

# Lady Hibernian Herald

Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians - Irish · Catholic · American

July 2023

## President's letter

This past spring, I was honored to represent the LAOH in many special events. In April, seven leading Irish American organizations including the Ancient Order of Hibernians, Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Friends of Sinn Féin, Irish American Unity Conference, James Connolly Labor Coalition, Friendly Sons of St. Patrick, Brehon Law Societies of New York City, Nassau County and Suffolk County sponsored the Reflections on the Good Friday Agreements: Twenty-five years of Peace and Progress at the Cooper Union Hall in New York City. This event featured President Bill Clinton and Gerry Adams as speakers. I was honored to participate as a panelist. In the Press Releases for the event many of the sponsoring organizations shared their reflections. The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians were quoted "As we commemorate the Anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement, we remember all the advocates for peace and justice on both sides of the Atlantic. We especially recognize the impact of the women in the North of Ireland for their dedication and commitment to peace and justice issues. Their advocacy is making peace a reality for their children and grandchildren."

The publication of **Trasna na dTonnta-Across the Waves Women's reflection on the Good Friday Agreement** featuring women on both sides of the Atlantic that were advocates for peace and social justice issues in the North of Ireland was released in Belfast at Áras Uí Chonghaile Falls Road. This publication was a joint project with

Relatives for Justice and will be one that historians will value in their research on this period of Irish History. Women need to be remembered in their role in history.

I also attended the Conference at Queens University on Good Friday Agreement at Twenty Five. What an experience to honor this important milestone and hear from the active participants who signed or had a role in this important document including Senator George Mitchell.

My personal highlight of my time in Belfast was being invited to speak at the Relatives for Justice event "It is Different for Mothers." The Event was the Public display of Portraits of Mothers who lost their children during the Troubles. Many of the Mothers featured in the Portraits were present at the event and I was so humbled to be able to address them. I quoted some lines from the Poem "Mother" by Patrick Pears and a friend Mary Monty from Belfast went home that evening and wrote out the entire Poem on a wooden plaque in the shape of a heart for me. What a special gift and memory.

I was honored to attend the Global Irish Forum with National Secretary Sandi Swift, National FFAI Chair Dolores Desch, National Immigration Chair Siobhan Denney, National Webmaster Brianna Curran, Special Advisor Dan Dennehy, Ohio FFAI Chair Rita O'Hara, President of American Woman's Organization/Connecticut LAOH member

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Next deadline for the Herald is September 30, 2023

Social Justice

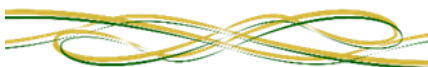
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## President's letter continued

Monica Welch and Special Guest Matt Morrison.

The theme of the Forum was “Le Cheile Aris -Together Again” The Forum was opened with an Address from Michael Martin TD Tanaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Defense. Sean Fleming TD Minister of State for International Development and Diaspora also addressed the delegation. The first day included three Panel Discussions on the topics: “Responding to the needs of and staying relevant to, an evolving diaspora” “Inclusively, diversity and belonging amongst Irish diaspora communities” and “Building networks to promote economic, cultural and social connections between diaspora communities, their host countries and Ireland.” Also on the first day, the delegates met in small groups to share their ideas and concerns that are important to the worldwide Irish Community. There was a special Presentation on Consular Services and Passport Services, Citizen Services of the Department of Foreign Affairs. The first day concluded with a wonderful reception in the State Apartments of Dublin Castle. New friendships and networks were started during the first day. I was privileged to be interviewed as the National President of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians and part of the interview was showed at the Forum. The Global Irish Forum was livestreamed and can also be seen on the Department of Foreign Affairs website.

The final day included more panel discussions on Our Culture and Influence. The titles of the Panels were “Irish arts and cultural organizations as connections to the Irish diaspora and international audiences” and “Passing on the torch to future generations of the Irish diaspora.” The day concluded with open discussions from the delegations and Closing remarks from Joe Hackett Secretary General of the Department of Foreign Affairs. All those attending will be returning to their home countries with stronger ties to Ireland and Irish diaspora communities around the world. I was so honored and privilege to represent the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians and Irish America.



## National Vice President

### Mary Ann Lubinsky

On June 3, along with Past National President Margaret Hennessey, I attended the inaugural Degrees program given in Glen Allen Virginia by the new Tri-State Degree Team comprised of members from Mary Ryan Div #1, Henrico County, Virginia; Lt Col Dowd Div #1 Prince William County, Virginia; Carroll County LAOH Div #1, Maryland; and Daughters of Erin Div #9, District of Columbia.



Degree Team Members and Newly Degreed member (C).

1st row-Mary Grace Boyle, Betty McGowan, Laura Rossmore (C), Sissy McEntee(C), Lucy Lindsey(C), Susan Holman(C), Catherine Fadden(C).

2nd Row- Karen Yesolitis (C), Maria Humphries, Sissy McEntee (C), Mimi Klooppel, Lori Forbes, Trish Taylor, Kay Grill, Gwen Neary (C), Eileen Tarr (C).

Top row- Debbie Brokaw (C), Ellen Marie Hess, Ellie Kisicki, Jennifer Frost, Alice Alexander, Kelly Parks, Virginia Holman (C).

**Story continued on next page**

### National Secretary Sandi Swift

As State conventions are taking place, I want to remind you to use the form on the National Website's Secretary page to update new officer information. Additionally, the information for National Life Membership had previously been sent out and is on the website. The postmarked deadline is September 27, 2023.

<https://ladiesaoh.com/secretary/>

### National Irish Historian Peggy Cornish

It is with great pleasure that we announce the winners of the LAOH annual Irish essay contest.

Level 1 First Place is Abigail Lambert from Maryland, \$500.00.

Level 1 Second Place is Riley Finnegan from New York, \$250.00.

Level 2 First Place is Elizabeth Howard from Pennsylvania, \$1000.00.

Level 2 Second Place is Catherine Ryan from New York, \$500.00.

Congratulations to all.

### National Catholic Action Kathleen Diulus

Sisters, hope everyone is doing well! The LAOH was recently contacted by the Manager of the Missionary Sisters of the Holy Rosary and she has appealed to the generosity of the LAOH to help support the Convent. Sr. Conchita, a deceased LAOH member, was a driving force for fundraising for her religious sisters living in this Community. I thank the divisions/counties/states that have already sent donations. The manager of Convent has advised me that the Sisters have had special Masses said for the LAOH members as well as remembering them in their daily prayers.

Donations should be sent directly to me. These contributions will also be reflected on your quarterly Catholic Action donation report.

### National Treasurer Cathy Turck

I hope you are enjoying the warmer weather of summer and finding ways to relax and enjoy some time with your family and friends. A few quick treasury reminders. Any Division, County, or State Board 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.

Also, a quick reminder about preparing annual tax returns for the IRS. **Please Don't Do This!!** If your Division, County, or State Board receives information in the mail from the IRS requesting information, tax forms, returns, etc., please contact the National Treasurer immediately. The National Board will handle these matters for you. Kathryn M Keane, EA, and her staff at Macanta Business Services, continue to provide tax services for the LAOH National Board and this includes the annual returns for all the entities under the LAOH National Board.

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

2022-2023 LAOH, INC Fundraising WINNERS

week of	Prize	ticket #	Name	State
Thanksgiving	\$100.00	283	LAOH Div. #6	NJ
Christmases	\$100.00	132	FL State	FL
1/2/2023	\$25.00	760	Diane Howe	IL
1/9/2023	\$25.00	576	Jackie Lamprey	MA
1/16/2023	\$25.00	797	Kathy Pierce	OH
1/23/2023	\$25.00	556	LAOH VA St. Rd.	VA
1/30/2023	\$25.00	723	Richard Smith	OH
2/6/2023	\$25.00	585	Jeff Peternelli (KY)	PA
2/13/2023	\$25.00	349	Marianne Fleischer	NY
2/20/2023	\$25.00	70	Brianna Curran	PA
2/27/2023	\$25.00	571	Cindy Lloyd	MI
3/6/2023	\$25.00	69	Kathryn Keane	NY
3/13/2023	\$25.00	213	LAOH Div. #2-Holyoke	MA
St. Patrick's Day	\$100.00	751	LAOH OHIO ST. RD.	OH
3/20/2023	\$25.00	626	Ken Dersch	NY
3/27/2023	\$25.00	787	LAOH Div. #59	CT
4/3/2023	\$25.00	254	LAOH Div. #3 Jfk	MO
4/10/2023	\$25.00	268	Kelly Hajek	NE
4/17/2023	\$25.00	26	Karen Keane	NY
4/24/2023	\$25.00	22	Eileen Wallenhorst	OH
5/1/2023	\$25.00	143	Mary Delaney	FL
5/8/2023	\$25.00	646	Christine Knott	OH
5/15/2023	\$25.00	247	LAOH Padric Pearse Div. 1	MO
5/22/2023	\$25.00	9	Ann Wenneman	OH
5/29/2023	\$25.00	582	Marianne Sweeney	NJ
6/5/2023	\$25.00	711	Bernadette McInerney	CT
6/12/2023	\$25.00	374	LAOH Div. 1 Niagara	NY
6/19/2023	\$25.00	700	Ann Bagwell	IN
6/26/2023	\$25.00	224	LAOH Our Lady of Limerick	MI
JULY 4th 2023	\$1,000.00			

SEE WHO WON THE \$1,000.00 GRAND PRIZE

ON JULY 4th

[www.ladiesaoh/fundraising.com](http://www.ladiesaoh/fundraising.com) and Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians on Facebook

Thank you for your support!



## Freedom For All Ireland

### Dolores Desch

The monetary awards for the 2022-23 FFAI Christmas Appeal were presented in Ireland by National FFAI Chair Dolores Desch and National President Marilyn Madigan in April. They were joined by National Secretary Sandi Swift, National Webmaster Brianna Curran and FFAI Committee members Kathleen Savage, Rita O'Hara, Louise Sullivan, and Nancy Tindall-Sponsel. This year the LAOH awarded a record \$80,000 in Christmas Appeal grants and donations. Groups that we gave to include the Ballymurphy Massacre Families, Belfast National Graves Association, Bloody Sunday Trust (Museum of Free Derry), Bogside Artists, Bridges Beyond Boxing Belfast, Dúchas Oiriall, EALU, Greater New Lodge Cultural Society, Green Cross, Jim O'Neill & Robert Allsopp Memorial Flute Band Omagh Thunder Basketball, Passionist Peace and Reconciliation Office (Holy Cross), Relatives for Justice The Spring Project, St. Patrick's Center Downpatrick, The Martin McGuinness Foundation, The Witness Project, Tyrone National Graves Association, Springhill Westrock Massacre Committee, HerStory, James Connolly Center and Ireland's Future. All the groups we met with were very thankful for the funding, especially this year where the British government has cut funding significantly for nonprofits and charities in the north.

Along with Relatives for Justice we launched the *Trasna na dTonnta* ("Across the Waves") Women's Reflections on the Good Friday Agreement publication which included written submissions from women on both sides of the Atlantic on the subject. The event was hosted by the James Connolly Centre and attended by members of the community including John Finucane MP who spoke of the power of women during the conflict and their role in bringing peace to the community. The publication is available for download on our website <https://ladiesaoh.com/freedom-for-all-ireland/>. For more information and photos of the trip please visit our website as well as our FFAI Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/LAOHFFAI32>.



LAOH members outside the James Connolly Centre with John Finucane MP

## NOW AVAILABLE THROUGH THE NATIONAL SUPPLIES PAGE

Items can be ordered by using the order forms located on our National website **LadiesAOH.com**. On the Homepage, click on the National Supplies tab.

### LAOH PARADE SASH



Tri-color, green, white & orange, satin blend, fully lined with gold trim and 2" fringe. Prices starting at \$125.00 including embroidery.

### BLUE STAR MOTHER PIN



Mothers and Grandmothers of those currently serving active duty or reserves armed forces. Priced at \$5.00 plus shipping.

Questions? Contact Mary Jo Rawlins,  
[Laohnationalsupplies@gmail.com](mailto:Laohnationalsupplies@gmail.com)

## Catholic Social Justice Education

### How Catholic is Your Stance on Immigration?

Written by Mercy Sister Kathleen Smith, Member, LAOH National Political Education Committee and, Pennsylvania State Missions & Charities Officer

*“The more prosperous nations are obliged, to the extent they are able, to welcome the foreigner in search of the security and the means of livelihood which cannot be found in their country of origin.”*

**Catechism of the Catholic Church# 2241**

*“As a son of an immigrant family, I am happy to be a guest in this country, which was largely built by such families.”* **Pope Francis’ Speech at the White House of the United States, 9/23/2015**

Care for migrants has been a central theme of Pope Francis’ pontificate from the beginning. He visited the U.S.-Mexico border in 2016 offering Mass on the Mexican side and stated: Migrants are part of our human family, and our actions and inactions affect them. Indifference toward migrant people poisons the whole world.

Last year, on World Day for Migrants and Immigrants, Sept. 25, 2022, Pope Francis urged us to take action: *“Migrants are to be welcomed, accompanied, promoted, and integrated. Let us renew our commitment to building the future in accordance with God’s plan: a future in which migrants and refugees may live in peace with dignity.”*

The LAOH National PEC members took this to heart, and, in April 2023, some members were able to visit, reflect, pray, and experience **Columban Missionaries** welcoming the immigrants in Juarez and El Paso. The Columban Fathers and Sisters’ Border Missions are a part of who we support through our **Missions and Charities’** works.

Today’s immigrants have many of the same needs, hopes, and dreams of liberty and justice for all that our own Irish ancestors had! As Pennsylvanian Hibernians attending our biannual State Conference, we are living the dreamed of lifestyles our ancestors hoped would come about in the generations that followed them. Yes, we are gathered here to celebrate our Catholic faith, *our Hibernian motto* and our ancestors’ courageous actions and dreams that give us the privilege to be able to welcome immigrants to the United States.

Let’s open our ears and activate our Catholic Social Justice Values and Principles that speak to dignity and inclusivity. Let’s greet those today who are fleeing poverty, injustices, and violence to our neighborhoods and to our parishes. Let’s listen to their stories and recall our own.

**The United States is a nation of immigrants.** Did we so soon forget that the Irish were fleeing? What were they seeking? What was your family’s experience of immigration from Ireland? Can we, Hibernians, admit that Irish immigrants wore the hurts of the penal years, the famines and “the troubles”? We heard their stories retold and told again by us. We believed their stories. We are still telling those stories, sometimes with anger and sorrow! We inherited some of their scars! Ireland’s history told of the Irish living on knife-edged hungers. The two major man-made famines in Ireland that occurred in **1582-83** in Munster and in **1602-03** in Ulster were deliberately begun by British military tactics. Today we live with freedom on land that is richly blessed. We are living proof that when, the Great Famines of 1740–1741, 1845–1852, and 1879 caused hunger, many Irish chose to immigrate to the **Land of Promise and Opportunity**. Let’s share it with those in search of security, livelihoods, and their descendants’ futures today!

## PRAYER FOR IMMIGRANTS

Merciful God, we pray for families and individuals who have left or fled their homes, seeking safer and better lives. We lift up to you their hopes, fears, and needs, so that they may be protected on their journeys. We pray that their dignity and rights may be honored and upheld, and they may be welcomed with open arms into generous, hospitable, and compassionate communities. Amen.





## State News

### Rhode Island

Sunday May 21, 2023, several members of the LAOH, Division 12 Bessie Bradley participated in the dedication of a new monument to honor the ten brave men who gave up their lives in 1981 on Hunger Strike in the H-Blocks.

These ladies are members of the 1916 RI Commemorative Committee. This committee was responsible for the fundraising and installation of the monument dedicated in 2016 to those brave Irish Citizens and the Signatories of the Proclamation who gave their lives in 1916.

This new monument stands next to the 1916 Memorial located at the Greenway of the RI Irish Famine Memorial in downtown Providence, RI. Sunday's ceremony was solemn, respectful, and moving. Those in attendance were astounded, as well as educated by the words of our speakers. Martin Galvin, AOH Chairman for Freedom For All Ireland, gave a resounding and inspirational speech about this important event in the history of Ireland.

Music was provided by many local professional performers. A very touching poem was read to us by Sheila Hogg of Rhode Island in Gaelic. We were pleasantly surprised to have Malachy McCreesh, join us from Ireland with his family. They all went on to spend the afternoon at a reception held afterward at the Ceilidhe Club of Rhode Island.

Speakers:

Dr. Tricia McIvor, a local activist for the Irish cause and native of Derry.

Pat Sheenan, a hunger striker himself, activist and now an MLP of Sinn Fein in the Stormont Government in Belfast

Martin Galvin, AOH Chairman for Freedom For All Ireland and Irish Activist. Former Publicity Director for Irish Northern Aid during the Hunger Strikes in 1981

LAOH Participants: Maureen Benz, President, Marie Magee, Vice President, Eileen Benz, Secretary, Sara Benz, Historian, Kathleen Greenwell, Ann McCarthy and Dr. Tricia McIvor



Martin Galvin



Story continued on next page

## State News continued– Rhode Island



Pat Sheenan



Dr. Tricia McIvor

## Michigan

Karyn Mulligan was a guest speaker at a recent meeting of the **Ethel Kennedy Division** of Macomb County, Michigan. She is the Ortonville Community Emergency Fund Service Coordinator, based at St. Anne's, and serves the hunger needs in and around the Ortonville area. OCEF is made up of various area churches and civic organizations which helps raise funds and collect donations for those in need. Besides

their current clients they also have a jail ministry which supports the families of inmates. Karyn also shared some personal encounters with people who were willing to give what little they had to help make a difference in the lives of others. The Ethel Kennedy Division has supported this ministry with their annual collection.

The **Catherine McAuley Division** of Oakland County has been busy with a variety of events. Among their many activities were the following: They hosted a Euchre Party on May 7<sup>th</sup>. The proceeds went to one of their charities, Spectrum Community Services which provides community based, residential treatment for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and mental illness. On May 21<sup>st</sup> they hosted a Tea and sold pastries at St. Patrick's Senior Center Spring Festival. It was a wonderful day of Irish music and dance to benefit St. Patrick's Senior Center which provides meals, clothing and activities for needy senior citizens living in Detroit.

Erin O'Mera gave a wonderful presentation at their May meeting regarding the Mercy Education project. They presented her with a donation for the Mercy Education. They also held a baby shower at the May meeting for Guadalupe. Pink and blue tablecloths decorated the room. Members brought gifts of baby items, diapers and enjoyed a baby shower cake.

Julie Lewis one of the founding members of the Catherine McAuley Division was given a sendoff party as she moves to Florida. Julie was very influential at the State and Division levels holding both Division and State Presidents offices. A delicious dinner and laughs were shared by members of various divisions and State Board members. We'll miss you Julie. God Bless!



**Story continued on next page**



## State News Continued– Michigan



Julie Lewis' farewell party



Maureen Moriarty Root, President of the Catherine McAuley Division presented a bouquet to Julie Lewis

The **Rose Kennedy Division** of Wayne County has welcomed ten new members since the start of 2023. They honored Our Blessed Mother with a May Crowning following the monthly rosary at our May meeting. Their charities have included collecting gift cards for the retired IHM nuns living at the Motherhouse in Monroe, Mi.; and collecting clothing and shoeboxes for personal items for the Felician Sisters Appalachian Mission. They hosted a Ladies Spring Tea Party on Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup>. Seventy-nine ladies from two divisions attended. Many wore lovely hats and brought their favorite tea cup. Finger foods were served by the table hostess who outdid

themselves decorating their tables. A door prizes was given for the most outstanding hat.



The Annual Motor City Irish Festival was held June 9 -11. Some of our Divisions participated in this three-day event which featured, bands, dances, pipers, crafts and vendors. The McCauley Division's Peggy Gray chaired a Children's Tent where kids made Irish themed crafts and participated in presentations in Irish dance, music and Irish football. The Rose Kennedy Division sold bottled water, and Division President Brigid Taylor ran the Irish Cultural Tent which also had Irish books for sale.

**State President, Stacey Blair** has issued a "Call to Convention". The AOH/ LAOH Michigan State Convention will take place on July 28 & 29 in Flint, Michigan. Our Divisions are looking forward to an enjoyable and productive event

State news continued on next page



## State News continued

### Texas

Golden Rose sisters held our annual St. Brigid's Day Tea on the first Saturday in February in honor of Saint Brigid. 2023 was our largest gathering ever with 40 members and guests in attendance. We were able to send Saint Louise House \$1,500 this year, a new record for this event. St. Louise House is a local organization that provides long term support and care for mothers and children who would otherwise be homeless.

In April one of our members, Jennifer King Dimas, traveled to the border in El Paso, Texas with Hibernians from other divisions in the country to take part in the Columban Mission Border Awareness Encounter. The work of the Columban Mission focuses on justice, peace, and ecology. The group saw how the mission preserves the fragile ecology of the area by conserving water with their dish washing and showering strategies. Our Hibernian sisters spent time at Sacred Heart Church in El Paso where they have converted their gym into a shelter that houses and feeds 120 migrants a day. Sacred Heart Church receives supplies and donations from other churches in the area as well as from around the country. The Awareness Encounter included a visit to La Mujer Obera, a community organization founded by women who work on social justice issues for women and children, as well as a visit to Sin Fronteras Border Agricultural Workers Project created to support migrant farmers. The group also met field agents of the border patrol who have apprehended about 300 thousand felons at the border. The migrants are from all over the world, not just Mexico. The next stop was Juarez where they met with Sister Betty Campbell who told stories of the violence and hardship suffered at the border from the cartels and the drug smuggling.

In May several members of our Golden Rose Division visited Mt. Calvary Cemetery here in Austin. Mt. Calvary is the first Catholic Cemetery in Austin created in the 1870s. Local Catholics have recently saved the cemetery from demise by the highway expansion project proposed by the city. Most residents of the cemetery were born in foreign lands including Ireland. In addition to many prominent people in Austin society buried there, are workers who helped build the cathedral beginning in 1874.



### Ohio

Ohio LAOH held their convention and Installation of Officers June 24, 2023.



Newly Elected Ohio State Board Officers/Appointees

From left: Rita O'Hara, Colleen McKenzie, Lynette McMullen, Cindee Case, Nicky Parks-Norris, Lisa O'Connell-Paccioretti, Marie Rizzo. Part of newly elected but not pictured: Sarah O'Brien, Sherri McNeil, and Toni Dodge

Our Lady of the Rosary Division 5 & 10 Cleveland, have been busy: In April we Hosted an Easter Egg Hunt, in May we had a Garage Sale, and our Chaplin Fr. Tom was honored by the 2023 Irish Archives Walks of Life, in June we volunteered and supported the Westside Catholic Center's 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Pancake Run and attended our State Convention in Cincinnati, Ohio. During all 3

**Story continued on next page**

## State News continued– Ohio

months we welcomed New Members and adopted a Garden at Westside Irish American Club.



## New York

Auburn- Anne Greer celebrates 70 years in the LAOH



Anne Greer (center) with her son John Greer and niece Denise Sobus at the JFK Division # 1 in Auburn, N.Y

Division 1 and 4, Monroe County

We continue to work on the New York State Convention to be taking place here in July of 2023. It's an exciting time and we look forward to hosting our Sisters!

Our monthly charitable and/or mission projects have really taken off. In June we donated money to purchase refreshments at the Mary Cariola Center's graduation events. In the past we donated homemade baked goods but have not been able to do that since Covid. Mary Cariola is a school that serves students with different abilities from pre-school up to 21 years of age. Thank you' Pat Crowley for organizing our participation. Our July mission was sponsoring our LAOH sister, Patty Flanigan, as she rode her bicycle for the Diabetes fundraiser, Tour de Cure. Our August project was completed in September. On September 18th eight of our ladies volunteered at Mary Cariola's annual walk-a-thon. **Story continued on next page**

## State News continued– New York

We worked at the tee shirt table and helped at the registration table. Thank you, Pat Crowley, for again coordinating our part in this fun event. The September project was one that we have been working towards for a while now. Thank you, Theresa Gangemi, for persevering! Holy Sepulcher is a large cemetery in Rochester. For some time now we have been trying to arrange our cleaning of the graves of nuns from the Sister's of St Joseph and Sisters of Mercy orders. The grave markers were flush with the ground, overgrown and were barely visible. The first job was to clear around them so that they could be seen. On September 25<sup>th</sup> participants were asked to bring work gloves, small spades and gardening tools and a lot of energy to start the work! Several other Irish community groups expressed interest in participating. Members of the LAOH, AOH, Emerald Society and O'Rorke Society all worked together and were able to clear 500 grave makers and make them visible! After working from noon to three PM everyone gathered at Romig's restaurant to rest and celebrate the days accomplishments.

Rochester has the good fortune to have two special connections to places in Ireland. Rochester's Ireland Sister City is Waterford. Our International Sister County is Cavan. On September 23<sup>rd</sup> we welcomed the Mayor of the city of Cavan, John Paul Feeley and his wife Niamh and County Executive of the county of Cavan, Tommy Ryan and his wife Ann to Rochester. The weekend was one full of activities; lunch at Genesee Brew House, dinner with Monroe County Executive, Adam Bello, signing of a proclamation about being Sister Cities, the opening of the Fringe Fest (a local festival of the performing arts), and a meeting with the Mayor of Rochester, Malik Evans. A highlight was the visit to Holy Sepulcher Cemetery where the graves of Colonel Patrick O'Rorke, a Civil War hero who was born in County Cavan and the that of Catherine Wheelright, mother of Eamon DeValera are located. Unfortunately, the attempt to go on a ride of the Erie Canal was fraught with scheduling and mechanical issues. But the Cavan visitors did walk along the canal and were able to see what many, many Irishmen built! Saturday night there was a casual dinner at Timothy Patrick's East Rochester where food and song were enjoyed by all. Local television station WHAM

channel 13 featured the visit on their Bright Spot segment, a nightly feature that highlights a story of local interest. We were invited to go to Ireland in July for a global homecoming festival, Cavan Calling, for the Cavan Diaspora around the world. Special thanks to Gayle Shalvoy and her husband Chris for coordinating this massive event.

Our Mass for deceased members was on November 18<sup>th</sup> and was a bit different than in the past. This year we held our Mass for deceased members with our AOH brothers. The Mass was celebrated at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Brighton. A joint reception at the Church hall followed the Mass. Our St Brigid's Mass was held on February 5<sup>th</sup> at St John the Evangelist in Rochester. Thank you Anne Brennan for scheduling our Masses.

In December we participated in two wonderful local activities. Once again five of our sisters participated in Operation Foodbasket, This annual event was started over 40 years ago by employees in the Xerox Business Services Department in response to a great need in the city. Nearly half of the children living in Rochester live in poverty. This massive effort is 100% staffed by volunteers and involves over 1000 donors and many local companies. Each year this program provides food and toys to local families at Christmastime. It involves sorting items, scheduling pick-ups and distributing the gift baskets. It always seems to happen that pick-up day is a very cold one! Thank you to LAOH members Jeanne Leo, Marge Jacobs, Patty Flanigan, Deb Rossi and Theresa Gangemi for braving the cold to volunteer at this worthwhile event. We also provided gifts for six individuals and Holiday Meal gift cards for groceries for many more through Catholic Charities and Community Center. They received so many donations that it was a record-breaking year of generosity for the program! Eleven of our ladies donated to the effort. Kathy Weinmann coordinated our participation, collected and delivered our donations. Thank you, Kathy for heading this up again this year.

For some time now we have been working on expanding our knowledge of all things Irish. To that end our Historian

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Amy Maher spoke to us about The Great Hunger and on a more light hearted note, cultural traits that make the Irish so Irish! Both were informative.

March means a busy time for all those who are Irish and of Irish descent. Parade Day, March 11, began with Mass that we sponsor every year. A breakfast at Filiger's downtown with our AOH brothers followed. The parade itself stepped off at noon and was followed by a gathering at PG's in East Rochester with our AOH brothers.

On April 2 we supplied, prepared and served breakfast to the residents of our local Ronald McDonald House. It was a wonderful experience that we plan to do again. Another "service" that we have decided to provide is one to our sisters who do not have email. Each month we are mailing them our meeting minutes. We feel this is a great way to keep everyone connected and informed.



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 110th 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



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



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

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## State News continued– New York

Albany continued



Albany JFK Division 1 Members(standing) Kimberly Clancy (left) 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



(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

JFK Division 1, Schenectady has had a busy spring. We started with the NYS board meeting in May. The weekend always starts on Friday with a golf tournament fundraiser. The work of the order gets done on Saturday and ends with Mass being said at the Mass rock on Sunday by Fr Reid. At the meeting, member Peggy Osborne was presented with her 25-year certificate by NYS President Aggie O'Leary. Irish Historian Susan Callaghan was presented with certificates and prizes for our 2 NYS Irish History winners. We are proud of them.

We have collected items for Catholic Charities and cooked for Street Soldiers, a grass roots organization who feed the homeless and underprivileged.

In June, the NYS Trinity Degree Team exemplified the Major degrees at our hall, and we had 5 of our new members make their degrees. Congratulations to all the candidates.

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## State News continued– New York

Schenectady continued:



Golf Tournament: L to R Schenectady members Cathy Turck, and Kim DePeaux, NYS President Aggie O'Leary and Past National President Karen Keane



Peggy Osborne (left) being presented a 25 year certificate form NYS President Aggie O'Leary



Schenectady County Historian, Susan Callaghan being presented with certificates and prizes for the 2 NYS winners in the Irish History contest



New Degree members: Front row: Diane Rosen, Norma Woodall, Mickie Baldwin. Back row: Division President Mary Sieder, Emma Osborne, Patricia Stearns



Schenectady Members cooking for the homeless. L to R Betsy Henderson, Cathy Turck, Leah Darcy