

Lady Hibernian Herald

Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians - Irish · Catholic · American

April 2023

President's message

Washington Events

National Vice President Mary Ann Lubinsky and I attended many events in Washington DC this past St. Patrick's Day. There were many events held on March 16 and March 17. Starting with the Northern Ireland Bureau Breakfast, our organization was represented at many events. At the Breakfast, I was honored to present the FFAI 25th Anniversary Pin to Mary Lous McDonald, Michelle O'Neill and Ciaran Quinn of Sinn Fein. At the breakfast, I also met with Mary Jordan originally from Cleveland. Her family is very active in the Cleveland Irish Community and we both are Alumni from St. Joseph Academy. Mary Jordan is a Pulitzer Price-winning Journalist and National Correspondent for the Washington Post. I was honored to present a 25th GFA Pin to her.

Unfortunately, we needed to leave the breakfast early to attend a 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 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

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to present the FFAI 25th Anniversary Pin to both Mary Robinson and Monica McWilliams.

The next event was the Washington Ireland Program held at the spectacular Rooftop Terrace with the Capital as a backdrop. 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 of the day 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 Owen. Kathleen Kennedy Townsend is assisting us to obtain a submission to recognize the role of the late Ambassador Jean Kennedy in the peace process. Unfortunately 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.

On St. Patrick's Day, we were able to join our Brother and Sister Hibernians at Mass Celebrated by Cardinal Gregory at St. Patrick's Church. The St. Patrick's Day Events concluded with the Gala Concert an Evening of Music, Song and Spoken Word at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. Special thanks to AOH Past President Jim McKay for an introduction to President Biden's Assistant John McCarthy so that a pin could be presented on our behalf to President Biden. Most importantly this experience would not have been possible without the support of all my Hibernian Sisters that have placed their trust in me to lead the organization that I love.



Hon Joseph Kennedy III and LAOH National President Marilyn Madigan



LAOH Vice President Maryann Lubinsky, Keith Carney, LAOH Special advisor and LAOH National President Marilyn Madigan



LAOH National President Marilyn Madigan and Her Excellence, Mary Robinson, Former President of Ireland

The Irish Echo held a 40 under 40 event and honored Irish Americans who step up to lead and excel in their field. Some of our own were honored at the gala.



L-R Bridget Harrison, Ohio, Maggie Brogan, New York, Brianna Curran, Pennsylvania, and Maggie Flynn, Indiana



The LAOH turned out to support our members.

Missions and Charities

National M&C Officer Natalie Peterinelli

I hope that you had an exciting St. Patrick's Day. Thank you all so much for your donations thus far. I am constantly in awe of your generosity.

Since the last issue of the Herald, the feast day of St. Brigid and the feast day of St. Patrick were celebrated. In honor of the significance of these two feast days, Fr. Chris Saenz, US Regional Director, requested that the retirement community located in Bristol, RI, and the residents of St. Columbans, NE, to celebrate a special Mass amongst the community members in honor of the LAOH on each of these feast days.

An excerpt from Fr. Chris's St. Patrick's Day correspondence *"I pray that St. Patrick, beloved patron of Ireland and dear to the hearts of many of us who have an Irish connection by blood or spirit, will watch over the LAOH and intercede with the Lord on your behalf. In the spirit of this courageous missionary, may God bless our collaborative mission efforts for God's Kingdom. Also, I wish to extend the gratitude of all Columban missionaries to the LAOH for your years of prayerful and charitable support."*

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

Political Education Committee

At the 2022 LAOH National Convention the membership adopted positions on social justice concerns, including racism, maternal and child health and environmental justice. This is one of a series of articles, by the LAOH National Political Education Committee, related to nationally adopted positions. This article concerns healthcare deserts, other articles will address urban and rural food deserts.

The Problem of "Healthcare Deserts"

Despite living in a First World nation, millions of Americans residing both in rural and urban areas receive Third World healthcare due to the presence of healthcare deserts. A "healthcare desert" is an area where residents have inadequate access to six services essential to maintain or improve their health: pharmacies; primary care providers; hospitals; hospital beds; trauma centers; and/or low-cost/affordable community health center services. Healthcare deserts are widespread in the U.S. In a

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2021 white paper, GoodRx, a community-focused digital healthcare platform, reported that every state in the U.S. has at least one county with a healthcare desert. They found over 80% of U.S. counties lack adequate infrastructure in at least 4 of the 6 essential healthcare services, impacting over one-third of the U.S. population. Geography and socioeconomic factors (i.e., poverty, minority status, crime rates, transportation availability, care affordability, lack of insurance, health literacy, limitations in internet and cellular service) impact the ability to access medications, telehealth, medical and other healthcare services. Health disparities are perpetuated.

Over the past decade, essential care services have evaporated across the nation. Hospitals and clinics have closed due to issues related to Medicaid, Medicare, and private insurance reimbursement. As insurance gaps have widened and reimbursement lessened, financial viability has been negatively impacted. The risk of rural hospital closure was found to be greatest in states that had not adopted the Affordable Care Act's 2013 Medicaid expansion. Sixteen percent of U.S. residents living in the mainland live 30 minutes or more from a hospital. GoodRX found the greatest percentage of state population living in a hospital desert occurred in Vermont, Alaska, Arkansas, Alabama and Maine. Montana, North Dakota, Wyoming, Nevada and Idaho have the greatest number of trauma center deserts limiting their ability to provide care during the lifesaving "golden hour." Both rural and large urban areas have been negatively impacted (i.e., Chicago, New York City, Los Angeles and others) due to a lack of hospital beds or the infrastructure necessary to meet community needs. In South Dakota, 22% of the population live in a hospital bed desert. The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted how a lack of hospital beds creates a life-or-death situation across the nation.¹

GoodRX and others have reported that medical care deserts occurred as healthcare systems condensed and impacted the location of services, number of providers, or availability of network and specialized care (i.e., maternity, oncology, and surgical care). Physicians and other medical providers have retired or left the area without others being incentivized to replace them. This has resulted in excessive patient caseloads as an inadequate number of providers

attempt to serve the patient population.⁴ Mississippi ranks 49th of 50 states in terms of medical care access with 30% of the population without care nearby.¹

In 2019, nearly 30 million people obtained medical care from federally-funded HRSA community health centers, critical in meeting the medical care needs of underserved areas. Statistically, 91% were at or below 200% of the federal poverty level; 48% were Medicaid or Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) recipients; 23% were uninsured; 5% were homeless. Children comprised 31% of the underserved; 63% were of a racial and/or ethnic minority group. Texas, with 18.4% of residents lacking health insurance, has the highest uninsured population in the U.S. Residents of Nebraska, Kansas, North Dakota, Texas, and other areas of the Central U.S. live in a low-cost/affordable care health center desert. Residents must drive more than 20 minutes to access affordable medical care.¹

Pharmacy deserts have occurred as the hospitals and medical care providers they relied on shut their doors. Pharmacies also closed after being dropped from insurance plans or patients had to forego filling prescriptions due to cost, lack of insurance and limited income. GoodRX defined a "pharmacy desert" as having to drive more than 15 minutes to reach it. They estimate that over 40% of U.S. counties are pharmacy deserts, affecting 41 million people. The greatest number of pharmacy deserts have been found in Kansas, Nebraska, Montana, and South Dakota.¹

As healthcare deserts have evolved, residents in both rural and urban areas must wait longer for appointments, travel farther, and spend more to seek essential medical, surgical, mental and/or specialized care. Entire communities have become jeopardized as healthcare has become inadequate and sporadic. Hospitals and healthcare facilities have become strained by inadequate infrastructure, reimbursement limitations, the number of uninsured, and poverty. Those residing in healthcare deserts have increased rates of chronic diseases, obesity, diabetes and have lowered life expectancy.

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While it is estimated that 80% of rural Americans are categorized as “medically underserved,” novel solutions have been developed to address the problem in both rural and urban areas. Self-contained, community-based mobile clinics deliver healthcare services to isolated areas and those lacking access to providers. For more than 20 years, the North Country Health Consortium (<https://nchcnh.org/>) has improved access to healthcare to rural Northern New Hampshire. The needs of the underserved of rural southwest Virginia are being met via the nurse-run The Health Wagon program (<https://www.ruralhealthinfo.org>). There are also mobile screening programs for miners in New Mexico, Alabama, Illinois, Indiana, and eastern Kentucky. Successful telehealth programs and remote clinics are able to provide healthcare access to medical deserts and connect patients to geographically distant providers and hospitals. Southeast Michigan’s Henry Ford Health System has successfully implemented a virtual school-based program. Tytocare has shown that telehealth programs are affordable and scalable, easily providing healthcare access to large geographical locations cost-effectively in terms of money and time.

As a LAOH member, why should you care about healthcare deserts? Even if you are not impacted directly, there is an impact on you because access to healthcare access is woven in the fabric of Catholic social teaching (CST) related to justice and equity. CST reinforces love as the greatest commandment as noted in Mark’s gospel (Mk 12: 30-31):

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” There is no other commandment greater than these.

We should be guided by the principle of *solidarity* which reinforces the duty to protect the poor and vulnerable by advocating for and providing care to underserved populations. Pope St. John Paul II described solidarity as “a firm and persevering determination to commit oneself to the common good.

That is to say to the good of all and of each individual, because we are responsible for all.” [Christifideles Laici \(December 30, 1988\) | John Paul II \(vatican.va\)](#). We should also be guided by the principle of *subsidiarity* which stresses the importance of providing healthcare to meet the needs of the underserved in a manner consistent with their communities. Similarly, *stewardship* reinforces our role as a member of society who has the responsibility to provide for the common good of all members.

As a LAOH member, what can you do to assist those living in healthcare deserts?

Reach out to the United Way

1. Call 211 or go to www.211.org for assistance in accessing healthcare and other services in your area.

2. Ask locally for help finding specialized care, transportation, etc. Other providers in the area may have access to maternity resources in the community such as clinics, prenatal services, nurse midwives, doulas, etc. Hospitals may have transportation vouchers.

3. Use Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) when population underserved, care qualifies for Medicare and Medicaid, income-based sliding scale fees applicable. Emergency care not provided.

4. Use Freestanding Emergency Departments (FSEDs) if available and care is covered by Medicare, Medicaid or private insurer. Thirty-two states have over 400 FSEDs.

5. Use virtual options such as Telehealth and Telepharmacy when transportation, distance or other issues prevent someone from personally going to a healthcare site. This will require internet connectivity; a phone, tablet, or computer with camera for two-way communication; insurance coverage/approval for virtual medical care; programs in your state.

6. Use prescription pill applications that assist with filling prescriptions, affordability and sometimes home delivery Talk to the pharmacist about the cost benefits of using NeedyMeds; RxAssist; RxHope; PatientAssistance.com; GoodRX; ScriptSaver WellRX; Blink Health; RXSaver; SingleCare; Optum

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Health; America Pharmacy; Medicare Extra Help; AARP Prescription Discount Card; Walmart RX Program and other available programs in your area.’

7. Support legislative efforts to recruit skilled medical professionals. If you live in a rural or underserved area, be aware that there is a National Rural Recruitment and Retention Network (3RNET) which provides prospective medical professionals with available federal and state legislative, hospital, clinic and other recruitment incentives.

By becoming more informed about the presence and impact of rural and urban healthcare deserts in your community, state and across the nation, you can use that knowledge to elect legislators that support Catholic social teaching.

Suggested links to stay updated on this issue:

https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ui=2&ik=88eab7aff0&attid=0.1&permmsgid=msg-f:1760829892854645618&th=186fb975517d8372&view=fimg&fur=ip&sz=s0-l75-ft&attbid=ANGjdJ_bzJlb74NNWRSePugunce_7wh-IrbltB6CQvzl-TSvO7J7NriX8QwJctrYQAxCoUVBFfd9OnuP0S6JC0EKENhs3mOVN7Yf4-Qq4bEsau6bVN1jNpVYNdEfEQ&disp=emb&realatid=ii_lffv99850

Sharon Strobel, LAOH Political Education Committee Member
MD LAOH Vice President
MD LAOH Howard County Division 1 President

(For citations of sources for the article, please reach out directly to Sharon Strobel)

Freedom for All Ireland

National FFAI Chairperson Dolores Desch

Freedom For All Ireland Christmas Appeal

The annual FFAI Christmas Appeal for the 2022-23 season is concluded. I am pleased to announce that we received a record amount of donations from our sisters across the country. Our anonymous donor

matched that amount and gave us an additional donation. Our FFAI Committee of 12 met last week and determined the grant awards for each group. This year has been an incredible one. I received donations from so many Divisions, Counties and State Boards. Thank you, Ladies, for your great generosity. I will provide the amounts and more details to the members on my mailing list in the next few weeks which include the State FFAI Chairs. The National Board will also be providing an award for each entity that donated \$1,000 or more. I will provide that information in a separate email as well.

As a reminder, we collect funds all year round. Funds received going forward will be applied to the 2023-24 Christmas Appeal. All donations should be mailed directly to me from the entity making the donation. My address is 20 Arlene Ave, Albany, NY 12203.

Good Friday Agreement

April 10, 2023, marks the 25th Anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement and our Committee is offering LAOH Commemorative Pins – “GFA 25 Years Peace” for sale at \$10 each. We still have some left so help us sell out! I have them in both gold and silver finish. For orders of 5 or more we are waiving postage. The pins are selling so get your orders in soon! You can mail in a check to my address listed above.

In celebration of the upcoming anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement our National FFAI Committee is finalizing the project with Relatives for Justice which will be a published booklet and launch in Belfast to celebrate and promote the contributions of women to peace and progress in their communities. Too often women are written out of the history books and through this project looks to add them back in. We have submissions from both sides of the Atlantic who shared their thoughts and reflections over the past 25 years in a written piece. I will send out the final copy once it is completed.

News from Ireland

Stormont House which hosts the devolved government in the north of Ireland has still not seen a government formed since the May election. This is because the DUP

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(Loyalist/Unionist Party) refuse to accept the results of the election where for the first time a Nationalist party has won the majority votes. What this means is that Sinn Féin's Michelle O'Neill would be the First Minister and DUP's Jeffrey Donaldson would be the Deputy First Minister. The DUP has said that their reason for the refusal to form the government is that they want the "Withdrawal Protocol" scrapped – a protocol that they endorsed prior to the election last spring which they lost. The new "Windsor Framework" is the latest attempt to address the issues that the DUP have with the Protocol, and this is advancing through Parliament.

The SpringHill Westrock Massacre Inquest has completed the witness and family testimonies. This Massacre resulted in 5 innocent civilians being shot by what the locals are saying was British Army in sniper positions. Despite the fact that there was no credible threat that day, five civilians were shot and killed including three children and a Catholic Priest. Several others were shot and injured. British Army Check points and sniper fire prevented ambulances from coming in to help the victims.

April Events

I am thrilled to be attending the April 3 Cooper Union Event which the LAOH are participating in and co-sponsoring along with several other Irish American Organizations - **REFLECTIONS ON THE GOOD FRIDAY AGREEMENT WITH PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON, GERRY ADAMS, & LEADING IRISH AMERICAN ORGANISATIONS.**

I am honored and thankful to be heading over to Ireland with President Madigan in mid-April to meet with the groups that we will be presenting the grants to and getting to know their programs better. I plan on attending the Queens University Belfast Good Friday Event and will be attending the Global Irish Forum in Dublin as well.

Thanks to all of you for your support of Freedom for All Ireland. Stay tuned and follow our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/LAOHFFAI32> and visit the LAOH National webpage for FFAI at: <https://ladiesaoh.com/freedom-for-all-ireland>.

National LAOH Treasurer

Cathy Turck

Ladies, I hope this finds you well and looking forward to Spring. I always find this time of year filled with hope. This is a time of rebirth as we move out of short days of the winter months and into more daylight and warmth. Someone once told me if we had no winter, spring would not be so pleasant. They were right. Anyway, I want to send out a huge thank you to all the Division, County, and States who submitted their end of year financial reports. It is such a big help when these come in before the deadline. Please remember that all taxes and assessments are based on taxable members only. I appreciate your patience as I learn the treasurer's job. I appreciate that some of you have reach out to me with discrepancies in your reports and I have made changes on the master forms. Hopefully, our end of year financial reports will run much smoother next year now that I have a little experience under my belt. Keep those reports coming!! Spring is God's way of showing that after darkness there is always light.

May St Brigid bless your hearth and home.



(Black Dress and Hat) is Ellen Jolly Ryan, Past National President of the LAAOH

These photos and article were taken from the website of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. www.NationalShrine.org in Washington DC. Our organization has always had a history and great love of St. Brigid.

The Ladies Auxiliary of the Ancient Order of Hibernians in the Brigid of Ireland Chapel in 1927, possibly at its dedication. The Basilica honors Ireland's "fiery sunbeam" in the Chapel of Saint Brigid. As an abbess, she likely wore a ring and bore the crosier and mitre as a symbol of her office and rank. Both of these items are portrayed in the mosaic and the altar frontal. A replica of the Cross of Cong, the crucifix on the altar is an example of Irish

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St Brigid continued

medieval art. The altar is set off by reredos, inscribed with Latin text which translates,

[“This is a wise virgin and one numbered among the prudent”](#).

Gifted to the Basilica by the Ladies Auxiliary of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, the chapel and altar compliment the Nuns of the Battlefield monument, across the street from Saint Matthew’s Cathedral in Washington, D.C. The Brigid of Ireland chapel was dedicated by Bishop Shahan on September 24, 1927.

Saint Brigid is the patron saint of Ireland, as well as babies, blacksmiths, midwives, and single mothers.

She is portrayed in the Basilica in the Northern Façade, as well as the Chapel of Saint Brigid of Ireland.

Sources: Butler’s *Lives of the Saints* (ed. by Bernard Bangley), Cowan’s *The Way of Saints*

LAOH National Vice President

Mary Ann Lubinsky

Greetings, LAOH Sisters! It is so hard to believe that it is eight months since the convention in Pittsburgh! Thank you for electing me your Vice-President! Many of us came home with COVID but thank God we are all OK! The Proceedings were completed in February and are now on our website, ladiesaoh.com.

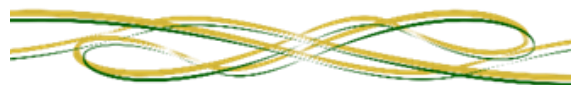
As Notre Dame Hibernian Fund Chair, I was honored to attend the Hibernian Weekend in September with our President Marilyn Madigan. It was the first in-person meeting and lecture since 2019. For the Scholarship Fund, we met with Michael Riemke, Senior Associate Director of Financial Aid, and Shane Ulbrich, Assistant Director of the Cushwa Center for the Study of American Catholicism. Also in attendance were AOH Hibernian Fund Chair, Ned McGinley, President Danny O’Connell, Vice President Sean Pender, Secretary Ed Halligan, and Treasurer Liam McNabb as well as Ellen Lavelle, a current recipient of the scholarship. It was a very informative meeting including a full report of the fund itself. Ellen is the granddaughter of Patricia Lavelle, our National Board Press Relations Appointee. It was refreshing listening to Ellen speak about her studies, activities, and gratefulness for the scholarship. Following the meeting she attended the Hibernian lecture with us and sat with us at dinner. It was a fantastic day at the Golden Dome. Information will be forthcoming soon on next year’s Hibernian Weekend. I want to give a special “Thank You” to President

Marilyn Madigan for allowing me to attend several functions to represent the National Board. These included 25th Anniversary events for PA Carbon County Division 1, PA Philadelphia County Division 61, and 30th Anniversary for Philadelphia County Division 87. I also attended the “Top 100 Irish Women in the Philadelphia Area” where 8 of our LAOH Sisters were honored. I had the special honor of attending the Tara Degree Team Ceremony in November in Philadelphia.

Most recently, Marilyn and I attended several St. Patrick’s Day events in Washington DC starting with the program, “Women at the Helm: The Unfinished Business of Northern Ireland’s Good Friday Agreement” sponsored by the Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security. The event featured Secretary Hillary Rodham Clinton and the Taoiseach, Leo Varadkar, who highlighted women who were present including Former President of Ireland Mary Robinson, Signatory to the Good Friday Agreement Monica McWilliams, Ambassador of the United Kingdom to the United States Karen Pierce, Former Minister of State of Ireland Liz O’Donnell and those who have since passed including former Secretary of State for Northern Ireland Marjorie “Mo” Mowlam and Northern Irish community worker Joyce McCartan. We were very fortunate to attend a private reception for the presenters following the event. Next, we moved on to the Washington Ireland Program for Service and Leadership event honoring the WIP Class of 2023. The Taoiseach attended and was recognized as a former WIP member. To end that day, we attended a private reception for the new Ambassador of Ireland to the United States, Geraldine Byrne Nason at her residence.

On St. Patrick’s Day we attended Mass at St. Patrick’s Church celebrated by Wilton Cardinal Gregory, Archbishop of Washington, concelebrated with 5 Auxiliary Bishops and several priests. All in all, it was a spectacular two days representing our National Board and Members!

A Blessed Holy Week and Happy Easter to all!



State News

Rhode Island

Friday evening February 3, 2023 ,Cairin Quinn,Sinn Fein Representative For North America stopped by The Irish Ceilidhe Club in Cranston, Rhode Island. He spoke with members of the Irish American Community about the latest news coming out of Ireland in regards to The Good Friday Agreement and Legacy issues. As England continues to ignore these issues and backpedal on promises, he encouraged us to keep up with the pressure on our leaders. The letter writing, emails and phone calls are important ways to get the message across. He left us encouraged, hopeful and with many words of thanks for what we all have been able to accomplish, as well as reminding us there is much more to do. Members of Division 12 Bessie Bradley Providence, RI presented Cairin with a special RI memento of his visit.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O-OJC4bvzPY&authuser=0>



Left to right Elieen Benz, Recording Secretary, Sara Benz Historian, Marie Magee, Cairin Quinn

South Carolina

Saint Brigid, Division 1, in Myrtle Beach, SC owes its beginnings to the McEvoy Family. Josephine McEvoy started our division in 1996 along with her daughter Maureen McEvoy Cahill. Maureen has led the Division in many roles and offices, while also being on the State board. Her devotion has allowed us to be the strong and thriving group we are today. We want to thank her for her service as she leaves the role as our President for many years. She remains an active member in both the State and our Division.

Welcome, Michelle Wild as our new President. You have our support and respect as we look forward to many more successful years.

Thank you to all our new members who pitched in this year at the St. Patrick's Day parade and festival! We are always sharing in good times in accord with our motto of friendship and unity to support our charities. Marching and selling our soda bread, scones and crafts is our way of showing our pride in our heritage and allowing us to support our local and national charities. It was an amazing success!



State News Continued

Pennsylvania

Members of LAOH Division 21 gathered for the 35 annual St. Brigid Mass hosted by the Allegheny County Board. More than 100 LAOH members attended the mass, which was held Sunday Feb. 5, and the brunch that followed at the Chartiers Country Club in Pittsburgh.

Fr. Kenneth Martlovits, Director of the office for Priestly Vocations in Pittsburgh, celebrated the beautiful mass, noting how the scripture readings about being a light for others and sharing your bread with others, fittingly encompassed the life of St. Brigid, as well as the work of the LAOH. Mike Gallagher provided music, closing with the touching hymn Lady of Knock.

After the mass, a delicious brunch was served and Kathleen Diulus, LAOH Division 23 and also Catholic Charities Officer on the LAOH National Board, was named the St. Brigid Court recipient. Kathleen's name, along with the names of past St. Brigid Court recipients, is embroidered on the bottom of the St. Brigid Court cloak. Eileen O'Malley was also sworn in as LAOH Allegheny County President.



Members of Division 21, Pennsylvania, at the 35th annual St. Brigid mass Feb. 5 from left to right: Clare Ansbery Smith, Darlene Vietmeier, Eileen Sheridan, Peggy Bond, Kathleen McCarty, Helen Raffery, Trish Conley and Noreen Herward



Kathleen Diulus, LAOH National Office of Catholic Action and member of LAOH Division 23, was named St. Brigid Court Recipient.



Kathleen Diulus' name, along with the names of past St. Brigid Court Recipients, is embroidered on the bottom of the cloak.



Eileen O'Malley, Div. 21, being installed as LAOH Allegheny County President

Pennsylvania State News Continued

LAOH Division 4, Lackawanna County, Scranton

In our motto, "Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity," the women of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians of Lackawanna County Scranton gathered to celebrate mass for the Feast of Saint Brigid. The Feast day, February 1st, is one of the official Holy Days of their order. A very dynamic mass was held at Saint Patrick's Church in Scranton, officiated by the Reverend Richard E. Fox. Dorothea Crowley is the Lackawanna County Board President of the LAOH.



Front row left to right: Nancy Earyes, Kristin Krowiak, Mary Kate Warner, Chrissy Lavelle, Elaine Bruno, Fran Kingsley, Nori Connor, Alice McDermott, Dorothea Crowley, Father Richard Fox, Maureen Wallace, Nancy McAndrew Yavoroski, Kate Schneider, Teresa Pelligrino, Karen Savage, Doreen Gilbride.

Back row left to right: Mary Kay Sears, Patty Jones, Mary Ann Abdo, Kathleen Connor, Mary Fran Smith, Tammy Jackson, Carolynn Wahl, Michele McDade, Mary Anne McAndrew, Lori Wagner.

Our Lady of the Rosary Division 5&10 Cleveland

February 4, 2023, we kicked off our Irish Season by Celebrating our Patron Saints Brigid and Patrick with Mass and a Dinner Dance. At our March Meeting we celebrated National Women's Day, and National President Marilyn Madigan Presented 3 of Members with Awards: Helen Malloy (St. Joseph Distinguished Alum), Kay Hough (West Side Irish American Woman of the Year) and Eileen Wallenhorst (50 yr Member). March 4, we Volunteered and Supported at the Friends of Mothers and Infants Charity Event, March 11, we Volunteered and Supported at the St. Malachi Run and some of us

participated in the Akron St. Patrick's Day Parade, March 12, we joined in on the 175th Celebration of St. Patrick's Church (West Park) with Bishop Ed Malesic, and March 17, we marched in Cleveland's St. Patrick's Day Parade. We've also welcomed some New Members Eileen Egan, Ann Stefansin and Eileen Mangan Stull.



State news continued

Virginia

Anna Weaver was presented with the Dowd Division and Virginia State Irish Essay contest winning awards at the St. Brigid Gala on Feb. 4th.



Pictured Lori Forbes, Virginia LAOH President, Susan Holman, Dowd Division President, Anna Weaver, Marianne and Erik Weaver



Anaconda LAOH Division 1 held their Christmas dinner and fellowship in the Ballroom of the historic Marcus Daly Hotel. Over 40 members were in attendance for games and door prizes. Of particular interest in this location, which is under major renovation and preservation, is that Marcus Daly was one of two competing Irish Copper Kings in Montanas boom days of mineral mining and smelting. Please note the gorgeous crystal chandeliers already in place.

Montana

The Sister Amadeus Dunn Division in Great Falls was very pleased when Father Jay Peterson agreed to step up as Chaplain for our division. We had lost our dear Sister Francis Porter, OSU over a year ago and with our dwindling number of religious, we felt we may not find a replacement. We had installation for Chaplain after our December Christmas dinner and Father performed Mass for us On the Feast of Saint Brigid.



The Anaconda, Montana LAOH sisters turned out in full force for the celebration of their patron saint, St. Brigid, on February 5, with their chaplain, Fr. Dougald McCallum, presiding at Mass. Forty-seven ladies attended the festivities, which culminated with a breakfast catered by members Teresa Pierson and Cherie Bilodeau. All the festivities were arranged by

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State news continued

the division Catholic Action Officer, Linda Corcoran. An added highlight of the day was Kathleen (Cait) Francisco had four generations of her family in attendance: Cait, her daughter Michele Butori, her granddaughter Erin Butori and her great granddaughter Hazel Butori.

Once again the Anaconda LAOH raffles off an Irish quilt made by the members. This is the 26th year for the quilt raffle. Since its inception the Anaconda Division has raised around \$78,000. All proceeds from the raffle go to a local charity. This year's chosen recipient is "Special Olympics." The quilt was then given the name, "Something Special." Special Olympics provides a year-round training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities. Their motto is, "Let me be brave in the attempt."

Kathy Conlon and Rosemarie (Rinki) McLean are the chairwomen for this event, and Marilyn Micheletti makes sure the quilting is done to perfection. Assisting her are Carol Davison, Kay Eccleston and Lynette Maes.

The beautiful quilt squares were donated by Cait Francisco, Kathy Hamill, Billie Holmlund, Heidi Ungaretti, Sammi Jo Anderson, Chris Lorello-May, Honre Bray, Kathy Maki, Judy Blaz, Marilyn Micheletti, Carol Davison, Nita Periman, Lori Nugent, Rinki McLean, Barb Killooy, Patty Ungaretti, Helen Radonich, Rosemary Corrigan and Margaret Haugland.



Kathleen (Cait) Francisco and the four generations of her family in attendance

Irish History Contest winners



Left to right: Colton Yoakum, first place, Valerie Walund, State President, Rosemary Corrigan, Isabella Davis third place winner, Kathy Isaacson, Ava White, second place winner. Our winners are Ramsey School students.

Colton and Isabella are eighth graders. Ava is a 6th grader.

Honorable mentions:

Bodhi Keeland, 6th grade, Anaconda

Hunter Novak, 6th grade, Anaconda

Alexis Rubin, 6th grade, Deerlodge ; their teacher, Kelly Huerta.

State news continued

Louisiana

Members of the Margaret Haughery Division, New Orleans, Louisiana, enjoyed a very warm Christmas Tea and meeting at the festive, Irish Channel home of our hostess Kate Ferg on a lovely Sunday afternoon in December.

After the business concluded at our meeting, all enjoyed the lovely and delicious holiday treats baked and created by Kate. Christmas tea, sandwiches, baked Scotch eggs, scones, gingerbread cake, and other hand-made delicacies were on the table. Each member also received a little gift when they left to go home.

Members always look forward to our December meeting & Christmas Tea!



Left to right: Eileen Capritto, Helen Roubion, Pat Carreca, Nora Lambert, Betsy Dowling, Kate Ferg, Patti Johnston, and Joan Eckholdt

Margaret Haughery Division members and their guests gathered on Sunday, February 5, 2023, for a celebration to commemorate the Feast Day of St. Brigid (February 1) and the anniversary of the death of our patroness Margaret Haughery (February 11).

We began the celebration with Mass at Our Lady of the Rosary Church. The Pastor, Fr. Jonathan Hemelt, welcomed the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians to his beautiful church. LAOH members Merle Guerin and Kate Ferg brought up the gifts at the Offertory. After Mass, we drove to St. Louis Cemetery No. 3 to bring flowers to the gravesite of Margaret Haughery. Rev. Msgr. Ken Hedrick, our Chaplain, met us at the cemetery and led the group in prayers for St. Brigid and Margaret Haughery.

The day concluded with a great lunch at Porter & Luke's Restaurant arranged by members, Eileen

Capritto, Eileen Comiskey, and Patti Johnston.

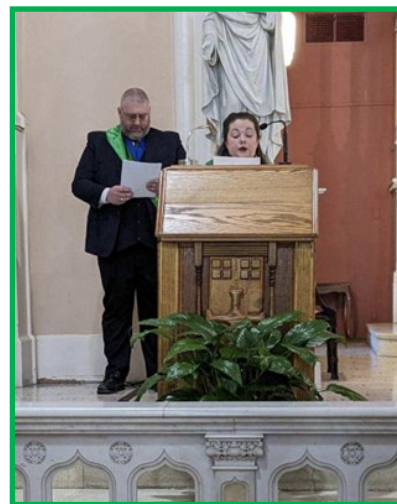
Everyone enjoyed the beautiful day filled with prayer and celebration.



LAOH members at the gravesite of Margaret Haughery

Kentucky

Boone County Division #1, Our Lady of Knock, kicked off the green season with their annual Memorial Mass in conjunction with the Cincinnati AOH. The mass was held at Immaculata Church in Cincinnati, OH. Following the mass there was a small parade through the Mt. Adams neighborhood of Cincinnati.



AOH division President Chris Shulte and LAOH division President Natalie Peterinelli reading the names of the deceased

State news continued

Kentucky continued...

The first few weeks of March were full of events. On March 3, the AOH hosted the annual joint meeting of the LAOH/ AOH in the Cincinnati area. The meeting was presided by the Division Presidents and was followed by a social hour. The week leading up to the parade members of the Division attended various events held by the Parade Committee. The Thursday before the parade a mass honoring St. Patrick's was held at St. Mary's Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption in Covington, KY. On March 11, the St. Patrick's Parade was held in Cincinnati.

On St Patrick's Day the Division attended mass at Mother of God Church in Covington, KY held in honor of the living and deceased members of the LAOH. Following mass a luncheon was held at Greyhound Tavern in Fort Mitchell, KY



Attendees of the St. Patrick's Day in front of the float

Michigan

Members of various divisions of the LAOH and AOH celebrated a Mass in honor of St. Brigid on Thursday, February, 2nd at the Stephen Walsh AOH Hall. Fr. Sean Bonner, from St Mary's Parish in Wayne was the celebrant. He is the son of Una Bonner of the Rose Kennedy Division and the late Brian Bonner. He is pictured saying grace before the delicious meal that followed. The Ethel Kennedy Division provided the chicken and those attending brought a dish to pass.



Fr. Sean Bonner

The 55th annual Court of St. Brigid Scholarship Program, sponsored by the LAOH Rose Kennedy Division was held on February 18th at the AOH Hall in Redford. Educational Scholarships were awarded to the winners pictured above. This is open to Irish Catholic young ladies and men ages 16-23. It is a way for them to celebrate their Irish heritage and earn scholarship money. Congratulations to these three very exceptional young people. They will be present at many LAOH activities during their year reign.



Brigid Haggerty, Keegan Tripp and Ashley Doyle

State news continued

Michigan continued



Sue McNichols, holds her Hibernian of the Year Certificate; Stacey Blair, State President, and Maureen Moriarty Root, with her Certificate as Pallottine Woman of the Year. Sue and Maureen are both members of the **Catherine McAuley Division**. Congratulations to these ladies for their dedication and service in their Division and the Irish community.

The Detroit St. Patrick's Day Parade was on Sunday, March 12th. Many dignitaries participated in the painting of the shamrocks on the parade route including the St. Brigid Hibernian Scholarship court. Despite the cold temperatures sisters from the Michigan State Board and these divisions marched: Elizabeth Fagan, Ethel Kennedy, Rose Kennedy and Catherine McAuley.



Kevin Murphy a member of the AOH Stephen Walsh Division and a friend to the LAOH was the **Grand Marshal** of the Detroit St. Patrick's Day parade on Sunday, March 13th. Kevin is active in the Irish community and plays guitar and sings for many of our Masses and events at the Hall. What a well deserving honor for Kevin. Congratulations.



Kevin with long time Rose Kennedy member Mary Sheehy



Kevin with Charlie French, of the Stephen Walsh Division and Mary Jo Hodge, Vice President of the Rose Kennedy Division

State news continued

Michigan Continued

Most Holy Trinity Church in Corktown, in the old Irish section of Detroit celebrates Mass in grand style on St. Patrick's Day. Many LAOH members attend .



Left to right: Barb Sullivan, Rose Kennedy Division, Peggy Feiten, Dot Gowan and Peggy Gray all from the McAuley Division



Accomplished dancers in the top photo and the wee ones on the bottom, entertained the crowds at the Steven Walsh Hall both on Parade day and St. Patrick's Day

CORK, IRELAND DIGNITARIES COMES TO CORKTOWN, DETROIT, MICHIGAN

Attending the St Patrick & St Joseph Party on March 11th were Stacey Blair LAOH State President with Deidre O'Brien, Deputy Mayor of Cork; Mary Linehan Foley, Fomer Mayor of Cork; and Council Members, Kay Dawson and Mags Donovan. The United Irish Societies have a connection between Corktown in Detroit and Cork, Ireland. Representatives from Cork attend this annual event.



It is with a sad heart that we announce the passing of Shirley O'Kelly on March 10, 2023. Shirley was a Hibernian for 55 years, a founding member of the Rose Kennedy Division. She was also a founding member of the St Brigid Degree Team. She and her late husband Jim were very dedicated to the Hibernians. He was a member of the Stephen Walsh Division, holding various positions in the Division and State. Jim was instrumental in getting the LAOH started in Michigan. Shirley was quite proud of her Irish heritage, she and Jim visited Ireland on two occasions. Surviving are their three children, six grandchildren and several great-grandchildren. Shirley always had a smile on her face and will be sorely missed. May she rest in peace.



State news continued

New York

The Ladies Albany JFK Division 1 has been busy as we started 2023 off in style! We held a St. Brigid's Brunch on February 1st, where guest speaker Dr. Elizabeth Stack, native of Listowel, Ireland, and Executive Director of the Irish American Heritage Museum in Albany, provided an insightful lecture on St. Brigid. Personal care items were collected at the event and distributed to the Albany City Rescue Mission.

On February 25th we kicked off our parade season by hosting a Grand Marshall Dinner honoring our very own Kathleen Stevens, who was selected as this year's Albany St. Patrick's Day Parade Grand Marshall. The night included music, dancing, great food, and a special guest appearance from Kathleen's family, who reunited as the "Stevens Family Dancers" to our collective enjoyment!

At our March Division meeting, Parade Grand Marshall Kathleen Stevens was presented with a special proclamation from Tim O'Hara on behalf of the Guilderland Fire Department. The GFD has participated in the parade as guests of ours for many years and Tim relayed their thanks and appreciation from the entire department!

Last but not least, we were blessed with sunny skies as our division led the Albany St. Patrick's Day Parade down Central Avenue on Saturday March 11th. We started the day with a Parade Day Mass at Blessed Sacrament Church followed by a beautifully arranged refreshment hour. We marched with Irish pride and then our sisters joined together for hours of merriment and music in our Albany Hall.

We share our wishes for a blessed and Happy Easter season for all our sisters statewide and look forward to seeing many of you at the Spring meeting this May.



Dr. Elizabeth Stack and Albany LAOH Catholic Charities and Missions Board Member Elissa O'Reilly at our St. Brigid's Brunch on February 1st



Beautifully arranged table settings were laid out in honor of our Irish Patron Saint Brigid



LAOH National Board Treasurer Cathy Turck recognizing Parade Grand Marshall Kathleen Stevens (left) with accolades from the National Board

State news continued

New York (Albany) continued



Guilderland Fire Department's Tim O'Hara issuing a Special Proclamation to GM Kathleen Stevens during our March Divisional Meeting



Kathleen Steven's providing a reading at St. Patrick's Parade Day Mass at Blessed Sacrament Church



Albany St. Patrick's Day Parade Grand Marshall Kathleen Stevens surrounded by her Ladies Aides, the Albany LAOH Junior Members. The sun was shining as bright as these ladies' smiles!



Pre-Parade festivities with Kathleen Stevens and Family, along with New York State Attorney General Letitia James and City of Albany Mayor Kathy Sheehan



March 11th, 2023 – LAOH Albany Division 1 members at the Albany St. Patrick's Day Parade



The Albany LAOH Juniors hosted a pasta dinner on January 27 to benefit the Capital Region Food Bank. They raised a whopping \$900 which they delivered personally and then pitched in to lend a hand at the food bank. Well done girls!

State news continued

New York (Albany) continued



Albany Juniors presenting their check for \$900 to the Capital Region Food Bank along with LAOH Vice President Kathleen Stevens and Missions and Charities Officer Christine O'Reilly

LAOH Our Lady of Knock Division 19, Yonkers NY held its annual St. Brigid's Day Mass and Luncheon on Saturday February 4th. Our Chaplan Fr. William Cleary presided over the Mass. A wonderful afternoon of food, fun and sisterhood was had by all. We had a large 50/50 raffle of which our proceeds were donated back to a sister from one of our other county divisions who recently suffered terrible hardship having lost everything in a horrific fire.



Members of Division 19 at their Annual St. Brigid's Mass & Luncheon

On Saturday, March 18th the 66th Annual Yonkers St. Patrick's Day parade was held along McLean Ave also known as the Emerald Isle. Our current President and Sister, Noreen Ryan, was honored as an Aide to the Grand Marshal, Fr. Brendan Fitzgerald, Pastor of St. Barnabas Church. The LAOH was well represented by members in the parade and a grand day it was!



The Yonkers St. Patrick's Day Parade Dinner (left to right) Division 19 Vice President Allison Burke, Secretary Nancy Walsh, President Noreen Ryan (Honored Parade Aide) and Sentinel Denise Donaghy



Members of Division 19 in Yonkers St. Patrick's Day parade on 3/18/2023

The LAOH Kitty Geissler Division 11 of Tarrytown, NY has participated in all things St. Patrick during the month of March. President Alice Geissler Koraca who also serves as the Sleepy Hollow St. Patrick's Parade coordinator worked to have the annual March Irish Heritage Month display in the Tarrytown Warner Library by March 1st. The Division hosted the reception at The Transfiguration Church on parade day following the 10:00 O'clock mass which was said for our deceased members. The Sleepy Hollow/ Tarrytown St. Patrick's twenty-seventh annual Parade proved to be the most outstanding event in the Hudson Valley. Division members were able to attend the installation of the Grand Marshal and Aides to the NYC St. Patrick's Parade at Antun's in Queen's and proudly marched with the LAOH NYS Board on March 17th. Westchester County executive George Latimer invited several members to "the raising of the Irish flag" to celebrate Irish Heritage Month in

State news continued

Tarrytown continued

Westchester. It was an honor to attend the commemoration of the Great Hunger Memorial hosted by the Ardsley Public Library where James Houlihan, Chairman, was the guest speaker.



Nassau County Fundraiser St Brigid's Luncheon hosted by Glen Cove Division 8 Regina Begley (NYS Vice President at time of picture), Mary Dignam Division 14 Treasurer, Eileen O'Neill Historian, Linda Dascher President, Mary Bradley Vice President, Angela Donovan Catholic Action Chair, Bernadette Lavery Secretary, and Maureen Caffrey (Nassau County President at time of photo).



Our newly elected board members for Div 14 Marian Cronin (Nassau County Treasurer did the installation of officers) Mary Bradley Vice President, Bernadette Lavery Secretary, Eileen O'Neill Historian, Linda Dascher President, Dina Marrone Financial Secretary, Angela Donovan Catholic Action Chair, and Mary Dignam Treasurer.



NYS LAOH Veteran's and Military Affairs Appointee and Schenectady Division 1 member, Jeannine Mannarino held a Valentine's Day Tribute to our Military. Local Veterans were honored and Mr. Andrew "Doc" Berry Ph.D., Psy. D., ABPP spoke on PTSD and other mental health needs of Veterans and First Responders.

Many of the Division 1, LAOH members attended a Sno Glow gala and had a great time. They dressed in blue and white, enjoyed a delicious lunch, conversation and give aways. (See Picture below)

Schenectady Division 1 had a record 27 entries for the

State news continued

Schenectady continued

Irish History contest. The top three were awarded cash and a certificate for their participation. The winners and their families attended our division meeting to be congratulated by all. We wish them luck in the State and National contest.

We celebrated the feast of St Brigid with Mass at St Luke's Church and a ceremony and luncheon to follow.



Left to right, front row: Immigration Appointee Peg Burch, Brenda Adams, Catholic Action officer Shelly Valek. Back row: Secretary Kim DePeaux, Mistress at Arms Cathy Turck, FFAI Appointee Cheryl Gardiner, Michol Murphy, and Betsy Henderson attend Snow Glo Gala.



Catholic Action officer Shelly Valek reads a prayer during the ceremony honoring St Brigid.



Left to right: Susan Callaghan, Irish Historian, 1st Place winner Julia Dobkowski, 3rd place winner Molly Moran, 2nd place winner Elizabeth Boisvert, Mary Sieder, Division President.

May the rains sweep gently across your fields, may the sun warm the land, may every good seed you have planted bear fruit and may late summer find you standing in fields of plenty.

