



Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians Pennsylvania



Friendship, Unity & Christian Charity



2022 Edition I

A Word from Maria, our President...

Ladies,

So we are well on our way to the downside of this winter weather.

We celebrated the feast of our Patroness St Brigid at the beginning of this month. So many Divisions posted pictures from the Masses, and it was great to see so many attending.

St. Patrick's Day is right around the corner. I am looking forward to seeing all the photos taken for each county and division.

Right now, the only thing really taking my time is making sure that the Annual Membership and Treasurers reports are completed timely and that they are correct. The National is pretty serious about these reports and making sure that the State Presidents stay on top of thing so if you should have any issue, please don't wait to contact

Carolyn Killon PA State Secretary

killions@aol.com

Patti Flaus PA State Treasurer

pfpalaoh@gmail.com

Maura does such a great job with our PA State Newsletter, so be sure to get as much information and updated events from your fundraisers and get-togethers.

Making it short this time but wish you all Happy St Patrick's Day, and may the luck of the Irish be with you.

In Our Motto of Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,

Maria

Maria Gallagher

PA State President



Congratulations

To all of the Newly Installed County and Division Boards
Please send to Carolyn your updated positions, with addresses, phone numbers, and emails



**The State Board wishes Blessings to all Boards across the Commonwealth.
Always know that we are here for everyone.**

Congratulations

**Brianna Curran on your appointment to the
National Board as Webmaster!**



**Don't forget to periodically check the
Pennsylvania LAOH Website**

<http://statepalaoh.com>

✦ The History of the LAOH

✦ The History of the Pennsylvania LAOH

✦ State Board Members Introduction Letters and means to contact

✦ The Anna C. Malia Ruddy Award winners

✦ Bylaws

✦ Newsletters

✦ Information from Degree Teams

✦ Photo Albums

✦ Important Dates

✦ Fundraising from the State and Divisions

✦ State Convention details already available!



**Also check out our Facebook page at LAOH Pennsylvania State &
our Instagram page**



Ladies Just a Reminder!

If you send a Sister an email, please do not assume that she has received it.
If you do not get a response, please follow up with a phone call or reach out to
someone else in the Division. With so many more people utilizing technology,
emails are not always received, go to junk, or are missed by the receiver.



AOH-LAOH NATIONAL CONVENTION PITTSBURGH 2022

Pittsburgh's Downtown Wyndham Grand Hotel hosts the 2022 National Convention of the AOH and LAOH 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, a 24-hour fitness center, an indoor swimming pool, and a jacuzzi. **The rooms are now available!**

The room rate is \$129.00 plus tax.

Check-in is at 4:00 p.m., and checkout is at noon.

This room rate is good for three days before the Convention and three days after.

Valet parking is \$35.00 per day, or a parking lot near the hotel charges \$25.00 per day. The Pittsburgh airport is located 17 miles from the hotel.

Our tentative schedule:



AOH-LAOH NATIONAL CONVENTION PITTSBURGH 2022

Convention Schedule*:

Wednesday, July 13th Ice Breaker

Thursday, July 14th Open Night

Friday, July 15th Irish Night

Saturday, July 16th 4pm Mass

5pm Installation of Officers

6pm Cocktail Hour

7pm Final Banquet

Check out all the website ~ <https://www.2022pittsburghconvention.com/>

Registration (package prices) and Accommodations can also be found at

the LAOH State website ~ statepalaoh.com or

<https://ladiesaoh.com/2022aohlaohconvention/>

Follow the convention on Facebook @[irishconventionpgh22](https://www.facebook.com/irishconventionpgh22)

to keep up to date on the goings on.

Keep watch, merchandise will soon be available!

Pittsburgh Fast Facts:

Pittsburgh is known as the "City of Bridges" because it has 446 bridges which is more than Venice, Italy, or any other city in the world.

Pittsburgh has more bars per capita than any other city in the country (12 per 10,000 residents).

St. Brigid's Mass across the Commonwealth

Despite a winter snowstorm on Saturday and frigid temperatures on January 30, 2022, in Philadelphia County, we were able to hold our Annual St. Brigid Mass. The Mass celebrated at St. Martha's Parish was led by celebrant Msgr Kenneth McAteer.



Lehigh Valley ~ Division One



St. Columcille ~ Division 2 ~ Berks



ST. BRIGID'S BLESSING

MAY BRIGID BLESS THE HOUSE
WHERE IN YOU DWELL.
BLESS EVERY FIRESIDE,
EVERY WALL AND DOOR.
BLESS EVERY HEART
THAT BEATS BENEATH ITS ROOF.
BLESS EVERY HAND
THAT TOILS TO BRING IT JOY.
BLESS EVERY FOOT
THAT WALKS ITS PORTALS
THROUGH.
MAY BRIGID BLESS THE HOUSE
THAT SHELTERS YOU.

Good health to you. ~ Sláinte chugat

News & Photos from Around the Commonwealth

We ask that all Counties & Divisions submit their
Good News and Photos to share with each other

Allegheny County

With the unfortunate rise in COVID-19 cases, the County Board sadly decided to cancel our annual St. Brigid Day Mass and breakfast for the safety and well-being of our members. We hope and pray for an end to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and that we can gather once again to celebrate St. Brigid next year.

We hope we will gather in March for The Communion Mass and Breakfast. Many members of our Board are busy heading up many committees for the National Convention here in July!

President Eileen O'Malley serves as the local LAOH Convention chair, Immediate Past President Kathleen Diulus,

Secretary Patti Flaus, Catholic Action Mary Ellen Myers, Historian Nicky Skubal, Treasurer Shirley Sestric, and Webmaster Kalyn Populo are all chairing a verity of different committees for the Convention.

Visit <https://www.2022pittsburghconvention.com> to register and book your room for the convention! And follow the convention on Facebook @irishconventionpgh22 to keep up to date on the goings on.

Follow LAOH Allegheny Co. on Facebook page: @laohalleghenycom



Philadelphia County

Happy 128th Anniversary to the Ladies Ancient Order Of Hibernians !

The Ladies Divisions of Philadelphia are doing great and are in full swing preparing for Saint Patrick's Day Celebrations! Scone mix, Irish Potatoes, and chances will be covering our City within the next few weeks!



A few of our fierce ladies who made it out in the snow to celebrate Patron Saint Brigid.

We are extremely excited and proud of 2 of our members.

Liz Sees, Division 4, and Jean Hermley, Division 39, were nominated into the Philadelphia Saint Patrick's Day Parade Ring of Honor! These ladies work effortlessly to promote our Motto of Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity! They are so very deserving of this honor!

We are truly blessed to have them in our Organization!

We here in Philly wish all of our LAOH Sisters a Blessed St. Patrick's Day!

In Our Motto of Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,

Becky Puchalski

Philadelphia County LAOH President



An Irish Blessing

May the sun shine all day long
everything go right
and nothing wrong.
May those you love
bring love back to you,
and may all the wishes
you wish come true.



Division # 17 ~ Philadelphia County

*As we head into 2022, we look forward to getting back to “normal.”
We will be making Irish Potatoes in February as a fundraiser.*



And, we are beyond excited to get back out parading and celebrating St. Patrick in the Philadelphia St. Patrick’s Day Parade.

Additionally, we will be assembling 60 winter kits for homeless veterans. Each kit will be in a durable nylon bag and include a blanket, a hat, gloves, snacks, water, and Wawa gift cards.



Division # 3 ~ Lackawanna County

*We participated in the Tinsel Trail conducted in Carbondale for the Christmas Season.
We decorated an Irish themed Tree with proceeds donated to Catholic Social Services.*



At our Communion Luncheon, these ladies received their Pins for 25+ years.



*From left to right:
Ruth Pittsman, Rose Marie Coleman, Ellen Malinchak, Mary Fryer, Kathleen M. Connor, Patricia Clark.*

**Do you have a fresh and fun idea for the Newsletter?
Please reach out.**

We are all members of the PA State Newsletter team!



Division #11 ~ Oakland ~ Pittsburgh
 In January, Division 11 installed our new officers.



Chaplain: Sr. L. Grundish. SC, President: Mary Rodgers Schubert, Vice-President: Maribeth Cringle, Recording Secretary: Peggy Populo, Treasure: Mary Ellen Myers, Financial Secretary: Maria Costanza, Irish Historian: Kathy Schulz, Missions & Charities: Kalyn Populo, Catholic Action: Marlea Gallagher, Freedom For All Ireland: Nicky Skubal, Immigration and Legislation: Peggy Populo, Mistress at Arms: Melanie Costanza, Sentinel: Eileen Papale, Publicity and Webmaster: Kalyn Populo

We celebrated with our Sister Louise on her 70th Jubilee!



Congratulations to Sue Mislavich our 2021 recipient of the St. Agnes Award for her dedication to our motto of Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity and to Joy Short our 2021 recipient of the Certificate of Distinction in Recognition of Service to our Division.





We made a donation to the Catholic Charities Winter Warming Shelter.
 We donated 14 pair of gloves, 16 scarves, 12 hats,
 6 packages of socks, misc. headbands, earmuffs, thermal top and
 bottoms, fleece shirt, and jacket, and 2 large shopping bags of cereal,
 crackers, and other snacks.
 The staff was very grateful for these donations.
 HappyNew Year!



Division # 61~ Philadelphia County

Happy 2022 from the Ladies of LAOH Division 61 Saint Katharine Drexel, Philadelphia!



It's been a crazy time for our Division!

Over the summer, we lost one of our great LAOH Sisters, Helen Kleschick, and we will miss her.
 We also had great news with the birth of a few babies, and even one of our Sisters is fostering a little
 boy! The Division Sisters are trying to keep things going with the continued issues
 presented by the pandemic.

At this time, we are selling chances to support the Maureen T. Lavin Grant Program that helps 8th
 graders continue their Catholic Education at an
 Archdiocesan High school.

LAOH Division #61 Basket Raffle

1st Prize: Gift Card Basket
 2nd Prize: Lottery Basket
 3rd Prize: Wine Basket

BENEFITS MAUREEN T. LAVIN GRANT PROGRAM
 To be drawn at LAOH March 2022 meeting

\$5

Our division has given over **\$150,000.00** in our collective
 past years!

If you are interested the chances are \$5 each you can
 Venmo Becky Puchalski
 at @Becky- Puchalski or email her
 at irishski61@gmail.com

for more information~ the drawing will be at our March 9th meeting

We are so excited to get back to the best Parade ever!

The 250th Philadelphia Saint Patrick's Day will be held on 3/13/2022. Watch for us on tv~
But even more exciting than that..

We will be reaching a milestone this year - **CELEBRATING 25 YEARS!**

So keep a lookout for our celebration!

*You can always find us on Facebook, too, at LAOH Division 61!
 To all of our PA sisters safe, healthy, and many blessings for 2022.*





Division #2 ~ St. Columcille ~ Berks County
 Mid January we participated in our parish Ministry Fair



One of our Sisters, Joann Derr Rivera, went to the March for Life in Washington DC on January 21st!

And, of course we had a wonderful Mass and dinner celebration in honor of the feast of St. Brigid.



Division #25 ~ Brigid McCrory ~ Philadelphia County

Following a very busy fall, Division 25 kept up the pace and spread joy around the Fox Chase Area. We hosted our annual Breakfast with Santa at the Red Rooster on December 4th.

Last year due to the pandemic, we did a virtual breakfast with Santa. Mrs. Clause hand-delivered a special treat to all the children, and Santa was able to join us virtually to read a story to the children who attended via Zoom.

Everyone was very excited this year to have a live in-person event with Mrs. Clause and a visit from Santa! The children had so much fun with the arts and crafts table, all the goodies for breakfast, and sitting on Santa's lap for pictures.

Everyone who came brought a new, unopened toy for our Toys for Tots drive, and the generosity of all who attended was fabulous, and we were able to donate a trunk full of toys.

Sadly, on January 16th, 2022, we lost one of our beloved members, Connie Brophy. She fought a courageous battle with pancreatic cancer for six years. We know that she is at peace resting in the arms of our Lord. Her sweet smile will be missed.
 Rest in Peace, Connie.



On January 22nd, the ladies of Division 25 once again gathered to make 200 lunches distributed to the homeless.



They were dropped off at St. Mark's Church on Frankford Avenue in Philadelphia.



We hosted our annual celebrity guest bartending event at



the Red Rooster on Saturday, February 5th. This event is always fun with raffle baskets, 50/50, and more. All money raised is going to an extraordinary local family in need. Despite the covid numbers, we had a great turnout and raised a significant amount of money for this genuinely deserving family. Currently, we have our 2nd annual Super Bowl Poll going on. Half the money raised will go to a charity, and the other half will go to our winners.



Looking ahead, the remarkable women of our division will be gathering to make and assemble our scone mix, which we sell in March. All proceeds from that go to charity as well. If interested in purchasing scone mix, reach out to us via our newly revamped Facebook page, LAOH Division 25 – Philadelphia, or email at laohdivision25@gmail.com.

Division 25 is looking forward to marching in the St. Patrick's Day parade in Philadelphia this year and Mt. Holly, NJ.

Wishing all of our sisters a happy and healthy St. Patrick's Day!





Division #1 ~ Mary Ellen Everett ~ Bristol

LAOH Division 1 had an amazing end to the year by hosting December event with Langhorne Bucks County's Division 5 at the Brickly Girl Tea Room in Bristol Borough on December 4th.

At this event our PA State President, Maria Gallagher, and Past Pa State President, Ellen McCrane joined us for a fun filled day as we sampled tea sandwiches, many desserts, and lots of delicious tea.



On December 13th, we hosted our annual Christmas Luncheon. With almost 42 members in attendance we enjoyed a delicious spread of food including a beautiful cake. We played our White Elephant Gift Exchange where many steals occurred during the game.



At the Christmas Luncheon, we awarded two women for their Funniest Christmas Sweater and another for Most Festive Sweater. Please feel free to join us with Tuesday Prayer Time, to pray the rosary, check out our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/LAOH.Division1.Bristol/> which provides the Zoom link.



Division #2 ~ John F. Kennedy ~ Pottsville, Schuylkill County

We will, possibly, be hosting a Paint and Sip in 2022; details forthcoming for those of you that would like to join us!



Division #39 ~ St. Brigid ~ Philadelphia

We were so thrilled to be able to share Christmas together this year! We played Secret Santa for a mission parish school, St. Francis de Sales, in West Philadelphia. This year we celebrate our 40th Anniversary and look forward to doing many acts of charity to celebrate. Our mantra is "40 Acts of Charity for 40 Years" 1982-2022 We will have a celebration party in October, which is the month we received our charter.



Division #1 ~ Tir Na'N Og'~ Lehigh Valley

Our Division finished the 2021 year strong with several grand events. 2021 might have come in slowly, but our Division went out with a Bang! We hosted a **Pizza & Pumpkin Painting event with the Cay Galgon Life**



House in October. Our Missions and Charities Chair Rosalie Goldstein has created this most fun evening that allows the new Moms to be creative and chat with some of us old-timer Moms. Nothing is better than moms sharing stories, adventures, and tips. We



hope to encourage and empower these ladies to be all they can be!



We were finally able to host our **Annual Witches Tea!** On November 7th, we gathered together, with our brooms near the fireplace, to celebrate Samh and hopefully find a few new members. This year MaryEllen Zastko and Emma Rose Strohl stepped in to help with the décor while Vice President Lorraine Clarke prepared for our best Witch's Hat contest and trivia contest.



All had a great day, and we now have a few new members!

Wreaths Across America

Again, we donated and volunteered at this extraordinary event. It was a cold and misty day; however, the patriotic spirit could be felt throughout Allentown's Cedar Hill Memorial Park.

It was a grand honor to lay wreaths for all of the heroic soldiers, and we all loved getting to lay a wreath and say a prayer for our Treasurer, Maryclare Plucinsky's parents.

Division President Maura Roszyk, a Blue Star Mom, presented a Gold Star Family with a special wreath and escorted them graveside. Lastly, several of us stopped by to say hello to dearly missed Treasurer Corinne Reily!



Purse Project final numbers

We call the Purse Project, inspired by a discussion at the Catholic Action Committee meeting at the 2016 National Convention, our St. Brigid Project. Our CA Chair, Fran Kramer, loved the idea, and we kicked it off in November.

This project, now in the fantastic hands of Rosalie Goldstein, Mary Marshall, and Laura Weidman, has grown into our leading active charity, and we have assembled and donated 1,240 purses donated since we started, with 340 for 2021!



News & Updates from the State Board

Chaplain ~ **Sister Lisa Breslin SSJ.**

One of my nieces recently sent me a passage from a self-help book she is reading.

It stated: "I have learned to live by faith, which does not mean by a set of unwavering beliefs or dogma that men laid down ages ago to keep their power. My faith has nothing to do with religion anymore. God is not a being outside of me.

God is the fire, the nudge, the warm liquid swelling and pressing inside of me."

Glennon Doyle: Untamed

My response?

I believe this is true. God is the fire within, but I need my religion to fan the flame. I need the ritual, the sacraments, and the community to keep the flame of God alive in me. I can't do this life alone. By the way, my niece's response to me was, "I never thought of it (religion) that way."

So let us look to the upcoming Lenten season as an opportunity to rekindle our commitment to our Catholic religion. I know that many say they do not "get anything" from Mass or the sacraments, and I feel the same way at times. But, I am also there to give, to give back to the God who has given me so much. So I show up, which Woody Allen said is "eighty percent of success."

Yes, there are many ways to give back to God: our service, our love, and our dedication to family and friends, but if we say we are Catholic, then let us give the Church a chance. Let's fan into flame the fire of faith we received at our Confirmation.

This brings me to the image of the Celtic cross. According to popular legend, the Celtic cross was introduced by St. Patrick when he converted the pagans in Ireland to Christianity. (Although others claim it was St. Declan who introduced the cross.) It has been said that St. Patrick combined the Christian cross with the pagan Sun to give the newly converted followers the idea of the importance of the cross by linking it with the symbolism of the life-giving properties of the Sun. The circle in the cross reminds me of the flame of God within each of us and how God's light shines in and on us no matter how dark the days can be.

Practicing this kind of faith is not easy. It requires a commitment, a choice. Faith, even for the Irish, is not easy. St. Patrick knew the ancient Celts needed to make the connection between their faith in the

Sun, so he blended the two with the Christian cross. Let that same Celtic cross remind us that the fire of God's presence is in each of us and that our heritage and Catholic faith can fan this fire into a flame that will warm our often cold world.

In our motto, Sister Lisa, SSJ



Vice President ~ **Kathleen Diulus**

THANK YOU to everyone who supported the State Board Fundraiser by purchasing the Wendell August Forge Shamrock ornament! Your support allowed us to have a successful fundraiser---I must admit was I nervous about being responsible for the fundraiser this year, but you alleviated my fears quickly. I am happy to report that I sold out after seven days! I hope that you liked your purchase.

COVID-19 has limited our meetings, as you all know, but it has been particularly hard on maintaining our only Junior Division, Juniors LAOH 23, Allegheny County.

As we try to regroup, we are looking for new junior members from Allegheny County. Any Roman Catholic girl between the ages of 6 and 18, Irish by birth, descent, or adoption, is eligible for membership with the consent of parents or guardians.

If you are in another area of the state and are interested in starting a Junior Division, don't hesitate to contact me. For more information, please see the Junior section on the National website

(<https://ladiesaoh.com/juniors-2/>)

Lastly, I have decided to run for a National Office at the upcoming National Convention in July 2022.

I am excited to have the opportunity to serve the Order on an additional level

and would greatly appreciate your support.
In conclusion, as we prepare to celebrate the feasts days of two Hibernian patron saints,
Saint Brigid and Saint Patrick, may we ask for their guidance in life and
strengthen our faith and relationship with God.

Secretary ~ Carolyn Killion

Happy New Year!

A huge Thank You to all the Secretaries and those who helped put together
the Year-End Membership Reports. It is a big job, and I genuinely appreciate
everyone's cooperation in getting this in!

As many new Boards have been installed, I ask that all Divisions and Counties
send me the most up-to-date listing of their Boards. Also, please ensure that
all people's addresses, phone numbers, and emails are correct.

Wishing everyone a fantastic St. Patrick's and Lenten Season, Carolyn

Treasurer ~ Patti Flaus

It's 2022 and we are already hard at work!

Thank you to all the Treasurers and those who helped assemble
all the information needed for the Year-End report. This report is quite the undertaking!!
I am finalizing everyone's reports and I appreciate your quick responses.

Happy St. Patrick's Day to all, Patti

Irish Historian ~ Carole Cooney Syzdek

Welcome to the New Year Ladies!

I have organized several of our important dates:

Irish History Essays and 2021 History Report Deadline Dates:

- Essays due to State Irish Historian - January 15, 2022
- Essays due to National Irish Historian from State Irish Historian - February 15, 2022
 - National Judging will begin - February 16, 2022
- Winners will be announced by LAOH National Historian by March 30, 2022



Division History Report due to County Irish Historian - January 31, 2022

County History Report due to State Irish Historian - February 28, 2022

State History Report due to National Irish Historian along with County and Division Reports - March 31



Ladies, I wish a Happy Mother's Day to all mothers in Ireland on "Sunday, March 27, 2022".

Mother's Day in Ireland occurs in March, unlike the American Mother's Day, celebrated in May.

The Irish Mother's Day stems from the mid-lent Sunday, when the church gave the faithful a break from the
strict adherence to lent.

Missions & Charities ~ Sister Kathleen Smith RSM.

Ladies:

Let us all rejoice in God's Companionship, our Irish heritage, and daily blessings! We are so fortunate
to be strengthened and supported by our LAOH friendships.

"In unity, there is strength"! As individuals via our Divisions, we can accomplish Christian charity by
pooling our financial resources and making significant aid to address the cries of those who struggle

for their daily existences. Please make sure at your next Division meeting to take the time to discuss this year's response to our Missions and Charities' commitment.

"Blessed are those who renounce their own comfort in order to help others!" "Blessed are those who rejoice in the wisdom of the Hibernians who came before us and made a commitment to assist the Columban missionaries!"

I want to take the liberty to add these statements to the list of Beatitudes recounted by Christ in the Gospels during the Sermon on the Mount. In addition, Pope Francis offered additional Beatitudes to encourage and motivate us in addressing today's world issues; profound energy and faith are essential.

He shared: "Blessed are those who see God in every person and protect and care for our common home." "Blessed are those who strive to have others join with them." "Blessed are those who remain faithful while enduring evils inflicted on them by others and forgive them from their hearts."

"Blessed are those who look into the eyes of the abandoned and marginalized and show them their closeness."

Whether we, via our Divisions, engage in purchasing Mass Cards from the Columban Fathers, have fun fund-raising events, or decide to give a substantial donation from our sacrifices and common fund, we support the Columban's missions.

When I was younger, I loved doing direct collaborative works of mercy because it allowed me the opportunity to take immediate actions for our brothers and sisters in Christ and against the ills of society that robbed them of their life, freedom, and dignity. Now, I have the privilege of advocating, taking stands, writing e letters, and signing petitions.

Now, I am honored to be of service to you, my LAOH State Sisters. I rejoice in your united friendships and ways of supporting the missions and charities.

May you have a fruitful Lenten experience!

May Lent be a Season of Grace for you! Sister Kathleen



Catholic Action ~ Brianna Curran

It was most impressive to see how much we Ladies across the Commonwealth followed our mission of charity with donations to those in need of a helping hand in 2021.

As we are off and running in 2022, should you have any questions regarding SOAR or Project St. Patrick ~ please feel free to reach out.

Wishing all a special Lenten Season, Brianna



Can you believe it has been 6 months since our Convention!



Catching up with other Committees: *Freedom for All Ireland ~ Kathleen Varady*

Just a reminder as we live in a political climate, The LAOH is a 501 (C) 3 and the IRS watches our activities closely. The LAOH members cannot write letters to our Representatives on our letterhead, mention in the letter they are a member of the LAOH or sign the letter as being a LAOH member. Our members are welcome to send letters to their Representatives expressing their concerns as an Irish American citizen. Encourage them to keep supporting the Good Friday Agreement and let Prime Minister Boris Johnson know that America does not support the UK leaving the EU without a deal or without the "backstop". If Mr. Johnson leaves the EU without a deal it could mean chaos in Ireland and could very well mean a hard border between N. and S. Ireland.

Publicity ~ Maura O'Donnell-Roszyk

My Dear Ladies,

Welcome to 2022.

As we head into this new year, I would like to us all to brainstorm ideas to expand our area via different modes of communication for everyone ~ Divisions, Counties, and State in all things Irish and what we, LAOH, do.

I genuinely believe that Publicity is more than sending out press releases and Newsletters, and I think we can excite our membership and encourage new members by simply storytelling and informing!

What do I mean by storytelling? Tell your Division's stories through Facebook, Instagram, your website, press releases, and Newsletters. Inform about Irish traditions, outstanding Irish and Irish-Americans, remind why we are so lucky to be Irish! This was my intent with the January information regarding St. Brigid, so many interesting legends and traditions surround her. Next, I will take on St. Patrick in March.

I ask that you send me your Newsletters, please tag me on your Facebook pages.

Together let's communicate! Go raibh maith agat! ~Maura



A few more Convention pictures!



Hibernian Hunger Project



On December 16th, the Philadelphia Hibernian Hunger Project met to pack Christmas food boxes and then, on the 17th, delivered to 171 families and 2 Pantries.

This large-scale donation could not happen without fundraising throughout the year and each Division of the Philadelphia LAOH and AOH coming together to volunteer.

Over 60 members worked together for two days to support the needy with food for Christmas.

We pledge to continue to serve families and never forget the struggles of our ancestors.





Degree Team Information

ALLEGHENY COUNTY CLADDAGH DEGREE TEAM

Busy, Busy, Busy... the Degree Team's submission will be in our next Newsletter.

PHILADELPHIA COUNTY TARA DEGREE TEAM

Thank you to the Tara Degree Team for an Amazing Degree experience at the Convention.

Your hard work, teamwork, and dedication is apparent and appreciated.

The Philadelphia Tara Degree Team is looking for members to join our Team!

Q: I would like to join the Tara Degree Team but I am a degreed member in good standing that belongs to a division in Montgomery County. Can I join?

A: YES, YOU CAN!

The Tara Degree Team Director asked this question to our National Vice-President and it was confirmed that although the team is sponsored by Philadelphia County, any degreed member in the state **can** join the team.



What is the Tara Degree Team? Actually, it is two parts.

1. You are the first part.

- a. Each member should be degreed - this is a beautiful ceremony taking about one hour to complete.
- b. It is a secret celebration of ancient Ireland. And, because it is a secret ceremony – sorry, no details are available in this newsletter.
- c. The Degree is a ceremony acknowledging our heritage and showcases our motto of Friendship, Unity & Christian Charity.
- d. All members are encouraged to become degreed; however, if you want to become an officer in your Division, you should definitely be degreed or make plans to be degreed as soon as possible.

2. The second part concerns the history of the team. The state of Pennsylvania has two Degree Teams – the TARA Degree team sponsored by Philadelphia County and the CLADDAGH Degree team sponsored by Allegheny County. What type of commitment is needed to join the TARA degree team?

- a. The team tries to meet quarterly for general membership meetings. When a date to exemplify a degree is determined, the Director of the Degree Team will set up practices in the two months preceding the degree date.
- b. We have had LAOH sisters come from Maryland, New Jersey, Delaware, and New York to be degreed by our team. We performed the degree ceremony at the National Convention in Atlantic City in 2016 and most recently at the Pennsylvania State Convention in Philadelphia in 2021.
- c. Our meetings are generally held at the AOH Division #39 hall in Philadelphia. We have had the privilege of conferring most degrees at Roman Catholic High School, Broad and Vine Streets in Philadelphia.
- d. After you receive your degree, you are welcome to attend any future degree ceremony as an observer – where you can really appreciate all aspects of the ceremony.
- e. We recently found out that although the TARA degree team is sponsored by Philadelphia County – any LAOH member in the state of Pennsylvania can become a member! So, ladies in Bucks, Chester, Delaware and Montgomery counties are welcome to join as well as any other county.... those counties mentioned are the closest to Philadelphia but our latest member is from Lehigh County.

Please feel free to contact a member of the Membership Committee for further information

Maureen Dougherty Brown bmaureen51@gmail.com

Mary Anne Dooley biced3030@aol.com

Ellen McCrane e.mcrane@comcast.net

Marie Nealis nealipa39@gmail.com

Colleen Riccardo gram1940@gmail.com

The blessing of God on you. ~ Bail ó Dhia ort



Dearly Departed Sisters



Compassionate and Gracious God,
 we come to you today to thank you for giving us a
 chance to live with our loved ones who recently left this world to come into your presence.
 Lord God Almighty, we know that they were not perfect, but they did love you with all their
 heart and truly repented for their sins. May they find love and peace in your presence. Do not
 let our loved one to be parted from you, let your faithful servant enjoy your glory forever. In
 Jesus' powerful name, I believe and pray. Amen.

Marie C. Donahue and Betty Sands from Division 87 ~ Philadelphia
Helen Kleschick from Division 61 ~ Philadelphia
Patsy Joyce from Division 32 ~ Allegheny
Connie Brophy from Division 25 ~ Philadelphia
Clare Polanki from Division 1 ~ Lehigh Valley



Prayer Requests

*The Power of Prayer is so very mighty therefore, we ask
 you to include the following Special people in yours.*



Ellen McCrane, PA Past State President, Maria Gallagher, PA State Vice-President,
 PA State Secretary Kathleen Diulus, and all of our Sisters who are battling Breast Cancer or
 are survivors. St. Peregrine and St. Agatha, pray for them.



A special prayer for everyone's Special Intentions.



Additionally, we ask for prayers of strength and courage to all of those ailing & their caregivers
 Also, to all the Sisters, Priests, and others without loved ones to pray for their soul.
 And, a prayer for us all as each one of us faces our daily struggles, fears, and pains.



Be safe ~ BÍ curamach

Lastly...Please send in your Good News, Committee Updates,
or Prayer Requests so together,
we can celebrate & support each other.

Please email them to Maura O'Donnell-Roszyk at maurar1117@msn.com
To be sure I received ~ please message me if I don't send you a RECEIVED response.

A WOMAN'S PRAYER ~ SR. PEGGY FLAHERTY, CDP

*Make us, O God, spirit-filled women...women of prayer...women of vitality...women of vision..
women of courage...risk-taking women.*

*Fill us with your love...a love, which affirms...a love, which calls forth...a love, which challenges...a love, which
frees.*

*Grant us your gift of Godliness... a reverence for you. Instill in our hearts the spirit of holy Joy...the joy that
sanctifies...the joy that gives...the joy of one who loves... the joy that imparts to others the spirit born of self-
control.*

*Make us Peace-seeking women...instruments of your peace...directed by your Wisdom,
bridge builders...working with others for justice to bring about true peace.*

*Give us Patience...a strong patience which enables us to trust and to keep heart in the face of disappointments,
frustrations, and failures.*

*Plant deep within our attitudes your kindness...make us women who are open and friendly...women of
hospitality...women who image our people friendly God. Impart to us your spirit of Goodness...Make us women
who believe in the good of the other...who speak the good to each other and about each other...who do good for one
another...Bestow on us your gift of knowledge that we may know you who are the source of all good.*

Root us in your Fidelity...a fidelity that keeps us true to you...walking in integrity in your presence...

Mold us into faithful women...women who are true to ourselves...true to others... true to life and all creation.

Form us into women who follow your Counsel in all things, who uphold true values and the rights of all people.

Make us, O God, Spirit filled Irish women, trusting you and one another as we move into this 21st Century.

Our Late Pennsylvania State Chaplain, Sister Peggy Flaherty, also Dorothy Weldon's sister, wrote this beautiful & inspirational
prayer.

Sister Peggy was a member of the Sisters of Divine Providence in Pittsburgh, PA.

She was the youngest member of the Order to become a Principal of St. Peter and Paul School in Beaver County, PA until her
death.

Sister was also the Chaplain of the LAOH, Allegheny County and loved by all.

She was elected State Chair of Catholic Action before her untimely death and served us well.

She was truly loved by everyone, always available to assist and a genuine Irish Catholic Woman as her Father, Martin Flaherty was
born in County Galway, Ireland, and Mother, Mary McElligott Flaherty, born in County Kerry, Ireland.

