



*Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians  
Pennsylvania*



*Friendship, Unity & Christian Charity*



2022 Edition V

*Ladies,  
I am hijacking this last edition of 2022.  
Inside you will find some fabulous happenings from  
Divisions around our Commonwealth.  
There won't be any notes or reminders,  
that will be coming soon enough.  
Just take a minute~ enjoy and reminisce about the  
wonderful things of 2022 & get excited about 2023!*



*In the New Year,  
may your hand always be  
STRETCHED OUT  
IN FRIENDSHIP,  
but never in want.*

IRISH TOAST

# State Things to Know...

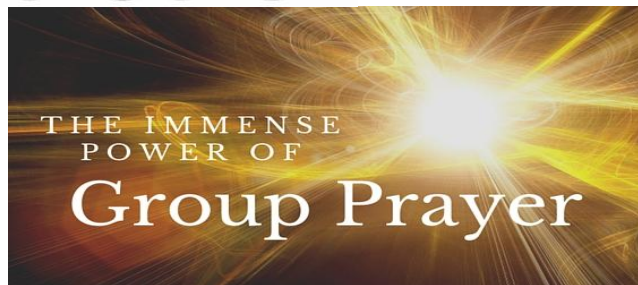
Do not forget periodically to check our Website! ~ <http://statepalaoh.com>



- ✦ 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 and National Convention details available!



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



The members of Bucks County Division 1~ MaryEllen Everett in Bristol welcomes you to join us every Tuesday at 8pm EST to say the Rosary via Zoom. Please keep our Sisters and their families in your prayers. Also, keep those who were impacted by Hurricane Ian, those who are suffering or died in Ukraine, and all those who can use our prayers.

If you have special intentions that you would like us to mention before we start the rosary, please email me at [briana.m.curran@gmail.com](mailto:briana.m.curran@gmail.com).

The Zoom link is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5420434510> and the Meeting ID: 542 043 4510.

You can also join by phone: +19294362866,5420434510#

Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you, Brianna M. Curran ~ [Brianna.M.Curran@gmail.com](mailto:Brianna.M.Curran@gmail.com)



## *LAOH and our Military Connections*

If you or someone in your Division served in any branch of the US Armed Forces, please forward the following information to Maura Roszyk: [maurar1117@msn.com](mailto:maurar1117@msn.com).

Name, Division, County, Address, Phone number, Email, Branch, Rank, Years of Service, Dates of Service, and Combat Veteran? If yes, what war/conflict.

## *LAOH Blue & Gold Star Mothers of America*

To build yet another network of support for the proud Blue and Gold Star Mothers, the National Committee wishes for us to collect the names and information of those proud Moms.

We ask that all Division Presidents send in a list including name, phone, email, and name and service their children serve or have served. Please forward the listing to Maura Roszyk: [maurar1117@msn.com](mailto:maurar1117@msn.com)



## *LAOH's Embracing Our Heritage Program*

Please visit the National website~ [www.ladiesaoh.com](http://www.ladiesaoh.com) and the LAOH National YouTube channel for upcoming and past programs.



## *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. Thank you!

# *News & Photos from Around the Commonwealth*



## *Congratulations!*

### **To all the newly Degreed Sister & the Tara Degree Team**

*On Sunday, November 20<sup>th</sup>, the Tara Degree team hosted a Degree ceremony that Degreed LAOH Sisters from Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware!.*

### **Pennsylvania Proud!!!**



*The Degrees of our Order are an essential part of being a member of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc. Each member, when receiving the Degrees, is shown the grand history of the Irish people and Catholic Faith, the importance of women in that history, and is sworn to a solemn obligation that is taken as Degreed members. Every member wishing to advance in the leadership of this Order, as well as every member wishing for a deeper understanding of the Order, is encouraged to take the Degrees as soon as possible after initiation, or as soon as made available. The importance of the Degrees cannot be put into words and must be experienced by each member to be fully understood.*



## *Division Updates*



### **Division #4 ~Maud Gonne~ Allegheny County**

*In preparation of our Anniversary we realized and are oh so very proud to announce that 11 of our original members from October 18, 1996 are still members of the Division today.*

*Four of those Ladies hold officer level positions in our Division and one serves on our Lackawanna County Board. During October 2021 we were unable to gather together for our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary due to covid. So, here we are in our 26<sup>th</sup> year celebrating "Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity".*



*Pictured here are original 1996 Lackawanna Division 4 members in 2022; Mary Alice*

*Browning, Micky Gillott, Nancy Yavoroski, Mary Kate Werner, Mary Anne McAndrew, Katie Murray and Trish Corbit. Absent when photo was taken; Beth Hopkins, Mary Kay Warner, Kathy Rude and Catherine Gordon.*



*Other Ladies of Division 4 joined in on the celebration.*



Front row; Kris Krowiak, Jean Hannon, Lynn Walsh, Carolynn Wahl. Back row Nancy Butler, Genette Rotherforth, Mary Alice Browning, Micky Gillott, Nancy Yavoroski, Mary Kate Werner, Mary Anne McAndrew, Katie Murray and Trish Corbit.

Additionally in November, at our Lackawanna County Board meeting, Division 4, Maude Gonne, hosted a successful food drive. We collected a trunkful of donations for the Catherine McAuley Center in Scranton. This center is for women & children experiencing homelessness, a sponsored ministry of the Sisters of Mercy. This accomplishment was made possible by food donations from all 5 LAOH Divisions in Lackawanna County. The workers at the Catherine McAuley Center were very appreciative. God bless them and their dedication.



Pictured with the donations are Division 4 President Nancy Yavoroski and Division 4 Vice President Mary Anne McAndrew



**We gathered to celebrate the Christmas season. Following an evening of laughter and merriment, the festivities concluded with the offering of a traditional Irish prayer: "May the blessings of Christmas be with you, May the Christ Child light your way, May God's holy angels guide you, and keep you safe each day. Amen".**







**Division #61 ~ St. Katharine Drexel ~ Philadelphia**  
**Celebrating our 25th Anniversary**

On Sunday November 6th, the Ladies along with family and friends celebrated their love ones that have gone before us. It started with their beautiful 11 yr old Molly with a spiritual dance performance. Then readings from their Sisters and Brothers of Division 61. It was a beautiful night remembering their Love ones under the stars.



Karen Foehl And Katie Halbruner on receiving their degrees today.

A wonderful night celebrating Christmas with our LAOH sisters!



***We look forward to a wonderful 2023 & send our well wishes to everyone!***





**Division #2 ~ John F. Kennedy ~ Pottsville, Schuylkill County  
Celebrating our 50th year!**

In December, we gathered for a Paint and Sip afternoon of great fun and some festive art.



We are so proud of our great little gnomes & thank you to member/instructor, Kathy Laughlin Benyak!



At our Christmas Gathering,  
We honored our 50-year member Noreen Finn O'Boyle

The gathering was combined with our AOH &  
a great time was had by all!



We wish happiness to all through the Christmas Season & New Year!

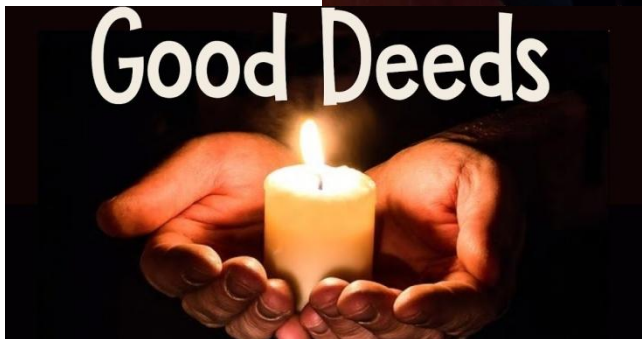




**Division # 3~ Maire Drumm ~ Montgomery County**



*At our holiday celebration some awards were given. Congratulations to Hibernian of the Year Nanci Steele-Daneker and President's Awardee Jayme DeMedio-Gonzalez ! Both of these ladies have shown exemplary Hibernian motto spirit in the Division and in their thoughts, words and actions in and out of the Division.*







## **Division #1 ~Berks County**

*As we end 2022, let us recap our year!*

*We celebrated St. Brigid's Mass on February 5th, at the Bernardine's Sister's Chapel at Alvernia.*

*On March 18th, sadly, we lost our original President, Rita Mullen.*

*On June 4th, we participated in the local Celtic Fest, where we sold soda bread.*

*On June 11th, we celebrated a Mass for our deceased members at St. Ignatius Church in Wyomissing.*

*On August 21st, we celebrated Our Lady of Knock Mass at the chapel at Alvernia, along with our brother AOH members.*



*Finally, on November 30th, we celebrated a funeral Mass for one of our dear members, Anne Smith.*

*Due to Covid, we are still struggling with getting back into the swing of things.*

*In October, we participated in Boscov's Friends Helping Friends fundraiser. We are continuing our efforts to support a few local charities and provide scholarships to 2 young students graduating from grammar school and moving on to Berks Catholic High School. On December 11th, we will gather with our brother Hibernians for a Christmas dinner at a local restaurant.*

*We look forward to getting together on January 14th for our annual "Little Christmas" celebration.*



**Maureen Caherly,, Maryanne Welch, Peg Devine, and Bryn Weckel  
Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year**





## **Division #2 ~ St. Columille~ Berks County**

*We had a great turnout for our Christmas Gathering, it was filled with beautiful sisterhood!*



## **Division #1 ~ Chester**

*It seems we went right from summer into the shortfall season and then into full holiday mode. Our Division members each sold Boscov's Friends Helping Friends coupons and did so at the Exton store on the day of the sale. This turned out to be a nice fundraiser for us again this year because of everyone's hard work. We are also participating in Boscov's gift-wrapping for donations right now, hoping to raise a little more money to donate.*



*Because of our fundraising, we were able to adopt a mother and son through the Domestic Violence of Chester County*



*group again this year, providing them Christmas presents from their wish lists. Several members went shopping, and then wrapped the gifts to be delivered.*



*We held our annual Christmas meeting/party at Ryan's Pub in West Chester on Sunday the 11<sup>th</sup>. We all had a wonderful time, with good food and conversation. At this party, we collected gift cards to be given to our three charities: Mom's House, St. Mary's Franciscan Shelter, and The Day Room at St. Agnes. Our members were most generous, so we were able to provide each group with about \$200 worth of cards.*



*We wish you all our sisters a happy and healthy new year.*



***Division #11 ~ Oakland ~ Pittsburgh ~ Allegheny County***

***We had a great time at our Christmas Party ~ celebrating 2022 & looking ahead to 2023!***







**Congratulations to Nicky Skubal the St. Agnes Award recipient**



**And to Kathleen Schulz the Exceptional Service award recipient**



**Division #39 ~ St. Brigid ~ Philadelphia County**  
 Celebrating our 40-year Anniversary!  
 Several of our Ladies attended the Degree Ceremony.





*And, we had a fabulous Christmas Party!*







**Division #2 ~ Notre Dame ~ Montgomery**  
**What a glorious but windy day, laying wreaths for Wreaths Across America**



***And we shared a beautiful evening at our annual Christmas celebration.***







### **Division #1 ~ Mary Ellen Everett ~ Bristol**

Our "Littles" had a wonderful Christmas Party ~ What a fun night!!! These girls are ready for the holiday! We colored some great pictures and listed to "How the Grinch stole Christmas" while passing our Pollyanna gift each time we heard "who" or "Grinch" Enjoyed some great snacks and took some old school Polaroid pics (which I forgot to get a pic of) listened to some Christmas music and just enjoyed each other's company!



And, we had a great Christmas Luncheon ~ A great afternoon filled with wonderful company, delicious food, awesome gifts, and lots of laughs !! We are so lucky to have such a wonderful group of women that is growing larger every month !!

We hope everyone has a wonderful Christmas Season, a very Merry Christmas,  
Plus a safe and healthy New Year







***Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas & a wonderful New Year!!!***





## **Division #1 ~ Tir Na'N Og'~ Lehigh Valley Celebrating our 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

We held our first All Soul's Day ceremony this November. We remembered the Sisters that have passed over the last couple of years.

Our Melody Newhard-Kirk attended and became Degreed at the beautiful Tara Ceremony. Throughout November, we collected "Advent" items and donated them to families in Lehigh & Northampton counties. To see the joy on the faces of the families that we donated to was beyond moving.



December was a bit busy for us as we celebrated our 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as a Division.

We had a luncheon and attended an afternoon play, At the Stirke of Midnight. This celebration was a relaxing way to celebrate our Division.



Then we gathered for our Annual Christmas Dinner and \$5 gift exchange, this is always a wonderfully fun evening of laughter and good cheer!







Lastly for the month, we volunteered with Wreaths Across America again. This tradition allows us to support our President, Maura Roszyk ~ a Blue Star Mom, while remembering the soldiers who have gone to the Lord, some that are from our own families. Each year, we all "lay the wreath" at the graves of our Treasurer Maryclare Pluchinsky's family; we all say her parents name and then an extra Hail Mary.

As the year comes to a close, we Thank the members of our Board for their time of service and wish good luck to the new Board, who will be installed in January.

Blessing and Christas Wishes to all Sisters across the State from the Lehigh Valley!



*Reminder...*

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.



Do you have a fresh and fun idea for the Newsletter?  
Please reach out.  
We are all members of the PA State Newsletter team!

### *Hibernian Hunger Project*

The Philadelphia Hibernian Hunger Project delivered 200 food boxes and a bulk delivery was made to a local food pantry for those in need.

We have been told there were a few tears today and quite a few hugs.

We have made a difference in someone's life this Christmas season.

This is not the only the reason that I am honored to call each one of these men and women my brothers and sisters. We come together and served those in need in our motto of friendship, unity and Christian charity. Today is the true meaning of Christmas.


Merry Christmas to all !



*~Let your Good Deeds be like rain, Drop a little everywhere!*





  
**The Blessing of God on you ~ Bail ó Dhia ort**  
**Let's us remember the Souls of the recently departed**  
**Eternal rest grant unto our Dearly Departed Sisters**  
**Marie Lynch ~ Division One ~ Bristol ~ Founding Member**  
**Helen S. Mullin ~ Division 2 ~ Notre Dame**  
**Bette Schmitz ~ Division 2 ~ Notre Dame**  
**Anne Smith ~ Division 1 ~ Berks**



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.

## *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, current PA State President, PA State Vice President Kathleen Diulus, and all of our Sisters who are battling Breast Cancer or are survivors. St. Peregrine and St. Agatha, pray for them.



Nancy Cullen of Division 39~ grandson, Ronan as he recovers from his surgery.



Our newly elected National Secretary Sandy Swift's husband Matt, as he deals with medical issues.



MaryEllen O'Donnell of Division One~ Lehigh Valley ~ as she faces medical issues.



Ed Halligan, our Pennsylvania brother and AOH National Secretary.



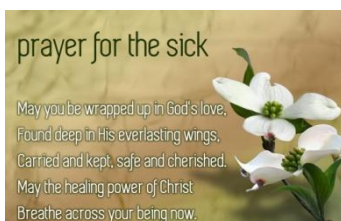
We pray for peace and civility in our home country, America and our motherland, Ireland.



Those impacted by the horrific situation in the Ukraine.



*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 ~ B' 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](mailto:maurar1117@msn.com)  
To be sure, I received ~ please message me if I do not 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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.

