

Lady Hibernian Herald

Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians - Irish · Catholic · American

January 2024

President's message

Reflections and Renewal

As I look back on the past year, I am very grateful for the opportunities that came my way. The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians participated in a Book Club with Sober Saint Patrick's Day on the Confession of St. Patrick. Partnered with Herstory to Celebrate St. Brigid as Ireland recognized St. Brigid's Day as a Bank Holiday for the first time.

In February, I was honored to present the Irish Echo 40 under 40 Awards to 3 of our members: Maggie Brogan of New York, Maura Flynn of Indiana and the Empowering Women Award to Brianna Curran of Pennsylvania. Another LAOH member Bridget Harrison of Ohio was also recognized.

On April 3, the LAOH was one of 7 sponsoring Organizations of the Reflections on the Good Friday Agreement 25 Years of Peace and Progress President Bill Clinton and Gerry Adams participated on a Panel with Representatives from the Ancient Order of Hibernians, Brehan Law Society, Friends of Sinn Fein, Friendly Sons of St. Patrick of Long Island, James Connolly Labour Coalition, and the Irish American Unity Conference. Many of our members were in

attendance.

National Vice President Mary Ann Lubinsky and I attended many events in Washington DC this past St. Patrick's Day. The LAOH was represented at many events starting with the Northern Ireland Bureau Breakfast, At the Breakfast, I was honored to present the FFAI 25th Anniversary Pin to Mary Lou McDonald, Michelle O'Neill and Ciaran Quinn of Sinn Fein. I attended the Conference sponsored by Georgetown's Institute for Women, Peace and Security: **Women at the Helm: The Unfinished Business of the Good Friday Agreement.**

Ambassador Melanne Vermeer was the Moderator of the Conference that commemorated the 25th Anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement focusing on the important role that women played in bringing and sustaining peace in Northern Ireland. The event featured leading women who participated in the historic peace agreement with current political leaders. Speakers participating were the Hon. Hillary Clinton, Taoiseach Leo Varadkar, H.E. Mary Robinson Former President of Ireland, Monica McWilliams Signatory to the Good Friday Agreement and Co-founder of the Northern Ireland Women's Coalition, H.E. Dame Karen Pierce Ambassador of the United Kingdom to the United

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President's message continued

States, Paul Narain U.S. consul General in Belfast, Hon Joseph Kennedy III U.S. Special Envoy to Northern Ireland. Michelle O'Neill First Minister (elect) of Northern Ireland, Jayne Brady Head of the Northern Ireland Civil Service, Liz O'Donnell Former Minister of State of Ireland, Emma Little-Pengelly Member of the Legislative Assembly of Northern Ireland, Patricia O'Lynn Member of the Legislative Assembly of Northern Ireland. Emma DeSouza writer, campaigner and next generation peacemaker, Avila Kilmurray Founding Member of the Northern Ireland Women's Coalition and Sandra Peake Director of WAVE Trauma Center. At the reception following the Conference, I was honored to present the FFAI 25th Anniversary Pin to both Mary Robinson and Monica McWilliams. We attended the Washington Ireland Program. The vision and mission of the Washington Ireland Program is "for a peaceful Northern Ireland and Ireland mutually supportive and constructive relationships between and within all communities and to develop, support and engage generations of leaders who can build and sustain these relationships." Taoiseach Leo Varadkar is an Alumni of this program and spoke of the importance of this Program. The highlight was the Ambassador's St. Patrick's Day Reception at her residence. At that event, I was privileged and honored to present pins to Ambassador Geraldine Byrne Nason, Special Envoy Joseph Kennedy III, Kathleen Kennedy Townsend and the new Honorary Consul for Ohio and friend Mark Owens. Kathleen Kennedy Townsend is assisting us obtain a submission to recognize the role of the late Ambassador Jean Kennedy in the peace process. Unfortunately, I was not able to personally present a pin to the Taoiseach, I was able to give a pin to his assistant to present on our behalf.

In April, I was honored and privileged to travel to Ireland with members of the LAOH FFAI Committee to distribute our donations to groups that encourage cross-community cooperation, economic development, social change, cross-border collaborations, Irish history and language education,

nationalist infrastructure maintenance and construction efforts, and Irish unification initiatives based on peace and justice for all throughout Ireland. 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 the trip 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 participate in the Global Irish Forum that was held on April 19, 20 and 21 at Dublin Castle. The Forum was hosted by the Department of Irish Affairs: Irish Abroad Unit. Irish organizations from Australia to the United Kingdom were present. North America was well represented by groups from Canada, Mexico and the United States. The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians were well represented with the National President Marilyn Madigan, 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 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

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President's message continued

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. The delegates 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.

We commemorated the 25th Anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement with our participation in an event held at the Cooper Union in New York, our 25th Anniversary Pin and the collaboration with Relatives for Justice with the publication of **Trasna na nTonnta Across the Waves Women's Reflection on the Good Friday Agreement**

I was honored to meet Bertie Ahern, the Sean McBride Humanitarian Award Recipient. Bertie Ahern served as the Taoiseach from 1997-2008. He was very instrumental in the Good Friday

Agreement working closely with Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom. I was honored to present him with a Proclamation from the National Board, our Good Friday FFAI pin and a copy to the book *Trasna na nTonnta*.

I was honored that Ambassador Geraldine Byrne Nason traveled to my hometown Cleveland for the Testimonial Weekend. While in Cleveland, the Ambassador spoke at the City Club of Cleveland and opened the Honorary Consul Office. There were 3 tables of LAOH and AOH members attending the Lecture at the City Club. I was honored to work with Mark Owens, the new Honorary Consul for Ohio to invite members of the LAOH and AOH National Boards for the Reception in his honor at the Union Club. The LAOH was honored that Irish Ambassador Geraldine Byrne Nason attended the Testimonial Dinner and the Inaugural Presentation of the Constance Markievicz Award. What an honor for Kathleen Savage and I.

The Testimonial Weekend will be one for the record books. The hospitality of my Cleveland Sisters was overwhelming. I am so proud to be a member of the Our Lady of the Rosary Division. The Testimonial Weekend was hosted by the Cleveland Divisions: Our Lady of the Rosary and the Deirfiur of Charity. These Divisions truly demonstrated our Motto of Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity.

I am excited that in the remaining portion of my term that our Order will be planning two great Commemorations: Brigid 1500 and the Centennial of the Nuns of the Battlefield. This St. Brigid's Day marks 1500 years since the death of St. Brigid. We are in the process of planning how we will be marking this special year for our Patron Saint. The Wayside Marker for the Nuns of the Battlefield Monument is at the second draft portion and hopefully will be a reality by the September 2024 Centennial of the Monument itself.

We have accomplished so much but we still need to continue to move forward. I believe the future of our Order is bright. We

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President's message continued

We received a wonderful Christmas gift when 8 of our Young members were nominated for the Irish Echo 40 under 40 Award. Congratulations to Kaitlyn Davis Denver Division, Emily Jester Maryland State Board, Bridget Linton Margaret Judge Division Akron, Ohio, Kristen Martino Div. 7 East Islip NY, Kiea McCourt Div 4 Huntington Township NY, Michaela McFadden Trenton, NY, Natalie Peterinelli, Our Lady of Knock KY and National Missions, and Margaret Walsh Div 10 Mercer County NJ. A special thank you to Amanda Bacque and the Young Hibernian Committee for another great Advent Calendar.

In the new year, I will be attending Nollaig na mBan (Women's Christmas) Leadership Celebration. Claire Cronin United States Ambassador to Ireland will be the Honoree at this event.

The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians will be participating in an Irish Unity Summit in New York City on March 1. "This is a historic time as the people of Ireland look towards a new Ireland. Irish Unity can be made a reality with the democratic will of the people of Ireland both North and South. As an Irish American Organization, we believe this would be the true legacy of 1916 and the Good Friday Agreement."

Beannachtai La Feile Bride Happy St. Brigid's Day and La fheile Padraig sona dhuit Happy St. Patrick's Day.



From Left: LAOH National President Marilyn Madigan, Bertie Ahern, LAOH National Vice President Mary Ann Lubinsky



National Treasurer

Cathy Turck

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!! I hope you enjoyed your Holidays and were able to spend some quality time with your friends and family. As we move toward the beginning of the new year, there will be a flurry of activity as all the end of year reports will be due soon. If you have not received the Financial Report for your Division, County, or Degree Team, please contact me asap. These were sent to your State Treasurers in the first week of December. If you have any question regarding the Treasurer's Financial report, please reach out to me, sooner rather

Treasurer's message continued

than later. You can email me at laohnationaltreasurer@gmail.com I will try to return your email as soon as I can. Due dates for the financial reports are:

Single Division States- Reports are due to National Treasurer- 1/31/2024.

Multi-Division States- Division reports due to County Treasurer -1/31/2024 (if County Board structure exists in your area), then County Reports are due to State Treasurer by 2/29/2024.

Full State Reports from multi-Division states due to National Treasurer by 3/31/2024.

I want to thank you all for your continued effort and work on behalf of the Order.

Ni Neart Go Cur Le Cheile



National Catholic Action

Kathleen Diulus

I am proud to share that this year the LAOH was able to disburse 32 Project St Patrick grants which are made possible by the generous donor our members.

The generosity wasn't limited to PSP as the donations received for the various humanitarian funds truly reflect the strength giving within our Order. It is an honor to collect your donations and see how our Order wants to have a positive impact on the world for our most vulnerable global communities.

The Sisters of the Holy Rosary mission (St. Conchita's order) is saying a special international Mass on Jan 1 for all LAOH members—what a great way to start the year with extra blessings!

National Catholic Social Justice Education Committee

Gail Dapolito

Happy New Year Sisters!

However we get the news in 2024, all communication venues will be filled with reminders about the upcoming elections. Do you have a LAOH 2024 Resolution? Perhaps you will consider this call for action to LAOH members to 1) refresh/educate ourselves on Catholic Social Teaching; 2) to refresh ourselves on the LAOH positions adopted at the 2022 convention - on disability rights, maternal and child health, racism, immigration and migration, environmental justice, and gun safety; 3) to educate ourselves about the candidates and how they follow/live Catholic social teaching. Then 4) TO VOTE.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops states “In the Catholic Tradition, responsible citizenship is a virtue, and participation in political life is a moral obligation... Catholic social teaching strongly promotes active citizenship. Through our opportunities as citizens, we can help shape a world more committed to protecting human life and dignity and promoting justice and peace”. <https://www.usccb.org/resources/voter-education-and-voter-registration>

We challenge our LAOH Sisters to join us in this Call For Action:

Learn about your candidates and what they stand for

Follow Catholic social teaching - use the resources below, (these are just examples there are many, many sites to get information) - to help you decide on a candidate

Vote

<https://www.usccb.org/search?key=catholic%20social%20teaching>

<https://networkadvocates.org/advocacytoolbox/educate/catholicsocialjustice/>

<https://educationforjustice.org/>

<https://sistersofmercy.org/mercy-for-justice/>

LAOH/AOH National Convention **Kathie Linton**

Plans are well underway for the 102nd AOH/LAOH National Convention. The Convention will take place at the beautiful Rosen Centre Orlando located at 98401 International Drive, Orlando, Florida from August 7 – 11, 2024. Information regarding the Convention can be found at www.orlandoirish2024.com. Hotel reservations, convention registrations, journal ads, merchandise and transportation can all be found on this website.

The room cost is \$125.00 per night plus tax. Hotel check-in is 3:00 p.m. Checkout is 11:00 a.m. The reduced room cost is effective for three days prior to the Convention and three days post-convention. The cutoff date for room reservations at this rate is July 16. Self-parking and valet are available at a reduced cost. Rooms with double beds can accommodate four people but bear in mind, drawer space at a hotel is limited.

The airport is approximately 13 miles away or an 18-minute drive depending on your means of transportation. Transportation costs vary usually between \$35.00 to \$45.00 via Mears Taxi or Uber. Scooters can be reserved by contacting K&M Rentals at 855-643-6107 or www.km-rentals.com.

The package price is \$215.00 if paid on or before June 15, 2024. After June 15, the package rate is \$235.00. If you would like to purchase event tickets A La Carte, they are as follows: Registration - \$25.00, Icebreaker - \$60.00, Irish Night - \$85.00, Banquet - \$90.00. Ads for the Journal ads range from \$100.00 to \$250.00. The package price is the most economical rate. Registration forms and ad forms can be downloaded from the Convention website.

The Rosen Centre is a resort-like hotel with several restaurants, a pool bar, a coffee shop, and a 24-hour deli. Each hotel room has a wall mounted 50-inch television, complimentary WI-FI, mini refrigerator and coffeemaker. The hotel has a large swimming pool with two hot tubs, a fitness center and a spa. It is pet friendly with ADA compliant rooms upon request. The hotel is within minutes of the theme parks, restaurants, shopping and golf,

For any questions or concerns, please contact Kathie Linton, LAOH National Convention Chair, at 330-714-4826 or kathielin10@gmail.com. Hope to see you all in Orlando! After all, it is the most magical place on Earth.



State News

Pennsylvania

LAOH Division 21, Castle Shannon, Allegheny County, PA. hosted its annual card party fundraiser Saturday Oct. 7 at St. Winifred Church. About 120 people, including division members, attended the event, which began at 11 and included a croissant sandwich, Jell-O salad and dessert lunch. Dozens of attendees came away as winners in the big raffle, the Irish Auction, with several tables of prizes donated by local businesses and Division 21 members. A 50-50 raffle and lottery tree also raised money.

The division also raffled off 2 tickets to a Pittsburgh Steelers Game and dinner. The young man who attended the game -- thanks to the winning tickets -- is a longtime Pittsburgh Steelers fan and was overjoyed at winning. "There are absolutely NO words to describe the great experience in those great seats." His joy at attending made the card party an even greater success.

Profits from the card party benefit more than a dozen charities in the Pittsburgh region, including women's shelters, a soup kitchen, Meals on Wheels, and Little Sisters of the Poor.

All members of the division contributed in some way -- donating items for the Irish Auction, selling tickets, preparing and serving lunch, setting up and cleaning.

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Pennsylvania State News Continued



Members of LAOH division 21 gathered for their annual Christmas dinner on Dec. 12 at St. Paul of the Cross. All members brought warm socks that will be given to local homeless shelters. Members enjoyed a catered meal of pasta, chicken, vegetables and sweet treats made by division members. Members also donated close to \$350 for the Jessie Games, an annual charity event that benefits children served by Catholic Charities of Pittsburgh and was created by the family of a Division 21 member in memory of their daughter.



After the dinner, the following officers were sworn in for new terms:

President Trish Conley; Vice President Eileen O'Malley; Secretary Tara Chevdar; Treasurer Helen Rafferty; Irish Historian Clare Ansberry Smith; Missions & Charities Peggy Bond; Catholic Action Darlene Vietmeier; Mistress At Arms Eileen Sheridan; Sentinel Becky Ricci.

Several members of the LOAH division 21 attended the beautiful Claddagh degree program, both as observers and degree recipients, on October 15th at the Doubletree Hotel in Greentree. Four members of the division, Noreen Herward, Tara Chevdar, Darlene Vietmeier, and Clare Ansberry Smith received their degree. It was a beautiful and meaningful program for all involved and the hard work of the Allegheny County Claddagh Degree Team was evident and made for a beautiful morning.



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State news continued

Michigan

Michigan LAOH held the 28th Biennial State Convention on September 30th. An informative and enjoyable convention was attended by members from many divisions in the state.



Hibernian Woman of the year Award went to Barb Weir past State and Division President.



Some of the newly elected State Board



Members of the Sr. Annette M. Byrne Division from Grand Rapids, MI



Members from Our Lady of Limerick Division from Genesee County, MI



Freedom for Ireland State Chairperson, Agnes Gowdy, presents State President, Stacey Blair with an award on behalf of the LAOH National Board for the \$1000 plus Michigan LAOH donated to the Annual Christmas Appeal.



The AOH LAOH State Memorial Mass was held at St. Mary's of Redford Church on Saturday, November 4th. Members of both the LAOH and AOH held a candlelight procession into the church in memory of those members who passed away this past year.

Michigan continued on next page



The **Annual Pallottine Father's Dinner Dance** which raises funds to support the Pallottine Father's missions in Africa was held on Friday, Nov. 14th. The McAuley Division's Chaplin, Fr. Brendan McCarrick and his staff did an excellent job in creating this event. The Pallottine Woman of the year was Pamela Dunleavy, a McAuley Division sister. The Pallottine Man of the year was AOH member Charlie French. Music was performed by the Andy Cooney Band. Many of the McAuley sisters were in attendance and had a wonderful time dancing the night away.

The **Sarah Regan Division** held a small fundraiser by selling squares for the Thanksgiving Day football games. They had a lot of fun and made some money for their charities. At their Christmas Dinner they collected supplies for Pregnancy Help Line.

Our **Lady of Limerick Division** reports that in October their member Debra Ogles' brother donated a beautiful hand carved Wood Spirit. They decided to raffle the Wood Spirit off as a fund raiser for their chosen Christmas charity, buying holiday gifts for a family in need through the St. Frances Prayer Center. They sold raffle tickets both individually as members and at the Holiday Craft Bazaar hosted by the Rose Kennedy Division in Redford Michigan on Nov. 18th and 19th. Their members joined together for an afternoon of fellowship to shop, wrap and have dinner together before taking the gifts to the St. Francis Prayer Center. The winning raffle ticket was drawn at the December meeting/holiday gathering. The winners were thrilled with their prize.

Sr. Annette M. Byrne Division in Grand Rapids held a lovely Christmas Party on Dec. 11th at a local restaurant called Cheers. They had a history icebreaker, and were surprised how difficult some of the questions were, but a good time was had by all. They also had a gift exchange of fun little goodies.



The **Catherine McAuley Division** reported on some of their many activities: They held a Trivia Night Fundraiser for "Mary's Mantle", a catholic home for expectant mothers. A profit of over \$1700 was realized. Many of their members attended the AOH Charity Ball. Congratulations to their President, Maureen Root who was honored as the Hibernian Woman of the Year. A "Paper Shower" was held at their October meeting donating bathroom tissue to a new charity "Deo Gratis." They also collected food items and paper goods for Deo Gratis at their November meeting. They had a table at the R K Christmas Bazaar which featured handmade pillow cases and etched glass ornaments. One of their members, Margaret Wright led a warm coat, glove and

Michigan continued on next page

Michigan State news continued

hat drive. She placed a large Christmas wrapped collection box in the lobby of the AOH Hall.



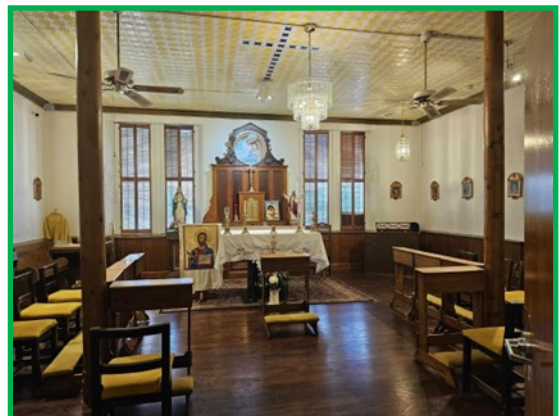
The Rose Kennedy Division in Redford, MI collected toys for Redford Goodfellows at their November meeting. They hosted the Annual Christmas Bazaar on Nov 18th and 19th. Vendors, crafters and other LAOH divisions had tables. There was also a Santa Shop, Irish Coffee and food available to the many shoppers. Members were asked to bring Christmas cards and stamps to the Christmas meeting/dinner. They wrote cards to those members who have been ill and are unable to attend meetings. A total of 26 cards were sent to these sisters.

Denver

On August 20th we attended the Our Lady of Knock (OLK) Mass held at Sacred Heart Church in Denver, our adopted church. Sacred Heart Church was founded in 1879 (just three years after Colorado attained statehood in 1876) by the first bishop of Denver (and all of Colorado at that point), Bishop Joseph Machebeauf. It was the third parish established in the State. The church building itself is the oldest operating church of any denomination in the City and one of the oldest in the entire State as well.



Our 2023 donation helped Father Eric and his congregation put in a new floor in the daily chapel and our LAOH member, **Kaitlyn Davis**, worked on a grant committee for the church that secured a large grant to be used for building improvements.



Denver continued on next page

Denver State News continued

Following the OLC Mass, we held our annual **Louise Donovan Picnic** (named after our Founder) in Clemente Park in Littleton for all of our members, families and friends. We enjoyed all the potluck dishes. It was a windy but fun day topped off by a beautiful view of the Rocky Mountains.



In October we held our biannual fall Trivia Night Fundraiser at the Celtic on Market, a well-known Irish pub in Denver. It was a great success. LAOH members, family and friends came together for a wonderful evening of fun and friendship. The proceeds raised help to fund our several charities throughout the year.



November was a very busy month for the membership. In early November we held our annual outing to the Mother Cabrini Shrine, located in the beautiful foothills of the Rockies in Golden Colorado. Mother Cabrini was the first American to be canonized. We attended a special Mass together in the newly refurbished Cabrini Chapel, explored the grounds which offer stunning views of Denver and the

surrounding mountains, and joined in fun and fellowship over lunch at a lovely restaurant in town.



Later in November, at our last monthly meeting, we celebrated Christmas with our traditional White Elephant exchange and buffet.



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Denver State News continued

We also elected the following members to serve on the **2024/2026 Denver LAOH BOARD:**

President: Nan Alonso; **Vice president:** Guila Bickford; **Office of Treasurer:** Elizabeth Sheffler and Jean Gantzer, co-chairs; **Office of Recording Secretary:** Kerry Lavan; **Office of Financial Secretary:** Maura Zazenski and Kerry Tay McLean, co-chairs. The new Board Members will be installed at our January 5, 2024, Nollaig na mBan or Women's Christmas and Installation Dinner.

We have had 16 new members who have been initiated into our Denver LAOH division in 2023. We currently have 65 members and welcome all who have joined our ranks this year. We look forward to another exciting year in 2024! *Sláinte*

OHIO

The weekend of November 10th, the Cleveland Division 5 & 10, Our Lady of Rosary along with Division 11 Dierfiur or Charity hosted a wonderful Testimonial weekend honoring our Sister / National President Marilyn Madigan.

December 13th Our Lady of the Rosary Celebrated Christmas with Mass, potluck and the swearing in of our new officers.



New York

In October, Schenectady JFK Division 1 ran our annual Socktoberfest for Things of My Very Own. We donated a car load of socks. This is an organization that helps children in crisis.

In November we installed our new officers. The National FFAI chair presented us with a plaque for our donation to the FFAI Christmas appeal last year. We also awarded our annual Spirit of St. Brigid Award to Marcella Dietz. Marcella exemplifies all that we stand for, friendship, unity, and Christian Charity. She goes above and beyond in her church, her community and the LAOH.

We decorated a Christmas tree at the Schenectady County Historical Society's Festival of Trees. Many ladies donated ornaments for this project, and this is our second year of participation.

In December we filled cookie tins for our homebound sisters. We each baked cookies to share, we filled the tins and feasted on the leftovers. Then we delivered the tins to our sisters to enjoy.



Schenectady JFK Division 1, newly installed officers.

New York continued on next page

New York State News continued

On December 11th Division 11 of Tarrytown, NY held the installation of officers for 2024 at their annual Christmas party in the Transfiguration Church meeting room attended by Pastor Francis. Following the installation President Alice Geissler Koraca greeted the guests and gave a brief synopsis of the past year's activities and charities. Due to a very successful Spring fundraiser the Division was able to continue its support of the WFUV radio station, the Humanitarian Fundraisers for Hawaii and the Middle East, clothing for the Upstate Catholic Charities Organization, Columban Fathers, Columban Sisters, SOAR, FFAI, Project St. Patrick, Transfiguration Church and its twinning parish in Soyapango, South America. Awards in the name of Marion Smith and Kitty Geissler were presented at graduation to two outstanding graduates from the Church of the Transfiguration School.

In honor of Irish Heritage Month, the Warner Library was host to a display in their lobby provided by Division 11. In November a mass was offered in memory of our deceased members.

In closing, President Koraca congratulated the newly installed officers and thanked the membership for always stepping up so that Division 11 can continue promoting our Irishness and provide support and comfort to others.



Father Francis Amodio, O.Carm, Pastor - Church of the Transfiguration, Tarrytown, NY and Alice Koraca President

The Albany JFK Division 1 ladies have been busy as we finished out 2023 in our mission to promote sisterhood among our ranks and in our community. On September 10th, the Albany ladies held a “Card Party” fundraiser to raise money for Blessed Sacrament School. The generous donations and enthusiastic bidders allowed for \$3,500 to be donated to Father Dan Quinn on behalf of the school. Special thanks to Immediate Past National President Karen Keane for her efforts to coordinate this very successful event!



Kitty Geissler Division 11 Sisters



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New York State News continued

Throughout October, the Albany Ladies division collected warm blankets and socks for the annual “Sock-tober” event. Through generous donations, many bags of blankets and socks were donated to the Sidewalk Warriors of Troy, NY, an agency that supports those experiencing poverty in the community through humanitarian assistance by providing necessities for daily living.



LAOH JFK Division 1 Missions and Charities Officer Christine O'Reilly (left) and Division Member Carol Dyer

On Friday, November 17, the Albany AOH and LAOH honored LAOH National President Marilyn Madigan with the Fr. John Murphy Award during the annual Freedom for All Ireland event. Relatives for Justice CEO Mark Thompson provided the Keynote Address. The event was well attended and included representatives from local, county, state, national, and international Hibernian divisions.



Award presentation by Albany AOH Chairman John Levindosky and Albany LAOH Chairlady Dolores Desch

On December 2, the Albany LAOH and LAOH Juniors Division held an annual Installation Dinner where board members were sworn in for the next term. A celebratory mass was held before the event, where President Dolores Desch lit the first advent candle to start the holy season. The ladies were sworn in by State Board Treasurer Cathy Turck. At the event, division members with children in the military were honored with a “Gold Star Mothers” award.



President Dolores Desch and Board Members being presented and sworn in



Swearing in of Albany LAOH Junior Division

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New York State News continued



Albany LAOH “Gold Star Mothers” Anne Kelly, Elissa O’Reilly, Kathleen Stevens, and Rosalyn Adair



Albany LAOH Membership at our December 2023 Division Meeting

On December 10 the Albany Junior LAOH Division assisted in hosting a Children’s Christmas Party for all of the Albany AOH and LAOH families. The kids had a wonderful day and the Juniors kept everyone busy with crafts and activities. They even helped Santa and his Elf hand out gifts.



Albany Junior LAOH Members with Santa and his Elf



Albany LAOH Board Members

On December 13, the Division collected money for the Columban Sisters at our annual Christmas Party. It was a wonderful evening filled with joy and merriment as we shared a meal and celebrated our sisterhood.

At the final division meeting of the year, the Albany Ladies voted to make monetary donations to several charitable organizations in the Capital Region who serve the poor, homeless, and local refugee populations in need. These agencies include Family Promise of the Capital Region, Refugee & Immigrant Support Services of Emmaus, Inc., and Sidewalk Warriors of Troy, Inc.

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New York State News continued



Albany LAOH Vice President Kathleen Stevens presenting a monetary donation check to Fr. Francis O'Connor in support of the work at Family Promise of the Capital Region.



Missions and Charities Officer Christine O'Reilly presenting a monetary donation check to Sidewalk Warriors of Troy, Inc.



Mistress at Arms Ann Marie Calabrese presenting a monetary donation check to Refugee & Immigrant Support Services of Emmaus, Inc. (RISSE)

The Albany County Ladies want to thank all who supported our \$500 Cash raffle. The drawing was 12/19/2023 and the winner was Kim Clancy, from Albany Division #1.



2023-2025 New York State Board and Appointees

Back row- left to right: Maura McSweeney, Therese Meyer, Region Begley, JoAnn Gundersen, Teresa Karens, Pat Moynihan, Front row- left to right: Kimberly Clancy, Mary Durkee, Joan Moore, Sheila Zeineth, Carolyn McGillicuddy, Jeannine Mannarino, Ann Pirok, Maureen Caffery Not pictured: Agnes O'Leary, Sr. Virginia Lake, Christina Parisi

Massachusetts

State President Barbara Twohig, along with PSPs Ellen Barr and Kathy Rafuse and MA FFAI Chair and inaugural Countess Markievicz award winner Kathleen Savage attended the Interim Board meeting. They were joined by several members of Div 10 at the Testimonial Dinner and award ceremonies where Kathleen was presented her award.

On Saturday, October 7th the Lowell Men's and Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc. gathered at St. Patrick Cemetery in Lowell to dedicate a granite memorial marker over the unmarked grave of a very special early Irish immigrant. Patrick Hill who was present at the apparition of Our Lady of Knock in 1879 when he was a boy of only 11 years old. As an adult, Patrick immigrated to America and died at the very young age of 53 without the benefit of a marker. David McKean, Lowell's Historian brought this unmarked grave to the attention of the Lowell

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