

# Lady Hibernian Herald

Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc. - Irish · Catholic · American

Convention 2020

## LAOH Virtual Convention Held

As the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians finished celebrating their 125<sup>th</sup> year, we learned to navigate a new, virtual world through Zoom.

Although we all had plans to celebrate and renew our friendships in Orlando, Florida this July, that all changed due to COVID-19. The National Board worked tirelessly to ensure that our convention could still go forward in order to make sure the work of the order was accomplished. Many planning meetings were held, Rules of Order were established, and delegates were assigned to committees. Although the officers and committee chairs are used to the hard work a convention brings, having a virtual convention had its own list of challenges. What is usually wrapped up in a few weeks of hectic work, this convention was held over many weeks, so all delegates had a chance to review and comment on all committee reports prior to the general meeting. National Secretary,

Marilyn Madigan, did an outstanding job ensuring that all delegates were able to get into the committee meetings of their choice. She was available at a moment's notice for changes and questions and spent many hours working to ensure this convention went off without a hitch.

All committee meetings were held prior to the opening of the general session. The turnout for the committee meetings was wonderful, and it was great to see so many familiar faces as well as some new ones. Discussions were held, votes were tallied, and everyone felt like they were still a part of the decision-making process. Per the Rules of Order, all committee reports were sent to the delegates for review and comments prior to the opening.

The LAOH National virtual convention general session, held on July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020, was opened with

**Story continued on next page**

### In this Issue

President's Welcome	Page 2	St Brigid Award	Page 7
Committees and Appointees	Page 3	National Officers	Page 9
Junior Hibernian Award	Page 6	Deadline for next newsletter is September 15th. Send information to: <a href="mailto:LAOHNationalnews@gmail.com">LAOHNationalnews@gmail.com</a>	

## LAOH Virtual Convention Held continued from front page

prayers by National President Sheyer. The business of the order was handled quickly and efficiently.

Once the general session was completed, the officers and appointees were installed around the country by outgoing President Sheyer. There were no challenges for any office, so the current officers moved up the chairs. Karen Keane was installed as President, Marilyn Madigan as Vice President, Mary Ann Lubinsky as secretary, Sandy Swift as treasurer, Colleen Bowers as Irish historian, Cathy Turck as Missions and Charities and Margaret Cornish from California was installed as the new Catholic Action Officer. A special thank you also goes out to Karen Keane, PNP Kathie Linton and Carol Sheyer for their time and effort put into making this a success.

The LAOH also voted to go to Orlando for the 2024 convention.



NYS Vice President, Agnes O'Leary and National Appointee, Kim DePeaux log on to the 2020 Virtual Convention

# Welcome from National President

## Welcome to the Roaring 2020s in the LAOH

We are transitioning into the new administration and it promises to be roaring. The virtual convention showed that there is nothing 'ancient' in our use of the today's technology. While we were not able to be together physically in Orlando, Florida, we were able to attend multiple committee meetings and come together to move our reports and motions forward.

The down part of the virtual convention was that we were unable to show Immediate Past National President Carol Sheyer our love, appreciation, and respect for the wonderful job she did as the National President. She presided over our 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration in Dearborn, Michigan, and guided your National Board with grace and patience. Please let Carol know how much you

appreciate all the work she did and the leadership she provided us.

You should notice some new names and positions on the National Board. My vision for the Order for the next two years is to exponentially increase our exposure in the areas of Freedom for All Ireland, political education, immigration, veterans & military affairs, Catholic social justice, missions, social media, and membership; while maintaining fiscal responsibility and transparency.

The area I am most concerned with is the communication between the members and the National Board. To improve this, Kim DePeaux is creating, editing, and publishing the Lady Hibernian Herald which has the primary goal to share the news from the Divisions and members with the rest of the membership across the country. If you want

**Story continued on next page**

## President's message continued from previous page

to confirm receipt of the newsletter, make sure you email Kim at the email address provided. Also, send in your articles, events, etc. The more news pieces, the more editions will hit the press.

Also, the National Officers and Appointees will be holding quarterly Zoom meetings with interested members and their State counterparts. If interested in any specific topic, please email the respective chair. Freedom for All Ireland Chair Dolores Desch is already working on guest speakers for Zoom meetings and Facebook live events.

If you have any ideas, please feel free to email me and let me know your thoughts. Also, check out the website [www.ladiesaoh.com](http://www.ladiesaoh.com) and the Facebook Pages for the National Board and the individual Officers and Appointees.

Stay Informed and Be Involved.

Karen

## Committees and Appointees

### Kim DePeaux- Press and Publicity

Welcome to your national newsletter, *The Lady Hibernian Herald*. This newsletter has been created for you. In it will be information that you need to know, as well as any items of interest you may want to share with your sisters. Please send in any articles or information regarding the happenings in your State, County, and Division that you want to be added. Any celebrations, passing of a sister or beloved family or community member, awards that members or family members have received or fundraisers and events can be included. If it is important to you, it is important to all of us.

This will be at least a quarterly newsletter, sometimes more often. Please be sure to share with your members as we get up and running so they have

all the information they need to stay informed.

Please also see if they want to be on the distribution list for the newsletter. If so, they should send their information to my attention at [laohnationalnews@gmail.com](mailto:laohnationalnews@gmail.com). The hope is that when the members are kept informed, they will more engaged and involved in the activities of our order. This will make us a stronger and more united organization.

This first edition includes the contact information for your National Officers, appointees and any committees established. You are encouraged to use the contact information for any questions you may have. This is your board; we are here for you.

### Ann Durkin Fisher Legal Counsel

I am the LAOH National Board Appointee for 2020 through 2022 for Legal Counsel. I have been a member of DC Division 9 for more than 30 years. During that time, I have held a variety of positions including President, Vice President, Secretary and Missions and Charities. I have also organized our participation in the DC St. Patrick's Day Parade for over 20 years. Currently I am the DC President.

I am originally from Dover, New Hampshire. I have a degree in chemical engineering, an MBA in finance and a law degree. I am a 1988 graduate of Georgetown University Law Center. I work in litigation.

I have been married to William J. Fisher for 40 years and we have 3 children; Timothy, Joanna and Matthew. In my spare time, I like to do genealogy.

### Kathryn M Keane EA.-Tax Expert

Good Day Sisters! I am honored to be able to share my gifts with you all. Of all of the things that can be an issue, it is the IRS that can be the deal-breaker.

The most serious

**Story continued on next page**

## **Committees and Appointees continued from previous page**

thing a non-profit group can do is to ignore the IRS. Our National Board will continue to handle the filings of your 990. You can help us by being sure your treasurer reports get in on time! Our President has great plans that will assist you in staying compliant. When in doubt? Ask!

### **Kathryn M Keane- Immigration**

Good Day Sisters! We are blessed to have Siobhan Dennehy as our Chair, with me (Kathryn M Keane, EA) as her Co-Chair. We have so many things happening, this area will be a hot spot. Siobhan and I at the helm of this important area, we will need other dedicated members. If you are interested in serving on the Immigration Committee, please reach at [LAOHNationalImmigration@gmail.com](mailto:LAOHNationalImmigration@gmail.com).

### **Christina Parisi- Auditor**

My name is Christina Parisi, I am the new LAOH National Auditor. I have been a member of the National Audit committee many times and have served as NY State Auditor for the last few years. I will be assisting the Order in auditing our books to keep us all on track and to make sure all the expenses submitted are reasonable, ordinary and necessary, and are consistent with the exempt purpose of the order. Audits will be conducted every six months, in June and December. Audits are not as scary as they sound! Routine audits are excellent tools to help reconcile your accounts and to help us all stay knowledgeable about how the money we raise is distributed. If your division, county, or state would like some help in auditing their own books or has questions about the audit process, please feel free to contact me at [LAOHNationalAuditor@gmail.com](mailto:LAOHNationalAuditor@gmail.com). I look forward to working with you all over the next two years.

### **Dolores Desch -Freedom For All Ireland**

Freedom for All Ireland (FFAI) is a vital program which helps bring the issues and challenges faced by the those living in the North of Ireland to our membership. At the forefront is the issue of justice for hundreds of families impacted by the death of loved ones during the Troubles, particularly those killed by the security forces or by paramilitaries where collusion with the State has been alleged or uncovered by independent research. Victim advocacy groups supported through the FFAI Christmas Appeal, such as Relatives for Justice and the Pat Finucane Center help families deal with this trauma. Others such as Cairde Strabane, Omagh Thunder Basketball Club, The Houben Center in Ardoyne and the St.Patrick's Center in Downpatrick provide programs to support their communities through peace and reconciliation programs, education and sport. I look forward to bringing you news from these groups on current and future programs as well as the impact that Brexit is expected to have on them. The FFAI Committee will work to review and address the resolutions passed at the convention and keep all of you informed. In addition, I will be scheduling quarterly virtual meetings with the State FFAI Chairs, so I ask that all State Presidents who have not appointed a FFAI Chairperson to please do so and send me their information. We need all your involvement and your support, whether it is by keeping Divisions informed at regular meetings, fundraising for the Christmas Appeal or attending events virtually and in person when it is safe to do so. I encourage all of you to stay informed and to follow the news from the North of Ireland. We now have a National FFAI Facebook Page – "LAOH Freedom for All Ireland". Please Like and Follow our Page. Go Contact me at [laohnationalffai@gmail.com](mailto:laohnationalffai@gmail.com)

### **Beth Zuczek -Webmaster**

The new Webmaster for the LAOH is Beth Zuczek from LAOH JFK Division 1 in Albany, New York. She has been a Hibernian since 2012 and has held officer positions in her division of Recording Secretary, Financial Secretary, **Story continued on next page**

## Committees and Appointees continued from previous page

Mistress at Arms and Missions and Charities. She also currently is the Albany County Missions and Charities officer.

Beth brings 25 years of experience in writing, communications and public relations to her new role. She also has extensive experience as a magazine and newsletter editor, as well as working as a content writer for both social media and websites.

She believes that effective and clear communications are important to get messages across to stakeholders, and she hopes to be able to bring her vision to the LAOH.

### **Maire Leffel- National LAOH Fundraiser**

My name is Maire Leffel and I have been appointed by Karen Keane as the 2020-2022 National LAOH Fundraiser. My name may look familiar because I was the 2018-2020 Fundraiser under Carol Sheyer. I want to thank everyone for your support over the last 2 years and I am looking forward to working with you all under this new term.

A mailing will be going out soon to the National Bd., State Bd., County and Divisions for our 2020-2021 campaign. I hope you will support the LAOH, Inc. and *make that motion* to buy those tickets! Keep posted of all winners, updates, and extra's at **ladiesaoh.com**

If you need additional information or additional TICKETS, please contact me at [nationalaohrafflechair@gmail.com](mailto:nationalaohrafflechair@gmail.com)

### **Gail Dapolito- Political Education Committee**

The National Political Education Committee is a new committee that will inform, educate, and hopefully engage, LAOH members in political and

social justice issues that intersect with our Catholic values and Irish heritage. This is a new committee, that for some issues, may have the opportunity to work with our sisters in other committees such as FFII, Immigration and Veteran's Affairs and Military. The committee will also have an outreach function for committee members to learn about issues and to educate our communities and government officials on issues that relate to the LAOH mission and its values. The committee Chair is Gail Dapolito, LAOH District of Columbia. Gail is excited to help launch this new committee and states it will be a learning experience and expects the committee to evolve and grow with experience.

### **Mary Jo Rawlins- National Supplies Chair**

My name is Mary Jo Rawlins from Cleveland, Ohio. I have graciously accepted the appointment of National Supplies Chair. Along with supplies, I will be assisting our National Board with grant writing activities. If members are aware of possible funding sources for our organization, please feel free to email me at [laohnationalsupplies@gmail.com](mailto:laohnationalsupplies@gmail.com). I look forward to two years of great leadership during these unprecedented times!

### **Cathie Norton Doherty- Committee on Veterans and Military Affairs**

The Committee on Veterans and Military Affairs is a new position for the National LAOH and I am proud and incredibly honored to serve as the first appointee. My goal for this position is to build a committee for the LAOH dedicated to serving not just our members who currently serve in the United States Armed Forces and our Veterans who have served, but all veterans and active military in this country and their families, building our own network of support and will offer many ideas on how to do that. I would like to help guide our LAOH members across

**Story continued on next page**



## Committees and appointees continued

the country in advocating and supporting women veterans and support legislative issues that can help to improve the support and resources available to those women who have so bravely stood up at one time to defend our rights and freedoms as Catholic Irish American women. I would like to keep our LAOH Veterans informed as to resources and support services available to them. This committee will also look to further the historical documentation of our LAOH members who have served in the Armed Forces. Please feel free to contact me as to any questions you may have or any support you may want to offer this committee.

Yours In Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,  
Cathie Norton Doherty  
National LAOH Veteran & Military Affairs Appointee  
[laohveteransnational@gmail.com](mailto:laohveteransnational@gmail.com)

## Albany's Nina Pandolfo Honored with Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians Junior Hibernian of the Year Award

The 2020 LAOH Junior Hibernian of the Year award was bestowed on Nina Pandolfo, age 11, of the Daughters of JFK of Division 1 in Albany, New York. The award was presented on July 25 by LAOH National President Karen Keane. Nina currently holds the dual positions of both Missions & Charities Officer and Catholic Action Officer.

The criteria for this national award include leadership ability, participation in all phases of her junior division, and exhibiting qualities of good manners, congeniality and wholesomeness.

Nina first exhibited the traits of “friendship, unity and Christian charity” when she was six-years-old and she singlehandedly organized a drive to collect Halloween costumes for underprivileged children in her community. She held a yard sale to raise money for her cause and requested donations of costumes from neighbors and friends. In the end, she donated 13 costumes to a local Albany Catholic school. It is now

an annual event.

Since that time, Nina has continued to do good deeds. As Catholic Action Officer in her junior division, she obtained rosary beads from Holy Family Ministries' Fr. Peyton's “Family Rosary Crusade” and distributed them to the members of her division. She also organized a collection of pop tabs from aluminum cans to raise money for the Ronald McDonald House to help families stay close to their children in the hospital.

Nina also is committed to feeding the hungry and is active in the local “Back Pack Program” to feed children who otherwise do not have enough food on weekends by filling back packs with food. She also has participated multiple times with the AOH and LAOH divisions in Albany to volunteer at the Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York.

She serves as an usher at her church one Sunday a month for “Youth Sunday” and also takes up the collection and carries the gifts at the Offertory.

Nina also helps at events for LAOH JFK Division 1 in Albany by attending division events and setting up tables and chairs. She also has participated for several years with the division's annual baby shower for Community Maternity Services.



National President presenting award to Nina Pandolfo

## **Cecilia Leonard and Delores Fitzgerald are Co-Honored with the 2020 LAOH's St. Brigid of Ireland Humanitarian Award**

The prestigious St. Brigid of Ireland Humanitarian national award is bestowed biennially by the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians (LAOH) Inc. in recognition of extraordinary acts of humanitarianism. The award embodies the significant difference that the members of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc. make in the lives of others, their community and church furthering their motto of friendship, unity and Christian Charity. The 2020 St. Brigid of Ireland Humanitarian award was bestowed on Cecilia Leonard of JFK Division 1 Albany, New York and Delores Fitzgerald of Dean Michael Barry Division 3 Oswego, New York. This is the first time in the history of the award, it has co-award winners.

To receive the St. Brigid of Ireland Humanitarian award a nominee must be a member in good standing of the LAOH and her contributions to the community must be of a humanitarian or civic nature. She must demonstrate qualities of compassion, kindness, understanding and respect for all human beings and promote Catholic action and the Hibernian spirit. Both women have met and exceeded all these criteria.

Cecilia has been a member of the LAOH for more than 40 years and has been elected to the office of president for both the division (JFK Division 1 Albany) and county (Albany County). She also has served as an appointee on the New York State Board for four presidents. Cecilia is a LAOH National Life Member and the secretary of the Trinity Degree Team.

She is one of eight children in a family that is involved in the Catholic Church and especially the missionary work of Father Peyton and his mission to bring families together into a prayerful life. Along with her brother, they organize a successful fundraiser for this organization every year. This event not only raises much needed funds for Holy Cross Family Ministries but also helps promote the works and canonization of

Father Peyton. She spends many hours discussing his work and mission with people but also encourages all to pray as a family. She brings a personal touch to his story and this has made thousands of people aware of his mission.

Another aspect of Cecilia is the work she performs for others. She can be found at the Hibernian Hall in the kitchen wearing an apron slicing vegetables, stirring a pot or sweeping the floor. She never refuses to "work in the trenches" and always has a smile on her face. She is consistently willing to help those in need. If she learns someone is sick, Cecilia will deliver food, bake brownies or send a card to let them know someone cares and is praying for their recovery. If she hears of a death in the family, she will make a meal and quietly deliver it to the family without being intrusive. She visits the sick at home, in the hospital or at a rehabilitation facility and is the favorite babysitter for family. She organizes fundraisers for people in need and brings attention to the needs of the poorest people in the parishes and neighborhoods.

Delores has been an active member of Division 3 for almost 50 years. She was the recipient of the New York State, 'Mother Teresa of Calcutta' Award in 2019 for "living her life by the guiding principles of our Order and in the spirit of Mother Teresa."

Delores not only believes in our motto of Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity, but she lives it as well. She has held many offices in the division, including the presidency, but is more comfortable behind the scenes wearing an apron. She and her husband were active members in their respective divisions and worked for the good of both orders, doing whatever needed to be done.

Delores is known and respected through out the city for her good will and willingness to help where needed. She can be found at the Red Cross, the

**Story continued on next page**

## St. Brigid of Ireland Humanitarian Award continued

hospital and the Food Kitchen just to name a few.

When her husband took ill, she took it upon herself to not only brighten his days in the nursing home, but to brighten the days of anyone she encountered; be it staff or residents.

Both women do all these things without ever seeking recognition. They serve "in the dark" where no one sees what is done for others. They shun the spotlight and do these good deeds because they genuinely believe "others first" is the only way to live a Christian life and that we are here on Earth to serve others.

Congratulations goes out to both ladies on living our motto every day.



National President Karen Keane with National Appointee Cathie Norton Doherty, Veterans and Military Affairs



National President Karen Keane presenting Cecilia Leonard her certificate and etched Waterford crystal bowl.





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