

# Lady Hibernian Herald

Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians - Irish · Catholic · American

August 2022

## President's letter

### Gratitude

It was fantastic to be able to come together at the recent Convention held in Pittsburgh. A special thanks to Sean Pender, Kathie Linton, Denny Maher, Eileen O'Malley and the local committee for all their dedication and hard work in making sure this convention was a success. The social activities were enjoyed by all. We were all so grateful to be spending time together as a Hibernian family.

I am so grateful and blessed to be a member of the LAOH. Our members across the country have lived up to the legacy of our founding Sisters. We have a long proud history of living our motto of Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity. We make a difference in the communities where we live. Thank you for your dedication and commitment to our Order.

I am especially grateful for the leadership of our Immediate Past President Karen Keane. She led our Order during a very challenging time but we came out strong and committed to the principles of our Order. We should all be grateful for the technology that helped to strengthen our Sisterhood from coast

to coast.

We had a very productive business portion of the Convention. Our members are engaged. We as a Sisterhood have embraced Catholic Social Justices, Women and Women Veterans issues to name a few. We are making a difference by standing up for our beliefs and for this we all should be grateful. Women are the heart of any society. The LAOH is the heart of Irish America and our voices will be heard.

Most importantly I am very grateful that my Sisters have placed their trust in me to lead the Order we all love. I look forward to the challenges ahead knowing that a Sisters help is always near. United we can accomplish anything for the good of the Order. We have a fantastic group of women on the National Board and those serving in leadership positions on all levels. How lucky are we to have such committed and dedicated women willing to serve.

Over a century ago an AOH President stated, "that the Ladies Auxiliary is destined to become the greatest fraternal society of Catholic woman on this continent." As we begin the next

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chapter of our history, I am grateful that we can say that the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians is the greatest Irish American Woman's Organization thanks to each and every member who has dedicated themselves to our motto of Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity.

Congratulations to our new board officers: Top Kathleen Diulus and bottom Natalie Peterinelli



Left to right: Immediate Past President Karen Keane with National President Marilyn Madigan (Photo courtesy of Nuala Percell)



Front row: Kathleen Diulus, Margaret Cornish, Sandy Swift, Marilyn Madigan, Mary Ann Lubinsky, Cathy Turck, Natalie Peterinelli

Back row: Karen Keane, Kathie Linton, Siobhan Dennehy, Gail Dapolito, Kathryn Keane, Christina Parisi, Ann Durkin Fischer, Maire Leffel, Mary Jo Rawlins, Brianna Curran, Kim DePeaux, Dolores Desch

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### **Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians Resolutions**

The following LAOH Resolutions were approved during the 2020 Virtual National Convention on Saturday, July 25, 2020.

1. Therefore, be it resolved that We the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc. will first and foremost renew our pledge of loyalty to our Holy Father and all the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church without exception.

2. Therefore, be it resolved that We, the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc. will support the just treatment of all immigrants, including the Irish nationals that have supported and defended the United States of America for generations.

3. Therefore, be it resolved that We, the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc. will support diplomatic intervention in the peace process in Northern Ireland in accordance with the Good Friday Agreement. Furthermore, we continue to support the MacBride Principles, the McGuinness Principles, fight for the reinstatements of the civil rights of the political ex-prisoners in Northern Ireland, and end the English partition of Ireland and assist in bringing a lasting peace to a united and free Ireland.

4. Therefore, be it resolved that We, the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc. will continue to work for the growth of our Noble Order throughout the United States, as well as empowering all the membership to combat anti-Irish and anti-Catholic images and statements in our culture.

Passed 5. Therefore, be it resolved that We, the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc. will, as in the spirit of the Irish Bards, continue to foster the learning of Irish history which will assure the proper and correct retelling of our history with emphasis on Irish women for future generations.

6. Therefore, be it resolved that We, the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc. will pray for the victims of the COVID-19 Pandemic and their families throughout the world. We also continue to pray for our essential workers as well as for our country as we navigate these uncertain times.

7. Therefore, be it resolved that We, the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc. wish to thank and show our appreciation to the Florida 2020 Convention Committee who worked so hard in preparing for this convention.

### **POLITICAL EDUCATION NEWS**

**Gail Dapolito, Chair**

Sisters,

I am proud to provide the social justice position statements that were adopted at the 2022 LAOH National Convention :

#### **DISABILITY RIGHTS**

The LAOH takes the following position on Disability Rights Issues:

Disabled persons are not “other” and should not be marginalized in society. Persons with disabilities must have the same opportunities to contribute to society as non-disabled persons. All laws and policies that affect disabled persons must have input from the disabled community.

All parishes should implement and follow the USCCB Guidelines for the Celebration of the Sacraments with Persons with Disabilities. All parishes should be welcoming, safe, and inclusive spaces, for persons with disabilities.

LAOH members are encouraged to work within their parishes in outreach to disabled persons and families with persons with disabilities, to ensure accessibility to Mass, the sacraments and to all parish activities. Persons with disabilities and/or their representatives should be included in discussions about parish activities and events, especially in discussions about accessibility.

The LAOH should recruit and welcome members with physical and intellectual disabilities and make accommodation for their participation in all meetings and events.

Providing healthcare, and residential, employment and educational opportunities to persons with disabilities

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## LAOH Virtual Convention Held continued from front page

should be a priority for the Catholic Church and Local, State, and Federal Governments.

LAOH members are encouraged to ensure Local, State, and Federal elected officials know that they support legislation that promotes access to healthcare, housing, and employment for persons with disabilities, including legislation that helps the caregiving economy.

Persons with disabilities must be free from abuse and neglect in their living, school, and work environments. Caregivers and others who provide services and care for persons with disabilities should receive the best training possible and should be recognized, in terms of salary and respect, for the critical work they do in caring for the most vulnerable.

The effect of climate change today greatly affects future generations of US citizens. The LAOH supports U.S.'s efforts to join global efforts to reduce the negative effects of climate change.

LAOH members are encouraged to consider individual actions that can reduce the amount of air, land, and water pollution. Individuals can make a difference in their parishes and schools by participating in discussions of ways their communities can end polluting practices. Individuals can let their elected officials know they support legislation that brings justice to communities suffering from environmental pollution and legislation that will lead to a cleaner environment for future generations.

### ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

The LAOH National Political Education Committee takes the following position on

#### Environmental **Justice** Issues:

All people have the right to breathe clean air and have ready access to clean water.

Environmental injustice is a sin against humanity and all God's creations.

Environmental justice is a social justice concern that continues to need to be addressed by Catholic social justice policies, U.S. Government Policies and individual actions. The LAOH supports the efforts of the Catholic Church to work with Local, State and Federal Governments, as well as local community groups to address environmental injustice.

Communities most affected by proposed environmental practices and policies must be included, at every level (Local, State and Federal), in discussions and development of those policies and practices.

Plans in the U.S. to transition to cleaner energy sources should at every level (i.e., Local, State and Federal) acknowledge the potential financial effects on communities that have relied on the fossil fuel industry and include plans to aid those communities in the transition.



#### **LAOH National Secretary Sandi Riley Swift**

Sisters, this year's convention was wonderful. My thanks and appreciation to the convention committee for all their hard work. Having been on a team that put on a National convention, I know the work it takes to make it such a success. It was a great feeling to see everyone in person and share our time together.

I want to thank you for your continued support, and it is my honor and privilege to serve you as your National Secretary. I look forward to working with the State Secretaries and I will be sending out a list of Zoom meeting dates. If you are a County or Division Secretary and want to attend the Zoom meetings, please let your State Secretary know. I am excited to see what we can do to move our order even further and advance the simplicity of doing State membership reports.





## 2022 St. Brigid Humanitarian Award

The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians are proud to announce that Margaret McAuliffe of San Francisco California is the Recipient of the 2022 St. Brigid Humanitarian Award. [The prestigious](#) St. Brigid of Ireland Humanitarian award will be presented on Irish Night Friday July 15 at the Ancient Order of Hibernians and Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians National Convention held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Margaret Spillane McAuliffe immigrated to the United States from County Longford, Ireland in 1959. She met her husband Dan are the proud parents of James making their home in San Francisco.

Margaret has shared her time, talent and treasure with her community. She is active in her church on the parish and diocese levels working with St, Phillip, St Martin De Pores Society, Alpha Pregnancy Center, Catholic Women organizations and the Good Shepard Grace Center. Her involvement includes helping the unborn to the elderly and those dealing with life challenges with alcohol and drug addictions.

She is very active in the Irish Community of San Francisco. Being an immigrant herself, she works with the Irish Immigration Pastoral Center. The McAuliffes have hosted J1 Visa holders. They gave support to family members of the victims of the 2015 Balcony collapse including raising funds to help with funeral expenses.

In her nomination, State President Kathleen McCarthy stated “When you think of our Motto of Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity you not only think of Margaret you see it in every action and everything she does. She is the true spirit of what a member of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians should be.”

Margaret McAuliffe is an excellent choice for this prestigious Award in honor of our Patron St. Brigid; a woman of faith and action.



Left to right: Karen Keane, Margaret McAuliffe, Marylyn Madigan

(Picture courtesy of Nuala Percell)

## Immediate Past President

### National Organizer

**Karen Keane**

Sisters,

I am so happy to be writing to you as the Immediate Past National President. I loved serving you as National President, but right now I am so excited that our Order is under the leadership of Marilyn Madigan. We met working together on the National Constitution Steering Committee appointed by Past National President Maureen Shelton. At first, I knew nothing about Marilyn except that she went straight to the Pope to get her parish reopened. I knew she was a woman of passion, action, and dedication. Over the years we worked closely together on the National Board, and she was one of my cornerstones during my presidency. We are so lucky to have her.

The Convention in Pittsburgh was fantastic. Hands down it had the best food of any convention and I think I may want to retire to Pittsburgh if they have cookie buffets at their events. The local committee went above and beyond to ensure that the events were coordinated, fun, and well attended.

For the first time, we had the big banner for photos (thank you Marilyn for pushing that even thou I wasn't sold) and Facebook and Twitter lit up with all the photographs in front of our logo. We also had first time attendees identified with pink ribbons and raised a tremendous amount of money for the local charities. Your generosity never fails to amaze me.

On the business side, we got through a ton of Constitutional changes. Thank you to Mary T Leathem for taking on that task and to her committee (Kim Clancy, Sissy Durkee, and Bernadette Sullivan) for all their hard work. We accepted political action position statements based on the teaching of our Church and can now say we are working for a better planet Earth for all of God's children. We were updated, educated, and inspired on the foundation issues of Catholic Action, Freedom for All Ireland, Immigration, and membership. We also reviewed what actions we can and cannot take under our tax status.

We were very fortunate to have elections for three positions with six fine leaders answering the call to service to the LAOH. Each candidate was well qualified and brought ideas to the Order. I thank each Sister who stepped up.

At the Convention, we passed our Resolutions for 2022 which can be seen on our website.

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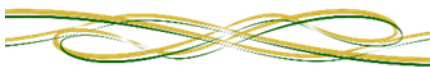
## IPP/Organizer continued

The officers' and committee reports will be posted soon. The proceedings (a complete record of all business during the last two years) will be compiled soon and available on the website.

Also, we recommitted ourselves to the Order for the next two years and hopefully, we will grow in power, exposure, and membership. This can only happen when the members continue their “boots on the ground” work and bring our message to Catholic women 18 and older.

If you need me for anything, I am still available at [laohkaren@live.com](mailto:laohkaren@live.com).

Stay Strong my Sisters



### Missions and Charities Wrap-up

Cathy Turck

As my term as the National Missions and Charities Officer ends, I would be remiss if I didn't share with everyone my gratitude and heartfelt appreciation for all you have been able to accomplish these past two years. I am so proud of all you have done. At the National Convention in Pittsburgh, we were able to present Sister Corona Colleary from the Columban Sisters a check for \$15,500. We were also able to present Father Chris Saenz from the Columban Fathers with a check for \$14,000 for donations and a check for \$8,000 for Mass Stipends. When you add this to the checks that we presented the Columban Sisters and Columban Fathers for the first year of my term, we have been able to donate over \$70,000 to the Missions. In addition to this we were able to present 12 separate organizations with one-time grants ranging from \$500 to \$4,384 from our Appeals for Aid fund. A total of approximately \$16,400 was distributed from the Appeals for Aid Fund. None of this would have been possible without the generosity of our membership. This year at the National Convention we established a Missions and Charities award to recognize the state that donated the most money per member to the Missions and Appeals for Aid fund. I was happy to present this to the state of California this year.

The dedication of our members to fundraise for our Missions was truly inspirational. You are living our motto of Christian Charity in your communities

throughout the country and elevating the name of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians in all you do for charity. You ladies rock!!

I loved my time with you as your National Missions and Charities Officer and I look forward to serving you as Treasurer. Be well.



Cathy Turck (left) with California State president Kathleen McCarthy



Father Chris Saenz (left) with Cathy Turck



## **The following article appeared in the Hibernian Digest.**

### **May I speak, please? Thoughts from a member.**

The LAOH and the AOH are membership organizations dating back to 1894 and 1836, respectively, in America. Their survival is dependent upon adding new members each year to replace an aging membership. We seek new members that believe in our shared goals, are willing to do the “work” of the order, are motivated, inspired, and willing to serve. But are we a democracy? Does every single member have a voice? Does leadership listen to these voices? Good leaders listen. Good leaders do not rule in an absolute, authoritative manner. Good leaders engage and inform the membership. They share information accurately and completely. Good leaders keep their egos in check and do everything they can to build the membership, not divide and isolate. Organizations that are dependent on members joining for their continued existence, will struggle to survive unless leaders choose to lead by example and not by command.

Is it possible to hear thousands of LAOH and AOH members’ voices all at once? Honestly, probably not. So, we have Division, County, State, and National Boards elected by the membership to carry forward the voices of these members. This is a representative democracy, so to speak. We have State and National Board meetings and Conventions with assigned Delegates to bring forward the interests, concerns, and issues that have been expressed by the members of their division, county, and state. To bring forth **their** voices, so that their members’ voices will be heard. To discourage members from using their voices because leadership may not want to hear something “different” or something that may be in opposition to the leaders’ personal viewpoint, is just unhealthy for a membership organization. It compromises the ability to build the membership because let’s face it, who would join an organization if you were told your voice didn’t matter and that Officers were more important than members. I suspect, not many would join.

I believe we are at a crucial turning point in our great Orders. Both LAOH and AOH. Do we build up and strengthen the membership or does it dwindle and fade? Do we engage members from all states, big and small, to have a voice or do we let a few decide the direction of the Orders? Will we impair our orders with short sighted initiatives, or will we work diligently to select leaders who make it a priority to work together for the success of the Hibernians in

America as a whole? Only time will tell. I believe in our members as they are our greatest assets. And I believe their voices should be heard.

Cathy Turck, National Missions and Charities Officer

Member of Division 1, Schenectady, NY



## **Freedom For All Ireland News**

### **FFAI Chair Dolores Desch**

At the convention in Pittsburgh, we held a very engaged FFAI Committee Meeting with input from our LAOH members, AOH members and Ciaran Quinn of Sinn Fein. At our general session, Michelle Gildernew (MP) gave a captivating update on the current challenges and opportunities in Ireland. A copy of Michelle’s speech can be found on the FFAI Page of the LAOH website: <https://ladiesaoh.com/freedom-for-all-ireland/>.

The major issues of concern at this point are Brexit and Britain’s lack of adherence to the Protocol, Amnesty Legislation and forming the new government in Stormont.

Ciaran Quinn spoke on the recent election in the north where there was a major political shift. For the first time, a Nationalist leader, Michelle O’Neill is the First Minister elect with a Unionist DUP member as the Deputy Minister. The DUP have refused to form a government in Stormont since the May election. Ciaran also spoke of the significant impact of Irish America on developments in Ireland and the UK. The US played a major role in the development of the Good Friday Agreement which brought the peace to the north of Ireland and US support is critical in ensuring that there is no wavering on that agreement.

The recent announcement of a Seanad Eireann Public Consultation open to all on the constitutional future of Ireland is a welcome development intended to give all who have a stake in the future in Ireland a voice in planning for Irish unity. We look forward to commemorating the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement next year

**Story continued on next page**



## FFAI continued

against the backdrop of united Ireland discussions.

Last week, under the direction of President Madigan, I issued a “Call to Action” requesting members to contact their members of Congress to ask them to sign on to the Troubles Amnesty letter to the House of Lords and the Special Envoy to Northern Ireland letter to President Biden. These are critical bipartisan initiatives, and your efforts are appreciated. As Ciaran told us at convention, Irish America has an impact.

The Freedom for All Ireland Christmas Appeal donations are accepted year-round. Please mail your contribution to Dolores Desch, 20 Arlene Ave, Albany, NY 12203 and be sure to include your email address, entity name (Division, County, State) and whether there is a particular group on the list you want your donations sent to. Our FFAI Tour was a great success. You can find the PDF: **FFAI Hibernian Tour 2022 LAOH Report** on the FFAI Page on the website which you can download and share with your members. <https://ladiesaoh.com/freedom-for-all-ireland/> . It is a good resource for Divisions as it contains photos and summaries of each day of the tour. On that page we also have the YouTube video of the Grants Presentation from Belfast. Please Like and Follow our LAOH Freedom for All Ireland Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/LAOHFFAI32>, You can subscribe to my mailing list by sending an email to [laohnationalffai@gmail.com](mailto:laohnationalffai@gmail.com).



Michelle Gildernew speaking at the LAOH general session



Ciaran Quinn (Friends of Sinn Fein) and Michelle Gildernew (MP) address the Hibernian membership



Congratulations to the National Junior Hibernian of the Year from New York State.



Pictured with LAOH National President Marilyn Madigan





## Webmaster

**Briana Curran**

Hi Ladies, Please remember to send in your Convention Photos to be added to the website and submit your information for State/ County/ Division emails, websites, and social media pages. They can be added to our website. Email me at [laohnationalwebmaster@gmail.com](mailto:laohnationalwebmaster@gmail.com).



## State news

### DENVER, CO

So much has happened with our Denver division since the last Hibernian Herald was published in April. Our membership is growing by leaps and bounds. We have had six new members join since last April and have a few more applications waiting to be voted on. We hope to start a new division soon.

In April we reintroduced our Trivia Night Fundraising event at the Celtic on Market in Denver to great success. It was wonderful to see all of our members and their families and friends. Amy Moran-Munchmore, our Irish Historian, was the MC for the night and did a great job keeping us on track...she is a kindergarten teacher so that really helps her keep us all in line! We raised over \$1800.00 which will be shared with our local charities. For a list of our charities visit [www.denverlaoh.org](http://www.denverlaoh.org) for more information.



LAOH Members Maureen McGee-Shea & Liz GoForth-Trivia

We are proud to announce record attendance at this year's convention! **Six** of our **Denver LAOH Division #1** sisters attended the 2022 National Convention in Pittsburgh and **five** received their degrees, Mary Russell-President, Nan Alonso-Vice President, Edrie O'Brien, Keri Jones & new member Daisy Rhodes. Sheila Thunboe, Treasurer attended the Degree Ceremony as an observer. We all agreed that the convention was informative but fun and we really enjoyed meeting our sisters from all over the country.



Edrie O'Brien, Daisy Rhodes, Nan Alonso-VP, Sheila Thunboe-Tres, Mary Russell-Pres, Keri Jones

Finally, in May our member, Guila Bickford welcomed her new "little hibernian" Nora Grace into the world at 9:30am and over 6 ½ pounds! Many of us were able to attend her baptism and share the joy of the day.



### LOUISIANA

Happy Anniversary to the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Margaret Haughery Division, New Orleans, Louisiana. Members gathered on Sunday, May 22, 2022, at the home of our President, Liz Rafferty, for our regular meeting and to celebrate 30 plus 1 years of Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity.

**Story continued on next page**

## State News Continued

Our Charter was issued on May 21, 1991, but because of the COVID restrictions last year and Hurricane Ida, we were not able to celebrate our milestone 30th Anniversary. Since things are more back to normal now, we decided to have a 30 plus 1 Anniversary Celebration.

We currently have nine (9) active members who have been with us since 1991. Two (2) of these members have their names on the original Charter as Division Officers. We are proud of these ladies who have been with us all these years.

After our business meeting concluded, we enjoyed a Pot Luck Lunch with a beautiful anniversary cake for dessert. Congratulations to the Margaret Haughery Division!!!



Seated: Shelly Power Standing L to R: Merle Guerin, Patti Johnston, Joan Eckholdt, Helen Roubion, Msgr. Ken Hedrick, Nora Lambert, Gerrie Martinez, Sean Hess, and Liz Rafferty



## MISSOURI

The JFK Division 3 in Missouri have been very busy. In March we attended the annual Jimmy Wahl Hardhats, Hoses and Handcuffs, which honors local labor leaders, firefighters, police officers, civic leaders and our St. Patrick's Day Grand Marshall, this event always leads up to St. Patrick's day where we celebrate Mass and the parade with community festival in the Irish community, known as Dogtown. Our member, Sandi Swift served as the Grand Marshal. The weather was beautiful and everyone had a great time.



Left: to right: Sandi Swift, Peggy Skredenske, former Grand Marshal and member of JFK Div 3 and Mary Jo Sullivan



Sandi Swift, Grand Marshal



## State News Continued



Left to right: Cathy White, JFK Div 3 President with Pat Brush and Julie Leicht



JFK Div 3 at the Emerald Ball

During May we hold our annual baby shower for the Nurses for Newborns. This year we went to their facility and toured, after which we made a \$200 donation.

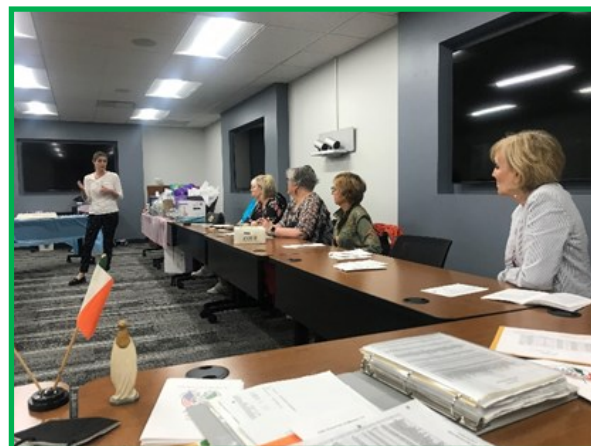


JFK in parade from the Grand Marshal's viewing stand.

In April we attended the Hibernian Emerald Ball, where one of our Sisters, Gwen Murphy, was the Ladies Hibernian of the Year.



Gwen Murphy and Family





State News Continued



Karen Keane (R) presenting Nicky Skubal with thanks from the LAOH

**NEW YORK**

Monroe– Divisions 1 and 4

In the spirit of the season, last December, five of our sisters volunteered to help with Operation Foodbasket, a group that was started at Xerox Corporation Business Services 41 years ago. The annual program, which is staffed 100% by volunteers, involves over 1000 donors, over 30 companies/organizations, and provides food and toys to local families at Christmas time. LAOH volunteers Jeanne Leo, Kathy Weinmann, Pat Crowley, Debbie Rossi, and Patty Flanigan worked on scheduling pick ups and distributing the gift baskets as families drove in, biked or walked to pick them up. The effort was made more complicated by COVID and by some pretty frigid weather. A special thank to Jeanne Leo for heading this up. We'd like to make this an annual volunteer effort on our part.

We began 2022 with the installation of our newly elected officers at our first meeting of the year. Our annual New Year's brunch had to be postponed due to COVID but we are looking at dates in the spring. It's nice to have a special event to look forward to! Also taking place at the first meeting were two presentations commemorating the solemn 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Bloody Sunday, January 30<sup>th</sup>, 1972. Our Irish Historian Amy Maher gave an informative talk about the event. Our President, Gayle Shalvoy,

then read the names of those who were killed and gave a brief summation of what has happened since in relation to the crimes committed that day. Thanks to both Amy and Gayle for helping us to remember the day and honor the dead.

The Mass in recognition of Saint Brigid was held on Sunday February 6<sup>th</sup> at Saint John the Evangelist Church in Rochester. It was well attended by our sisters. Thank you, Anne Brennan, for arranging that.

Of course, the big news for Irish Americans throughout most of the United States was that the Saint Patrick's Day parades and related activities were on! After two years of cancellations, we were all able to get out and show our Irish Pride. On March 4<sup>th</sup> President Gayle Shalvoy attended, as our representative, the introduction of those being honored in this year's parade held at the County building in downtown Rochester. Thank you, Gayle. Several Irish groups in the area work together every March to share our culture through music, dance, food and more thorough the presentation of Siasma (Gaelic word for folk entertainment) all over the county. Thank you, Theresa Gangemi for doing a cooking demonstration at one at which she made an Irish soda bread. The Rochester Americans hockey team hosted Irish Night on March 11<sup>th</sup> with a party deck and Irish dancers. Parade Day, March 12<sup>th</sup>, began with Mass at Saint Mary's Church in Rochester. We sponsor this annual event. Our Historian Amy Maher carried the Cross in the procession. A breakfast with our AOH brothers followed at Filgers East End restaurant. Parade step off was at 12:30 (or as close to 12:30 as Irish Time allows!). The ladies both walked beside and rode on the beautifully decorated float and sang God Bless America at the reviewing stand. For our efforts we were awarded 1<sup>st</sup> Place for Best Non-Commercial Unit!! Thank you, Debbie Rossi, for coordinating the float! Each year the Irish Children's Program sells single stem carnations and carnation boutonnieres as a fundraiser at the parade. Every summer the ICP flies Catholic and Protestant children from Ireland to Rochester to stay with local families for two weeks in the summer. Their efforts promote understanding and

**Story continued**

## State News Continued

unity among children of both faiths. COVID has prevented this from happening for the past two summers. Let's hope it will happen this year! Thanks to Jeanne Leo for organizing the LAOH volunteers Patty Flanigan, Marge Jacobs, and Debbie Rossi who worked with the ICP to prepare flowers for the sale. An after party sponsored by the AOH and the Emerald Society was held at Water Street Grill in Rochester. Our ladies had the opportunity to hold several fundraisers there and were very happy with the results. We held a raffle of five framed photographs of beautiful Irish scenes along with Irish themed mugs containing the makings for Irish coffee. We also sold Irish themed gloves and loaves of Irish soda bread that was generously donated by TOPS Friendly Markets who sponsor the parade. A huge thank you to the chair of the fundraising efforts, Amy Maher! Many thanks to all of the others who helped to make it such a festive and profitable day. Thanks to the fundraising committee; Chairperson, Amy Maher, and committee members Deirdre Hickey, Ellen Hallahan and Theresa Gangemi. Thank you, Deirdre Hickey, for providing table cloths and table easels. Thanks to Ellen Hallahan for providing table easels, raffle tickets and the ticket container. Thank you also to Jeanne Leo, Theresa Gangemi, Marge Jacobs, Kelly O'Brien, Emma Gordon, Debbie Rossi, Patty Flanigan for working the event. Thanks to Gayle Shalvoy for coordinating the TOPS soda bread donation. The best part of the whole series of events was being able to gather and enjoy each other's company again. Slainte'!

Member Anne Brennan graciously opened her home to us on May 1 for a group recitation of the Rosary. Afterwards we were treated to homemade scones and tea. Thank you, Anne! We are hoping to make group recitations of the Rosary a regular event for us.

On June 8 we held a dinner meeting at The Cobblestone on Main in Webster. It was a lovely meal and, as always, it is nice to gather and enjoy each other's company.

We have several fundraising and social events in the works and are looking forward to the spring and summer weather.





## State news continued



Congratulations to Albany LAOH Member Ann Marie Calabrese for being nominated for Nurse of the year.



## Albany

Members of the Albany LAOH and AOH were well represented at the National Convention. Congratulations to Karen Keane of JFK Division 1 on a successful term as National President. Congratulations to members of Father Tansey Division 5 Liam McNabb re-elected to the office of Treasurer and Tim McSweeney re-elected as District Director.



## Schenectady

What a great convention we had!! Division 1 in Schenectady, NY sent 8 ladies to our LAOH National Convention in Pittsburgh, many who were first timers to the National Convention. The ladies learned so much and all came back energized and inspired to continue the good works of the order. Our very own, Kim DePeaux, was re-appointed to the position of Editor of the *Lady Hibernian Herald* and Assistant Editor to the *Hibernian Digest* by the new National President, Marilyn Madigan. Cathy Turck was elected as National Treasurer and will continue representing New York State on the National Board.

During the Appeals for Aid Committee meeting, one of the charities that our division has supported for several years was selected to receive a one-time grant from the fund. *Things of My Very Own*, located in downtown Schenectady, was selected to receive a \$2500 grant. President Kim DePeaux was pleased to present the check to the Founder and CEO, Rayne Boncie, along with Mary Sieder, Division 1 Vice-President. This money will go a long way in providing for children in crisis that have been removed from their home.

Story continued on next page



## State news continued



Left to right: Mary Sieder, Kim DePeaux and Rayne Boncie

Our newest Division 1 member, Emma Osborne, graduated High School and will be attending Oswego University in the fall. Her parents, Peggy and Joe Osborne, are very proud of her. Emma is a 4<sup>th</sup> generation Schenectady Hibernian.



## Babylon

Division 2 hosts a Monthly Trivia night. Each Trivia night has a theme such as 80's night, Music, Pub, and Christmas In July. The trivia nights have been going on for about a year. Each month the crowd gets larger and larger. We have people that return monthly and new people each month that we are recruiting to become members of the LAOH. They are fun-filled nights with challenging questions, laughter, and enjoyment.



The winning team



Enjoying the game and the company

## State news continued

### Tarrytown

The LAOH Kitty Geissler, Div. 11. Tarrytown presented two separate awards at the Transfiguration School graduation, The Kitty Geissler medal and The Marion R. Smith Scholarship. These awards are not based entirely on a student's academic achievement but recognition for community service, school spirit and shows an interest in sports. Megan DeMeo, a CCD student was the recipient of the Marion Smith award and the Kitty Geissler medals went to Maggie Koraca and Althea Gheen. Congratulations to these outstanding graduates!

The Division recently hosted the LAOH Westchester County Convention where elections were held.

Several members are looking forward to attending the National Convention in Pittsburgh next month.



Recipients of the Kitty Geissler medal.  
Left Althea Gheen, right Maggie Koraca



Marion Smith Award recipient Megan DeMeo

### MICHIGAN



L-R: Monica O'Brien, President of the Ethel Kennedy Division and Michigan State President, Stacy Blair at the LAOH/AOH National Convention.

Peggy Gray Sullivan, Charter Member of the Catherine McAuley Division and current Michigan State Board Catholic Action threw out the first pitch at Jimmy John's Arena in Utica, Michigan. Peggy was invited as the Grand Marshall of the Detroit St. Patrick Parade. While the catcher had to bend down and reach out, he caught it! Good throw Peggy!



Peggy Gray Sullivan



Story continued on next page



## State news continued



The Rose Kennedy Division celebrated the upcoming wedding of one of their members at their June dinner/meeting. Jennifer Laird is marrying Michael Nagrant on August 27<sup>th</sup>. Here she is pictured with many of her Division sisters.



Jennifer Laird from the Rose Kennedy Division holds up one of the gifts she received.



Members of the Sarah Regan Division in Livingston County Michigan recently met for a dinner meeting at the Whitmore Lake Tavern on Whitmore Lake in Hamberg, Mi. From L-R Anne Lezotte, Therese Gainer, Gloria Ozborn and Margaret Mullaly Henne.

## California

California delegates presented our Sister Andrea Reilly with a beautiful brooch in remembrance of her first convention and in receiving her Degrees



Pictured (L to R) Margaret McAuliffe, Peggy Cornish, Andrea Reilly, Kate McCarthy and Chris Del Carlo.



ST Patrick and Friends at the icebreaker. Pictured (L TO R) Pat O'Connell (IL), Kate McCarthy (CA), ST Patrick, Peggy Cornish (CA), Chris Del Carlo (CA)



Ron Hagan / AOH Project St. Patrick Chair (L) Peggy Cornish LAOH National Catholic Action (R) Meet for the first time at National Convention 2022. We both look better in Person than on Zoom.



## Pictures from convention

Thank you to Nuala Purcell for her beautiful photos used

Installation mass and banquet





## Convention pictures continued



## Convention pictures continued





## Convention pictures continued





## Convention pictures continued



**THANK YOU  
PITTSBURGH!!!**

