Monument's Centennial. I have also heard from two of the Religious Orders offering assistance with the content on the Marker with photos or quotes.

At the end of October, the first program in the series "Embracing Our Heritage" was held. A special thank you to Agnes Gowdy of Michigan for presenting "Irish Roots of Halloween." She shared her memories of Halloween in Belfast. Many were interested in this program with individuals from 15 States being on the Webinar. What a great start.

In November, the second program was held. The Title was "Remember Their Service." to honor the Women who Served Our Country. A presentation on the Nuns of the Battlefield was planned along with a presentation to honor Women Veterans. Cathie Norton Doherty did an excellent presentation on Women Veterans and their needs. Since the audience were very engaged with the needs of Women Veterans, the entire webinar focused on our present day Veterans. Women have been serving our country but many do not recognize themselves as Veterans. Over the past few years, our Order was able to identify and recognize with Veteran Day Cards to 56 of our members.

This year was the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Many special opportunities were made available to the public. I had the honor and privilege along with Gail Dapolito and Mary Jo Rawlins to place a flower at the Tomb. The highlight of the trip to Washington was the

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## Embracing Our Heritage

Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Women's Memorial. The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians were one of five organizations that had the honor and privilege to participate in this Special Ceremony. This opportunity for our Order happened thanks to the hard work, commitment and dedication of our Veterans and Military Affairs Appointee Cathie Norton Doherty. Watching Cathie present the Wreath was a very proud moment in our history. Four members of the National Board were present at this Ceremony; Gail Dapolito, Ann Fisher, Mary Jo Rawlins and I.

While in Washington, I also was able to meet with Daire Courtney from the Irish Embassy. She is the Political Counsellor- Immigration and Congress. Thanks to Political Education Appointee Gail Dapolito for arranging the meeting. The meeting was very productive for the LAOH in strengthening our contacts with the Irish Embassy.

A visit to the Nuns of the Battlefield Monument and the Cathedral of St. Matthew helped me to think about how to plan for our Commemoration in 2024. This visit and ideas will be presented to the Nuns of the Battlefield Commemoration Committee.

In December, the Our Lady of the Rosary Division Cleveland, Ohio hosted our Embrace Our Heritage Program with a House Concert featuring Creggane. The concert was recorded live for our facebook page. This was a wonderful concert featuring Traditional Irish and Christmas Music. A special thank you to Rita Lally for organizing this event. Please visit the facebook page to hear this fantastic group.

All of the Embracing Our Heritage Programs can be viewed on the LAOH National Youtube channel or on the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians Facebook page. This program demonstrates that our Order does embrace our proud Irish Heritage. On Saturday January 15, 2022 at 11:00am EST, Matt Morrison of St. Louis Missouri will be presenting "Remembering Blood Sunday 50 Years Ago." More details on this program will be sent out in early January.

In February, we plan to share on Facebook a Mass for the Celebration of St. Brigid and St. Patrick on Saturday February 5 at 4:30pm EST celebrated by our National Chaplain Fr. Ryan Duns. Also on Saturday Feb 19, Fr. Duns will be presenting a program on Irish Music and the Feis Musician.

I have reached out to Officers in Colorado and Florida for future programs. They both were very interested and now the details need to be finalized. My plan is to have contributions from all areas where we have a presence. Please contact me with any ideas for future programs at [laohnationalvicepresident@gmail.com](mailto:laohnationalvicepresident@gmail.com).



### Political Education Gail Dapolito

On Veteran's Day, I had the honor and pleasure to attend two very moving ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery. I was invited by Vice President, Marilyn Madigan to join her and Supply Chair, Mary Jo Rawlins in laying a flower at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. This was a solemn and beautiful ceremony, a once in a lifetime opportunity. I was also invited by Veteran's and Military Affairs Appointee, Cathie Norton Doherty to attend a ceremony honoring women veterans at the Women in Military Memorial. The event was very celebratory and honored women from every branch of the military. I was LAOH proud when Cathie presented a gorgeous wreath on behalf of our Order.

The Embassy of Ireland recently held a reception at the Ambassador's residence in Washington, D.C. that was attended by Teresa Gorman of the LAOH DC. The reception was to introduce the newly formed Young Friends of Ireland. The Young Friends of Ireland is group of Congressional staffers, many from the offices of members of the Congressional Friends of Ireland, whose mission is to make sure that young people are informed about the history between the U.S. and Ireland to ensure the political and cultural

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## Political Education

bonds between the two countries is never lost. In talking with many of the YFOI, Teresa found that most of them had never heard of the Hibernians. I found this to be a wake-up call and an opportunity for all LAOH members to reach out to our Representatives and Senators, let them know we are Hibernian strong – and we vote! The Political Education Committee drafted position statements on social justice issues that will be considered at the National Convention. The Committee is also working on a draft of a couple of more positions. Please check out the website, ( <https://ladiesaoh.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/PEC-position-statement-July-2021.pdf> ) we will be soliciting input from all interested delegates prior to the convention.

On behalf of the PEC, I wish all our Sister Hibernians a New Year of peace, health, success and compassion for those who struggle.



National LAOH Vice President Marilyn Madigan, center.  
National Military and Veteran's Affairs Cathie Doherty, right



President Military Women's Memorial, Phyllis J. Wilson (L)  
National Military and Veteran's Affairs, Cathie Doherty (R)

## 2022 National Convention Update Convention Chair, Kathie Linton

Hello ladies! The 2022 National Convention website is now up and running. You can access the Convention site from the LAOH National website. A simple click will take you directly to the Pittsburgh National Convention site.

The Convention site is:

[www.2022pittsburghconvention.com](http://www.2022pittsburghconvention.com)

The National Convention is now open for registration. You may register for the complete package or only the events you wish to attend. The hotel is also open for reservations. You merely click on the registration button and/or the hotel button to make your registration/reservation and payment. If you feel more comfortable completing your registration by hand and mailing a check, this is totally acceptable. You may do so by sending your completed registration form and check to: 2022 AOH LAOH National Convention, P.O. Box 788, Carnegie, Pennsylvania 15106. The planning committee is still working on finalizing details and will publish them on the National Convention site as completed.

The LAOH National Convention will be held in conjunction with the AOH at the beautiful Wyndham Grand Hotel located at 600 Commonwealth Place, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania from July 12 through July 17, 2022. The hotel is located right in the heart of downtown Pittsburgh within walking distance to Heinz Field, PNC Park, the Cultural District, restaurants, entertainment venues, shopping and so much more.

The room cost is \$129.00 per night plus taxes. This rate is good three days prior and three days post the Convention. Check-in is at 4:00pm and check out is at noon. The package price is \$210.00 which includes the Ice Breaker, Irish Night, and the Closing banquet. Registration is \$25.00 if you are not purchasing the package. The hotel is located approximately 18 miles from the Greater Pittsburgh International Airport. Information regarding the most economical way to



## 2022 Convention Update

reach the hotel from the airport will be forthcoming. Valet parking is \$35.00 per day. There is a city parking lot near the hotel where you can park your vehicle for \$25.00 per day. Information will also be forthcoming regarding the rental of scooters, etc.

The agenda the LAOH meetings has not yet been finalized. National President, Karen Keane, will make this information available closer to the Convention. President Keane has advised that the Constitution Committee is tentatively scheduled to meet at noon on July 12 and 13. As mentioned before, this is NOT a Constitution Convention. This committee did not meet in 2020 due to the National Convention being held virtual. As such, it is anticipated that there will be a number of proposed changes.

Can you believe that it has been four years since the last National Convention? The National and Local Convention Committee can't wait to see "yinze" and bid you a warm welcome to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Questions? Please contact me at [kathielin10@gmail.com](mailto:kathielin10@gmail.com). Kathie Linton, Convention Chair.



### Freedom For All Ireland

**Dolores Desch**

**News from the North of Ireland:** This week there were two very significant rulings regarding legacy cases. The first is that the High Court in Belfast ruled that survivors and relatives of those murdered in the Miami Showband massacre are to be awarded nearly £1.5m in total damages to settle claims over suspected collusion with the loyalist terrorist murderers. News article: [Belfast Telegraph Miami Showband payout](#). Collusion. Was the murder of these innocent bandmates preventable? This case was the subject of a Netflix documentary called Remastered: The Miami Showband Massacre.

Another case that gained worldwide attention this week was the UK Supreme Court ruling that the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) decision in 2014 to discontinue an investigation into allegations of controversial interrogation techniques (aka torture) against the "hooded men" was unlawful. The 14 hooded men were subjected to a series of controversial interrogation techniques when they were interned without trial by the Army in Northern Ireland in 1971. See News Article: [Ruling on Hooded Men investigation](#).

This week also marked the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the murder of Martin McShane by the British Army. Martin was 16 years old, unarmed and playing inside a GAA field with his friends when he was gunned down. Over 30 shots were fired at him; he was shot seven times in the back. The investigation was typical for the era when a Catholic was shot. No one has ever been held accountable for Martin's murder despite the efforts of his family. A candlelight vigil was held by his family and friends this week to not only remember Martin but to demand Justice. It is cases like these that drive us to continue the fight for Justice. When someone asks why there needs to be a Freedom for All Ireland Christmas Appeal or why we need a FFAI Chair please share these stories with them. It is through education that we become engaged in helping our brothers and sisters in Ireland. I have seen a significant increase in our members' engagement and interest in FFAI over the past few years and let's not only keep that going but push further. Irish America is a significant force when it comes to Irish Issues.

**Christmas Appeal:** Our FFAI Committee held a Christmas Appeal Raffle which was off the charts! Thank you to all our supporters. We managed to sell out the 100 squares in a record 5 days! National President Karen Keane pulled two winning numbers #50 – Catherine Reinholdt and #2 – Mary Waters

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## FFAI

Szwedowski who split the \$1,250 winnings. We raised \$1,250 that went directly to the Christmas Appeal!

Donations from Divisions, Counties and State boards continue to arrive thanks to the generosity and commitment of our members. If your division has not yet gotten their donation in there is still time!

Donations received by January 15, 2022 will be included in the current Christmas Appeal and will be handed out on the FFAI trip in late January/Early February. Donations received after the January 15<sup>th</sup> date will be included in the next (2022-2023) Christmas Appeal.

**Please mail all donations from Divisions, Counties and States directly to me and forward a copy of the donation to your State FFAI Chairperson.** My mailing address is **Dolores Desch 20 Arlene Ave. Albany, NY 12203**. Checks need to be made payable to LAOH, Inc. Also please include the entity information - Division, County Board or State Board that is making the donation, contact name, email, phone, and mailing address and if the donation is earmarked for a specific group please provide that information. At this point we expect the following groups to be included in the disbursement of funds: Ballymurphy Families Committee, Bloody Sunday Trust (Museum of Free Derry) Bridges Beyond Boxing- Belfast, Down Patriot Graves, Duchas Oiriall, Ealu, Greater New Lodge Commemoration Committee, Green Cross, Jim O'Neill and Robert Allsopp Memorial Flute Band, National Graves Association-Belfast, National Graves Association-Tyrone, The Passionist Peace and Reconciliation Office (Holy Cross), Relatives for Justice, St. Patrick's Center- Downpatrick, The Witness Project - Sean Murray. For more information on the groups we support you can view the webinar where each group was presented with their checks from the LAOH and the AOH and discussed their program on the AOH YouTube Channel: [AOH YouTube](#).

**Presidents, please make sure your Division has an FFAI appointee** who will receive and relay the latest information on the news, issues and programs

affecting those living in the north of Ireland. FFAI information is readily available on our national website page and Facebook Page. I am also happy to assist if you need any help. Please like, follow, and share our FFAI Page <https://ladiesaoh.com/freedom-for-all-ireland/> which is being updated with the latest FFAI news. If you are not receiving my emails, please send me your email address. As always, if you have any questions or would like more information please contact me at [laohnationalffai@gmail.com](mailto:laohnationalffai@gmail.com). Thank you for your support for Freedom For All Ireland.

Go raibh maith agat.



Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc.  
National Board  
Established 1894  
Maire Leffel, Fundraising  
[nationallaohrafflechair@gmail.com](mailto:nationallaohrafflechair@gmail.com)

### **Congratulations to our Thanksgiving Early Bird winner:**

Thanksgiving 2021: Brevard Div. 1- FL

Christmas 2021: TBA

### **GET THOSE TICKETS IN TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR:**

**28 more** chances to **WIN!**

If you win, your ticket goes back in the bin

**6 more** months of winners!

**\$100.00 St Patrick's Day 2022**

**\$25.00 winner every Monday for 26 weeks**

January 3rd, 2022 thru June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022

**\$1,000.00 GRAND PRIZE**

**LAOH/AOH National Convention: Pittsburgh, PA 2022**

**Tickets are \$20.00 each**

Make checks payable to: LAOH, Inc.

C/o Maire Leffel, LAOH National Raffle Chair  
17710 Flamingo Ave.  
Cleveland, OH 44135

Need more tickets, email me at: [nationallaohrafflechair@gmail.com](mailto:nationallaohrafflechair@gmail.com)

Keep posted to: [ladiesaoh.com](https://ladiesaoh.com) for Fundraising details and winners!

## Missions and Charities –

### Cathy Turck

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!! You Ladies are amazing. Your commitment and support of the Columban Sisters, Columban Fathers, and our Appeals for Aid fund is truly remarkable. During a very difficult fundraising time you have run 50/50 raffles, held dinners, teas, basket raffles, sold ornaments and have been creative in a dozen other ways to raise money and make donations throughout the year. I am inspired and in awe of what you have accomplished by putting your hearts and minds to it.

It's not too late to consider an end of year donation from your Division, County, State or Board. If you do not have the donation form, email me at [laohnationalmissions@gmail.com](mailto:laohnationalmissions@gmail.com) and I can email you the form. As always, all checks should be made payable to the LAOH, Inc. and we in turn write one check to the Columban Sisters and the Columban Fathers.

May you all have a Blessed Christmas and a New Year full of health, hope, and happiness!!!

Your sister, Cathy



## State News

### Delaware

The LOAH Delaware State Board held their 2021 State Convention on Saturday October 30<sup>th</sup> via zoom, zoom being the only good thing to come out of this pandemic. Their installation was on Sunday November 7<sup>th</sup> with a small trip to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The installation started with 11am Mass at St Patrick's Church in Center City followed by a visit to the Philadelphia Irish Memorial near the Delaware River. The Irish Memorial is a tribute to the over one million men, women and children who died, and the millions of others who emigrated to the United

States during An Gorta Mór. Installation ended with lunch at the Plough and the Stars, a lovely Irish pub within walking distance of the memorial. The Plough and the Stars even had a session going on at the time! Thank you to Immediate Past President Denise Boswell for carefully guiding the First State's LAOH divisions through these particularly difficult past few years.

Incoming State of Delaware Officers:  
Kathi Twohig Hamelin – President  
Cathy Jones – Vice President  
Jane Reilly – Recording Secretary  
Noreen Buzerak – Treasurer  
Stella Carrigan – Irish Historian  
Marie McManus – Missions & Charities  
Michele McManus – Catholic Action  
Denise Boswell – Immediate Past President  
Kathi Twohig Hamelin – Freedom For All Ireland Appointee



Philadelphia Irish Memorial – (from left to right) Kathi Twohig Hamelin, Denise Boswell, Cathy Jones, Stella Carrigan



Installation – Denise Boswell – Immediate Past President, Kathi Twohig Hamelin – State President, Cathy Jones – State Vice President -not pictured: Stella Carrigan

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## State News continued

(Delaware continued)



Post Installation at St Patrick Church, Philadelphia, PA – (from left to right) Stella Carrigan, Denise Boswell, Kathi Twohig Hamelin, Cathy Jones

## California

US Navy Fleet week Comes to San Francisco, October 2021. Our own Samantha Kelly was there when the USS Monsoor pulled into San Francisco Harbor. Samantha serves as the ships Secretary. She invited and greeted fellow Hibernians to join her for a tour thru the ship. Our LAOH members with their families accepted her offer and everyone had an enjoyable time.



## Denver Division 1

It has been a busy few months for the Denver LAOH. We added five new members in November and December. Joining our membership are **Jean Gantzer, Kathy Stadler, Jackie McMenaman, Linda Davidson and Sheila O'Connell-O'Grady**. Welcome ladies! We are also in the planning stages of our 20th Anniversary celebration!

Congratulations to our new board! We will be installing our new board members at our January 7<sup>th</sup> Christmas party. Congratulations President **Mary Russell**, Vice President **Nan Alonso**, Treasurer **Sheila Thunboe**, Recording Secretary **Cheryl Lavan** & Financial Secretary **Kris Zwiezen**. Non-Board Officers also being installed include: Catholic Action Amber McCulloch, Freedom for All Ireland Samantha Wallace, Irish Historian Amy Moran-Muchmore, Missions & Charities Mardie Madden-Koneval, Mistress at Arms Maureen McGee-O'Shea and Sentinel Kerry Lavan. Charter President Louise Donovan will conduct the Installation ceremony. Thank you, Sisters, for stepping up to serve in leadership roles for the Denver LAOH!

We are proud to announce that our **Denver LAOH sister Amber McCulloch** sat for her first level Irish language test and passed with flying colors. *An-mhaith (Well done) Amber!*

We are thrilled to have **Denver LAOH sister Kaitlyn Davis** back in Colorado. She joined the LAOH Denver Division in November 2018 after meeting LAOH members at the Colorado Irish Festival. She returned to Colorado in November 2021 after two years in Montana working towards her PhD in Archeology, which she will earn in Spring 2022.

In Montana, Kaitlyn developed history and archeology public education programs for Montana State Parks and worked as an archeologist and on the fire-fighting support team for the US Forest Service. As a Forest Service archeologist, Kaitlyn helped document and preserve important historical and environmental resources in advance of timber harvests, which help maintain forest health and reduce catastrophic wildfire risk. She also helped restore historic fire lookouts, which now serve as cabin rentals.

She returned to Colorado to defend her dissertation at the University of Colorado. Kaitlyn's dissertation research involved fieldwork in New Mexico and lab work analyzing soil and archeological plant samples to improve understanding of how Spanish colonial introductions of

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European crops and livestock impacted the Pueblo indigenous agricultural system.

Kaitlyn has accepted a job offer with a cultural resource management firm in Colorado, where she will be managing federal archeology contracts in the Rocky Mountain region. In her (limited) spare time, she enjoys meeting with her LAOH sisters, hiking, snowshoeing, fishing, restoring classic cars, and cheering on the University of Notre Dame Band of the Fighting Irish (and football team).



Amber McCulloch Denver LAOH sister



Kaitlyn studying one of the soil cores from a Pueblo agricultural field from the colonial era in New Mexico



West Fork Butte historic fire lookout, on the Lolo National Forest, prior to restoration.

## Pennsylvania

LAOH Division 21 held its annual, well-attended card party this year, welcoming members, family, friends and members of the local community back after a year's hiatus due to the pandemic.

About 150 people, including division members, attended the event Oct. 2 at St. Paul of the Cross, which began at 11, and included a croissant sandwich, Jell-O salad and dessert lunch. Winners were announced of the two big raffle prizes also donated by division members: 2 tickets to the Nutcracker Ballet and dinner and 2 tickets to a Pittsburgh Steelers Game, and dinner. Dozens of others came away as winners in the Irish Auction, with several tables of prizes donated by local businesses and Division 21 members. Division 21 member Helen Rafferty crocheted a beautiful afghan that was raffled off. A 50-50 raffle and lottery tree also raised money.

Proceeds of the card party are used to make charitable donations to more than a dozen charities, including LAOH Inc. Columba Sisters, Little Sisters of the Poor and Meals on Wheels. It was the largest turnout ever and the Division raised a record amount this year.

All members of the division contributed in some way – selling tickets, preparing and serving lunch, set up and cleaning.

The Division would especially wish to honor member Beth Ann Dillon, who faithfully gave her all, attending the card party and selling tickets, spreading a smile and keeping a positive attitude, all while battling cancer. Beth Ann died Nov. 20.

Division 21 gathered Dec. 7 for a Christmas party at South Hills Country Club. Last year's Christmas dinner was cancelled due to Covid, so the sisters were happy to be able to come together again to mark the celebration of Christmas. All members brought warm socks that will be given to local homeless shelters.

The division's traditional Christmas raffle was held, too, with each member receiving a small gift.



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Beth Anne Dillon, (right) working selling tickets for the card party with Becky Ricci. Beth Ann gave her all, while battling cancer.



About 150 people, including Division 21 members, attended a card party Oct. 2, helping raise money to donate to charities.



Jean O'Malley at the Irish Auction tables.



Division 21 President Trish Conley serving Jell-O salad to card party guests



Division 21 members gather for Christmas party, standing left to right: Clare Smith, Trish Conley, Eileen Sheridan, Helen Rafferty, Darlene Vietmeier, Kathy McCarty, Peggy Bond, Mary Ann Raymer, Kathy Gorman, Kathleen Duggan, Annie McCann. Seated Jean O'Malley and JoAnn Stemberger.

*Merry  
Christmas*

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## Continued

### MICHIGAN

On September 12th many of our sisters gathered at St Joseph's Shrine in Irish Hills for Mass and then placed a wreath at the site of Michigan's Hibernian An Gorta Memorial. Members brought non-perishable food items for a local food pantry. Thanks to Our Lady Knock Division of Lenawee County for planning a meaningful commemoration of the Great Hunger and providing delicious refreshments.



Shirley O'Kelly and Mary Ochab, 50 years of sisterhood and founding members

The LAOH gathered for their State Convention on September 18<sup>th</sup>. It was a wonderful one-day event held at St John Neumann Church in Redford, as many of our ladies didn't feel comfortable staying overnight at a hotel. Barb Weir, our outgoing State President and her committee provided for a great facility, an organized and well run convention and delicious food. Twenty-five-year Membership Awards were given to 23 members and 8 members received fifty-year membership awards. Four of the eight were founding members of the Rose Kennedy Division. A very surprised and very deserving Julie Lewis from the Catherine McAuley Division received the Hibernian Woman of the Year Award. Stacey Blair was installed as our newly elected President.

The Sarah Regan Division of Livingston County, reports they have been meeting via Zoom for the last year. We will be getting together for a social dinner in December to celebrate our membership. Hopefully we can begin to gather in person for our meetings soon.

In October, the Rose Kennedy Division of Wayne County, collected Holiday pajamas for the Redford Interfaith Relief. A representative from RIR attended our meeting and explained how they provide basic food, clothing and referrals to low-income households. The organization has been in the area since 1998. As a result of hearing about the need for volunteers, some of our members went to their facility to help pack Thanksgiving boxes.



Some of the 25 year members.



Rose Kennedy members with PJs they collected for Redford Interfaith Relief.

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## Michigan Continued



Rose Kennedy members packing Thanksgiving boxes at the RIR



Mary Sheehy recipient of the Lifetime Membership.

All of our Michigan sisters were proud to hear that Mary Sheehy from the Rose Kennedy Division received a Lifetime Membership. It was presented to Mary at the State Board Meeting on October 28<sup>th</sup>. Mary was born in Ireland, joined the LAOH in 1996 and served her Division as President, Vice President and Historian. She was the State President, Historian and Missions & Charity. She is a member of our State's Degree Team. She is a former National Appointee. Mary was the Detroit St Patrick's Day Grand Marshall. She was a recipient of the Outstanding Hibernian Woman Award given by the State LAOH members.

For many years she worked with a group from Ireland that brought Catholic and Protestant children together to promote peace and understanding. Most significant and ongoing is the Women of Ireland Famine Walk she founded. All of the divisions in our state hold some type of a walk for hunger and collect non-perishable foods and funds that are donated to help the hungry in our communities.

Mary also serves her parish as a Eucharistic Minister and Mass Information Director. She is a true model and wonderful mentor to all her Hibernian sisters.



## Washington, D.C

LAOH DC members, Division 9, Daughters of Erin, were excited to be able to celebrate our annual Mass for Deceased Members in person this year. In November, we celebrated Mass at the Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land to remember and pray for our deceased members. Division 9 has celebrated this Mass at the Monastery for the past 25+ years. It is a beautiful church with gorgeous gardens, especially in the spring. Along the portico are plaques of the Ave Maria written in many different languages, including one in ogham script. LAOH DC members were honored to have Daire Courtney, Political Counsellor, Embassy of Ireland, join us for Mass and for lunch following Mass at the Irish Channel restaurant.

We held our annual Christmas celebration, on December 5. Mass was held at St. Elizabeth's Church, where the celebrant, Fr. Fields, who is also an AOH Brother, gave the DC LAOH a nice shout out. Following Mass, the DC Ladies had an opportunity to talk to parishioners and showcase our division. This was a great opportunity for recruitment. After Mass, we had a bit of craic and good Irish food at Lahinch Restaurant. It was just wonderful to get together again and catch up.

LAOH DC members wish all our Hibernian Sisters a Blessed Christmas. May the love we feel at Christmas, a gift from the Baby Jesus, stay in our

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## Continued

hearts all through the year. Nollaig shona dhuit!  
Athbhliain faoi mhaise duit!



LAOH DC at the Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land  
left to right: Daire Courtney, Embassy of Ireland  
Brendan, Barbara and Kevin Corkery, Barbara Flaherty,  
Maria Humphries (LAOH DC Pres.) Margaret Nicholson,  
Gail Dapolito Margaret Dee, Ginny May

## Ohio

Columbus, Ohio, Franklin County, Countess de Markievicz Division #1 Hospitality chairperson, Teresa Harris, delivered six bags of groceries to St. Mary's Catholic School. The Division collected enough groceries to help two families in the school have a "Blessed Christmas Dinner". Gift cards were also presented to purchase perishable items. Accepting the groceries is Vice Principal Ticia Dillon.



The Countess de Markievicz #1, Franklin County, Ohio held their 2022 Officer Installation on Saturday, December 4, 2021, at Tara Hall.

Ohio State Board President, Teresa Harris officiated at the Installation.



Seated in the front row (L - R) State Board President Teresa Harris and Countess de Markievicz President Lisa O'Connell-Paccioretti Back row (L - R) Division Sentinel Karen Finn; Division Vice-President Katie Somers; Division Recording Secretary Christina Motika; Division Missions and Charities Officer Beth Motika; Division Historian Mary Driscoll; Division Mistress-at-Arms Janell Brown; Division Financial Secretary Cathy Sullivan; Division Treasurer Megan Kelly. Absent from photo is Division Catholic Action Officer Brenda Golden.

## New York

Albany JFK Div 1 Juniors making floral arrangements for our event for Holy Cross Family Ministries aka Fr. Peyton benefit.



Story continued on next page



New York continued



Albany JFK Division 1 newly installed officers.

The LAOH Kitty Geissler Division 11, Tarrytown, NY, Westchester installed their officers for the 2022 Year.

A social was held after the installation where the Division sisters enjoyed conversation and delicious goodies.

The ladies donated food to the Transfiguration St. Vincent de Paul Society.



Officers L to R top row – Kathleen Cross filling in for Mary Keenan, Sentinel, Mary Geissler Brady, Catholic Action, Marge Murphy, Historian, Christine Campbell, Mistress at Arms, Joan Lyons Ceconi, filling in for Gail Briggs, Mission/ Charities. L to R bottom row – Alice Droogan, Secretary, Kathleen T. Casey, Vice President, Alice Geissler Koraca, President, Peggy Kraft, Treasurer, Eileen Carey, Financial Secretary

### Monroe County, New York Division 1 and 4

Life has become a lesson in adjusting to the “new normal”; a combination of life as usual and life with COVID. This has not stopped us from moving along with our mission of Friendship, Unity and Christian

Charity. A perfect example of that is the fact that we have moved to hybrid meetings. We are now meeting in person (following all state and county guidelines, of course) but we still offer Zoom to those members who cannot come and those who are out of town. We have members who have moved but have retained their membership as well as members who are out-of-town for work or family obligations. We are trying to meet people where they are while holding our regular meeting schedule.

Gayle Shalvoy, our chapter President attended the State meeting in May meeting in East Durham. It is always a good meeting to attend to gather important information from the State Board.

As an organization we are always trying to expand our knowledge of Ireland both past and present. In June we did that by enjoying two wonderful presentations given by members. Amy Maher gave a well researched talk on St Oliver Plunkett. At the end she suggested that we all say the St Oliver Plunkett Novena as a way to honor the saint and a way to join us in prayer. It was a good idea and we did do that. The second presentation was given by our President, Gayle Shalvoy on the Penal Laws. For many of us it was an eye opening experience. Gayle highlighted the need for all those of Irish descent to remember what we, as a people, have endured and reminded us that there is more to do. A knowledge of our Irish culture makes us stronger as a group.

Every June we donate cookies to the Mary Cariolla Center for their graduation receptions. The Mary Cariolla Center is a private, non-profit agency that provides education, residential programs and other services for individuals with disabilities. They provide these services for people aged pre-school through 21. Because of COVID restrictions we were unable to do that so we donated money towards the purchase of cookies for their event. Thank you Pat Crowley for always organizing our participation in this event.

Our chapter once again sponsored the Police Unity Ride in June. This is a fundraising bicycle ride from New Jersey to Washington, DC to raise money for fallen officers. It is open to anyone but is primarily current officers who make the trip. It is a tremendous way to honor the fallen and aid their families.

Five members attended the State Convention in Syracuse this past July. It is always good to gather with our sisters from all over the state to share information, ideas and fellowship. We donated a lovely gift basket to the state raffle. The highlight of



New York continued

the event for us was presenting our bid for the 2023 State Convention and winning it! We are very excited to be given the opportunity to host our sister and brother Hibernians here! Planning is in the works. And there will be much more to follow!

We have been trying to do a monthly (at least!) mission/charity activity. In July we collected items for The Margaret Home in East Rochester. The Margaret Home is a residential program for women throughout their pregnancy and into early motherhood. It provides these women with a home and with guidance towards success in their careers, education and parenting so that they can achieve independence. Thank you, Kelly O'Brien for organizing our participation. In August we collected school supplies for St Ambrose Academy, a Catholic elementary school for grades pk3 through grade 5. Thank you, Theresa Gangemi, for organizing our participation. In September we helped out at the Walking on Sunshine fundraiser for the Mary Cariolla Center. We really like this organization, can you tell? We helped at the registration table and handed out tee shirts to the walkers. Thank you, Pat Crowley and Theresa Gangemi, for organizing our participation. In November, working through our local Catholic Charities, we collected household goods, clothing, and food for one of their clients. Thank you, Kathy Weinmann and Pat Crowley, for organizing our participation.

August was a busy month. Our annual Mass in Honor of Our Lady of Knock was celebrated on August 15<sup>th</sup> at St John the Evangelist Church in Rochester. Seven sisters attended. Barry's Irish Pub held their annual Irish Festival on August 28<sup>th</sup> at their farm with lots of entertainment and food.

On September 14<sup>th</sup>, the Rochester Red Wings Baseball team is having an Irish Night with discount tickets and entertainment as well as a baseball game. September 25<sup>th</sup> is the annual Half Way to St Patrick's Day celebration sponsored by our AOH brothers at Ellison Park in Rochester.

The Mass for our deceased members was held on November 14<sup>th</sup> at St John the Evangelist in Rochester. Nine ladies and three brother Hibernians attended. All went to breakfast at the Bay Front Restaurant in Rochester afterwards. Thank you, Ann Brennan and Kathy Weinmann, for organizing the events.

We elected officers to our Board at the November meeting. Congratulations to all our new board and thank you for your dedicated service

We are planning our joint Installation of Officers and Christmas party with our brother AOH members on January 8, 2022. We have set a date of January 16 for the Ladies annual New Years brunch as well. Thank you, Deirdre Hickey, for heading that up.

It looks like the St Patrick's Day parade is on as well as the Ambassador to Waterford essay and scholarship competition. Much more to follow!

Nollaig Shona and sincere wishes for a Happy Healthy, 2022!

Monroe County, Division 1 and 4

The Schenectady LAOH has had a busy end to the year. The new officers were installed along with their AOH brothers on November 20<sup>th</sup>. The National President, Karen Keane and the NY State President, Agnes O'Leary were the LAOH installing officers. Betsy Henderson was presented with the Spirit of St Brigid award and the National Military and Veteran's Affairs appointee, Cathie Norton Doherty presented Patricia Macken with a certificate of appreciation for her service. They were both surprised and speechless. FFAI Appointee Cathy Turck was presented with a plaque by the National FFAI Appointee, Dolores Desch for the Schenectady LAOH 2020-2021 donation of \$1000 to the FFAI Christmas appeal. (photo below)



## New York continued



Newly installed Schenectady County officers with NYS President Agnes O'leary (back left) and National President Karen Keane (back, right)



Left to right: Patricia Macken, Schenectady President Kim DePeaux and National Military and Veteran's Affairs appointee, Cathie Norton Doherty

In December the Ladies celebrated by gathering and sharing a meal and filling cookie tins for our older members. We enjoyed great company and lots of cookies. (photo below)



On December 19<sup>th</sup>, the ladies cooked and delivered 100 ham dinners to Street Soldiers. Street Soldiers is a grassroots organization that provides hot meals, sandwiches, and essentials to the homeless and those

in need. Our AOH brothers donated to help make this possible.



## NY State Interim Board meeting

NYS held their interim Board meeting in November. National President Karen Keane presented LAOH member Denise Sobus (Auburn) with the LAOH National Life Membership award. National Military and Veteran's Affairs appointee, Cathie Norton Doherty presented 3 LAOH veterans with certificates of appreciation for their service. NYS Military and Veteran's Affairs appointee Jeannine Mannarino collected items for the troops and was overwhelmed with the generosity of the NYS LAOH.

