

# Lady Hibernian Herald

Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians - Irish · Catholic · American

October 2023

## President's Message

### Hibernian Hospitality

This summer and fall attending the State Conventions, I was blessed to be able to meet so many of my Hibernian Sisters. I would like to thank the State Boards of Massachusetts, New Jersey, Ohio, New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Montana and Illinois. The hospitality of my Sisters in those States was outstanding. I look forward to meeting more of my Hibernian Sisters in late October at the Connecticut and Florida State Conventions. It is very important to me to be able to be engaged with our Sisterhood. Our Sisterhood truly demonstrates our motto of Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity. Our Appeal to help Sr. Conchita's Sisters in Ireland was well received and the contributions were very generous. Our Humanitarian Fund was able to assist one of our own and also the Community in Maui.

The Ohio Hibernians will be showing their hospitality to our Brother and Sister Hibernians this October and November. What an honor for Ohio to host 2 National Hibernian Events. The AOH National will be meeting in Youngstown for AOH National President Danny O'Connell's Testimonial and the Presentation of the Sean McBride Award. The LAOH will be meeting in the Cleveland area on the weekend of November 9-12 for the Interim Board Meeting, LAOH President's

Testimonial Dinner and the Inaugural Presentation of the Constance Markievicz Award.

The Ancient Order of Hibernians will present the SEAN MACBRIDE HUMANITARIAN to former Taoiseach Bertie Ahern on Saturday October 14 in Youngstown. This Award is "to memorialize the Human Rights contributions made by Nobel Peace laureate, Dr. Sean MacBride and to recognize the efforts of others who make similar contributions in the cause of peace, justice and the economic well-being of the Irish people."

The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians are proud to introduce **The Constance Markievicz Award**. This Award will be bestowed biennially at the LAOH Interim Board Meeting to a woman who is outstanding, passionate, and shows a deep commitment in her endeavors, either professionally or in volunteer works. The Constance Markievicz Award will be conferred without regard to the nominee's race, creed, religion, color or National origin. The nominee must be a woman who, in the spirit of unity and cross community relationships, has made significant and committed contributions to peace and justice, and/or the social and economic wellbeing of her community and/or the broader world in which we live. This includes, but is certainly not limited to, political activism, social justice, immigration and immigrant issues, political education, veteran affairs, and peace and reconciliation in Ireland.

The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians are proud

Story continued on next page

## In this Issue

Vice President	Page 2	Missions and Charities	Page 4
Testimonial Information	Page 3	State News	Page 5
Treasurer	Page 3		
Catholic Action	Page 4		

## President's message continued

to announce that Kathleen Savage of Massachusetts will be receiving the prestigious Constance Markievicz Award. Kathleen Savage has been a member of the LAOH since 1982. She has served in many offices on the Division and County levels, with appointments on both State and National Boards. She is currently her division and state chairperson for Freedom for All Ireland (FFAI), formerly holding this position on the national level, consistently promoting this initiative. In 1985, she joined the local chapter of Irish Northern Aid, and began writing Christmas and birthday cards to prisoners, enlisting many of her LAOH sisters to join her. She has made more than 20 trips to Northern Ireland, witnessing firsthand the discrimination of the British Government against Irish families, visiting prisoners in Long Kesh, Crumlin and Maghaberry, becoming pen pals with several of the prisoners and eventually befriending their families. Many of these relationships continue to this day, and she is considered to be a member of their extended families. Kathleen can count Gerry Adams, the late Martin McGuinness, Rita O'Hare, Damian McCafferty, the late Martin Ferris and countless others among her many friends. She is a great ambassador for the cause, working tirelessly for the Freedom for All Ireland Committee and peace and justice in the North of Ireland. She was a contributor to the publication of **Trasna na nTonnta Across the Waves Women's Reflection on the Good Friday Agreement**. In April, Kathleen joined a group of LAOH sisters on a tour of Northern Ireland to distribute the FFAI funds and the release of the **Trasna na nTonnta** the joint project of the LAOH and Relatives for Justice. The Inaugural Presentation of the Constance Markievicz Award will be presented on Saturday November 11, 2023 at the LAOH Testimonial Dinner 6:00pm at the West Side Irish American Club 8559 Jennings Road Olmsted Township, Ohio 44138. For more information: please visit our website: [www.ladiesaoh.com](http://www.ladiesaoh.com)

As we commemorate the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement, it is an honor and privilege for the AOH and LAOH to present these prestigious Awards to Bertie Ahern and Kathleen Savage. Bertie Ahern was signature on the Agreement and Kathleen Savage was a longtime advocate for peace and social justice issues in the North of Ireland. A special thank you to my Cleveland Sisters of the Our Lady of the Rosary and Deirfiur of Charity for hosting the LAOH Interim Board Meeting and Celebrations.

## LAOH National Vice President Mary Ann Lubinsky

It is my pleasure to announce that our LAOH Sister, Kathleen Savage of Division #10, Lynn, Massachusetts, will be the recipient of the first Constance Markievicz Award.

Kathleen has been a member of the LAOH since 1982. She has held many offices on the Division and County levels, with appointments on both State and National Boards. She is currently her division and state chairperson for Freedom for All Ireland (FFAI), formerly holding this position on the national level. In 1985, she joined the local chapter of Irish Northern Aid, and began writing Christmas and birthday cards to prisoners, enlisting many of her LAOH sisters to join her. She has made more than 20 trips to Northern Ireland, witnessing firsthand the discrimination of the British Government against Irish families, visiting prisoners in Long Kesh, Crumlin and Maghaberry.

Kathleen has made many friends including Gerry Adams, the late Martin McGuinness, Rita O'Hare, Damian McCafferty, Martin Ferris and countless others as a great ambassador for the cause. She has worked tirelessly for the FFAI Christmas Appeal. She recently joined a group of LAOH sisters on a tour of Northern Ireland distributing the FFAI funds collected from the Christmas Appeal.

In addition to her commitment to FFAI, she is a member of Sacred Heart Parish where she serves as a Eucharistic Minister, a member of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, the Secular Franciscan Order and the Church Fraternity. She has also received the Boston Archdiocese Cheverus Award, which is presented yearly to laypersons, deacons and religious.

Recipients are chosen for their services to the Church and God's People.

This award will be presented in Cleveland on November 11 in conjunction with the Interim Board Meeting. Congratulations to Kathleen!





**LAOH National President**  
**Marilyn Madigan**

A Woman Admired for Her Courage,  
Outstanding Achievements, and  
Noble Qualities

**November 9<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**Hampton Inn**  
24601 Country Club Boulevard  
North Olmsted, OH 44070  
<https://www.hilton.com/en/book/reservation/deals?chroom=CLEMHO&groupCode=CHHACH&arrdate=2023-11-09&departdate=2023-11-12&room=WW.HS.TONL&IN.DirectLink&fromid=HS.TONLINKDIRECT>  
**Booking Deadline for LAOH Rate**  
**10/25/2023**

**Hosted by:**  
**Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians**  
**Cleveland Divisions**  
**Our Lady of the Rosary**  
**Deirflur of Charity**

**Testimonial Celebration**

**Reservation Form**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Tel: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ AOH ☐ LAOH ☐ Guest ☐ Military Veteran  
Current Office: \_\_\_\_\_  
Division: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_  
Attending Meeting Yes ☐ No ☐


**Dinner Dance—Saturday, November 11, 2023**

West Side Irish American Club  
8559 Jennings Road, Olmsted Township, Ohio 44138

Dinner: \$65.00 with a Cash Bar  
Guest Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Shake Rattle n Roll to the Music of Kennedy and Riley**

**RESERVATION DEADLINE: November 1, 2023**  
Please Make Checks Payable to **LAOH**.  
Completed Reservation Form and Payment Should Be Mailed to:  
Sharon Kelly, 4606 West 158<sup>th</sup> Street, Cleveland, Ohio 44135



**LAOH National President**  
**Marilyn Madigan**

**Testimonial Celebration**

A Woman Admired for Her Courage,  
Outstanding Achievements, and  
Noble Qualities

The Cleveland Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians  
Our Lady of the Rosary and Deirflur of Charity  
Divisions are honored to host the Testimonial Dinner  
of One of Our Own, LAOH National President  
Marilyn Madigan.

Members representing their State and  
Digitaries will be joining us in honoring Marilyn the  
weekend of November 9<sup>th</sup> -11<sup>th</sup> from all across Our  
Great Nation.

We have the opportunity to showcase our  
fair City and All it has to offer all those attending our  
Celebration of Marilyn and request your support by  
submitting an ad to our Commemorative Program  
Book.

Your support provides the help needed for  
our Divisions to defray our cost and put on an event  
for Marilyn and All to remember.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Ad Size Desired \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Paid \_\_\_\_\_

Word or PDF files are required. If files are e-mailed, please state the name of the buyer within  
your correspondence and submission form **MUST** be included with your ad, either mailed or  
e-mailed (electronic).

E-MAIL ALL FILES TO: Pat Lavelle at [plave31228@gmail.com](mailto:plave31228@gmail.com)

1 / 4 Page  
3-3/4 x 2-1/4

**Full Page**  
4 1/2 x 7 1/2

1 / 2 Page  
3-3/4 x 4-1/2

**Deadline For Submission**  
**October 20, 2023**

**AD Rates**

Premium Ad Space

Sponsor Back Outside Cover	\$500.00
Sponsor Insides Covers	\$250.00
Full Page	\$110.00
1/2 Page	\$ 60.00
1/4 Page	\$ 40.00
One Line Patron Ad	\$ 20.00

Please make checks payable to  
**LAOH Inc.**

Mail Ad Request to:  
Patricia Lavelle  
26559 Chapel Hill Dr.  
North Olmsted, Oh 44070

## National Treasurer

**Cathy Turck**

Hi ladies,

Please keep in mind that there is a process for forming a new Division. If the process is not followed you cannot operate under the LAOH logo, hold meetings, or represent the LAOH in any fashion, **even** if you have been installed. I am reminding everyone about this because this has happened recently in 2 different states where the division was installed without completing the necessary paperwork with the National Secretary. Once the National Secretary approves the paperwork, she will alert me that the new Division needs an EIN number. I will then obtain the EIN number for the new division. All forms needed to start a new Division can be obtained from the National Secretary by emailing her at [natlsecretarylaoh@gmail.com](mailto:natlsecretarylaoh@gmail.com)

Any Division, County, or State Boards wishing to open a new bank account or move your existing account to a new bank should begin that process by filling out the form located on the LAOH website entitled “National Board Procedure for a New Bank Account”. All new accounts must be processed through the National Treasurer.

I’m hoping to see some of you at the Interim National Board meeting in Cleveland, Ohio over the weekend of November 11, 2023.

As always, thank you for all your hard work and everything you do for our order in the name of Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity.





## Catholic Action

### Kathleen Diulus

I would like to acknowledge everyone's generosity again for the donations to the Humanitarian Fund and to the Missionary Sisters of the Holy Rosary. It seems that checks arrive daily and I am in awe. Our motto is strong with our Organization and culture and for that I am proud to be a member and to serve you on the Board.

The national website has been updated with a revised Catholic Action donation form to capture our expanding financial donations.

It is that time of year that we are receiving, reviewing, and awarding our Project St. Patrick grants. Letters and applications have been sent to vocational directors that have submitted candidates in the past. However, if you would like to send me contact information, I would gladly reach out to any new vocational director to make them aware of our program. The letter and form are also on the website for you to access and share directly.

Decisions on grant awardees will be made in mid-November with the AOH.

Please contact me with any questions or concerns. Keeping you in my prayers!



## Missions and Charities

### Natalie Peterinelli

As I write this, quarter three of 2023 is wrapping up. It's hard to believe we are in the final stretch of 2023. I just put the final touches on the Q3 reports. I look forward to seeing what you can do in these last three months of 2023

I would like to highlight the Appeals for Aid fund as a refresher for y'all. The Appeals for Aid Grant provides a one-time grant to 501c3 organizations. These organizations are the brought forth by States, Counties, Divisions, and members that work with these organizations. The organizations you work with regularly could benefit from this one-time grant. I hope that in August 2024, at the National Convention, we will have enough funds to grant all

requests to the applicants using your generous contributions. The 50 cents per capita assessment helps fund this, but this grant would benefit from additional contributions at all levels. Please consider looking into ways to contribute.

The Columban Sisters will celebrate the 100th Anniversary of their founding in Ireland in 2024. When I spoke with Sister Corona Colleary last they were still in the final planning stages for events. Please be on the lookout for more information to come.

A friendly reminder, Please send your Missions Donations to my home address. 4350 Regency Ridge Ct #204 Cincinnati, OH 45248 Also please remember to send a copy of your Mission Donation Form to your Division, County, and State Mission and Charities Officers. If you have any questions about donation procedures or any of the charities, please feel free to reach out to me via email. ([laohnationalmissions@gmail.com](mailto:laohnationalmissions@gmail.com))

LOOK FOR YOUR TICKETS IN THE MAIL!

**LADIES ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS, INC.**  
**NATIONAL FUNDRAISING RAFFLE**  
2023-2024

**30 Chances to Win!**

*If you Win, your ticket goes back in the Bin!*

**6 months of winners**

**\$100.00 Thanksgiving 2023, Early Bird Drawing**

**\$100.00 Christmas 2023, Early Bird Drawing**

**\$100.00 St Patrick's Day 2024**

**26 weekly Monday winners for \$25.00**

(January 1st, 2024 – June 24th, 2024)

***\$1,000.00 GRAND PRIZE***

***2024 LAOH Nat. Convention-Orlando, FL***

**Tickets are \$20.00 each**

**Make checks payable to: LAOH, Inc.**

C/o Maire Leflet, LAOH National Fundraiser  
17710 Flamingo Ave.  
Cleveland, OH 44135

***Need more tickets or have any questions, email me at:***

**[nationallaohrafflechair@gmail.com](mailto:nationallaohrafflechair@gmail.com)**

***What a great stocking stuffer for Christmas!***

***Get your entries in early to be eligible for the 2023 Early Bird drawings!***

## State News

### Pennsylvania

After a very successful Convention in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, where we were honored to have seven National Board members join us, the Pennsylvania delegation elected a 2023-2025 State Board.

**Congratulations Ladies!**

**Introducing the 2023-2025 Pennsylvania State Board**

Kathleen Dilius ~ President

Carolyn Killion ~ Vice President

Patti Flaus ~ Secretary

Carole Cooney-Szydek ~ Treasurer

Brianna Curran ~ Historian

Shirley Sestric ~ Catholic Action

Mary Ellen Myers ~ Missions and Charity

Immediate Past President ~ Maria Gallagher

Sister Kathleen Smith, RSM ~ Chaplin

Additionally, Kathleen named the following Ladies as appointees.

FFAI and Immigration & Education ~ Kathy Varady

Publicity ~ Maura O'Donnell-Roszyk

Veteran Affairs ~ Maureen Cooper

Webmaster ~ Kalyn Populo



Pictured: 1<sup>st</sup> row L-R: Carolyn Killion, Kathleen Diulus, Patti Flaus Second Row: Carole Syzdek, Brianna Curran, MaryEllen Myers, Shirley Sestric

In June, our Pennsylvania Historian, Carole Cooney-Syzdek, along with Mary Earnest, Cumberland County Division Historian, presented Elizabeth Howard her certificate and check for her Level II first-place winning essay in the LAOH 2023 Irish History Contest. We were honored to be included in the Trinity High School, Camp Hill, PA awards ceremony and hope Elizabeth's win inspires other students to participate in next year's contest.



Left to right: Mary Earnest, Cumberland County Division Historian, Elizabeth Howard, Carole Cooney-Syzdek, Pennsylvania Irish Historian.

At every Convention, the State Board awards the Anna Malia Ruddy Award to one of our Pennsylvania Sisters. We recognize an outstanding Sister with the prestigious award due to her exceptional actions within the LAOH and her community.

**Congratulations, Division 11 ~ Allegheny County's Shirley Sestric!**

Pennsylvania's own Anna Malia Ruddy served as the first National President of the LAOH. She was a loving, caring daughter and wife; a devoted teacher and school administrator; an active participant in her church and community.

**Story continued on next page**

## State News Pennsylvania continued



SHIRLEY SESTRIC - 2023 ANNA C. MALIA RUDDY AWARD

## Montana

Our Division took a bold step out to the public as a method of bringing our organization and its work to the community's awareness. With an invitation from our local Public Radio Station and by way of patronage, we sponsored a 2 hour, twice a week program hosted by one of our members, Shannon Wilson, who has broadcast experience. Shannon is also our Division Historian and the State Treasurer. We also asked the local AOH to help in the sponsorship and they came through in style! Shannon is able to do several 30 second adverts during the program giving membership contact information. Attached is Shannon's promo card and 1 program playlist. Besides live play the program is also live streamed.

A promotional graphic for "Celtic Falls" on Montana Public Radio 89.9 FM KGPR. It features a Scottish Saltire flag on the left and an Irish tricolor flag on the right. In the center, the text "Celtic Falls" is written in a purple script font. Below this, it says "Featuring great Celtic music! 2nd &amp; 4th Friday Evenings 8:00 to 10:00 p.m." At the bottom left is a photo of Shannon Wilson, a woman with dark hair wearing headphones and a black t-shirt that says "LET THE SHANNON BEGIN". At the bottom right is the logo for "MONTANA PUBLIC RADIO 89.9 FM KGPR GREAT FALLS".

## Kentucky

The Kentucky State Convention occurred on August 26, 2023, in Louisville, KY. New State Board Officers were elected. The officers were installed; by Past National President Carol Sheyer. The officers are as follows: President Molly Dobson, Vice President Natalie Peterinelli, Secretary Kathleen Prezocki, Treasurer Mary Ann Fages, Irish Historian Beth Favier, Missions & Charities Officer Rebecca Abel-Kennedy, and Catholic Action Officer Maureen Toner.



## New Jersey

One of the oldest divisions in New Jersey, the Margaret Fastow Fitzpatrick Burlington County Division 3 celebrates its 120<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year. This division boast two national presidents, Margaret Fastow 1974-1976 and Mary Paglione 1996-1998 from its membership.

On July 6<sup>th</sup> the division celebrated by taking a lunch cruise on the River Lady, an authentic reproduction paddlewheel riverboat. The cruise included a lovely meal, music, dancing and a historic guided tour past the homes of the rich and famous along the Toms River in New Jersey.

Among those who attended were LAOH NJ State Chaplin, Father Dan Cahill, Past National President Mary Paglione, NJ State President Jacoba Kenna, Division 3 President Marianne Sweeney, other state board and division members and friends.

Story continued on next page



## State News Continued New Jersey



From Left to Right: Denise McNerney Missions and Charity, Nancy Rhodes Treasurer, Kate McGrath Secretary, Jacoba Kenna President, Maread Gallagher Vice President, Lauren Tracey Irish Historian, Eileen Daly Catholic Action.



Fr. Sean Bonner celebrated Mass



Lunch cruise on the River Lady



Members of the McAuley Division at the Our Lady of Knock Mass



Many divisions were represented at the Our Lady of Knock Mass on August 13<sup>th</sup>

## Michigan

The Michigan State Board held the Our Lady of Knock Mass on Sunday, August 13 at the AOH Hall in Redford. Seventy-nine member from various divisions attended. The Rose Kennedy Division provided a delicious dinner.

Story continued on next page

## State News continued– Michigan

Peggy Gray, State Catholic Action and member of the **Catherine McAuley Division** and Marybeth Dillon-Butler took part in a Holy Hour Vigil at a local abortion mill in Westland MI. Fr. Stephen Hedges lead the Holy Hour and Eucharist Procession praying for the babies, mothers and workers.



**Sr Annette Marie Byrne** of Grand Rapids, held their Our Lady of Knock Mass and potluck on August 9th. The Mass was said by Fr. Tom Paige, the division chaplain. Deacon Dan Esch is the husband of one of the division members. The Mass was held in a barn that is used for just such events. They collected items for one of the baby pantries they support.



The musicians are members of the Sr Annette Marie Byrne Division, Debbie Tulicki, Bess Walthorn and division President, Dianne Mankel. The two men, Tom Verlin & Michael Scott are AOH members.

The **Ethel Kennedy Division** collected school supplies for their September charity. The ladies were very generous with the amount of notebooks, folder, pencils, crayons etc. they purchased for Most Holy Trinity Catholic Academy in the Corktown section of Detroit. The school was very thankful for the donations.



The Annual An Gorta Mor (the great hunger) Memorial Mass took place on Sunday, Sept. 10<sup>th</sup> at St. Joseph Shrine Catholic Church in the Irish Hills, the site of Michigan's "An Gorta Mor Memorial. **Our Lady of Knock Division** in Adrian hosts this meaningful event. The Memorial was erected in 2004 in honor of those who lost their lives and those who immigrated to America during the Irish Potato Blight. The upkeep of the Monument is funded in part by the AOH/LAOH and individual donations. It is located on US-12, Brooklyn in the heart of the Irish Hills of Lenawee County Michigan. The area's name derives from 1854 when several tenacious Irish immigrants who made the great trek to the Midwest and settled in

Story continued on next page



## State News Continued Michigan

the area, saw that the rolling hills reminded them of their homeland. It is a well worth the drive to see this moving tribute to our Irish ancestors.



Fr. Zachary Mabey and AOH member Phil Carolan



State President Stacey Blair and Our Lady of Knock President, Mary Roesch place a wreath at the An Gorta Mor Memorial

The **Catherine McAuley Division** has been extremely active. These are some of the events they participated in. The Motor City Irish Festival was held on June 9, 10 and 11th.

With bands, dancers pipers crafts and vendors everyone had a glorious time. Our ladies were busy volunteering in the Children's Tent chaired by Division member, Peggy Gray. The children made Irish themed crafts and participated in presentations in Irish dance, Irish music and Irish football. The State board had a fundraiser on June 19<sup>th</sup> in conjunction with a live broadcast of Irish Music. Our Division created a raffle basket with a "picnic" theme.

The Tiger's Irish Heritage Night was held on Sept.8,2023. Fans who purchased a ticket through this promotion were given a green Tiger's jersey! Over 1600 Irish Tiger fans were there to celebrate with

a Mini Parade around the field, Irish bands on the concourse and Irish Dancers performing on the field. Many of our sisters from several Divisions marched in the mini parade. Bill Sullivan of the AOH Walsh Division threw out the Ceremonial 1st Pitch, and Dan O'Malley threw out a second Ceremonial Pitch. The evening ended with an awesome fireworks display set to Irish music.

Several of our members attended the "An Gorta Mor" (The Great Famine) Memorial Mass celebrated at St. Joseph's Shrine in the Irish Hills, Michigan followed by a beautiful ceremony at the Monument dedicated to the famine victims. They are planning a Trivia Nigh Fundraiser which is always a fun time. Many members of their Division will be attending the AOH Charity Ball on October 21<sup>st</sup>. Congratulations to their Division President, Maureen Root who has been named Hibernian Woman of the Year. This is a well-deserved honor to an incredible and dedicated Hibernian sister.

## Virginia

The Daughters of Erin Division, Loudoun County, Virginia, has had an exciting and productive year. We started it off with a luncheon on a sunny afternoon in January during which our Division installed a new board with Linda Fay as President. Grateful appreciation was extended to Margie McCarthy who has been our founding President and leader for the past four years. Our Division Chaplain, Fr. Anthony Killian, and VA State President, Lori Forbes, also attended the luncheon.



Chaplain Fr. Anthony Killian and Daughters of Erin

Story continued on next page

### State News Continued– Virginia

On March 13, several Daughters of Erin sisters attended the Annual Gaelic Mass at St. James Church in Falls Church. The Mass was celebrated in Irish by Fr. M. Valentine Keveny, a native of County Sligo, Ireland, with music by the famed Irish composer Sean Ó Riada. Fr. Keveny marked his 50<sup>th</sup> year of priesthood in June. Read more about Fr. Keveny here: <https://cathstan.org/news/faith/as-he-marks-50-years-as-a-priest-father-keveny-draws-on-faith-he-learned-at-his-family-s-farm-in-ireland>



Fr. Keveny with Daughters of Erin at the annual Gaelic Mass in March

In the spring, our FFAI Officer, Christine Payne, chaired a statewide raffle of a Jim Shore Irish Angel figurine to support the FFAI Christmas Appeal. More than \$400 was raised with support of all Virginia LAOH Divisions. All the proceeds went to the Virginia State LAOH Board treasury for donation to this year's Christmas Appeal. Ginny Murphy, a member of the Fr. Mychal Judge Division in Triangle, Virginia, was the lucky winner of the Irish Angel.



Marian Tea

In July, the Daughters of Erin Division hosted the Virginia LAOH State Convention meeting. The event was well attended with twenty-seven sisters from all four state Divisions. During the business meeting, a new slate of officers was elected with Lori Forbes continuing as President. After lunch, the new Tri-State Shamrock Degree team composed of sisters from Virginia, Maryland, and Washington, DC, initiated members with their degree.

State attendees at the 2023 Virginia LAOH Convention in July.



The newly elected state officers are seated in the front row with Lori Forbes, VA State President, in the center

During the Convention Meeting, the Virginia Lady Hibernian of the Year was announced. A tie for this honor went to Daughters of Erin member Angelina Crew, who shares this title with another Virginia LAOH sister. Additionally, Angelina's nomination for the national Constance Markiewicz award was one of three from Virginia that was forwarded to the national level. Congratulations, Angelina!



Angelina Crew, VA Lady Hibernian of the Year, receives congratulations from Lori Forbes

Story continued on next page



## State News Continued– Virginia

Also in July, our Division collected patriotic themed items for gift bags that were delivered to patients at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Martinsburg, WV. Additionally, Celeste Corrigan, our Veterans Affairs Officer, encouraged sisters to write notes to the patients there. Since March, 2021, our Division has delivered gift bags to the Martinsburg VA Hospital several times a year. We look forward to continuing this ministry by collecting toiletries for distribution to the hospital for Veterans' Day.

The Daughters of Erin observed the feast day of Our Lady of Knock in August by attending morning Mass celebrated by newly appointed Parochial Vicar Fr. Jonathan Smith. After Mass, Division sisters enjoyed breakfast in the parish hall.



Fr. Smith and Division Sisters enjoying breakfast after Mass on the feast of Our Lady of Knock

Our Division is pleased to be developing a close relationship with the faculty and students at Our Lady of Hope parish school. For the second year, the Daughters of Erin attended the Patriots' Day ceremony at the school where we presented small flags to all the students. One of our sisters, Dotty Koyles, made an informational display to give students a personal view of what happened on that day. Dotty's son, a New York firefighter who was working at the World Trade Center, survived the attack on September 11, 2001.



Dotty Koyles, front left, with Division sisters at OLoH school Patriots' Day ceremony on September 11, 2023

## Ohio

Our Lady of the Rosary Division 5 & 10 Cleveland, Ohio

August 24 was a Beautiful Day to Celebrate Our Lady Knock with Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes Shrine in Euclid, Ohio. We were Joined by our Sisters from Division 11 Deirfiur of Charity, their President Sarah O'Brien was installed as the State of Ohio Catholic Action Officer by Our National President Marilyn Madigan and Congrats to our Sister Celine and her husband Al O'Leary, who celebrated 68 years of

Marriage. 🍀

We look forward to Celebrating our Sister and National President at her Testimonial Weekend Event November 9-11, 2023.



Story continued on next page

## State News continued-Ohio



AOH/LAOH stained glass window at the side of the Church.



(from left to right) Sherri McNeill, Maury Collins, Penny Collins, Linda Reitzel, Robert McMahon, and Monsignor Chris Vasko holding the check. Ann Dollman is in the pulpit.

The Lucas County Hibernians helped celebrate the 160 anniversary of the Historic St Patrick's Church with a contribution from the profits of their St Patrick's Day party. Fr Jim celebrated the Holy Mass and played his Irish Flute.



President Ann Dollman and Monsignor Chris Vasko holding the check.

**Story continued on next page**



## State News continued– Ohio

The Mahoning County Division #6 ladies hosted a Chick-fil-a luncheon for the young men and women from Ireland in the Ulster program at St. Christine's Parish on July 13th.

Members include Missy Kelly, Joyce Kale Pesta, Linda Lambert, Michelle Neal, Donna Marsolo and Susan Henley.



The Mahoning County Division #6 ladies volunteered at the Men's AOH Golf outing on August 19th at Duck Creek Golf Course. The day included setting up, registration, chinese auction, 50/50 and cleaning up.



1st row from L to R: Donna Marsolo, Mackenzie Kelly, Tina DeVito. 2nd row: Theresa Clegg, Michelle Neal, Susan Henley, Missy Kelly.



## New York

Along with Westchester County President Cathy Hogan delegates from Div. 11 Tarrytown were President Alice Koraca and Mary Brady Catholic Action who attended the NYS Board 63 rd Biennial Convention in Henrietta, NY.

The Kitty Geissler Division was able to provide a generous donation to The RSHM Life Center in Sleepy Hollow through the NYS LAOH Patricia Doyle Memorial Fund. The LIFE Center was founded in 1995 by The Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary, an international congregation who has served in the Sleepy Hollow/Tarrytown area for over 100 years. Their mission of the LIFE Center is to welcome the needy, especially women and children, and to create with them a culture which nurtures their human development. The Center serves individuals of all faiths and cultural traditions. The grant will be used for the Parents & Tots Program.



Left to right, Cathy Hogan, Westchester County President, Alice Koraca, Kitty Geissler Division 11 President and Mary Brady, Kitty Geissler Division 11 Catholic Action officer.

It has been a busy Spring and Summer for the Albany LAOH Division Ladies! We organized a group to march in the 2023 Hospice Walk, where our “Albany Hibernians for Hospice” team raised \$1,870 towards supporting the important work they provide to families. Many of our members attended the State Convention in Rochester, where our sister Maura

**Story continued on next page**

McSweeney was sworn into the Office of Missions and Charities, our immediate past Jr. President received the Hibernian of the Year Award, and our sister Kimberly Clancy was appointed as State Webmaster. Job well done, ladies!



left to right: Kathleen Stevens, Christine O'Reilly, Maura McSweeney, Dolores Desch, and Cecilia Leonard at the 2023 NYS LAOH Convention in Rochester, NY.



Two of our Junior Division members at “2023 Walk for Hospice” supporting our “Albany Hibernians 4 Hospice” Team

Also at the 2023 State Convention, our immediate past Albany Jr. Division President, Kendall H. was honored with the NYS Hibernian of the Year award from the newly sworn-in State President. This is a well-deserved honor for Kendall, and we're so proud of her good work and dedication over this past year!



Albany LAOH Division and Junior Members were in attendance at the NYS LAOH Convention in July in Rochester, NY to celebrate all of the accomplishments that our order contributed this year. Pictured from left to right: Ginny Daley, Cecilia Leonard, Karen Keane, Kathleen Stevens, Dolores Desch, Christine O'Reilly, Maura McSweeney, Jennifer Hoefer, 3 Junior Members, and Kimberley Clancy.

Our Albany Division was honored to witness the nomination and swearing-in of our sister Maura McSweeney to the position of LAOH State Board office of Missions and Charities. Congratulations Maura!



Peter Lounsbery, AOH Veterans Affairs Appointee, and Rosalyn Adair, LAOH Veterans Affairs Appointee, presenting a check to Lee Vartigan (center), Director of Veterans Services at the Albany Housing Coalition.

**Story continued on next page**



It is with heavy hearts that we said goodbye to our dedicated and long-time division member Maggie Gilroy this July. Maggie was a member of the LAOH Albany division for over 62 years and she devoted much of her time and energy to the LAOH and to our division hall. She will be missed by all, and we continue to send condolences and prayers to her family.



Maggie Gilroy, July 30, 1933 - July 18, 2023

The Ladies Albany JFK Division 1 has been very busy this Spring carrying out our mission to serve our community in the Capital District of New York State.

On April 29<sup>th</sup> we hosted a celebration dinner to commemorate the 110<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Albany JFK Division 1. Our beloved sister Kathleen Quinlan was named the 2023 Ladies Hibernian of the Year, and member Maureen Jeffers was presented with a Certificate recognizing her 72 years of membership from our National President. Maggie Gilroy was unable to make the dinner and was presented at her home with a Certificate from our National President for her 62 years of membership in our division. We honor these dynamic ladies who have devoted their time and energy to our division for many decades.

On April 16<sup>th</sup> our division hosted a Baby Shower to support the work of the Albany Catholic Diocese Community Maternity Services program. This annual tradition allows us to fulfill our mission by serving young mothers and babies in our community. As a special treat, our Junior Division girls assisted with the decorations and gifts at the shower. Job well done, ladies!

In honor of the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement, our President Dolores Desch traveled to Ireland for a series of events with National LAOH President Marilyn Madigan and LAOH members from across the country supporting Freedom for All Ireland and Relatives for Justice efforts. These included the launch of the *Trasna na dTonnta* (Across the Waves) Women's Reflections on the Good Friday Agreement publication, the Queen's University Belfast Agreement Twenty-Five events, and the Irish Foreign Ministry's Global Irish Civic Forum.

We would be remiss to not include prayers for our ill and departed members and their families, including our shared loss of James Kelly Sr., husband of member Anne Kelly, father of member Anna Mary Kelly, brother-in-law to member Cecelia Leonard, and uncle to member Kitty Kelly. Jimmy was the longest-serving member of Albany's AOH Father Henry Tansey Division 5 and was a fixture of our Irish American community. It is times like these that remind us of the binds that tie us to our Faith, and our collective bond of friendship, unity, and Christian Charity.

God bless our LAOH Sisters, and we look forward to seeing many of you at the NY State Convention this summer in Rochester.



Members of the Ladies Albany JFK Division 1 with our Division Chaplain Father O'Connor at our 110<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner, April 29, 2023

**Story continued on next page**

**State news continued– NY**



Albany JFK Division 1 President Dolores Desch presented Maureen Jeffers with a Certificate to recognize 72 years of membership on behalf of National LAOH President

**2023 Albany Ladies Hibernian of the Year Kathleen Quinlan**



Kathleen Quinlan being presented with a Certificate of Recognition from National LAOH President by Albany Division 1 President Dolores Desch



Albany JFK Division 1 Members Kimberly Clancy and Cecilia Leonard presented Maggie Gilroy with a Certificate to recognize 62 years of membership on behalf of National LAOH President

Albany JFK Division 1 Ladies and Junior Division hosted a Baby Shower supporting Albany Catholic Diocese Community Maternity Services Program



**Story continued on next page**



## State News continued– New York



Schenectady, JFK Division 1, was well represented at the NYS convention in July with ten delegates this year. We were joined by additional Schenectady ladies that are part of the Trinity Degree Team, as the team exemplified the degrees of our order. Our division won first place in adult scrapbook. Kim DePeaux was honored with The Mother Theresa award, the highest award given by NY State. Jeannine Mannarino was reappointed as NYS Military & Veteran Affairs.

In August we hosted an FFAI brunch which featured Dolores Desch, National FFAI chair who gave a heartfelt presentation on happenings in Ireland.

The ladies came together after summer break in September and held our annual Birthright Baby Shower and Potluck luncheon. Many beautiful baby gifts were donated by our members.



(Left to right) US Special Envoy for Northern Ireland Joseph Kennedy III, National LAOH President Marilyn Madigan, LAOH National Presidential Adviser Dan Dennehy, Albany Division 1 President and National FFAI Chair Dolores Desch, Sinn Fein President MaryLou McDonald, North American Rep for Sinn Fein Ciaran Quinn, National Webmaster Brianna Curran, Relatives for Justice Director Mark Thompson



Catholic Charities officer, Shelly Valek stands in front of a table of donations for Birthright



Schenectady LAOH Member Kim DePeaux received the NYS Mother Teresa award



Halloween began as a pagan celebration over 2,000 years ago in Ireland as part of a festival known as 'Samhain'. Traditionally celebrated on the 31<sup>st</sup> of October – 1<sup>st</sup> November, the Celtic festival of Samhain celebrates the end of the annual harvest and the coming of Winter

Traditionally, turnips are harvested over the autumn period right up to Halloween. Faces would be carved into these turnips and left outside their homes to scare any nasty spirits. Over the years pumpkins have become much more popular due to their size and color.





**WWW.LADIESAOH.COM**  
See website for details

You are invited to participate in the  
Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, National Irish  
History Contest for students Grades 6 through 12.  
**TOPIC: 2023-2024 Irish History Contest, Level 1 & 2**  
**Identify Women who became involved in the Irish**  
**Independence Movement and/or To Free the North**  
**from British Colonialism**

Who were the individual Women? What part did they  
play? Why was their involvement critical?  
What was the outcome of their participation?

**WIN CASH PRIZES!!!**

For contest rules and entry details contact  
NAME \_\_\_\_\_

Local Contact Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**DEADLINE FOR ENTRY NOV 15, 2023**