

Lady Hibernian Herald

Ancient Order of Hibernians - Irish · Catholic · American

October 2021

LAOH Virtual Interim Board Meeting Held

The National Interim Board meeting was opened via Zoom on Saturday September 25th, 2021, with prayers and salutations from our National President. She then turned it over to AOH president, Danny O'Connell who wished us well and a productive meeting. After roll call and dispensing with the reading of the minutes, the National secretary shared the nomination letters she has received for positions on the national board. These included from Ohio for Marilyn Madigan, from Pennsylvania for Maryann Lubinsky, from Missouri, for Sandy Swift and from New York for Cathy Turck. These can be read on the National LAOH website.

Once all Officers shared a brief greeting, we welcomed our first speaker, Daire Courtney, Political Counsellor for the Immigration, Embassy of Ireland. She provided updates on Brexit, how they are advocating for immigration policies in the states and assisting those living here illegally, trying to get a path to citizenship. She was please to let us

know travel to Ireland will be opening back up in November.

Committee reports were up next. Degree team stipends were voted on and approved. Motions were made to make our annual donations to Notre Dame scholarship fund, The Cushwa Center and The Kenough- Norton Center. The annual Hibernian Lecture will be held virtually this year, watch for details in the coming weeks. Updates were received from our marketing and social media committee. Total amounts collected by our Missions and Charities Officer and our Catholic Action Officer were shared and motions to disperse were made. Our FFAI appointee shared how much she collected last year and where the funds were dispersed. There was an update from our Political education appointee and Past National President Pat O'Connell on archiving our history. Watch the website for more information to come. Publicity appointee reminded ladies that past issues of the newsletter are on the National web page, and you

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can sign up to receive the newsletter, as well as other correspondence from the national board. An update was provided on our application for the Emigrant Support Program grant. We were awarded \$11,000. The money will be used to provide Irish lectures and teach Gaelic and Irish dance, among other things. Our Veterans Affairs Appointee reminded everyone that we have Veteran's Pins available. A motion was made to make Blue Start Mother pins available for our members.

Guest speaker Ciaran Quinn-North- North American Representative Sinn Fein (see related article)

Unfinished business: An update was provided for the 2022 National convention in Pittsburgh. (See related article). The fundraising chair let everyone know that she has mailed out your tickets. You can get more if

you need them. The supply chair reminded ladies to use the form on the website each time you order, as it will have the most current items available. President Karen Keane let the presidents know that their annual reports will be coming out at the beginning of November.

New business: National Life Membership winners announced. Congratulations to this year's winners. Mary Sheehy from Michigan, Denise Sobus from NY, Rae DiSpaldo and Donna Donnelly Kearney, both from Pennsylvania. A question was brought up regarding the AOH recruiting women for their order. President Karen Keane addressed the question by letting everyone know she sent a letter to the AOH president, which she has not yet received an answer to.

President's Letter

Sisters,

We had a fantastic, and long, interim Board meeting today. We had all States but three represented and many questions were asked and answered. We had greetings from the AOH National President, Danny O'Connell and guest speakers Dairen Courtney, Political Counsellor for Immigration at the Embassy of Ireland, and Ciaran Quinn, North American Representative for Sinn Fein. Besides the National Board and State Presidents, we also had another 70 members as observers. This enabled members to see the National Board in action and to hear for themselves the issues discussed. The entire meeting will be available on our website under the members only page.

I was able to attend state conventions over the summer and I am looking forward to traveling to Florida and Maryland. I ask that you please review the reports of all the National Officers and Appointees, again available on the website.

One item brought up today was the amount of donations raised over the past years. The donations to the Columban Fathers and Columban Sisters were strong, however our Catholic Action Officer noted Project St Project was down with a few states not contributing at all. Please consider all the Charities we support, including Support Our Aging Religious (SOAR) and Appeals for Aide.

In closing, remember that we are United, Strong, Committed and Engaged. Each member makes our SISTERHOOD STRONG.

In Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,

Karen



Dear Sisters,

I live in the Jesuit residence on Marquette University's campus. One of my favorite ways to wind down at the end of the day, especially during the summer, is to sit on the fifth-floor terrace and watch the sun go down. Because my tin whistle is seldom far from my hand, I often play tunes as the day gives way to night. Sometimes I accompany the sun's descent with reels and jigs; sometimes I put the day to rest with a slow aire. Every now and again, I catch sight of someone who hears music, pauses, and listens. For me, praying and playing go together, and I see these moments as chances to share without words what I love... who I love...with others.

If you have ever played the whistle, you know it goes wrong in many ways. You must cover the holes or else it squeaks. If the mouthpiece is clogged, notes are garbled. Every note needs to be respected and needs to be perfected if the tune is going to sound right. The lesson: every note matters.

I doubt Jesus ever played the tin whistle. But the lessons of his life and ministry is similar: just as every note matters to the music, so does every life matter to God's Kingdom. In a way, Jesus is like a great music teacher who is convinced that *everyone* has something to contribute. Some take to it immediately; others need a lot of work. But when Jesus interacts with people, he sees them *as they are* and calls them to embrace who God calls them *to become*. Jesus never "calls people out" for not being good enough. On the contrary, Jesus "calls people in" to learn how to play from him. He teaches people how to find and claim their note so they can enter the Kingdom's Ceili Band.

Not everyone can play a whistle like Joanie Madden, Kathleen Conneely, Kathy Keane, or Mary Bergin (my heroes). But I am convinced that every person picks up the instrument has something to offer. Sure: some notes are sharp, some are flat, and some...well, some have never been heard before! Regardless, the

tradition is enriched by every contribution. Likewise, our Catholic faith, our Catholic Church, is enriched by each of its members who says, "I believe...". Every member matters.

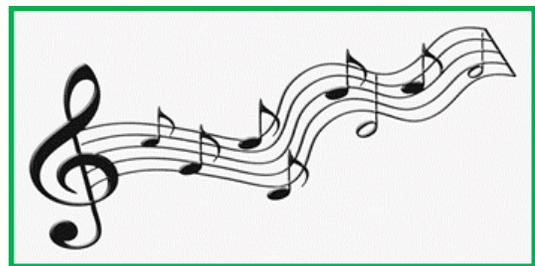
A question: How are we called to serve our Tradition? Are we going to "call out" others when they play differently or do we have the courage to "call in" all of voices, all of the instruments, and allow God's Spirit to weave us into the band? Can we imagine a "call in" culture where we help our sisters and brothers to find the note that God desires them to contribute?

I like to imagine heaven as a great ceili. I'm sure there are dancers somewhere, but I see myself in the middle of the musicians. Jesus sits at the piano, setting the pace and keeping the rhythm steady. When someone plays well, he winks. When someone goes off tune, he nods and tells them to try again. And because everyone is following the One who invited us to join, we become better by playing together.

Every note and every life matters. The Ceili has begun and we have all been invited. Will we accept the invitation to play? Will we welcome others—even if their notes don't sound quite right to us—into the band, confident that the One whose music we serve has a place for everyone?

Your Brother,

Fr Ryan Duns, SJ



A visit from Ciarán Quinn, Sinn Féin Representative for North America

Ciarán Quinn was a guest speaker at the LAOH National Interim Board Meeting on September 25. Ciarán serves on the Sinn Féin National Officer Board and Ard Chomhairle. He is also the Sinn Féin Representative for North America.

Ciarán gave us a thorough update on the recent

activities in Washington this week regarding the visit by British PM Boris Johnson. The main concerns for Ireland and Irish America are the Brexit withdrawal Protocol, which was agreed to by all parties in January 2020 and which PM Johnson is looking to change, as well as the Amnesty legislation for soldiers and paramilitaries that is

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Ciarán Quinn continued

planned to be proposed next month in the British Parliament.

The protocol is critical in keeping a physical border off the island of Ireland. The Good Friday Agreement and Stormont agreements are in place to ensure that all people in Ireland have a voice and that legacy issues are addressed. Legislators including Brendan Boyle, Nancy Pelosi and Richie Neal as well as President Biden made it clear this week that the GFA must not be undermined and that the proposed legislation to remove legacy inquiries and ending prosecutions of paramilitaries and state agents for troubles related crimes needs to be withdrawn. Dozens of human rights groups have issued statements against this legislation. Ciarán noted that today, September 25, 2021 across the island of Ireland there were protests against the proposed legislation. He also talked about the Reavy family who were notified this week that the Ombudsman found evidence connecting an RUC police officer to the murder of their three sons who were killed by Loyalists in 1976.

Ciarán noted that the current President and Vice President of Sinn Fein are women. Mary Lou McDonald, as president is the Leader of the Opposition – the first woman to hold that position. Michelle O’Neill holds the position of VP of Sinn Fein and is the Deputy First Minister in the north of Ireland. Ciarán noted that perhaps in the next election we could see Mary Lou as the Taoiseach and Michelle as the First Minister.

Ciarán closed by saying that all of the issues could be solved with a United Ireland. Groups are meeting across the island to discuss how this could be accomplished. He mentioned the significance of these conversations and that he expects a United Ireland in our lifetime.



LADIES ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS, INC.
NATIONAL FUNDRAISING RAFFLE
2021-2022

30 Chances to Win!

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

6 months of winners

\$100.00 Thanksgiving 2021, Early Bird Drawing

\$100.00 Christmas 2021, Early Bird Drawing

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26 weekly Monday winners for \$25.00

(January 3rd, 2022 – June 27th, 2022)

\$1,000.00 GRAND PRIZE

drawn at the 2022 LAOH/AOH National Convention

Tickets are \$20.00 each

Make checks payable to: LAOH, Inc.

C/o Maire Leffel, LAOH National Raffle Chair
17710 Flamingo Ave.
Cleveland, OH 44135

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

nationalaohrafflechair@gmail.com

What a great stocking stuffer for Christmas!

Get your entries in early to be eligible for the 2021 Early Bird drawings!

Dear Hibernian Sisters,

I hope all are well and I would like to thank you all for your support during our 2020-2021 National LAOH fundraising campaigns. So many Divisions, County, State and National Board members along with many individuals made this fundraiser a success. Congratulations to all the winners, some more than once!

Our LAOH National Board Fundraising campaigns helps defray the costs of our administrative expenses. We have many exciting things in the works, and I encourage everyone to visit the LAOH National website at www.ladiesaoh.com to stay informed of all events in which this campaign will contribute. Also visit [Fundraising on our site to see the winners and additional ways you can help support our Organization.](#)

M^áire Leffel,

LAOH National Raffle Chair

2022 National Convention Update

The 2022 National Convention of the AOH and LAOH will take place in Pittsburgh’s Downtown Wyndham Grand Hotel from Tuesday, July 12 through Sunday, July 17, 2022. The Wyndham Grand is located right in the heart of downtown Pittsburgh and is within walking distance of PNC Park, Heinz Field, the Cultural District, numerous restaurants, bars, shopping, casino and other entertainment venues. The hotel has 712 guest rooms, 24 hour fitness center, indoor swimming pool and jacuzzi.

The room rate is \$129.00 plus tax. Check in is at 4:00 p.m. and checkout is noon. This room rate is good for three days prior to the Convention and three days after the Convention. Valet parking is \$35.00 per day. There is a parking lot near the hotel and parking is \$25.00 per day. The Pittsburgh airport is located 17 miles from the hotel. To date, a package price has not yet been established. The package price will be established sometime in October. The package will include the Icebreaker on Wednesday, July 13, Irish Night on Friday, July 15, and the closing banquet on Saturday, July 16.

Due to the National Convention being virtual in 2020, the Constitution Committee did not meet. As such, it will be necessary for the Constitution Committee to meet for two days prior to the opening of the Convention. This is due to the anticipated number of proposed changes. Please make note that this is NOT a Constitution Convention. This committee is tentatively scheduled to meet at noon on July 12 until approximately 5:00 p.m. and again at noon on July 13 until finished.

The Rules of Order Committee will also meet prior to the opening of the convention in Pittsburgh. Per National President, Karen Keane, the remainder of the committees will meet virtually prior to the convention. However, the reports will not be finalized until the physical meeting at the convention. President Keane will appoint the Committee Chairpersons and provide further details regarding your committee much closer to the convention.

Additional information will be forthcoming as soon as more details of the National Convention are finalized. In the meantime, if you should have any questions or concerns, please contact me at

kathielin10@gmail.com or 330-714-4826.

The local committee, under the direction of Denny Maher and Eileen O’Malley, has been working diligently to make your stay in the “Steel City” memorable. A fun fact is that Pittsburgh is also known as the “City of Bridges” with 466 bridges. Pittsburgh has more bridges than any other city in the world! More details to follow. Looking forward to seeing “yinze” in Pittsburgh for the 2022 National Convention!

Kathie Linton
LAOH National Convention Chair



Freedom For All Ireland – Dolores Desch

Christmas Appeal: The 2020-2021 LAOH FFAI Christmas Appeal was a huge success resulting in over \$21,000 being raised. This was done through the hard work of our Divisions, Counties and States who despite the pandemic, found a way to support this very important initiative. Fifteen groups received much needed donations; please refer to my Interim Board Meeting Report on the LAOH National website for details. Six groups gave \$1,000

Maryland State Board
Ethel Kennedy Division, Macomb
John F. Kennedy Division 1, Schenectady
John F. Kennedy - Division 1, Albany
Our Lady of the Rosary Div 5/10, Cuyahoga
Our Lady of the Rosary Div 5/10, Cuyahoga individual donation

or more as follows:

The funds were distributed on August 28 at a Webinar from the Houben Center in Belfast by the AOH National Chairman, Martin Galvin. The webinar can be viewed here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rG0GDNdW0dc&t=871s> .

I am now collecting funds for the 2021-2022 Christmas Appeal. Please send your donations directly to me at: 20 Arlene Ave. Albany, NY 12203. Please include the check payable to: LAOH, Inc., the full name

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FFAI continued

of your State, County, Division making the donation and a contact name with email address.

News from the North of Ireland: The recent announcement by NI Secretary of State Brandon Lewis to propose legislation in Parliament to deny inquests, inquiries, and prosecution of those responsible for conflict related murderers has been met with protest. This amnesty bill benefits the UK government, providing sanctuary for British soldiers and is seen as undermining the Stormont House Agreement. Hundreds of families on both sides - Nationalist and Unionist - who have been working for decades to uncover the truth behind the killings of their loved ones during the conflict have responded overwhelmingly against this proposal. This is the latest of many attempts by the British government to hide the truth. Members of the US Congress as well as leaders around the world have come out against this proposal. On September 25 there were protests across the island of Ireland against the legislation and members of the US Congress have said that they will not support a trade deal with the UK if this proposal is pushed through.

Please make sure your Division has an FFAI appointee who will receive and relay the latest information on the news, issues and programs affecting those living in the north of Ireland. FFAI information is readily available on our national website page and Facebook Page. I am also happy to assist if you need any help. Please like, follow and share our FFAI Page <https://ladiesaoh.com/freedom-for-all-ireland/> which contains updated information as well as FFAI news. If you are not receiving my emails, please send me your email address. As always, if you have any questions or would like more information please contact me at laohnationalffai@gmail.com. Thank you for all of your support for Freedom For All Ireland.

Go raibh maith agat.



Vice President, Marilyn Madigan

I have had the honor to attend Conventions in Ohio, New York, Pennsylvania and Virginia. All of these Conventions were successful, thanks to the those planning the Business and Social Events. These Committees were made up of teams of our Sisters who

are committed to the mission of our Order.

Teamwork is crucial to success as an organization. The LAOH is blessed to have many members who give of themselves selflessly to achieve the goals of our Order. There are many members serving on the different committees. Every member has something to offer. If you have special skills or knowledge that can help our Order, please reach out to volunteer on one of these committees.

The recent Virtual Interim Board Meeting was a prime example of fantastic teamwork. It was announced at the Meeting, our new mission of presenting events in the Virtual format of “Embracing Our Heritage”. We will need help with this project. Some areas of assistance with this project includes designing ads for our publicity as well as hosting different events. Please contact Marilyn Madigan at laohnationalvicepresident@gmail.com if you have skills in this matter. The Committee welcomes the sharing of your time, talent and will treasure your involvement.

In my opinion, one of the main benefits of being a team member is making friends with your Sisters in all areas of the country. We are a strong vibrant Sisterhood committed to our Faith and Heritage. We need to continue to share this fantastic teamwork with our communities.



Embracing Our Irish Heritage

We are excited to announce that the Irish Government has awarded the LAOH a grant of \$11,000 to publicize our new production series: “Embracing Our Irish Heritage”. All members, Divisions, Counties and States all over America, are invited to present an Irish theme moment or event. Segments can last up to an hour, streaming live using Facebook Live. Our team will record and edit for posting on the LAOH YouTube Channel for all to share again and again!

All ideas are welcome and we hope all states are able to showcase a local event. Your theme should link our emigrant population to the motherland. This project is chaired by Marilyn Madigan and Sandi Swift. The schedule is taking shape now with our first production next month. Please send in your ideas to Mary Jo Rawlins at Laohnationalsupplies@gmail.com.

State News

Virginia

The Lt. Col. John A Dowd Division of the LAOH in Woodbridge VA is a fun loving, generous group. One of our favorite meetings is our annual Pot Luck/Baby Shower in May. We gather together for a meeting in a member's home and everyone brings a dish to share and baby items to donate to Birthright (provides crisis pregnancy services) and Tepeyac (a charitable organization that provides comprehensive OB/GYN services). We were so delighted that we were able to carry on in 2021 and here's a picture of our smiling faces as proof.



Texas

Summers in Texas are hot! This summer brought sunshine and happiness to members of the Golden Rose, Queen of Ireland, Division 1 because we were able to meet in-person for the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic. We celebrated Independence Day with our “Mass and Much”, celebrated Our Lady of Knock with a tour of St. Mary Cathedral in Austin, TX, and held our AOH/LAOH Texas State Convention in Austin, TX.

To celebrate Independence Day we had another great “Mass and Munch” where we met at St. Louis King of France church followed by dinner and fellowship at a local restaurant. It was wonderful to reconnect and meet in person. Our “Mass and Munch” outings allow our division to visit various churches in the region and then meet up for a meal with our sisters and their families. Our outing was successful because we raised awareness of LAOH in Austin and we were able to recruit our newest member, Jennifer King Dimas.

On August 27th, we celebrated Our Lady of Knock with a tour of St. Mary Cathedral in Austin. Our tour guide, Ted Eubanks, conducted a lovely tour where he explained the history, architecture, and stained glass windows of this beautiful cathedral. St. Mary Cathedral dates back to the 1850s when the Catholic community in Austin built a small stone church named St. Patrick's. Once Austin became the permanent capital of the state, the parish needed a new church and St. Mary was built by the Irish born Nicholas Clayton. The tour was the evening before the AOH/LAOH Texas State Convention and we were delighted that President Karen Keane was able to attend. We concluded our tour with a group picture on the steps of the cathedral.

Texas held our AOH/LAOH Texas State Convention the weekend of August 27 - 29, 2021 in Austin, TX. It was an honor and pleasure to host President Karen Keane at our convention. This was her first visit to Texas and she was able to meet the members, engage in fellowship, share her wisdom of LAOH, and initiate the Texas LAOH State Officers. Friday evening we kicked off the convention with a tour of St. Mary Cathedral, enjoyed hors d'oeuvres at the historic Driskill Hotel bar, and ended at the welcome reception on the outdoor patio listening to live music. Saturday morning we started off with the LAOH Bake sale to raise money for Catholic Action. Our ladies baked yummy goodies like barmbrack, cupcakes, brownies, brown bread, Irish soda bread and shamrock shaped cookies! We raised \$233 for charity with a small convention of 35 people. Our convention had keynote addresses from the Irish Vice Consul, Niamh Clark, on the impact of Brexit and LAOH President, Karen Keane, on building community/friendship and engaging current members and recruiting new members. We ended the convention with Mass and initiation of Texas State Officers. Austin is the “live music capital of the world” so it was fitting to end the convention listening to the Bobby Sands band on the outdoor patio. Sunday morning members of LAOH and Karen Keane attended Mass at St. Mary Cathedral. It was a successful convention that connected our members to the rich 127 year history of LAOH and engaged our sisterhood in continuing to look to building the future.



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State news continued



Texas

Left to right / top row first: Deirdre Martin-Ross, Cindy Galvin, Bridget Cresto, Maureen Coulehan, Ann Soule, Jennifer Mooney, Amanda Bacque, Kathie Bacque

Montana

Montana held their State convention Sept 17-18 in Butte, MT with LAOH National President Karen Keane attending. Congratulations to the incoming officers.



Newly elected officers: L-R President Rosemary Corrigan, Secretary- Billie Holmlund, Missions & Charities- Kathy Pahut, Catholic Action-Susie Hogart, Treasurer- Shannon Wilson, National Pres- Karen Keane, Vice President- Pam O'Rielly



Ohio



National Vice President Marilyn Madigan (center) is the first member in Ohio to register "in person" at the State of Ohio Hibernian Convention in June. Pictured here with her are Our Lady of the Rosary Division members Marilyn Reynolds and our Convention Co-Chair Patricia Lavelle. Ohio's convention was the nation's first in-person convention and proved to be a scorcher. Firetrucks interrupted our meetings but there was fun to be had while we waited for the all clear in the parking lot. The Shenanigator brought new meaning to "Fun in 21"!



Kentucky

Congratulations to our new State Board and Thank you Julia O'Dwyer, Immediate Past President, for your leadership and dedication to our Order!



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State news continued



Members present for photo: Carol Sheyer (LAOH National Board), Maureen Toner, Natalie Peterinelli, Molly Dobson, Peggy Baas, Julia O'Dwyer (Immediate Past President). Officers not present for photo: Kathleen Prezocki, Anni Lawrenz, Rebecca Abel-Kennedy.

Iowa

St. Brigid Division 1, Dubuque County

Just an update from our division. We are meeting in person now, although there are still members that are apprehensive. I don't foresee that getting any better with the way Covid is progressing again.

We did just complete our Irish Hooley put on by the LAOH and AOH Division 2. Our hooley board consist of 10 board members all Hibernians. Had over 2000 in attendance. Opening ceremonies with a salute to every branch of the military along with opening prayer. We were excited to have Sean O'Dowd National Director Of AOH give opening remarks and spend the day with us.

Performances by Dubuque Pipes and Drums, McNulty Irish Dancers, Ian Gould as our MC and providing music, along with 2 local Irish Bands, Ballyheique, The Lads, and our headliner Gaelic Storm.

Proceeds from the Hooley benefit RESEARCH for the Kids benefiting University of Iowa Children's Hospital brain tumor and heart research. On Sept 18th there will be a benefit ride, with food, beverages, auction, etc. At that time the Hooley Board will present them with our donation.



Left: Molly Dobson recognizing Julia O'Dwyer as Immediate Past President. Right: Kentucky State Board taking LAOH Oath as Officers.



We wish to recognize the Junior Division from Kentucky – Mother Catherine McCauley Division

Thank you to all of our Junior members for their dedication and resilience as they continued to grow in their faith and Irish culture throughout 2020 and 2021. Our Junior Division presented their presence in parish, school, community and LAOH support during 2021 State LAOH Convention! Thank you to Clara Fulkerson and Bonnie Hall who serve as our Junior Division Coordinators.



Story continued on next page

State news continued

Iowa continued



Denver

The LAOH of Denver, Division 1 finally met in person on August 29th to celebrate Our Lady of Knock mass followed by The Louise Donovan Annual LAOH Family Picnic honoring our founder, Louise Donovan. It was wonderful to see Louise, our members and their families in person again. Good food, great weather, friendship and even hurling lessons for the little ones. A good time was had by all.

Louise began the Denver LAOH chapter in the year 2000 after much research and planning. The inception of the Denver, Colorado LAOH Division #1 resulted from our Charter President Louise Donovan's accompanying her husband to the AOH Booth at the Colorado Irish Festival, staged by the Colorado United Irish Societies (CUIS). As AOH wives began inquiring about the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Louise began to investigate requirements with the National LAOH while inviting every Irish Catholic woman she knew in Denver to consider joining. An informational meeting was held in late 1999, and in January 2000, Mary Paglione came to Denver to install the Denver LAOH Division #1 with 22 members.

We currently have 42 members after installing our newest member last week. We continue to reach out to the Irish Catholic community and are thrilled to report several new women who have applied and are

waiting to be installed as LAOH members at our next division meeting. Some of our 42 members may only be in Denver once a year, but, as their home state has no LAOH, they join us when they are in Denver.

The Denver LAOH is a very lovely and vibrant group of sisters who support one another through all of life's ups and downs, with great laughter, love and fellowship throughout each year. Louise has been the driving force behind the success of our division and we are grateful for her guidance and enthusiasm. For more information on the Denver LAOH visit www.denverlaoh.org or our Facebook page at [Denver LAOH Facebook](#).



Louise Donovan, founder. Sheila Thunboe, Pres., Mary Russell, VP, Mary Lynn White, Finance., with members



Louise Donovan with LAOH picnic attendees.



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State news continued

Denver continued



Louise Donovan and family

California



Samantha Kelly from St. Brigid's Division 1 in Orange County California was honored with a banner. The banner will hang in her hometown of Redlands California. Sam's parents are proudly holding the banner. Samantha is in the US Navy and is stationed in San Diego CA. I guess she takes after John Barry, the first flagship officer of the US Navy and an Irishman.



LOUISIANA

The Louisiana LAOH/AOH State Convention was held on July 9-11, 2021, at the Hilton Riverside Hotel, New Orleans, Louisiana.

The Convention was officially opened by LAOH State President, Liz Rafferty and AOH State President, Sean Kennedy, at a Cocktail Party Friday night, July 9. The Cocktail Party gave all attendees a chance to catch up on all that had been happening during the 1-1/2 years we were not together because of the COVID-19 pandemic. It was great seeing everyone again!

The next morning it was down to business... We started with a Continental Breakfast and then went into a Joint Session with LAOH and AOH members. The LAOH and AOH State Presidents each gave a brief report. Then we convened in a separate meeting room to conduct our business of the day. We had 11 members in attendance, plus our Chaplain, Fr. Ken Hedrick. Among the items discussed were planning for the 30th Anniversary Celebration of our Margaret Haughery Division, established in 1991, and resumption of our assisting with feeding the homeless at Lantern Light Ministry. Since we will continue with our present Officers, elections were not held. The session ended with Mimosas for everyone!

To our delight, the AOH treated the LAOH members to a wonderful lunch offsite at the Palace Café, one of the Dickie Brennan restaurants, in Downtown New Orleans. We ended the day with LAOH and AOH members attending Mass and enjoying friendship at the closing banquet.

Sunday, July 11, found members saying good-bye with hopes of resuming meetings and activities in the near future. Might we add that we also took home 5 extra pounds because of the great social events



Seated L to R: Joan Eckholdt, Liz Rafferty, Gerrie Martinez
Standing l to r: Kaye Burke, Marie McKay, Pat Carreca, Ione Power, Judy Burke, Shelly Power, Eileen Comiskey, absent Blanche Comiskey

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State news continued

Louisiana Continued



Luncheon Attendees at the Palace Café

New Jersey

LAOH Mathair Gael Division 10 member Margaret Walsh from Mercer County, New Jersey spearheaded a "School Supply Drive" to benefit The Children's Home Society of Trenton New Jersey. With help from Division Sisters Michaela McFadden and Lauren Tracey, they packed 62 backpacks, along with several bags of extra school supplies! With their help their contributions will make a big difference in the lives of many students this coming school year!



Margaret Walsh standing underneath The Children's Home Society Banner is 2nd from the left and 3 team members from The CHS of Trenton, NJ



Michaela McFadden on the left and Lauren Tracey on the right, LAOH Division 10 Sisters.

Pennsylvania

Since the 101st Biannual Pennsylvania LAOH and AOH Convention hosted by Philadelphia County in July, many Ladies of the Commonwealth proudly state that they are excited about being a Hibernian. The Convention included many events, including a tornado touching down just a mere mile away! At the business meetings, we highlighted the incredible spirit and focus of the Ladies' motto throughout this historical term and elected a new Board. We were blessed to have several members of the National Board join us. President Karen Keane challenged us all to carry on our motto while working to gain more members. Her enthusiasm, honesty, and humor entertained and inspired us. On the last day of the Convention, many participated in or observed the beautiful Degree Ceremony celebrated by our Philadelphia Tara Degree team. We closed with a beautiful Mass, Installation, and dinner, highlighted with a Mummings Band. Now we are off and running again! Returning to our LAOH Divisions, bringing more good old Irish spirit to our Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity mission, let us encourage each other!

Additionally, the Commonwealth proudly announces that we have two LAOH members that have been selected for Life-membership. CONGRATULATIONS to our PA State Board Sister and formal State President Rae DiSpaldo and Philadelphia Division 87 Sister Donna Donnelly Kearney

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State news continued

Pennsylvania continued

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania proudly announces the 2021-2023 State Board

Maria Gallagher ~ President

Kathleen Diulus ~ Vice President

Carolyn Killion ~ Secretary

Patti Flaus ~ Treasurer

Carole Cooney-Syzdek ~ Irish Historian

Sister Kathleen Mary Smith, RSM ~ Missions & Charities

Brianna Curran ~ Catholic Action

Mary Ann Amesbury ~ Immediate Past President

And Appointees:

Sister Lisa Breslin, SSJ ~ Chaplin

MaryJo Zamichieli Katona ~ Community Relations

Kathleen Varady ~ Freedom for All

Ireland Maureen Cooper ~ Immigration and Education

Maura O'Donnell Roszyk ~ Publicity

MaryAnn Lubinsky ~ Webmaster



From left to right: Mary Ann Lubinsky, Maura Roszyk, Brianna Curran, Mary Jo Katona, Carolyn Killion, Sister Lisa Breslin, SSJ, Maria Gallagher, Kathleen Kiulus, Maureen Cooper, MaryAnn Amesbury, Carole Cooney-Szydek, Sister Kathleen Smith, RSM, and Patti Flaus (missing from picture Kathleen Varady).

Many of us were thrilled to celebrate Mass together and honor Our Lady of Knock in August. And in September, we participated in Halfway to St. Patrick's Day parades, parties, and festivals throughout the State. Wonderfully, our immediate past president, Mary Ann Amesbury, finally served as the Grand Marshal of Wilkes-Barre's St Patrick's Day Parade.

Members of LAOH Division 21 supported the eighth annual Jessie Games by donating and helping pack more than 500 boxes filled with fun activities and school supplies to children in southwestern Pennsylvania who are served by Catholic Charities. The Jessie Games also benefited from a generous donation from the National LAOH Board's Missions and Charities Committee. The Jessie Games, which were created in 2014 by a LAOH division 21 member and her family in honor of their daughter, Jessie Smith, who died in 2013, has traditionally been an in-person event with races, games and fun activities for families. With the pandemic, rather than hold an in-person event, a special delivery program was created, with boxes filled with activities, school supplies and special inspirational items delivered to children. The logo of the Jessie Games is Jessie's name translated into the Ancient Celtic language using the Ogham alphabet, which is found inscribed on stone monuments throughout Ireland. There is no letter "J" in Ogham, so the name becomes "Ieise" as seen in the logo.

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State news continued

Pennsylvania continued

Ten members of the LAOH Division 21 attended a mass in honor of Our Lady of Knock. The mass was organized by the Allegheny County LAOH and held Aug. 22 at Saints Simon & Jude Church. Golden Rose recipients received their Golden Rose Pin immediately after mass and members gathered for a reception and light refreshments in the church hall.



Attending the mass, standing left to right: Jean O'Malley, Eileen Schillken, Mary Ann Raymer, Eileen Sheridan, Peggy Bond, Trish Conley, Darlene Vietmeier and Helen Rafferty



Seated at a table at the reception following the Lady of Knock mass are Division 21 members left to right are: Peggy Bond, Eileen Schillken, Eileen Sheridan, and Becky Ricci

The Brothers and Sisters of Div. 32 came together to celebrate our annual Communion Breakfast. Congratulations to the LAOH Service Award recipient Maureen Donnelly and the Hibernian of the Year Patti Flaus. Congratulations to the AOH Service Award recipients Sean McBride and Paul Towhey, and the Hibernian of the Year John Truel.



Standing: Service Award Winner Maureen Donnelly, Vice President Nancy Anderson, Kathleen Bado, Sarah McAuliffe-Bellin, Kitty Kohn, Nancy Maher, Kathleen O'Donnell, Lorrie Carroll, Hibernian of the Year Patti Flaus.

Seated: Mary Helen Gannon, Joann Scully, Chaplain Sr. Patrice Hughes, Patsy Joyce. Patsy turned 101 years old in March!

New York

LAOH Albany Division 1 is pleased to have three members with over 50 years of membership. Cecelia Leonard has been a member for 55 Years, Maggie Gilroy for 60 Years and Maureen Jeffers for 70 years! Maureen and Cecelia were presented with a 50-year pin at our recent Division meeting. Maggie will be presented with her pin at our next meeting. Congratulations sisters and thank you for your membership!



Maureen Jeffers with Division President Kathleen Stevens



Cecelia Leonard with Division President Kathleen Stevens

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