



Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians Pennsylvania



Friendship, Unity & Christian Charity



2023 Edition I

A Word from Maria, our President...

Greetings LAOH Sisters!

So many great things have been happening within our wonderful organization. Take a seat so you can sit down and read about a few.

In this Newsletter, Maura has included pictures and articles about the many County and Division celebrations that occurred for the Feast Day of the Patroness of Our Order, St Brigid. Thank you for the many invitations I received to participate in your events, I wish I could have attended them all, but sadly, I could not.

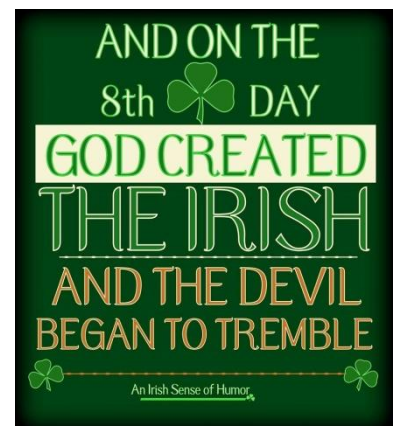
We recently had a global celebration on International Women's Day. Events like this provide one a minute to reflect on those around us and to realize how blessed we are to have so many dedicated and committed women among us. So many women who step up to help and empower others.

Our very own State of Pennsylvania is extremely proud and honored that our Sister Brianna Curran was not only recognized as one of Irish Echo's 40 Under 40, she additionally received the Empowerment of Women Award. This dynamic young woman holds positions on the National Board as Webmaster, the PA State Board as the Catholic Action Officer, and serves as her Division President in Bristol, PA. She is an extraordinarily amazing person, and we are fortunate to have her as part of our fraternal order.

At the National Convention, the delegates approved a new award in addition to the St Brigid Award. After much work by the committee, the National Board and the State Presidents approved the documentation. I will send out all the information for this award soon. Presentation of this award will happen at the Interim Board Meeting on November 11th in Cleveland, Ohio. The name of the award is CONSTANCE MARKIEVICZ AWARD, and it will be bestowed biennially. Look for more information to come.

In closing, I want to wish you all a Happy St. Patrick's Day and tell you just how proud I am to be part of this organization and ask St Patrick and all our saints to pray for peace in the world.

*In our Motto of Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity,
Maria
PA LAOH State President*



State Things to Know...

Don't forget to periodically check the our Website! ~ <http://statepalaoh.com>

The History of the LAOH ~ The History of the Pennsylvania LAOH

State Board Members Letters and means to contact

The Anna C. Malia Ruddy Award winners

Bylaws ~ Newsletters ~ Photo Albums

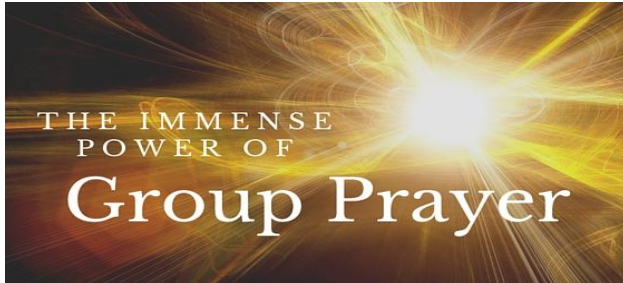
Information from Degree Teams ~ Important Dates

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.

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



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.

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



LAOH's Embracing Our Heritage Program

Please visit the National website~ 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!



*Pennsylvania State Convention
PA State Convention July 20th to 22nd 2023 ~ Johnstown, PA*

*The Convention WEBSITE is up and running!
Please visit <https://www.2023johnstownconvention.com/>
to register, reserve a hotel room, pre-order merchandise and much more!!!*

The Agenda is Posted

Check out the Merchandise!

- The Men's & Women's Polo shirts are available by pre-order only. Sales will close April 30, 2023.*
- Merchandise ordered through the website will be ready for pickup at the Holiday Inn - Downtown.*
- T-Shirts and other Convention Merchandise will be available for purchase at the Convention.*
- Due to supply chain issues, garment specifications may vary slightly from the sample shown.*

Womans Polo \$25



Unisex Tshirt \$20



Mens Polo \$25

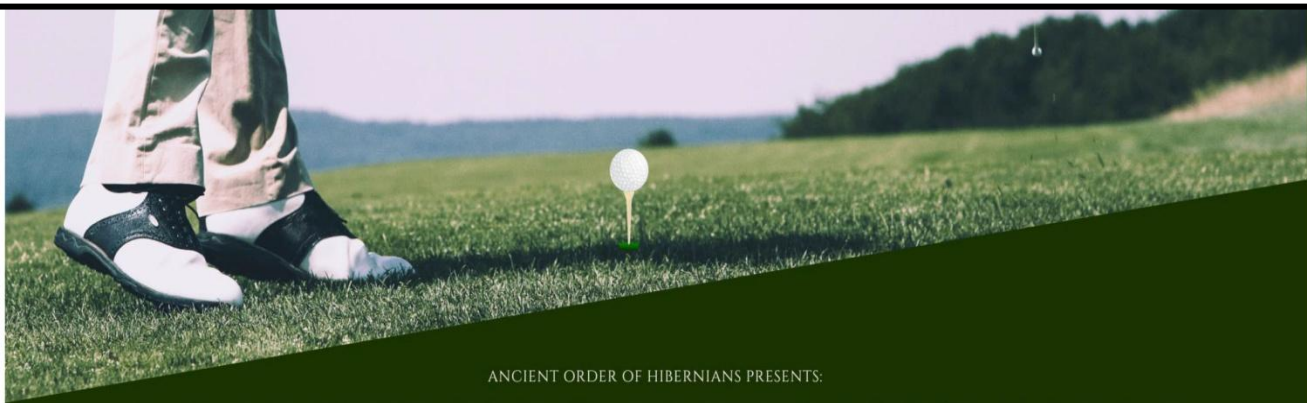


Sponsorship & Program Ad Opportunities

*Check out the ways you can help to defray the costs to run the Convention
we respectfully request that you review the Sponsorship and Program Book Ad opportunities
https://www.2023johnstownconvention.com/files/ugd/fd7919_3afb1e34f1b347ca8821806385a5de36.pdf*

*The Convention Facebook page is up and running! please "like" us at:
[2023 Pennsylvania AOH & LAOH State Convention | Johnstown PA | Facebook](#)*

*Golf Outing in support of the Convention set for June 5th: Looking for players and
sponsors. See Flyer on next page.*



ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS PRESENTS:

AOH SPRING INVITATIONAL

MONDAY, JUNE 5

RAINDATE: JUNE 12, 2023

10 AM REGISTRATION
11 AM SHOTGUN START

NORTHWINDS PENINSULA GOLF CLUB AT INDIAN LAKE

1772 PENINSULA DRIVE CENTRAL CITY, PA 15926

\$80 PER PERSON / \$320 PER TEAM

SKINS & MULLIGANS \$5 EACH / \$20 TEAM

DINNER TO FOLLOW

TO REGISTER:

[HTTPS://APP.EVENTCADDY.COM/EVENTS/AOH-SPRING-INVITATIONAL](https://app.eventcaddy.com/events/aoH-spring-invitational)

QUESTIONS? CONTACT SETH EVERETT
(814) 229-2788 - SETH.EVERETT1@GMAIL.COM



SCAN TO REGISTER

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT AOH MISSION & CHARITIES.

SKILLS CONTESTS - DOOR PRIZES - BASKET RAFFLE - 50/50 DRAWING

Bronze Sponsorship - \$50.00:

You will receive a sign with your personal, organization, and/or business name clearly displayed, and it will be placed at one of the holes on the course during the tournament.

Silver Sponsorship - \$100.00:

You will receive a sign with your personal, organization, and/or business name clearly displayed, and it will be placed at one of the holes on the course during the tournament. Name, Business Logo, or Organization Logo will be placed on Sponsor Board Recognition at awards/dinner from the podium

Gold Sponsorship - \$200.00:

You will receive a sign with your personal, organization, and/or business name clearly displayed, and it will be placed at one of the holes on the course during the tournament. Name, Business Logo, or Organization Logo will be placed on Sponsor Board. Recognition at awards/dinner from the podium. Choice of Beverage Cart, Putting Green, Driving Range or Snack Sponsorship and additional signage provided at the designated location.

Platinum Sponsorship - \$500.00:

4-person Scramble Team Registration. Plus, you will receive a sign with your personal, organization, and/or business name clearly displayed, and it will be placed at one of the holes on the course during the tournament. Name, Business Logo, or Organization Logo will be placed on Sponsor Board. Recognition at awards/dinner from the podium. Choice of Beverage Cart, Putting Green, Driving Range or Snack Sponsorship and additional signage provided at the designated location.

Make all checks Payable to: Ancient Order of Hibernians, and mail to Seth Everett, 310 Wilson Street, Johnstown, PA 15906.

Any questions or concerns, please call: Seth Everett at (814) 229-2788. **AOH, Our Lady of Knock, Division 1, Cambria Co. Sponsor**

News & Photos from Around the Commonwealth

Congratulations, Pennsylvania Proud!

The IrishEcho

The Oldest Irish American Newspaper in USA, Established in 1928

[2023 Irish 40 Under 40 Awards](#)

Brianna Curran



Brianna Curran Brianna is a Project Manager for the Residential Home Construction division of ECI Software Solutions. Her 2022 project portfolio includes 21 medium to large projects totaling \$700K in recurring annual revenue, mentoring three additional projects, and mentoring two new employees.

Brianna is very involved with the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians. She is the National Webmaster for the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians (LAOH), she is a member of the National LAOH Social Media Committee, a member of the National LAOH Webinar Committee, a member of the newly formed Young Hibernian Committee, she is the Pennsylvania LAOH Catholic Action Officer, and the LAOH Division President for Bucks County, Division #1, PA.



I truly cannot express the gratitude I have for the Ladies in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for your kind words and support after I was selected as one of the Irish Echo's 40 Under 40 winners.

It was an added honor and surprise when I received an additional award for Empowering Women!

I am extremely grateful for the recognition and support from our membership. Our Sisterhood has inspired me to become more involved, set my goals higher, and speak more confidently for the future of our order!

I am excited about the future of the LAOH in our state and across the United States. Social media and technology allow us to stay connected and communicate daily. Please know I am always here for you, and if there is anything I can do to help, let me know! We can accomplish so much when we focus on the good and work



together. And THANK YOU, Ladies, for everything you do to make our organization a success!

Left: The Other LAOH winners.
Above: Brianna & Nick!

County and Division Updates

Allegheny County

Sisters across Allegheny County celebrated LAOH Allegheny Co. 35th Annual St. Brigid Mass
Thanks you to our celebrant Fr. Kenneth Marlovits and Mike Gallagher for the soulful music.
Congratulations to our immediate past president Kathleen Jordan Diulus this years
St. Brigid court recipient.
Best of Luck to the newly installed Board.



Philadelphia County

March Greetings PA Sisters-

Congratulations to all our LAOH Sisters across the state installed as Division officers for the 2023-25 term.

We are excited to see what everyone is doing in the coming years.

Philly Ladies throughout the City are busy preparing for our Saint Patrick's Day Parade and are praying for good weather!

All Divisions are busy fundraising with chances, scone mix, and of course, Irish potatoes.

The Ladies of Philadelphia wish you all a Blessed Saint Patrick's Day! Enjoy!

In our Motto of Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,
Ladies of Philadelphia County



Lackawanna County

In their motto, "Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity," the women of Lackawanna County gathered to celebrate Mass for the Feast of Saint Brigid. A very dynamic mass was held at Saint Patrick's Church in Scranton, officiated by the Reverend Richard E. Fox. Dorothea Crowley is the Lackawanna County Board President of the LAOH



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

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



Montgomery County

The Montgomery County Board recently hosted a retreat for their county Divisions. The retreat topic was Irish women in the Bible and was beautifully presented by Sister Lisa Breslin, our State Chaplin.



The retreat coordinator, County President Eileen Modica, created a wonderful and peaceful environment to reflect and remember what is truly important. And what a great day it was!



Division #4 ~ Scranton ~ Lackawanna Couty

Our Sisters collected non perishable food items for the Catherine McAuley Center of Scranton . The primary mission of the Catherine McAuley Center is to provide residence to homeless women and children in crisis. With compassion, and empathy, our monthly food and charitable donations strive to make life better for others. AOH members Ellen McGuigan and Cathleen McCormack are seen here delivering our January donations.



Division #2 ~ JFK ~ Pottsville~ Schuylkill

Our Division continues to meet in-person the first *Thursday* evening of every month.

With great sadness, we bid farewell to our Sister, Jill Sligh, due to her recent passing. Jill was our Sister and Friend, always performing her duties as Division Catholic Action Officer in an exemplary manner and always ready to help anyone however needed.



We look forward to marching in the Girardville St. Patrick's Day Parade, which will honor volunteer firefighters this year.

Additionally, On Tuesday, March 14th members of our Division will attend "Lenten Retreat Night for Women", from 6-8 p.m., at Holy Cross Parish, New Philadelphia. This retreat will be hosted by Allentown Diocese, Bishop's Commission for Women and will provide an evening of mass, adoration and reflection during the Lenten season.

Please join us if you can!

This St. Patrick's Day why not bait your Leprechaun with his favorite snack called "Leprechaun Bait".

7 cups Rice Chex, 2 cups Lucky Charms cereal with marshmallows, 1-2 cups mini-pretzels, 1 ½ cups regular M&Ms, 11.4 oz. bag white chocolate morsels or wafers, 1 cup powdered sugar (optional), extra Lucky Charms (optional).

In large bowl, mix Rice Chex, Lucky Charms, pretzels and M&Ms.

Separately, in small-medium bowl, melt chocolate, 30 seconds at a time at 50% power. Stir and continue this every 30 seconds until melted. Pour white chocolate over Chex mixture and gently fold so that mixture is coated completely. Let set at room temperature for 40 minutes or sooner in refrigerator. In wax or parchment lined pan, spread mix and allow to cool completely.

Cut or break apart and enjoy with your visiting Leprechaun!.....caithiseach!!



Division #25 ~ Philadelphia

We have been in the donating spirit over the last few months!

Our donations included BVM, St. Malachi's Grade school, and the Knights of Columbus. Also, we donated over 200 lbs of food to the veterans.

And we also donated toys for Tots.



Division #21~ Castle Shannon~ Allegheny County

Members of LAOH Division 21 gathered for the 35th Annual St. Brigid Mass hosted by the Allegheny County Board. More than 100 LAOH members attended the February 5th Mass & the brunch at the Chartiers Country Club in Pittsburgh.

Fr. Kenneth Martlovits, Director of the Office for Priestly Vocations in Pittsburgh, celebrated the beautiful Mass, noting how the scripture readings about being a light for others and sharing your bread with others, fittingly encompassed the life of St. Brigid, as well as the work of the LAOH.

Mike Gallagher provided music, closing with the touching hymn Lady of Knock.

At the brunch, we were thrilled to witness Kathleen Diulus, Division 23 and Catholic Charities Officer on the LAOH National Board, named the St. Brigid Court recipient.

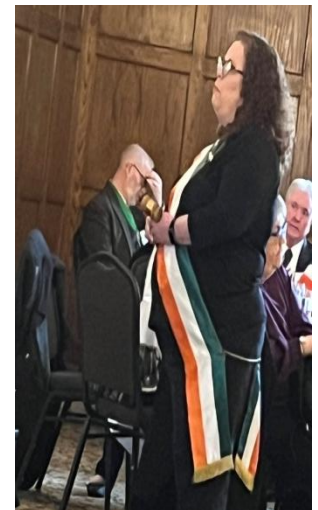
Kathleen's name, along with the names of past St. Brigid Court recipients, is embroidered on the bottom of the St. Brigid Court cloak.



Members at the St. Brigid brunch from left to right: Clare Ansbery Smith, Darlene Vietmeier, Eileen Sheridan, Peggy Bond, Kathleen McCarty, Helen Raffery, Trish Conley & Noreen Herward



It was exciting to be a part of the swearing in ceremony of the Allegheny County officers. Our own Eileen O'Malley was also sworn in as LAOH Allegheny County President.



Congratulations



Comhghairdeas





Division #61 ~ St. Katharine Drexel ~ Philadelphia

Hello Sisters of PA ! The Ladies here in Philly have been very busy and are continuing to do so. In December, we were able to join in with our AOH 61 brothers in distributing gift cards to 112 children to brighten their Christmas day! Our Ladies had a fabulous Christmas celebration too.

In January, we joined with our Philadelphia AOH/LAOH family for a beautiful Mass at Saint Cecilia's celebrated by Fr. Chish Walsh followed by Philadelphia divisions Officer Installation.



We are now in our busy time of the year selling chances to support our Grant program for 8th graders wanting to continue their Catholic education into high school, and of course we are now into the Holy month of March!

Purchasing some new gear for the Parade! Looking forward to being part of Philadelphia's Saint Patrick's Day Parade. We wish you all a Blessed, fun and safe Saint Patrick's Day. We are looking forward to seeing all of the festivities across the State,



LAOH Division #61 Basket Raffle	Pay by cash, check or Venmo @laoh61
1st Prize: Gift Card Basket	NAME: _____
2nd Prize: Lottery Basket	PHONE: _____
3rd Prize: Wine Basket	EMAIL: _____
BENEFITS MAUREEN T. LAVIN GRANT PROGRAM	
To be drawn at LAOH March 2023 meeting	
\$5	

No. 0631



Division #1 ~ Molly Maguire ~ Carbon County, PA

It was so wonderful to kick off our year with a beautiful St. Brigid Mass.



Wishing everyone a fabulous St. Patrick's Day Season!



Division #1 ~ Mary Ellen Everett ~ Bristol

The Little Ladies of Div 1, Bristol Pa

In January, we celebrated the new year by learning some Irish dance.

The girls absolutely loved learning the history of Irish dance and giving it a whirl!



In February they celebrated the feast days of St. Brigid and St. Valentine. They made St Brigid crosses out of pipe cleaners, which were blessed at our St Brigid mass.

We learned St Valentine has a shrine in Dublin, Ireland and exchanged Valentines cards with our friends. We are looking forward to our upcoming March activities



Our Division Ladies

We attended the Philadelphia Flyers' Irish Heritage Night on Friday, February 24th. We had 18 members and friends attend the game, which was a lot of fun even though the Flyers did not win against The Montréal Canadiens.





The Ladies of Bucks County, Division 1 celebrated their St. Brigid Mass on Saturday, February 11th at 5pm at St. Mark Church in Bristol Borough. They had 27 members and 7 Little Ladies attend their mass. After mass, they returned to AOH Bucks County Division 1's clubhouse for food, cake and refreshments. A wonderful day of embracing the LAOH motto!





Division # 3~ Maire Drumm ~ Montgomery County

Greetings from Maire Drumm Division-3, Montgomery County, PA!

After our busy holiday season, our Division was able to gather to celebrate St. Brigid with a group Mass. We displayed our Snowdrop flowers, St. Brigid cross, and explained to the congregation how St. Brigid represents rebirth and the beginning of Spring.



L-R Kathy Coughlin, Nancy DiFiore, Eileen Hughes, Susan DeMedio, Shawn Marie Brown, Megan Bethel, Peggy Senico, Linda Guzzardo, Jane Robinson



*We even had coloring pages and crayons for the Sunday school!
We are very excited for the month of March and
all of the fun upcoming events!
Happy St. Patrick's Day everyone!*



Division #87 ~ Our Lady of Knock ~ Port Richmond, Philadelphia

We are so proud of our Ladies for all of the gloves, hats, and scarves donated for our Divisions January/February charity collection! With such an overwhelming number of items, they were split between St Joan of Arc Mission and St Francis Inn. Our next charity collection will for St. Joan of Arc Food Pantry and we will be collecting non- perishable foods.

We are so excited about all of our upcoming St. Patrick's Season events and wish everyone across our State a fabulous Season.

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 #39 ~ St. Brigid ~ Philadelphia County

On February 19th, we hosted our Annual Family Bowling Day at Holmes Circle Bowling Alley. Proceeds benefit the PA Visiting Nurses Association in memory of our dear sister, Noulagh McGuinness, a nurse (and charter member of our 41-year-old Division).

Tara Boyle Clarke (Noulagh's niece) and our Publicity officer, along with the help of her family, ran the Bowling day. It was a lot of fun, and the bowling alley was rented out by our Division members, family, and friends.

On the last weekend of February, our Division rolled over 1,300 Irish potato containers worth of candy. So many Ladies came out to roll over the three days, and we enjoyed catching up with each other. All proceeds go to the charities we support throughout the year.

Our Division AOH/LAOH had a party to Honor our Men's President, Tom Conway, on Friday, March 3rd, who is being installed into the 2023 Ring of Honor for the Philadelphia St. Patrick's Day parade.



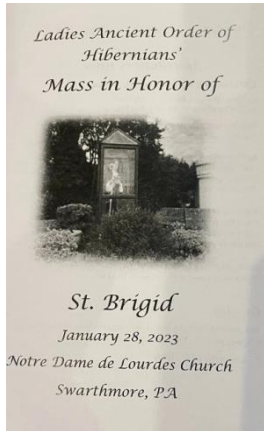
Our Division continues to grow, we are so excited that we have great attendance at our meetings. Our Division also collected canned goods and non-perishable items for the Catholic Social Services at Old St. Bernards Convent, on Cottage Street.





Division #4 ~ Delaware County

On January 28th, our Division gathered to celebrate St. Brigid at Notre Dame de Lourdes Church. We had a wonderful Mass and then enjoyed each other's company afterwards.



And, in February we hosted a Bingo! Looking forward to St. Patrick's Season & Wishing everyone across our State a wonderful season.





Division 5 ~ St. Brigid of Kildare ~ Bucks County

In February, we had a great evening at Painting with a Twist for a night of painting 🎨 with a purpose!



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

We kicked off 2023 with our annual Woman's Christmas dinner, installing our new Board, donating to community events and projects, and a little bit of Irish trivia too.



We were so excited to donate 20 mats to homeless veterans. Our Ladies collect the plastic bags and Mary Marshall knits them!



This year we awarded Mary Marshall our first Hibernian of the Year Award. She is an amazing woman who embodies our mission in all that she does with the most moving spirit. Mary's extraordinary dedication to our St. Brigid community service projects (and her daughter Laura Weidman) allowed us to continue to provide purses throughout Covid. However, Mary's tireless dedication to her friends is nothing but inspiring.

Everyone should have a friend like Mary, our Division is blessed to have her among us.

*Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians
Division One Lehigh Valley*



**2022 Hibernian of the Year
Mary Marshall**

This award recognizes an active LAOH member who represents our Mission to the fullest - Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity.



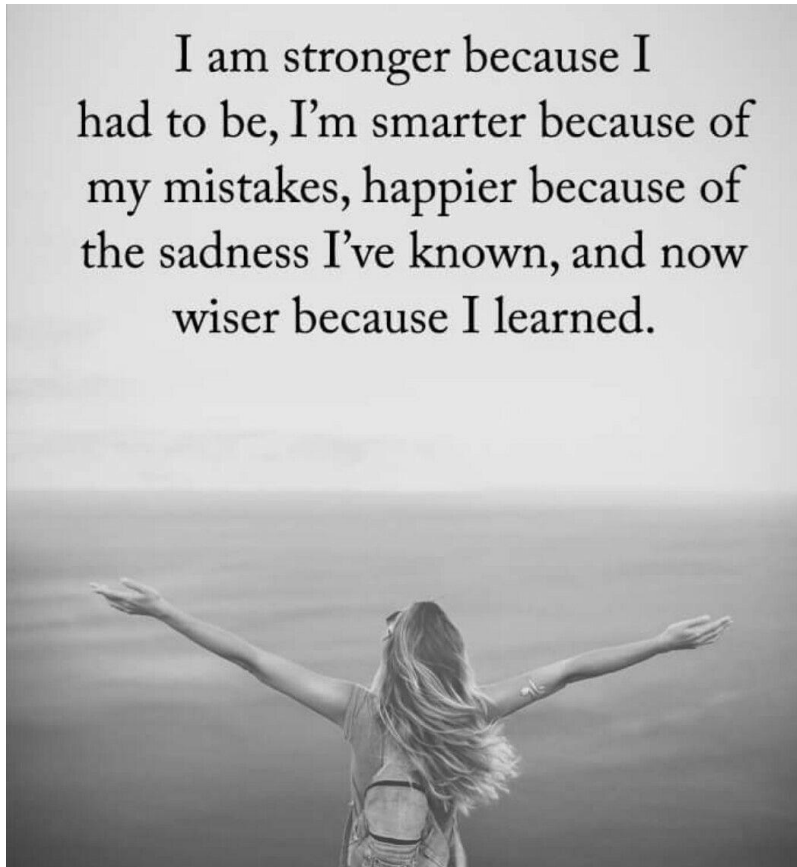
*Every year we return to Immaculate Conception Church in Allentown for our St. Brigid Mass.
This church served as the church for the Irish of Allentown and its surrounding areas.
We were thrilled that a handful of our AOH could join us!*



Wishing everyone a safe and fabulous St. Patrick's Day Season!



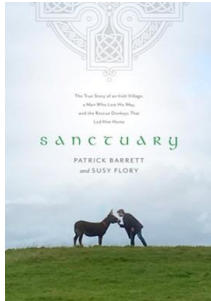
I am stronger because I
had to be, I'm smarter because of
my mistakes, happier because of
the sadness I've known, and now
wiser because I learned.



News & Updates from the State Board *In this edition, the State Board was asked to* *reflect upon the National Convention.*

Chaplain ~ Sister Lisa Breslin SSJ.

In addition to the State of the Heart Prayer Meeting once a month, I led a retreat afternoon for LAOH Montgomery County, and am going to lead a Spring Book club for our members using the book *Sanctuary* by Patrick Barrett and Susy Flory.



And here is my March Reflection...

To me, one of the most perplexing Gospels is the one in which the woman asks Jesus to leave the scraps from the table and reminds him that even the dogs get them at times. Jesus rewards her for her insight. Here is a condensed version of the story from the Gospel of Mark.

Jesus went to the district of Tyre. A woman begged him to drive the demon out of her daughter. He said to her, "Let the children be fed first. For it is not right to take the food of the children and throw it to the dogs". She replied, "Lord, even the dogs under the table eat the children?" Then he said to her, "For saying this, you may go. The demon has gone out of your daughter. When the woman went home, she found the child lying in bed and the demon gone. (Mk 7:24-3)

Have you ever felt like you were under the table with the dogs? Is life just too much, and even the scraps God throws at us aren't enough? I imagine the answer is yes. Sometimes our experience of God feels like this. We ask for a cake, and we get the crumbs. I usually complain and eventually realize that even the crumbs are enough from God. Unless I'm having a full-blown pity party, I try to pray to trust Him to help me let go of control of the false belief that I know better than God. When the pity party is over, my perspective shifts. I remember that my experience of God is that God gives us what we need when we need it, and often in abundance. God is abundantly generous and gives us "more than we can even ask for or imagine" (Eph 3:20).

In keeping with Irish heritage month, many outlandish stories about Saint Patrick have circulated for centuries. Some are factual, some are not, but all have a "wee bit of the truth" in them. Consider this one.

Once upon a time, Saint Patrick ordered a whiskey at a pub but was shocked and offended when the bartender's pour did not fill his glass. He said the man had a devil feeding on his dishonesty in his cellar, so he'd best get his act together. The man immediately changed his ways. Like Scrooge on Christmas Day, he became the guy who filled everyone's glass to the rim. Today that story is remembered in the "Drowning of the Shamrock." Each St. Patrick's Day, at the very end of the night, shamrocks are dunked into the last round of drinks (ideally whiskey), and a toast is offered to St. Patrick in honor of his preferential option for the full pour. Do not try this at home!!!



God is the Divine Bartender, and we don't even have to tip Him to get a "full pour."

God is willing and ready to give us more than we can ask or imagine: cake, crumbs, and scraps. God will even get us out from under the table. We need to let Him. Let us trust in God as we honor Saint Patrick and our Irish heritage and dive head first into this Lenten season!

In our motto, Sister Lisa Breslin, SSJ State Chaplain



Vice President ~ Kathleen Diulus

Hoping everyone has had a great St. Brigid and St. Patrick season!

It was exceptionally special for me this year, as I was recognized by a local charity, Saint Brigid Court Foundation. Over 20 years ago, LAOH Division 11 Sister Maggie Cloonan envisioned an award that honors a woman who has dealt with a chronic illness and does so with faith and courage. I was so humbled to be recognized by the Saint Brigid Court Committee. The honor was bestowed upon me at Allegheny County's St. Brigid Mass and Brunch on February 5, 2023. It was a memorable day shared with family and LAOH & AOH friends. And to top it off, in Pittsburgh, the award recipient has a special place of honor in our Pittsburgh St. Patrick's Day Parade -- I got to ride in a convertible like a celebrity!



We are only a few months away from the Johnstown Convention, and I hope many of you are considering attending the State Convention. Some of my fondest LAOH memories are at State Conventions when we are all together---working for the good of the Order and celebrating our friendships! I encourage anyone interested in serving on the State Board to reach out to a Board member and ask questions to learn more about the expectations/commitment requirements. Remember, the State Board represents the fabulous Ladies of this Commonwealth, and a regionally diverse Board will highlight our strengths and allow for greater ideation for the Order.

Happy Spring! In Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,
Kathleen



Secretary ~ Carolyn Killion

*Thank you, Secretaries, for completing the Membership Reports,
Always a daunting task, but we did it!*

*Moving forward, I ask that throughout the year, you stay on top of members' addresses,
phone numbers, and emails. We are still finding that people have old information listed.*

Wishing everyone a wonderful St. Patrick's Season.

Carolyn



Treasurer ~ Patti Flaus

Go raibh maith agat to everyone who completed the 2022 Annual Financial Reports!

*I know they can be challenging at times, but believe me when I say
your hard work is appreciated! I always look forward to seeing the great work done by the Sisters
from Pennsylvania, and judging from your donations in 2022, it was another impressive year.
Not only do you support our National charities, but you also support so many worthwhile causes!*

The preamble of our Constitution states:

*"It is hereby declared and decreed that the purpose of the LADIES ANCIENT
ORDER OF HIBERNIANS, INC is:*

- 1. To promote FRIENDSHIP, UNITY, AND CHRISTIAN CHARITY.*
- 2. To foster and sustain loyalty to the Roman Catholic Church and foster and sustain loyalty to the United States of America among its members.*
- 3. To aid and advance by all legitimate means the aspiration and endeavors of the Irish people for complete and absolute independence.*

4. To foster the ideals and perpetuate the history and traditions of the Irish people and to promote Irish culture.”

It's evident that you bring the preamble to life! Patti

Irish Historian ~ Carole Cooney Syzdek

Although March is everybody's month, it is especially that for we of Irish descent; so, top o' the mornin' and afternoon to ya and top o' the evenin' to ye!



REMINDER TO "DIVISION/COUNTY BOARDS": All Division History Reports are due to your County Board or State Irish Historian by Friday, March 31st, County History Reports, by Sunday, April 30th.

I hope that some of you were able to participate in the National LAOH Irish Heritage Month Presentation via Zoom on Sunday, March 5th, where Peggy Cornish, National Irish Historian, spoke on Irish hospitality and provided a cooking class, Shepherd's Pie!

Another presentation will be by Mike McCormack ~ *My Admiration of Women in Irish History*



**The Bard Speaks
Mike McCormack**

My Admiration of Women in Irish History

An Irish Heritage Webinar sponsored by the Ladies Ancient order of Hibernians.

Sunday, 03/26/2023 @ 1 PM Pacific Time – 4 PM Eastern Time

Mike will talk about the Irish women of history in a way that is most informative and historical.

March is Irish History Month but also Women's History month. Join us to learn about these inspiring Women.

Mike was a featured writer for several Irish and Irish-American newspapers, magazines, and books. He also was a former Ancient Order of Hibernians National Historian and editor of the National Hibernian Digest.

You are invited to attend the Zoom webinar.

When: Mar 26, 2023 04:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Topic: The Bard Speaks My Admiration of Women in Irish History

Register in advance for this webinar:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_YT2ADuftR22Ma31fcIJFLw

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

In Our Motto, Carole Cooney-Syzdek

Catholic Action ~ Brianna Curran

I hope everyone's Irish Heritage and Women's History month are going well.

For the season of Lent this year, I wanted to focus on the positive, so rather than

"what am I giving up?" I chose to focus on "what can I do?"

Catholic Action focus for the LAOH is on SOAR, Support Our Aging Religious, and Project Saint Patrick. But I ask you over the next month to adjust your focus and extend a helping hand to those in need. It can be as simple as smiling at a stranger, holding a door, putting one item in the food collection, or saying "Thank you" or "Hope you have a great day" to a stranger. It does not have to be a massive gesture, but as we all know from fundraising, every little bit does help make a difference! And a kind word can also change someone's outlook on the day. In a world where we

have instant gratification and can become frustrated when something interrupts our day, try to remember, "Let everything you do be done in love."

After Easter, I will be pushing a marketing and email campaign to help provide more information on Project Saint Patrick and SOAR, but in the meantime, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at Brianna.M.Curran@gmail.com.

I hope everyone has a wonderful St. Patrick's Day surrounded by friends and family.

And I hope you have a very Happy Easter as well! Brianna



Past Presidents

We here in the Commonwealth are genuinely blessed to have so many active Past Presidents, this section of the Newsletter is reserve for them to add some of their wisdom and inspiration.

Bonnie Collins

Here we are heading towards another LAOH PA State Convention. I think it's exciting that we are going to Johnstown since we (LAOH) have never held a convention there. As some of you may know, I unfortunately could not attend the National Convention in Pittsburgh because I had vertigo.

Let's hope I'm healthy in July! I'm looking forward to seeing many friends.

Since our last LAOH Board meeting, I was proud to attend Jim Thorpe's 25th Anniversary Mass and dinner. Mary Ann Lubinsky accompanied me to this great event. It was also the perfect time to renew friendships. The following week I accompanied Mary Ann Lubinsky to Philadelphia for the exemplification of degrees by the Tara Degree team. It was indeed an impressive performance. In December, I attended the Berks Division 2 Christmas party with my Division president, Maryanne Welch. This event was a well-attended, well-organized function with great fun. It was a wonderful time to relax and enjoy the season surrounded by LAOH sisters.

In January, in my own Division Berks 1, we celebrated Little Christmas at the home of Sister Maureen Caherly. It was a fabulous time to celebrate the Christmas holidays for the first time in several years due to Covid. This covered dish supper featured many specialty foods and culminated with Maureen's homemade Irish Plum Pudding.

As spring draws near, I look forward to seeing many of you in Johnstown!

Bonnie Collins State President 2003-2005



Catching up with other Committees:

Publicity ~ Maura O'Donnell-Roszyk

2023 is off and running, can you believe we are already in March!

I ask that all Divisions and Counties post at least monthly on their Facebook page & website.

Let's utilize social media to spread our good works and fun.

I also ask that each Division email me (paLAOHmor@gmail.com) their website, Facebook, and Instagram titles. I would like to post these on our State website.

You can start sending in blurbs and pictures of what you are doing throughout the St. Patrick Season, I like to assemble the Newsletter throughout the period before it goes out.

Wishing everyone a safe and fabulous St. Patrick Season! Maura



Hibernian Hunger Project

Ladies let us know what you did through to honor our commitment to end Hunger.

Please email the Newsletter team

paLAOHmor@gmail.com

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



Degree Team Information
ALLEGHENY COUNTY CLADDAGH DEGREE TEAM



PHILADELPHIA COUNTY TARA DEGREE TEAM

*The Philadelphia Tara Degree Team is looking for members to join our Team!
Please feel free to contact a member of the Membership Committee for further information*

Maureen Dougherty Brown

bmaureen51@gmail.com

Mary Anne Dooley

biged3030@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
Let's us remember the Souls of the recently departed
Eternal rest grant unto our Dearly Departed Sisters*



Jill Slish ~ Division #2 ~ JFK ~ Pottsville~ Schuylkill



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.*



Linda Nevedomsky, Divison 87, as she deals with medical issues.



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.



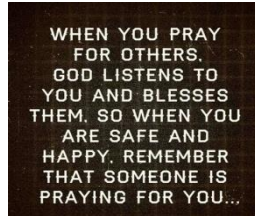
We pray for peace and civility in our home country, America and our motherland, Ireland.



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 ~ 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 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 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.

One last quick thought...



St Brigid, Mary of Ireland

Ask for us all today
The courage to do God's bidding
Whatever the world may say
The grace to be strong and valiant
The grace to be firm and true
The grace to be faithful always
To God, God's mother and you.

Amen

IRISH SHE IS

A strange blend of shyness, pride and conceit,
And stubborn refusal to bow in defeat.
She's spoiling and ready to argue and fight,
Yet the smile of a child fills her soul with delight.
Her eyes are the quickest to well up with tears,
Yet her strength is the strongest to banish your fears.
Her hate is as fierce as her devotion is grand,
And there's no middle ground on which she will stand.
She's wild and she's gentle, she's good and she's bad,
She's proud and she's humble, and she's happy and sad.
She's in love with the ocean, and earth and the skies,
She's enamored with beauty, wherever it lies.
She's victor and victim, a star and a clod,
But mostly she's Irish, in love with her God.