



Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians ~ Pennsylvania



Friendship, Unity & Christian Charity

Pennsylvania 2020 edition III

Comhghaideas!

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, under the esteemed leadership of President Mary Ann Amesbury, wishes to extend our Congratulations, pride, and Best Wishes to two of our Sisters who have been called to serve on our National Board.

**Many Congratulations to MaryAnn Lubinsky,
National Secretary, and Colleen Bowers,
National Irish Historian.**

Your Commonwealth Sisters wish you much good fortune as you serve your term.



Additionally,

**Comhghairdeas, to Patti Flaus of Allegheny
County who earned the National Life Membership Award**

“A citation of Life Membership may be conferred on a member of the Order who has performed **OUTSTANDING AND DISTINGUISHED** service to Hibernians for at least twenty-five consecutive years.”

Patti has been a member of the LAOH since 1991, which is also the charter year for her Division. From the start, she has been an active member and asset to her Division, County and State Organizations.

She has held the following offices:

Division Historian (1991) and President (1993-1995 and 2010-2020);
County Board Office of Missions and Charities (1994 – 1999), Office of Catholic Action (1999), Treasurer (1999 – 2001 and 2016-2019), Secretary (2019 – present), Vice President (2001-2005) and President (2005-2009);
As a State Board appointee, she was the Communications Chair (2009-2011 and 2017-2019) and Freedom For All Ireland chair (2009-2011).



Patti has tirelessly stepped up to assist when needed, as shown by her return to Division and County Offices that she had previously held in prior years. We are so grateful and proud for her talents and commitments to the LAOH. Congratulations Patti!

A Word from Mary Ann, our President...

Dear Sisters,

I hope everyone had a Happy Thanksgiving.



The year 2020 has been a very challenging year. Covid-19 has taken a toll on our world, and many people have lost family members and friends. Please keep everyone in your prayers and pray that there is an end to this pandemic soon.

The 2020 Annual reports should be arriving soon from our National Officers. As soon as the State Secretary and Treasurer receive the annual reports, they will be sent to all Counties and Divisions.

As the Christmas season approaches, please remember those that are less fortunate by practicing our motto of Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity.

There are so many ways that we can reach out to others. We can call someone that is homebound, send a Christmas card to someone in a hospital or nursing home, volunteer, or donating to a charitable organization.

This is what being a Hibernian is all about!

I wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Mary Ann

Mary Ann Amesbury

PA State President



We offer a prayer of Hope for those affected by the Corona Virus and to protect us all



Pennsylvania State 2021 Convention



AOH-LAOH 101st Biennial State Convention Philadelphia Pennsylvania – Save the Dates!

- Dates: Wednesday 7/28/2021 to Saturday 7/31/2021
- Hotel: Radisson Hotel Philadelphia Northeast Trevose
 - 2400 Old Lincoln Highway, Trevose PA 19053
- Please use this link to reserve your rooms and obtain information on the hotel
 - <https://www.radissonhotels.com/en-us/hotels/radisson-trevose-sesame/deals/2021-convention-committee>
- Package Costs – Ice Breaker, Final Banquet - to be determined
- Website – being developed at this time
- Degrees – We hope to have degrees available for all Hibernian Sisters and Brothers at this convention!
- Fundraisers – Stay tuned
 - we will be reaching out to all divisions and counties for support in pre-convention fundraising

Becky Puchalski

Philadelphia LAOH County Board President
Convention Co-Chair

Brian Coleman

Philadelphia AOH County Board President
Convention Co-Chair

Pennsylvania State 2021 Convention

As many of you know, Philly has been hit pretty hard with the Covid virus outbreak. People have been asked to stay home, not to travel, and with the holidays knocking at the door, many small businesses, bars, restaurants, gyms, and indoor activities are shut down.

But life goes on, so with the 2021 PA State Convention coming up next July, some of the committees are working on plans for the best that Philadelphia has to offer.

Core committee for Convention:

Co-chairs host- Phila. County Presidents Brian Coleman #25 and Becky Puchaski #61
Secretary- Maria Gallagher #87
Treasurer- Ellen McCrane #61
Planning chair- Ed Dougherty #39, Bob Haley #22 and Pearce Kerr #25
Webmaster- Tom Burke #61
Vendors- Ed Rooney #61

We Need You



At this time, Co-chairs and volunteers are working hard, as we are going forward with plans that we will meet in-person in July. We ask that you consider signing up to help. Please use the form on the next page; emails are included for submission.

Fundraising

We have started planning a few fundraisers

- ♥ A CD will be ready very soon for sale with many of your favorite Irish tunes recorded by some fabulous Irish Bands. We hope to have the CD in time for Christmas, for just \$15.00, ordering details soon.
- ♥ Mark Your Calendar: A Golf Outing at Juniata Golf Course for May 8, 2021. More details to follow.



Fast Facts about the 2021 Convention!

- *Check in: Thursday 29-July 2021*
- *Check out: Sunday 1-August 2021*
- *Group Name: 2021 Convention Committee*
- *Hotel Name: Radisson Hotel Philadelphia Northeast Trevose*
- *Hotel Address: 2400 Old Lincoln Highway, Trevose, PA, 19053*
- *Phone Number: 215-638-8300*
- *Room Costs \$109 per night plus taxes, free on-site parking*
- *Room Blocks Sunday July 25, 2021 to Sunday August 1, 2021.*
- *Free Wifi in rooms*
- *Each participant will be responsible for their own registrations.*
- *Booking link, guests can start making reservations now through this link.*

<https://www.radissonhotels.com/en-us/hotels/radisson-trevose-sesame/deals/2021-convention-committee>

2021 Convention Committees- AOH/LAOH members needed to co-chair!!!

As of September 2020:

_____Registration/ Convention Check In and Welcome Packages
Co-Chaired by – Nancy Cullen- Div 39 and Kathy Annan -Div 87

_____Liturgy
Co-Chaired by- Kathy Cantz- Div 25 and Bob Haley- Div 22

_____Ice Breaker Night
Co-Chaired by- Eileen Smith- Div 87 and Mary Ellen Duffy- Div 39

_____Free Night Event
Co-Chaired by- Clare McManus Fulginitti and Tommy Conway both Div 39

_____Fundraising
Co-Chaired by – Maria Gallagher- Div 87 and Annie McCrane- Div 61

_____Hospitality Entertainment
AOH State Board

_____Merchandising
OPEN

_____Webmasters
Tom Burke- Div 61

_____Vendors
Ed Rooney- Div 61

_____Program /Ad Book
Brian Coleman- Div 25 and Ellen McCrane-Div 61

_____Final Banquet
OPEN

If you are interested in helping with any of the above, please contact
Convention Co-Chairs. Help is needed on all committees. Feel free to check as many as you like.

Becky Puchalski - email irishski61@gmail.com
PHILADELPHIA LAOH County Board President
Brian Coleman- email poncho2143@comcast.net
PHILADELPHIA AOH County Board President

Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Email Address: _____

Mask Sale

In the spirit of everyone doing our part to stop the spread of COVID,
we offer you the option to “Mask Up with a wee bit of Irish”

Utilizing a local Irish American vendor, we present two mask options:



The Celtic Knot



The Claddagh

The masks are made with an adjustable elastic ear bands to fit all.

We will be selling them for \$10.00 each.

Get your order in ASAP to receive delivery for Christmas

Please email Maria Gallagher, PA State Board Vice-President your order:

mecrup@gmail.com

Order one, Order ten ~ Please add one dollar for mailing up to 10 masks.

*Make checks make payable to PA LAOH State Board
and send to:*

Maria Gallagher

1005B Scotswood Court

Mt. Laurel, NJ 08054

Mask Up PA!



**Help protect your fellow Pennsylvanians
by wearing a face-covering in public.**

AOH/LAOH National Convention Recap



The First Virtual National Conference concluded successfully.

In late June through early July, Zoom meetings were held for all of the different offices and chairs. Within a short time, all of the Minutes were sent out to all in attendance for the Delegates to read and then vote to accept at the July 25th National Zoom meeting.

During the meeting, other business included a lovely address from outgoing President Carole Sheyer, the election and installation of new officers, announcements of special awards, an exciting address from new President Karen Keane, and revealing that the 2024 Convention will be held in Orlando, Florida. The fantastic coordination with the Orlando Convention team and the National Board allowed the LAOH to fulfill its convention and election obligations while keeping its Sisters across America connected and safe. Well done to all involved!

2020-2022 National Board

National Chaplain: Father Ryan Duns, SJ

President: Karen Keane, New York

Vice-President: Marilyn Madigan, Ohio

Secretary: Mary Ann Lubinsky, Pennsylvania

Treasurer: Sandi Swift, Missouri

Irish Historian: Colleen Bowers, Pennsylvania

Missions & Charity: Cathy Turck, New York

Catholic Action: "Margaret Peggy" Cornish, California

Organizer/Immediate Past President – Carol Sheyer, Ohio

Appointed Committees:

Press and Public Relations – Kim Depeaux, New York

Freedom for All Ireland – Dolores Desch, New York

Fundraiser – Maire Leffel, Ohio

Immigration Education – Siobhan Dennehy, New York

Supplies – Mary Jo Rawlins, Ohio

Auditor – Christina Parisi, New York

2022 Convention Liason – Kathy Linton

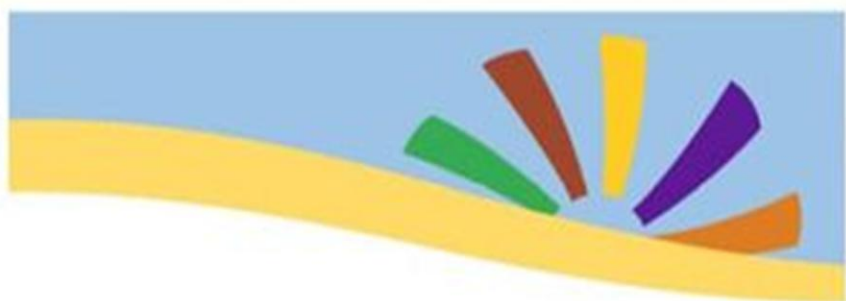
Veterans & Military Affairs – Cathie Norton Doherty, New York

Political Education – Gail Dapoliti, Maryland

Legal Counsel – Ann Durkin Fisher, Maryland

Tax Expert/Co Chair Immigration – Kathryn Keane, New York

Webmaster & Social Media – Beth Zuczek



Just Released



**Ride the Wave of Knowledge of
OUR History and get your copy today**

The price of Celebrating Our History is \$25.00 including postage.

Limited number available for \$20.00 from top National Officers.

A dozen books for \$22.00 each.

See www.ladiesaoh.com for order forms

News & Photos from Around the Commonwealth

We ask that all Counties & Divisions submit their Good News and Photos for this portion of the Newsletter.

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, to be posted soon!



Division #21 ~ Castle Shannon ~ Allegheny

In June and again in August, we collected food for the St. Winifred Food Bank. Along with the food, we presented the Food Bank twenty-four (24) backpacks filled with school supplies, a generous donation from one of our parishioners helped make this happen.

We also surprised two of our members with a birthday cake for their 84th birthday.

Peggy Bond has been a member since 1991, and her twin sister Eileen Sheridan joined in 2007. Both Ladies are Degreed members and have done so very much for our Division. They were quite surprised, and it was a wonderful opportunity to see our Sisters again.



Division #11 ~ Oakland ~ Allegheny

In September, we began in-person meetings with a Zoom option. It was wonderful to see each other, no matter in-person or via the computer!

Sadly, we postponed our Masquerade Charity Ball, which serves as our primary fundraiser. Yet, we were thrilled to celebrate with the Allegheny County Board the Our Lady of Knock Mass.

Additionally, on another happy note ~ Sister Mary Jo Jennings, husband Patrick, and big sister Izzy welcomed a new baby girl, Allison Grace.

God Bless baby Allison and the family.

Lastly, it is with great pride we Congratulate our own, Colleen Bowers, as she begins her new term as the Irish Historian on the LAOH National Board. We know that Colleen will put all her energies and enthusiasm into her new position and make

us proud of our gal from Allegheny!

Congratulations Colleen!





Division #61 ~ St. Katharine Drexel ~ Philadelphia

Due to COVID 19, we were unable to meet as a Division until September. At which time, we were restricted to 25 members in our AOH Hall for meetings. We continue to engage members that are still unable to attend the meetings by contacts through email messages from our President and monthly newsletters. This was very helpful to continue to have fundraisers.

We had a 50/50 on a virtual wheel, followed by a mask sale.



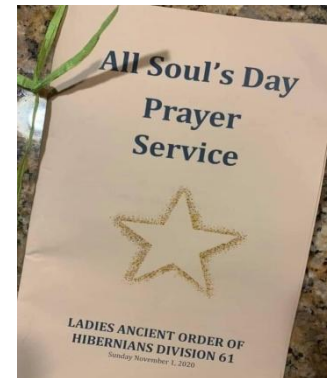
restrictions.

In October, we held our 15th Annual Golf Outing, which was a little different this year due to COVID 19



We held our second annual All Souls Day remembrance ceremony. It was a rainy evening but our stars shined brightly the whole night. We had an interpretative dance to "Rise Up" by two lovely volunteers from Dance with Celeste studio, as well as prayers from our LAOH sisters and AOH brothers.

We are so fortunate to have everyone come together to remember the ones we lost too soon. It was such an emotional and moving service, one we will never forget.



In November, we collected and donated Thanksgiving dinner to five (5) families in our area. Many Thanksgiving Blessings to you all, as well as, wishes for a joyous Advent Season.



Division #4 ~ Mary Ellen O'Neill ~ Washington County

This year we celebrate our 36th Anniversary as a Division



Div #4 Officers pictured left to right: Dottie Taylor, Vice President; Dorothy Weldon, President; Carole Seader, Irish Historian & Financial Secretary; Kathleen Lynch, Secretary)

Officers not pictured: Ellen Lahey Cmar – Missions/Charities, Pat Loversidge – Freedom for All Ireland, Imm./Leg./, Helen June Bednarczyk, Trenna Loversidge, Gloria Tracey, Past President.



Division # 2 ~ Notre Dame ~ Montgomery County

At our October meeting, we celebrated two of our very senior (90+) members with a cupcake cake!

Bette Schmitz on the left and Alice Deegan on the right.

These two Ladies are very young at heart and devoted LAOH members.



Since the start of COVID, we held two food drives for the needy.

We were able to do a modest amount of fundraising and which allowed us to donate to the National Charities, the Veterans, and the Patrician Society.

On Sunday, August 23rd, at St. Patrick's Church, we celebrated the Lady of Knock Mass of the Golden Rose. This year, we had to celebrate differently as every other pew is roped off and staggered between the church's left and right sides. Additionally, we lined up with our families or those who have been in our circle of quarantine to reduce exposure. No matter what changes we experienced, it was glorious to get together and finally celebrate.



Division #39 ~ St. Brigid ~ Philadelphia

We were so excited to meet finally in person in September, although we did provide a Zoom option for those not ready to attend.

In November, we hosted a Socially Distanced Craft Fair & Flea Market. The weather was not kind, so we



moved inside, all vendors set-up six feet apart, and all had much fun!

We were thrilled that members of the County and State Boards were able to attend.



Currently, we are hosting another fundraiser to support our chosen charities.

We are selling Irish Celtic Knot coffee mugs for \$30 and wine cups for \$25,

Both are compatible to hold hot and cold beverages for several hours and are similar to name brand items found in stores.

To order, Please reach out via Facebook Messenger to Claire McManus-Fulginitti.



Division #1 ~ Bristol ~ Bucks County

Not the year we expected, but we have tried our best to make the best of it and end the year on a high note!

Since the start of Covid, we have gathered many times via Zoom and in person.

Our Fall Fundraiser, the LAOH Division 1- Bristol, PA's End of Year Giving Raffle proceeds will be distributed to the following organizations A Women's Place, St. Mark Church, NOVA Bucks County, the Columban Fathers, Learning and Safety Enhancement for St. Mark School, SOAR (Support Our Aging Religious) and The Blessed Margaret Home!

In September, we started an online prayer group. Weekly we gather to recite the Rosary, not only with our Ladies, but with all LAOH members.

Please mark your calendar for Tuesday's Prayer Group: <https://fb.me/e/d3JjrT2iq>



Division #87 ~ Our Lady of Knock ~ Philadelphia (Port Richmond)

Throughout COVID, we have attempted to continue participating and informing of community service projects to help all in our Division and community.

Looking ahead, we are excited to do our part in preparation for the PA State Convention and encourage all to attend.

We are proud of our Philadelphia community and hope to show it off to all of the state.

In November, together, our LAOH and AOH delivered Turkeys and Thanksgiving fixing to needy families of the Port Richmond area.



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

The Ladies are doing their best to stay connected with in-person, masked meetings, and some Zoom ones. This time has truly taught us all the value of togetherness.

Additionally, it is with great pride we Congratulate our own, Mary Ann Lubinsky, as she begins her new term as the Secretary on the LAOH National Board.

Mary Ann will serve all the Ladies of the LAOH with genuine leadership, organization, and compassion. Her abilities and energy are endless, Congratulations Mary Ann.



Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child. LUKE 2:4-5



Division #3 ~ Maire Drumm ~ Montgomery County

We were thrilled to come together with the AOH to celebrate the Our Lady of Knock Golden Rose Mass "Virtually" in August. We broadcasted the Mass from St. Mary's Church for our members and friends.

Additionally, our St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee is off and running in hopes that we can come together and celebrate this year.

Lastly, we wish to keep the Johnson sisters, Rae, Chris, and Eileen and their families in all of our prayers as they deal with the loss of their brother and our AOH degreed Brother, Mark Johnson.

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace, through the mercy of God.



Division # 1 ~ Molly Maguires ~ Carbon County

Like most Divisions, this has been a quiet year. We look forward to 2021 to gather again.

However, in September, we had an in-person and virtual get together, much fun!



Division # 32 ~ Maud Gonne ~ Allegheny County

In November, we were finally able to gather publicly to honor our Division Sister Patti Flaus on being named an LAOH National Lifetime Member!

We had a small gathering, but many of our LAOH and AOH Sisters and Brothers were there in spirit.

We were lucky and honored to have National, State, and County Officers there to help us celebrate!





Congratulations Patti, We are so proud of you!

We hosted our first Online Raffle to Benefit the Charities of LAOH Maud Gonne. This Extravaganza Basket Raffle included prizes valued at over **\$1,100.00!**

We held the drawing on Facebook Live on Thanksgiving Day, Congratulations to all the Winners!



Division #3 ~ Carbondale ~ Lackawanna

This year, we are participating in the "Tinsel Trail" located at Carbondale City Park again. Our tree is decorating with Irish treasures. Come check out our tree if you are in the area.

The Lighting of the Trees will take place **on Wednesday, December 2nd.**



Division #1 ~ Luzerne County

At the February meeting, Mary Ann Amesbury proposed a Lenten project. We would provide individual bags filled with necessities such as toiletries, socks, etc., to each of the twenty homeless women currently residing at Ruth's Place. We would pack the bags at our April meeting and deliver them to Ruth's Place. Covid-19 altered our plans. There would be no April meeting. The project was put on hold. In October, members met while practicing social distancing and wearing masks, packed the bags, and delivered them to Ruth's Place.

As this is being written, we are packing gifts to be delivered to the Catherine McAuley House for the Adopt a Family Project. Our members respond generously to this project. Each year a letter is sent to all members requesting a monetary donation. This has been a very successful project and is supported by all our members.

We are grateful for their generosity. Shown below with the gifts are State President Mary Ann Amesbury and Nancy Amesbury, who every year purchase and wrap all the gifts.

We are looking for ideas for fundraising. If anyone has any suggestions, we would appreciate hearing from you.

We are a small division and have few members to help with fundraising projects.

We hope all of our sister Hibernians have a Blessed and Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Stay safe, wear your masks, and practice social distancing.

With the help of God, this pandemic will be over soon!



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

Like many other Divisions, the Ladies of the Lehigh Valley sheltered at home, but kept busy preparing to assemble more purses for their St. Brigid Project, the Purse Project. This project includes gathering purses, both new and gently used, to pack them with personal necessities, and donating them to local women's and help shelters. The Ladies have been assembling purses since 2016, and have donated 860 purses, including 355 in 2020. Next summer, we look to fill backpacks too.

Unfortunately, the demand for the purses has not decreased, so that the Ladies will continue asking for donations and raising funds for this worthy project.



The lovely Ladies you see here, starting at the far left, Rosalie Goldstein, Mary Marshall, and with her back to us, Laura Weidman. They have kept this project successful! Their resolve in working through COVID to help women in our area, their organization to ensure we are distributing throughout the Lehigh Valley and their efforts for items and financial donations is never-ending. They are the genuine angels behind this St. Brigid Project.

Our Division began meeting with in-person meetings at our Hibernian Home. The location includes a private restaurant, so in doing our part to help local businesses, we have been having our meetings as brunch meetings, which allows us to assist the restaurant owner with customers.

We look forward to ending our 2020 positively, gathering together to lay wreaths with Wreaths Across America on December 18th and hopefully a Christmas gathering at another local restaurant.

As our Division encompasses both Lehigh and Northampton County, we are excited that both counties have already begun preparation for St. Patrick's Day Parades. We are most proud as one of our Sisters, Dianne Mascari (a former Secretary), serves as the President of the Allentown St. Patrick's Day Committee.

Fingers crossed that we can come together and celebrate this year.

Sadly, we have had to say good-bye to two extraordinary Sisters in the last few months.

In June, we lost Catherine Foley- Holotyak, a charter member, who served many years as our Historian.

This November, we lost our current Treasurer, Corinne Reily. Corinne has been a Sister for seven years; her sassy spirit will truly be missed, especially when we gather.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May their soul and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace, through the mercy of God. Amen



News & Updates from the State Board

This portion of the Newsletter, we wish to inform of happenings and reminders at both the state and national levels.



Chaplain~ Sister Kathleen Smith

In the Roman Catholic tradition, Advent always begins on the Sunday closest to November 30th, the feast day of St. Andrew the Apostle. Is this just a nice coincidence, or is there a deeper significance to the start of the liturgical year?



There is indeed a deeper significance. St. Andrew was the very first disciple called by Our Lord—that is why, in the Orthodox tradition, he is known by the name Πρωτόκλητος, which means "First-Called." Andrew is the one who convinced his brother, Simon, to become Jesus' disciple. "We have found the Messiah!" Andrew said to him. Now we know Simon as Peter. In keeping with his role as "the first-called," the St. Andrew's feast is found near the beginning of the liturgical year.

The **most popular** St. Andrew's feast day tradition is the Christmas novena. It's a wonderful way to journey through Advent. While the origins of this prayer are unknown, it is believed to have come from Ireland. Reciting this special novena prayer each day is a simple yet beautiful way to celebrate the Advent season's spiritual significance.

Let us pray: ***Hail and blessed be the hour and moment in which the Son of God was born of the most pure Virgin Mary, at midnight, in Bethlehem, in piercing cold. In that hour vouchsafe, I beseech Thee, O my God, to hear my prayer and grant my desires. [Pause to mention your intention] through the merits of Our Savior Jesus Christ, and of His blessed Mother. Amen***

Advent is a time of watching and waiting... It is a season of hope unfolding. Let us escape from the busyness for a short while...breaking off from our cares and troubles... Let's enter into our mind's inner chamber, shutting everything out but God... Let God feed your hungry heart that longs for and

hopes for the fulfillment of the ancient promise...the revelation of the mystery..." God's endearing love is mine for the asking... God's unconditional love lasts forever."

*Take time to renew your life, your energy, your intimate relationship with the God who waits for you to whisper: Lord Jesus, come!
You are the light of the world; Lord Jesus.*

Let your loving warm light shine through me as I offer sparks of hope, loving reassurances and comfort to others who journey through life with me.

Amen.



Vice President ~ Maria Gallagher

I hope everyone is staying safe and doing well. This year sure has taken a toll on all of us. We may not ever take for granted again being able to run to the store, visit friends or just being with family. We have been taught a real lesson on appreciation.

Since the pandemic, there have been no degree ceremonies and all has been relatively quiet. We look forward to having a ceremony at the upcoming 2021 PA State Convention in Philadelphia next July. Our new National LAOH Vice President, Marilyn Madigan scheduled a ZOOM call for November 08, 2020. It was wonderful to get to see and speak with other State Vice President. We all had great concerns about getting more Junior divisions up and running. The young are our future so trying to come up with ideas to draw some young girls to our organization. We plan on meeting again after the holidays.

One of my duties as VP has been fundraising. It was difficult to come up with something that would not involve much cost and not much to ship since we are pretty much homebound and not getting together. When I heard that Celtic Shirt, which handles our division business for coats and t-shirts was selling masks, since sales have been slow, I decided to see what could be done to help them and also give me a fundraiser that seemed like it would work. Since they have quite a few of our logo's I selected two and we worked a deal to get them printed and see how it would go over. Well I am happy to say that I am now on my fifth order of 100 masks and they are selling well. Further information will be posted to the PA State website at statepalaoh.com

I have been busy with helping on the 2021 PA State Convention committee as Secretary and Fundraiser Co- chair. Planning is coming along so be sure to check out further information of the website and under LAOH Philadelphia County Board article in this newsletter.

Wishing everyone a Very Merry Christmas and Happy and Healthy New Year.

Maria



Secretary ~ Kathleen Diulus

Please send any officer changes to Kathleen Diulus (PA Secretary).

Kathleen's email is palaohkd@gmail.com

Sending these updates will ensure that all end of year reports are sent and received timely to the current responsible party.

Recently, I have had some questions regarding whether Chaplains should be counted or not counted as members for the assessments. If you have a female chaplain, she is a member and subject to the same assessments as any other member.

If the chaplain is a Priest, Deacon or Religious Brother who has taken vows, he can be counted as a member; but he does not have to be a member to be a chaplain. If he is being counted as a voting,



participating member, then the division has the responsibility to pay his assessments. If not listing him as a member, then he cannot be deducted off as a Religious Member. You must be consistent with your report. In addition, any questions about the membership report, once it received, should also be sent to Kathleen.

Thank you to everyone for all you do!

Wishing Everyone a Happy Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year,
Kathleen



Treasurer ~ Carolyn Killion



Greetings Sisters,

I sincerely hope you all could count your many blessings this Thanksgiving regardless of how different it was this year. And I think the promise of Christ coming as the Light of the world is especially relevant to this Advent.

By the time you are receiving this, all Divisions and Counties should have received their annual reports. I wish to point out two items that are new this year.

The Appeals for aide assessment of \$0.50 a member is now included with the annual assessment. Additionally, there is a onetime \$1.00 per member additional assessment for the Nuns of the Battlefield Monument restoration work.

I will leave the historical details to Historians. The Monument, located across from Saint Mathew's Cathedral in Washington, DC, has fallen into disrepair, and the National Board has undertaken the job of trying to restore it to its rightful glory. As described in Catholicstand.com, "It was erected by the Ladies Auxiliary of the Ancient Order of Hibernians in 1924, to honor some 600 Catholic nuns and sisters who during the Civil War nursed soldiers on both sides. It bears this inscription: THEY COMFORTED THE DYING, NURSED THE WOUNDED, CARRIED HOPE TO THE IMPRISONED, GAVE IN HIS NAME A DRINK OF WATER TO THE THIRSTY." I pray this will not cause any undue hardship in this year when fundraising was a challenge, but it is a worthwhile cause which we should all take pride in.

Wishing you all the joy and peace only the Christ child can bring.

Carolyn



Historian ~ Maura O'Donnell-Roszyk

The Irish History Contest has expanded this year to include Power Points, Films, and Websites. At this time, Division Historians should have in their possession the entries from your area and have your judging panel already reading entries and making decisions.

The chosen papers or projects will next move to the County level on December 15.

State-level submissions are due to be received on or before January 15, 2021.

All submissions should be received electronically.

National will announce the winners by March 30.

Additionally, a reminder ~ should you send anything to Boston College to archive, Please advise the National Historian, Colleen Bowers.

Lastly, please remember to alert your Treasurer that a one-time \$1 assessment will occur this upcoming dues period. The money is earmarked for the Nun's of the Battlefield Monument marker.

I wish everyone a glorious and blessed Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas Season.

Maura



Missions & Charities ~ Bobbie Thompson

After the National Convention, the National Missions & Charities Officer, Cathy Turk, held a Zoom meeting with the State level M&C Officers. No matter what state you live in, we are all experiencing similar problems during the COVID restrictions.

I sent to the State Officers the final report from Past National M&C Officer Colleen Bowers (Good Luck, Colleen in your new National Office).

My numbers are still not matching the National numbers for donations. I believe the issue is that many at the Division level do not realize that I should receive a copy of all donations, including Project St. Patrick, as well as National. I did communicate this to the State Officers. I am confident it will get better in the new year.

I serve as the Treasurer for Montgomery County, and we were able to make an end of year donation to an organization helping local children during the holidays. My Division is making some year-end donations, too, and I hear that most Divisions will be doing the same.

This giving fills my heart with pride in being associated with caring and generous women on every level of the LAOH who find a way to help others in these trying times.

Wishing everyone a wonderful Holiday Season,
Bobbie



Catholic Action ~ Carole Syzdek

Sister, I continue to pray for your continued health and safety.

As your Pennsylvania Catholic Action Officer and JFK, Division 2, Pottsville, Freedom For All Ireland Chairperson, I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the importance of donations to our annual FFAI Christmas Appeal. I ask that you watch for emails with a vigilant eye and please continue to do your utmost to support this most-worthy cause despite distractions due to the disheartening and challenging times in our lives.

God will heal this world!

Carole

p.s. Dear Sisters,

Thanksgiving and the Irish:

Nobody knows when the first Thanksgiving began. It is believed that the English Pilgrims arrived on the Mayflower at Plymouth Rock, Massachusetts, in 1620.

It is documented that a decade later, in 1621, a Dublin merchant sent the Ship Lyon to Nantasket, Massachusetts Bay. She brought twenty passengers and a large store of provisions which saved the settlers from starvation and death.

Thanksgiving is not a national holiday in Ireland; although it is celebrated by US expatriates and students.

Happy Thanksgiving to you all!....OR.....in Irish Gaelic,
Lá Altaithe Sona Daoibh! (lah AL-teh-heh SUN-uh DEE-iv!)

Stay safe and God Bless,
Carole



Past Presidents

Our state is most blessed to have so many past Presidents to lend their assistance to our state.

Rae DiSpaldo

At this time, all Division and County Presidents should have received in the mail a packet from me regarding the Anna C. Malia Ruddy Award. This prestigious honor is presented to an outstanding Hibernian sister in acknowledgment and appreciation for her actions with the LAOH and her community.

Please consider nominating a Sister from your County or Division.

*The completed forms must be returned and postmarked on or before March 1, 2021.
If you have any questions or need any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.*

Ellen McCrane

Details are starting to be released regarding the State Convention. Watch for updates from your Division Presidents, the State Website, State Facebook page, and we are working on a website. I would suggest reserving a room soon, as we are looking forward to a wonderful celebration.

Maureen Lavelle

Greetings Sisters of the Commonwealth,

This has been a very different and sometimes difficult year for everyone. It is time to look back and remind ourselves of all the blessings that we have received.

Even though we were unable to meet regularly, my Division, as I am sure Divisions across the state, still practiced our motto especially Christian Charity, this fact makes me so proud.

I hope all of our sister Hibernians have a Blessed and Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year. Stay safe, wear your masks and practice social distancing.

With the help of God, this pandemic will be over soon.

*Yours in our motto,
Maureen*



Catching up with other Committees:

This portion of the Newsletter, we hope to share and applaud all of the wonderful activities that occur across the state due to these hardworking Committees!

Freedom for All Ireland ~ Kathleen Varady

December 23, 2020, will be the 100th Anniversary of the partition of Ireland. Adding to the significance of this is the UK withdrawal from the EU, eight days later. The UK is attempting to negotiate a trade deal with the US before this transition period. Father Sean McManus has posted a petition "One Ireland" to Change.org and is asking everyone to sign. The petition seeks to end the "undemocratic partition of Ireland...as Ireland has the right to be one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

It currently has about 17,000 signatures and requests 25,000. Donations are welcomed and appreciated. Father Sean has posted three videos to YouTube, "England's partition of Ireland," for a clear picture of Ireland's struggles and his emotional plea for transparency, justice, and reunification of Ireland. Dolores Desch, National Board FFAI Chair, and Kathleen have sent some information-packed emails and a link to the Zoom meeting containing interviews with recipients of the FFAI Christmas Appeal.

Donations can be sent to the LAOH National Chair, checks made out to LAOH, Inc.

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 message they are a member of the LAOH, or sign the letter as being an 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 the "backstop." If Mr. Johnson leaves the EU without a deal, it could create chaos in Ireland and very well mean a hard border between N. and S. Ireland.

Immigration & Legislation Affairs ~ Maureen Cooper

Currently, due to COVID, much related to Immigration and Legislation has been paused.

Entering and exiting Ireland is not recommended unless for essential matters. The Irish Embassy has resumed processing visas for those seeking to move to or visit Ireland for extended stays (over 90 days). As of now, visas for short-term stays (under 90 days) are only processed on an exceptional basis.

Ireland is hoping for many positive relationships and assistance should Joe Biden take office in January. Areas that Biden has already mentioned include opposing a guarded border. Any future trade deals between the U.K. and the U.S. would be contingent on London's respect for the 1998 Good Friday Agreement.



Publicity ~ Maura O'Donnell-Roszyk

What a year this has been, and like all good publicity people, let us find the positive spin to 2020!

Our historic National Convention:

- The Publicity Committee had a resourceful meeting, encouraging and reminding everyone of effective methods to get good press and publicity out, creating interest in the LAOH, resulting in new members.
- The new National Publicity Chair, Kim DePeaux, has already put good things into motion by introducing a national newsletter, The Lady Hibernian Herald. Check out the first edition.

<https://ladiesaoh.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Lady-Hibernian-Herald-August-2020-1.pdf>

Kim is hoping to put this out quarterly; if you have anything you or your Division or County would like to submit, please forward it to me. Similar to the Hibernian Digest, if one person serves as the "hub," we will not send repeat submissions and have a better chance of getting an article/pictures included.

Ladies, I would love to see your Division or County Newsletters or Updates. Your information would help me put together our Newsletter and send in blurbs for the Hibernian Digest & Lady Hibernian.

I hope that this COVID period will settle down, but flu and snow season is upon us, consequently many Ladies will not be able to attend meetings. This fact makes it very important to keep your Good News & Updates flowing to all members of your Division or County.

Lastly, I know many of you have followed our Mission and continued performing wonderful acts of Christian Charity; please consider sending that to your local Diocesan or Community Newsletter.

Good News is a great way to increase membership!

I wish everyone a glorious and blessed Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas Season.

Maura

Stay connected with the PA LAOH via Facebook!

LAOH Pennsylvania State

Join the group to stay informed, learn new things, and keep connected with your Sisters throughout the Commonwealth.

Please remember Facebook is for fun,

Please watch content as some of our information should remain private.



Webmaster ~ Mary Ann Lubinsky

Never in our wildest dreams did any of us ever expect to appreciate and rely on the Internet.

The pandemic has taught us to value change as it opens opportunities and connects many of us.

Keeping that in mind, please periodically check in on our PA LAOH State Website as Updates are regularly posted. Please keep in mind that the process of Updating relies on you and me.

Please send me Updates and Pictures of what is happening in your County or Division.

Utilizing the website, the newsletter, and even Facebook helps us to stay connected and share ideas, and as we have learned, we are better together!

Degree Teams

The Tara Degree team of Philadelphia

The Team held elections recently and now has a new director and guardian on the board. Maureen Brown of LAOH Division 39 has on the director position, and State Vice President Maria Gallagher has taken on the guardian role. Stay tuned for exciting news!

Irish Words to Try!

Home ~ bhaile ~ **val-ya**

“Go méadaí Dia thú!” ~ “May God make you prosper!” ~ **Gu may-dee Dee-ah hu!**

Christmas ~ Nollaig ~ **Null-ahg**

Present (gift) ~ bronntanas ~ **brun-than-us**

Mistletoe ~ drualas ~ **dhroo-ah-lus**

Carols ~ carúil ~ **cahr-oo-il**

Candle ~ coinneal ~ **quin-ell**

Reindeer ~ réinfhia ~ **rain-ee-ah**

Christmas tree ~ crann na Nollaig ~ **kronn nah null-ig**

Bells ~ cloigín ~ **klegg-een**



Prayer Requests

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



It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing of the following Sisters,

- Dorothy McMonagle, Division 39, Philadelphia
- Ruth O'Malley, Division 5, Bucks County, founding Vice-President
- Corinne Reily, Division 1, Lehigh Valley, current Treasurer





Sharon McGrath, who faces medical issues.



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.



Division Eleven, Oakland requests prayer for Sisters Sarah McCalla, Maggie Cloonan, Kathy Horgan, and Pamela Stewart as they recover from injury and ailments.



Division One, Lehigh Valley requests prayers for Sisters Dorothy Coughlin, Jeanette Denton, Juliann Donohue, Mary Denise Schneider, and Darlene Wentzel as they battle medical issues and recovery from injury and ailments.



A special prayer for everyone's Special Intentions.



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



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

Please email them to Maura Roszyk at maurar1117@msn.com



A WOMAN'S PRAYER

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.

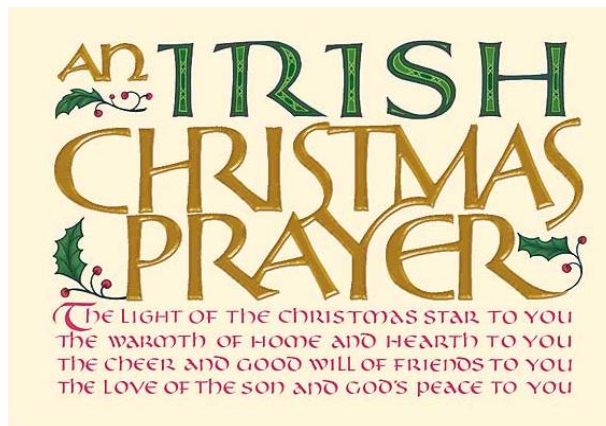
Sr. Peggy Flaherty, CDP

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

Be safe ~ B' curamach



One last thing...

A few Christmas Irish Traditions:

- ♥ Holly & ivy was used to decorate the Irish home before the Christmas tree was introduced. It was believed the more berries on the holly would mean better luck in the New Year.
- ♥ Candles placed in the windows ~ symbolically the candle represented a welcome to Joseph & Mary as they searched for lodgings. The candle indicated an offering of food in the house within. During the Penal Times in Ireland, Catholic priests were forbidden to perform Mass so the candle acted as a covert signal that the occupier was a Catholic & that Mass could be held on the premises.
- ♥ Most Irish prefer to attend Midnight Mass at Christmas. Not only do they enjoy the beauty and music of the Mass, but they love getting to visit with friends before and after Mass.
- ♥ After the Christmas evening meal, milk & bread are left out as a symbol of hospitality.
- ♥ And, just as important, Woman's Christmas on January 6th!