

# Lady Hibernian Herald

Ancient Order of Hibernians - Irish · Catholic · American

May 2021

## President's Message

### Prolife Includes Reasonable Gun Laws

Brothers & Sisters,

Continuing from my last article on Pro-Birth is only one part of Prolife, I would like to discuss our Church's teaching on gun laws/gun control. Yes, gun laws and gun control are part of Our Church's teaching on Prolife. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops states, writes, advocates, and teaches that reasonable gun laws are a Prolife issue. This is not debatable with me, as I am a Prolife educated Catholic.

I know that many are not happy with the all encumbering Prolife stance of Our Church, and like to pick which part of Prolife it believes is the most important. However, we should not be "Cafeteria Catholics" on the Prolife teaching of our Church.

Hopefully, we as Catholics can agree that reasonable gun control, as lobbied by the USCCB is needed in this country. This includes a total ban on assault weapons, universal background checks for all gun purchases, limitations on civilian access to high-capacity weapon and ammunition magazines,

federal law to criminalize gun trafficking, improved access to resources for mental health and earlier intervention, regulations, and limitations on the purchase of handguns, and making guns safer with the use of locks, etc.

We should be spending our time and energy on gun laws in this country as requested by our Church's leaders. With this issue being included on all our Prolife literature, we are educating our members and our countrymen that we believe all lives are scared, born and unborn, and we want to make guns safer for yourselves and our neighbors. While suicide accounts for a greater percentage of gun deaths than homicide, it falls back on the Prolife issues of mental health and reasonable gun laws. Let us do our part. Together we are Stronger!

Karen Keane

National President

Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc.

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## Office of National Immigration and Education

### Call for submissions on a Restorative Recognition Scheme for former residents of Mother and Baby Homes and County Homes

Following the publication on 12 January 2021 of the Final Report of the Mother and Baby Homes Commission of Investigation, the Government has committed to a comprehensive action plan to respond to the needs of the former residents. A key element is the establishment of Restorative Recognition Scheme including financial recognition and a form of enhanced medical card.

The Government has engaged the assistance of OAK, an independent consultancy company, to lead a public consultation process to find out from all interested parties what they want from a Restorative Recognition Scheme. This process will take place between 10 and 31 March 2021. [Please note that this consultation relates to the Restorative Recognition Scheme only. Consultation in relation to other aspects of the Government Action Plan are being addressed separately and will be publicized in due course.]

### Consultation Events

In addition as part of the consultation process OAK Consulting will undertake a number of consultation events with interested parties between 18 March and 31 March 2021. Due to the ongoing public health situation, these events will take place online.

If you have any queries in relation to the process of making a submission you can contact the information helpline at the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth at 01-6473200.

For more information: <http://www.gov.ie/en/consultation/cc828-call-for-submissions-on-a-restorative-recognition-scheme-for-former-residents-of-mother-and-baby-homes-and-county-homes/>

Earlier this week the Irish government published eagerly awaited [guidelines](#) detailing how this system of mandatory quarantine will work. A [list of countries](#) deemed to be high-risk has been compiled and will be updated regularly. All

passengers travelling from high-risk countries, even if transiting through an airport or port, will be subject to mandatory quarantine for up to 14 days. This may be reduced following a negative Covid-test on the 10<sup>th</sup> day. If you are travelling from a country that is not deemed to be high risk but you cannot produce a negative PCR test taken within 72 hours, you will also be required to undergo mandatory quarantine. This legislation will be applicable regardless of the passenger's nationality. All other passengers are not subject to mandatory hotel quarantine will be required to [self-isolate](#) in their own homes.

Passengers arriving into the state who are subject to mandatory quarantine are required to pre-book into a state-run facility using an [online booking portal](#). It is unlikely that you will be able to board your flight without booking your mandatory hotel quarantine in advance. The cost for a two week stay is €1,825 per person with an additional adult costing €625 and a child sharing costing €360. New arrivals without a negative PCR test will be a day-rate start at €150 per adult. All costs will be borne by the individual. The legislation allows for certain travelers to be exempted from these charges in part or in full owing to their financial circumstance, however it remains unclear how eligibility for this will be assessed.

The Irish Special Defense Forces have been drafted to transport passengers to their pre-booked mandatory hotel quarantine. For those found breaching quarantine rules, they can be liable for a hefty fine and a prison sentence.

For more information including exceptions to mandatory quarantine see the [gov.ie](#) website, including [detailed information](#) about the breakdown of cost.

## Office of National Irish Historian

Mary T. Leathem

The Irish History Contest winners for the 2020-2021 term have been chosen. The theme for the contest was "The Impact of the Anglo Treaty of 1921."

The Level 1 Grades 6-8 winners are:

First Place (\$500 prize) – Alexis Canuso from Pennsylvania

Second Place (\$250 prize) – Maeve Lavelle from Ohio

**Story continued on next page**

## Irish History continued

The Level 2 Grades 9-12 winners are:

First Place (\$1,000 prize) – Gabriel Ramirez  
from California

Second Place (\$500 prize) – Claire Naida from  
Virginia

Congratulations to our winners and thank you to all  
the participants in our contest.

Twelve entries were received for Level 1, including  
one PowerPoint presentation while seventeen entries  
were received for Level 2, including two PowerPoint  
presentations.

I would like to thank the judges who volunteered their  
time and talent to evaluate and score the entries.  
Stacie Guerin from Maryland, Sarah McAulife-Bellin  
from Pennsylvania, and Mary Hogan from New York.

Since the 2021-2022 Irish History Contest coincides  
with the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1981 Hunger Strike,  
next year's theme will be "What was the impact of the  
hunger strike on Irish history?"

Our national website will be updated with information  
on the next contest, so stay tuned for the updates.

I would like to thank our historians on every level for  
their continued commitment to presenting Irish  
history at our meetings. There are many resources  
available, and I will continue to share information on  
our history as I have done in the past. I also appreciate  
all your efforts to promote the Irish History Contest  
each year. The 2020-2021 year was certainly a  
challenge as many students were working from home  
during the pandemic just trying to complete their  
required schoolwork. I hope we can increase  
participation numbers as the students get back in  
school.

Please submit your annual history reports to my  
attention at [LAOHNationalHistorian@gmail.com](mailto:LAOHNationalHistorian@gmail.com) by  
deadline. Your State Historians will be working on the  
report process for next year, so if you have any  
questions or comments on this report process, please  
forward them to your State Historian.



## Office of National Veterans and Military Affairs

Cathie Norton Doherty

More often than not, when people hear the word  
"veteran", they picture a man.....people don't  
normally picture a woman. As many and as for as  
long as women have served in our Armed Forces,  
people still do not usually expect a woman to be a  
veteran. In recent years, different organizations along  
with the VA, have started photo campaigns,  
highlighting different women veterans from all  
branches and eras. We would like to do the same. We  
want to help put a woman's face to the word veteran.  
We will be highlighting different veterans in the  
upcoming months who are also LAOH members.

This month, also in honor of her 90th birthday we  
would like to honor and thank Anne McNabb  
Greer!!!! A long time NYS LAOH member and  
Marine Corp Veteran.

Anne was in the Marine Corp from 1952-1953, she  
was married to Richard a career Marine who served  
22yrs. During her time at camp Lejeune Anne was a  
secretary in shipping and receiving sending and  
receiving packages to Korea. Anne was President on  
base of the staff NCO wife's club, President of the  
Catholic women's club, started and was President of a  
woman's club on base. In 1970 Anne was elected  
Marine Corp wife of the year. Anne joined the LAOH  
in 1953, she has been a member for 68 yrs. She was a  
division president and county president on and off for  
15yrs. Anne and her brother Jack McNabb started the  
Junior Boys and Girls division in Auburn NY in 1976.  
She was appointed NYS immigration by then  
President Delores Voelker. Anne was co-chair of the  
NYS convention held in Auburn NY in 1989 and was  
on the committee for Project children. Anne received  
her life membership in Boston under Mary T Latham's  
Presidency. Anne's longest stint was being secretary  
to her brother the National AOH secretary Tom  
McNabb, they worked together for 30yrs.  
Pictured below is Anne in her uniform in 1952 and  
pictures from 2019 when I was incredibly honored to  
present Anne with her LAOH Veteran Pin. Always a  
blessing to see Anne at state meetings and  
conventions

Happiest of Birthdays to this special lady!!! Thank  
you, Anne, for your years of dedication and service to  
our country and our order. Thank you for paving the  
way for the rest of us to serve. We wish you many  
more healthy and happy days!!

**Story continued on next page**



## National Military and Veteran Affairs continued



National LAOH Military and Veterans Affairs appointee, Cathie Norton Doherty with Anne Greer



Anne Greer, 1952

## Office of National Freedom For All Ireland

Dolores Desch

**Christmas Appeal:** The 2020-2021 Christmas Appeal is winding down and I want to thank all of you for your support. The cutoff date for the current appeal is April 30. What that means is that all donations

received by that date will be applied to the 2020-2021 Christmas Appeal. All donations received after will be applied to the 2021-2022 Christmas Appeal. I recently emailed a copy of the current list of donations from each entity to all State Presidents, State FFAI chairs and FFAI subscribers. As a reminder, please send your donations directly to me at: 20 Arlene Ave. Albany, NY 12203. Please include the check payable to: LAOH, Inc., the full name of your State, County, Division making the donation and a contact name with email address. Also, you may designate the donation to any of the following groups: Relatives for Justice, Holy Cross Trust, St. Patrick's Center-Downpatrick, Cairde, Belfast National Graves, Down Patriot Graves, EALU, Tyrone, New Lodge Commemoration Committee, Conway Mill Trust, Tyrone AOH, Bridges Beyond Boxing, Belfast, Green Cross, Omagh Basketball, Omagh Choir, Duchas-Oiriall, Ballymurphy Families Committee, Bloody Sunday Trust - Museum of Free Derry, Tyrone National Graves, The Witness Project-Sean Murray, The Pat Finucane Center.

**News from the North of Ireland:** Riots initiated by Loyalist protests have caused destruction of property as well as increased tension at interfaces with Nationalist neighborhoods. Multiple factors have exacerbated tensions in the loyalist community and resulted in protests for the past two weeks aimed primarily at the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI). The protests were attributed to several issues including a decision by the PSNI to not charge Sinn Fein members with breaching COVID regulations back in July of 2020 when there was a large turnout for the Bobby Storey Funeral. Loyalists objected to this decision which they considered to be special treatment shown to the Nationalist community. In addition, they have objected to the Brexit protocol which was decided over a year ago but implemented in January of this year. The protocol allows for goods and people to move freely between the North and South of Ireland. In order to apply the necessary customs checks on goods coming in from the UK to the EU, rather than imposing a land border between the North and South which would undoubtedly result in renewed violence, they placed the border in the Irish Sea. Goods are checked upon arrival to the island of Ireland from the UK. While there is no doubt that this has saved many businesses, farms and jobs in the North of Ireland from going under, rather than seeing the benefit of retaining some privileges of the European Union, loyalists see this as a separation from the UK and a loss of their 'British Identity'. Currently

## FFAI Continued

there are many people in the Nationalist community who are patrolling the streets to deter youths from getting dragged into the fray. Father Gary Donegan of Holy Cross was on the Hibernian webinar on April 15 talking about the need for leadership and discussion and we pray that this comes quickly.

**Webinars:** We recently hosted a webinar titled “Women in the Conflict – Strength-Trauma-Courage” with Andree Murphy and Poilin Quinn from Relatives for Justice. Both shared their experiences and thoughts on what impact the ‘Troubles’ had on their lives and the lives of others, particularly women who were many times underserved by programs and compensation schemes. For those of you who missed it, you can find it on our YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c5uTpdXYs3w>. The actual discussion starts about 7 minutes into the recording. Many thanks to Marilyn Madigan, Brianna Curran, Marianne McFarland and Sharon McGrath for their technical expertise and support in making this a success.

**Pat Finucane Case:** Geraldine Finucane has won the right to legally challenge the British Government in their decision to not hold a public inquiry into the state collusion in the murder of her husband Pat who was gunned down in their family home in 1989 by loyalist paramilitaries colluding with British state agents. In November of 2020, Secretary of State Brandon Lewis denied the request for an inquiry despite many previous assertions that there was government collusion in the murder. These assertions include a decision by the UK Supreme Court in 2019 and statement by former Prime Minister David Cameron following publication of the de Silva Report in 2012 <https://www.theguardian.com/uk/2012/dec/12/david-cameron-pat-finucane-murder>. This decision was made under the premise that other police reviews will first need to run their course. To date, the Finucanes have received no notification of any police reviews. Once again it appears to be a case of justice delayed, a tactic used to put off cases where the government and its agents would be implicated. On April 15 of this year, Justice Scofield, in the High Court in Belfast, granted leave for Geraldine Finucane’s new judicial review proceedings and listed the case for a full hearing in June.

**Please make sure your Division has an FFAI appointee** who will receive and relay the latest information on the news, issues and programs affecting those living in the north of Ireland. FFAI information is readily available on our national website page and Facebook Page. I am also happy to assist if you need any help. Please like, follow and share our FFAI Page <https://ladiesaoh.com/freedom-for-all-ireland/> which contains updated information as well as FFAI news. If you are not receiving my emails, please send me your email address. As always, if you have any questions or would like more information please contact me at [laohnationalffai@gmail.com](mailto:laohnationalffai@gmail.com). Thank you for all of your support for Freedom For All Ireland. Go raibh maith agat.



"LAOH Sisters we need your help! As we move forward with our Social Media Campaign, we would like to recognize our members' professional careers and their work in their communities. We are asking you to submit short explanations how you or one of your sisters is making a difference in their career and/ or community! We will be sharing these stories on LinkedIn, Facebook and Instagram. We would like to highlight one of our amazing sisters on a weekly basis. We would ask that you keep the description to about four sentences and please include photos including them "in action", their company logo and/ or their professional photo. Please email these stories and photos to [LAOHsocialmedia@gmail.com](mailto:LAOHsocialmedia@gmail.com).

Thank you for your help!  
~The LAOH Social Media Committee"



Father Ryan Duns SJ played the tin whistle at the St. Brigid Mass on January 31, 2021



## Office of National Missions and Charities

Cathy Turck

Hello Ladies, I hope this finds you enjoying the beginnings of Spring and a blessed Easter season. I always love this time of year as we transition out of the dark, cold days of Winter into the warmer, longer daylight hours of Spring. Maybe it is because I live in the Northeast where it seems Winter lasts for 8 months! LOL. Anyway, just a quick reminder regarding purchasing Columban Fathers Mass cards. Please continue to purchase the various mass cards to support the Columban Fathers and remember to:

Send completed pink or green mass form directly to the Columban Fathers at: Missionary Society of St. Columban, 1902 N. Calhoun St., St. Columban, NE, 68056.

Send your check or money order for the donation made out to “LAOH, Inc.” and the Missions and Charities Donation form to: Cathy Turck, PO Box 170, Altamont, NY 12009

Please do not send the donation directly to the Columban Fathers. Each month I receive correspondence from Fr. Burger at the Columban

Fathers with a list of donations from LAOH members that were sent directly to the Missions. I can not record these donations appropriately.

If you are a Missions and Charity Officer and would like to attend future Missions and Charities meetings, please send me your email address to [laohnationalmissions@gmail.com](mailto:laohnationalmissions@gmail.com) and I will include you on the invite. If you are the State Missions Officer or State President, you will not need to send me your email address as I have the list. If you are a newly elected since your State’s last membership report to National, then please send me your email address to be included in the meetings.

Donations to our Appeals for Aid fund may be made at any time during the year. Please consider donating to this fund. At our next National Convention, these donations will be approved to be returned to local charities that you recommend and support.

Thank you for continuing to support all of our Missions during this difficult time.

## Office of National Vice President

Marilyn Madigan

### SPRING-NEW BEGINNINGS

Spring is one of my favorite times of the year when everything comes back to life. I am hoping that this spring will be a favorite time for us all. Many of us will be vaccinated and the end of this pandemic will soon be over. We will take the lessons learned during this time to enhance our lives. Our priorities will center on those who are important in our lives; family and friends. Our Divisions will start to meet in person and this summer we will gather at our State Conventions.

We all were disappointed that we were not able to physically attend our St. Brigid’s Day Celebration or march in St. Patrick’s Day Parades. The LAOH should be proud that we still honored these Feast Days and Irish Heritage Month in the virtual world. I was honored to be involved in the National Masses for St. Brigid’s Day and the Feast of

**Story continued on next page**



## VP message continued

St. Patrick. I hope that this will continue as an Annual National Celebration for our Patron Saints.

In the past, the Irish in America concentrated in their local celebrations for St. Patrick's Day. A new beginning of this time is that the Irish Diaspora all over the world shared their plans for celebrating our Irish Heritage. Irish Heritage Month has been a busy time for many of us with events hosted by the Irish Embassy, National Organizations such as the Ancient Order of Hibernians and Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernian and many local Irish Clubs/Museums. I personally hope these types of events will continue in the future

The National Board hosted events during Irish Heritage Month; Interview with Muriel McAuley and John O'Brien Jr and also a program on the Women of the Conflict. The Masses and all the Irish Heritage Month events can be seen on the LAOH National Youtube Channel and on the National Facebook page.

Our Sisterhood is experiencing a new connection with ZOOM. One major benefit is meeting Sisters from all over the country at the various meetings held by the National Officers and Appointees. Many of our members have stepped up to volunteer with our presence in different Social Media formats. I am blessed to have a great committee to help with our Webinar Presentations. Special Thank you to Brianna Curran, Marianne McFarland, Sharon McGrath, Kathleen McAnaney of Pennsylvania and Nan Alonso of Colorado. We are learning with each new Webinar and up to the challenge of presenting programs to our Membership and the Community at large. The Freedom for All Ireland Committee under Dolores Desch's leadership hosted a wonderful presentation on the Women in Conflict. By the time you read this article the Immigration Committee will have presented their first Webinar. Siobhan Dennehy arranged a wonderful panel to speak about Immigration issues. The Webinar Committee welcomes ideas on future presentations. Please email [laohnationalvicepresident@gmail.com](mailto:laohnationalvicepresident@gmail.com) with any of your ideas.

*Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc. Continuous Membership Pins*

Pins are 1" x 1/2" lapel pin with a black presentation box

\$10.00 per pin, plus shipping

Silver tone Gold tone

\_\_\_\_ #25 Year Member Pin(s)  
\_\_\_\_ #50 Year Member Pin(s)  
\_\_\_\_ Total # of Pins at \$10.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ MERCHANDISE TOTAL

Shipping: (\$10.00 - \$40.00) \$6.00  
(\$40.01+) \$10.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ SHIPPING COST  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL ORDER

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Mail your check, made out to: **LAOH, Inc.** and order form too:  
Mary Jo Rawlins  
LAOH Supply Chair  
17503 FERNSHAW AVE.  
CLEVELAND, OHIO 44111

Questions: [laohnationalsupplies@gmail.com](mailto:laohnationalsupplies@gmail.com)



### Hand washing the Catholic way.

It is so important that we wash our hands today.

This is definitely a Pro-Life issue.

When washing your hand for 20 seconds, instead of singing Happy Birthday,

Wash your hands the Catholic way and say, One Our Father, Hail Mary and a Glory be.

For good measure say, St. Patrick Pray for us.

St. Brigid Pray for us

St. Columille Pray for us.

St. Oliver Plunkett Pray for us

Our Lady of Knock Pray for us.

May the Praying and washing of hands, always protect you. Amen.

## Project St. Patrick is 25 years old.

The LAOH has struck a commemorative pin which will help us show our support of vocations.

Please order your pin and wear it with pride. Forms are on the web site.

This is a great way to honor our Chaplains or any religious in our lives by presenting them with a pin that will not only honor them but will support vocations.



## Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians

25 Years of Supporting Vocations  
The Mission Continues.  
Show your support for a Great  
Catholic Action Project.

Pins are a Custom Enamel Oval Pin. Pin Size - 1.02" x .77".  
Made in the USA.  
Project St. Patrick Pins are \$100.00 for 10 pins, this includes,  
shipping & handling. **Minimum pin order is 10 pins.**  
LAOHNationalCA@gmail.com

Checks to: Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians  
Mail to

Peggy Cornish 141 N. Kinsella Ave, Covina CA, 91724,  
Any questions please email [LaohNationalCA@gmail.com](mailto:LaohNationalCA@gmail.com) or call 1-626-331-3905

**Please PRINT All Order Information:**

FULL NAME- \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS- \_\_\_\_\_

CITY- \_\_\_\_\_ State- \_\_\_\_\_ Zip- \_\_\_\_\_

Tel NBR: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

HOW MANY PINS:

Total # of Pins \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_



## Office of National Catholic Action

Peggy Cornish

### Masses On-Line

Many of us across the country are still in lock down.

How do you attend Mass when the churches are closed?

Do an internet search for Masses on-line.

Many sites pop up.

You can go to Mass any time of the day and anywhere in the world.

This is your chance to experience the beauty of the Mass anywhere in the world.

I enjoy seeing the Mass at the Our Lady of Knock Shrine, Notre Dame and at the local churches where I grew up in Brooklyn. Some of the sites I have used are:

[WWW.Massesonline.com](http://WWW.Massesonline.com)

[WWW.Mass-online.org](http://WWW.Mass-online.org)

[WWW.WatchtheMass.com](http://WWW.WatchtheMass.com)

[WWW.CatholicTV.org](http://WWW.CatholicTV.org)

[WWW.KnockShrine.iE](http://WWW.KnockShrine.iE)

[WWW.EWTN.com](http://WWW.EWTN.com)

[WWW.Catholic.org](http://WWW.Catholic.org)

Enjoy this Blessed Easter Season.

Many of these sites have a lot of information about all things Catholic. Enjoy.

Say a Pray for your Sister Hibernians.





## Meet your State Presidents

This month we get to meet Mary Ann Amesbury, president of Pennsylvania. She has been a member for more than 20 years. She is a member of the St John Neumann division in Wilkes-Barre. They currently have 31 members. There are 36 divisions in Pennsylvania and 4 county boards. The LAOH is a real family affair. Mary Ann's mother, Maureen Lavelle, was Pennsylvania state president in 2011. Her cousin is the division president, and her sister is a member of her division also.

Their division, like many, needs to recruit younger members. They advertise in the church bulletins, but during COVID restrictions, there is not much else they can do. Even though they were unable to meet in person like they are used to, they were able to raise money to adopt a mother and her three children for Christmas. They do this annually through the Catherine McAuley House. This is a homeless shelter for women and children.

Due to COVID, their state board has met over Zoom, but they are hoping for their state convention to be in person this summer. They will also be hosting our National Convention in 2022 in Pittsburgh.

For 20 years, Kings College has been involved in hosting teachers from Ireland for three weeks each summer. The LAOH would host a night of

entertainment; music, food, and fellowship, while they were in town.

Mary Ann has been to Ireland several times with her family. The first time she went was for the Notre Dame game. She loves to travel, spend time with family and shop.

Mary Ann was the 2011 Hibernian of the year and was chosen as Grand Marshal for last year's St Patrick's Day parade. Unfortunately, it did not happen, but she was promised the position for the next parade.



## State News

### Texas

February began, for the LAOH in Texas, with excitement as we planned and executed our traditional celebration of the Feast Day of St. Brigid over Zoom. Although we were a little melancholy about not having our usual in-person tea party event with raffle items, food, tea, and friends, we did the best we could to make the Zoom event fun. We wore hats of all kinds: homemade fascinators, sun hats, proper Easter bonnets, and even an Irish wool flapper style bucket hat. The Golden Rose LAOH sisters harnessed our creativity to bake beautiful confections and photographed them in lovely "tea cup vignettes." This year, rather than tea party raffles, our fundraising will be through a Texas jewelry designer, Kendra Scott,

who will allow us and our wide network of friends and family, to purchase items from her website with a special code. And in turn, she will give back 20% of the sales to our local charity, St. Louise House. Our special Kendra Scott give-back fundraiser will be held on St. Patrick's Day. Each year we are proud to be supporters of St. Louise House, an organization that provides homes and extensive social services to women and children who would otherwise be homeless.

As in the Charles Dickens classic, A Tale of Two Cities, the tea party fun felt like the best of times! Little did we know we were about to experience the worst of times! We quickly plunged from the season of light, quite literally into the season of darkness.

**Story continued on next page**

## State News continued

An epoch winter storm brought everything in Texas to a cold dark stop. Unprecedented snow and ice left Texans stranded for five days, some without electricity and heat, some without water, and some with burst pipes. The Golden Rose LAOH sisters checked on each other through a text message thread. The icy roads prevented travel to offer help in person, but we all feel blessed by neighbors in close proximity who shared their homes if they had heat and water, and we in turn shared our homes if we had the heat and water. The spirit of Christian charity was in full force that week! We are very very grateful to LAOH sisters across the nation that sent checks to help with the continuing winter storm relief. Catholic Charities of Central Texas has a special fund set up for the ongoing relief effort which impacts the economically disadvantaged most so we passed on the donations to them. They use the donations wisely and efficiently to make the most impact. CCCTX is our “boots on the ground” organization that is ordinarily doing flood relief after hurricanes, but showed their flexibility during our epoch winter storm.



## Ohio



Ohio state President Theresa Cory presenting the National History Second Place Award to Maeve Lavelle of Cleveland Ohio.

## LAOH Looking for Recipes, Stories and History for Cookbook

YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio--The Division 6 Ladies Ancients Order of Hibernians (LAOH) is looking for your recipes, Irish or not, to include in its upcoming Irish Heritage Cookbook. The LAOH is also seeking stories and histories to include in the publication. Email your submissions by May 1 to: [mahoninglaoh@gmail.com](mailto:mahoninglaoh@gmail.com). A date of publication of the cookbook will be announced soon.

## Pennsylvania

### MaryEllen Everett Division #1 of Bucks County, PA

In late January, the Ladies of MaryEllen Everett Division #1 of Bucks County, PA were thrilled to partner with Catholic Social Services of Bucks County to host their first community Diaper Driver. The Family Service Center is the first point of contact for individuals, families, and parishes when they seek assistance from Catholic Social Services. Due to the pandemic, Catholic Social Services of Bucks County is experiencing a 30% increase in need. Monthly, they serve on average 100 families and provide over 8,000 diapers. Catholic Social Services facilitates intake and assessment for

**Story continued on next page**



## State News Continued

individuals and families to assist them in accessing benefits and services. The Buck County Catholic Social Services offers Pregnancy and Parenting Support, Diaper Pantry, Mary's Food Cupboard and Catholic Clinical Consultants for counseling needs.

During three drop off days, the Ladies of MaryEllen Everett Division collected over 6,600 diapers, 6,500 wipes, baby wash, and baby shampoo. The LAOH mission statement of practicing Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity in our community has made a wonderful impact for those who are in need especially during the stressful time of Covid. We are a sisterhood that extends outside of our organization to those who we may never meet with the hope that our kindness can make a positive impact in their lives.

On Sunday, March 14th, Division 4 Mary Ellen O'Neill from Washington County, hosted an Irish Prayer Service at St. Andrew the Apostle Parish/Charleroi to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. Our Seminarian led the service, Thomas Kadlick (Our Resident 95% Irishman, who needs to celebrate his Heritage!) In honor of the day, he wore a kilt gifted to him by Reverend Gerald Mikonis, Retired in Residence, and an Irish scarf given by our Ladies. Tom led us in prayer and reflections following the Singing of "When Irish Eyes are Smiling." Special music followed included a memorial to our deceased loved ones. Personal Irish Blessing Candles burned in the Church during the service as a tribute to our loved ones, and the congregation was welcome to take the candles home. Pastor Reverend Kevin Dominik, Senior Parochial Vicar Reverend Patrick Barkey, and Permanent Deacon/Pastoral Associate Al Poroda attended the Tribute. A bagpiper greeted all on the entrance to the St. Patrick's Day Irish Prayer service and led the Members to the porch of the Rectory for refreshments and to raise a toast to St. Patrick.

## Massachusetts

Division 8 LAOH Lawrence love our Juniors, aged 17 to 5. So much that we wanted to gift them with a present showing our appreciation of their hard work and dedication to the Junior Hibernians. These shirts were supposed to have been given at our Joint AOH/ LAOH/Junior Installation but since that was postponed we had to find an alternative way to give

them. Finally on February 13th, LAOH President Anne-Marie Nyhan-Doherty along with the Junior Coordinator, Isabelle Gannon gave the girls their shirts with their own Junior emblem on them in the parking lot of Lawrence Catholic Academy. They all were quite happy.



## Maryland

The Anne Arundel LAOH Division joined over 200 people in a socially distanced Maryland March for Life rally and life chain on February 4th. Sisters joined speakers, parishioners, students, and legislators to stand in front of the Maryland State House in downtown Annapolis on February 4th, witnessing to the right to life for unborn children in our state. The event closed with a long, distanced chain of participants bearing signs calling for "Equal Rights for All Human Beings," holding candles, singing, and praying for an end to abortion. It was a beautiful reminder that life wins, and we are not alone.





## State News Continued

### MD LAOH Food Drive Raises Over \$1,900 for Those in Need

In this time of the pandemic and the increased need for many people, the Maryland LAOH held a statewide fundraiser in January and February. We partnered with the Maryland Food Bank and they provided access to their website through which we could make individual donations in the name of Maryland LAOH. We set a goal of \$2,000 for the year and already raised 85% of our goal. We are continuing our efforts this year and will regain momentum in the Fall to help the food-insecure individuals and families in Maryland.

Most of our LAOH Maryland divisions also support their local churches on a year-round basis by donating food to local outreach organizations. For example, the Cecil County division sponsored a “Fill the Trunk” food drive that was held simultaneously at three church parking lots. They filled nine cars overflowing with food that was delivered to St. Vincent de Paul Society in Perryville, MD.

Howard County Division #1 donated over \$300 in food, with their online food drive.

Baltimore City, LAOH Division #1 sponsored, “Thursday’s Breakfast of Champions”, participants donated non-perishable breakfast food items.

Another example was Harford County Division #2 collected and distributed food to St. Mark’s Church in Fallston and their Gabriel Project Food Bank that supports mothers and children in need.

Maryland LAOH will be scheduling a Fall Food Drive, those wishing to participate can click on the following link. <https://mdfoodbank.fenly.org/drive/www-marylandlaoh-org>.



## Show your Hibernian Pride with an LAOH front plate!

### (now legal in Ohio!)

Proceeds to benefit LAOH Div. 6  
\$20 each (shipping \$3.50)  
email [mahoninglaoh@gmail.com](mailto:mahoninglaoh@gmail.com) to order yours!




Order Form -  
Please mail to LAOH 5110 Southern Blvd. Youngstown, Ohio 44512;  
checks payable to LAOH Division 6.

Name:	Email:		
	Cost:	Quantity:	Total:
LAOH Front Plate or Frame	\$20.00		
Postage	\$3.50		
Total Amount Enclosed:			

## Michigan

Regan Lezotte, a member of the Sarah Regan Division in Livingston County, Michigan and past member of the Court of St. Brigid is a **fourth** generation Hibernian! Her great-grandmother, Sarah Ross; grandmother, Sarah Lezotte; Mom, Anne Lezotte, and Regan. Her aunt, Marie Donnelly is also a member. Anne, Marie and their Mom, were founding members of the Sarah Regan Division, named after Anne’s grandmother Sarah Regan from Ireland.

The following was written by Regan and shows that our sister Hibernians come in many shapes, sizes and ages.

My name is Regan Lezotte and I’m currently a Certified Flight Instructor at Crosswinds Aviation in Howell, MI. My journey to get where I am took a lot of hard work and determination. It all started when I took a discovery flight at the local airport in Howell. Once we landed, I was instantly in love with this profession. After the flight, I told my Mom that was exactly what I wanted to do as a future career. Soon after this I signed up for flight lessons. After about 8 months of flying, studying and practicing, I finally

## State News Continued

obtained my private pilot's license. This was a huge step in my journey, because it was the first rating I earned. Once I started freshman year at Northwestern Michigan College, I obtained my instrument rating, Commercial Pilots license, Certified Flight Instructor rating along with my Certified Flight Instructor Instrument rating. This all happened in about one year after starting at NMC, which took a lot of diligence and discipline. I enjoyed studying for my aviation classes and knew that I could work hard to get what I wanted. I then traveled down to Western Michigan University where I was a Certified Flight Instructor for about a year. Here, I flew advanced aircraft and met a lot of great people. Not too long after, I found myself back at Crosswinds Aviation in Howell as a Certified Flight Instructor. I love teaching students how to fly, and the best part about this job is seeing "the lightbulb go off" when your student finally understands how to do what they're doing. I also love to inspire young women to become pilots, because women are great pilots.



***Wanted:*** Looking for a place to buy parade sashes. If you know of a place or have a seamstress that is able to, please contact [Kimdepeaux@gmail.com](mailto:Kimdepeaux@gmail.com). Thank you

## California

Kate McCarthy from LAOH Division 1, Orange County CA gave a talk on Patrick Pearse's letter to his mother after the 1916 Rising. She was an invited speaker for the AOH annual 1916 Rising commemoration event. Kate spoke of Patrick Pearse's letter to his mother, which expressed a great love for her but also a great love for Ireland. She closed her talk with the reading of the poem The Mother.



### 'The Mother' By Pádraig Pearse

I do not grudge them: Lord, I do not grudge  
My two strong sons that I have seen go out  
To break their strength and die, they and a few,  
In bloody protest for a glorious thing,  
They shall be spoken of among their people,  
The generations shall remember them,  
And call them blessed;  
But I will speak their names to my own heart  
In the long nights;  
The little names that were familiar once  
Round my dead hearth.  
Lord, thou art hard on mothers:  
We suffer in their coming and their going;  
And tho' I grudge them not, I weary, weary  
Of the long sorrow--And yet I have my joy:  
My sons were faithful, and they fought.  
God Bless Ireland  
Dia dhaibh Eire  
Freedom forever  
saoirse go deo

## State News Continued

On Friday, January 29, 2021 the Orange County California, St. Brigid Division hosted a Bloody Sunday remembrance. We had a guest speaker, (Kevin Tierney) who was raised in Derry. He spoke of the environment of the area and how hard it has been not only for the people involved but for the entire community. He spoke of all the talent of the people that emigrated and have served their new countries well. He himself emigrated to the US and has done well here. The subject of Brexit was discussed in the discussion part of the evening. He spoke of the hopes of the Irish people for unification. To end the night, we watched a movie about Bloody Sunday. It was a highly informative and thought-provoking evening which was enjoyed by Hibernians from across the country.

The St. Brigid Division in Orange County California hosted a cards and cocktails Zoom party.

We had a demonstration on cocktail making. We also taught a class in card making. They were Irish themed greeting cards. The night was enjoyed by members from all over our state and some friends from NY. Everyone is displaying their favorite two cards. We did four different designs in all. We are trying to stay in touch till we can socialize again in person.

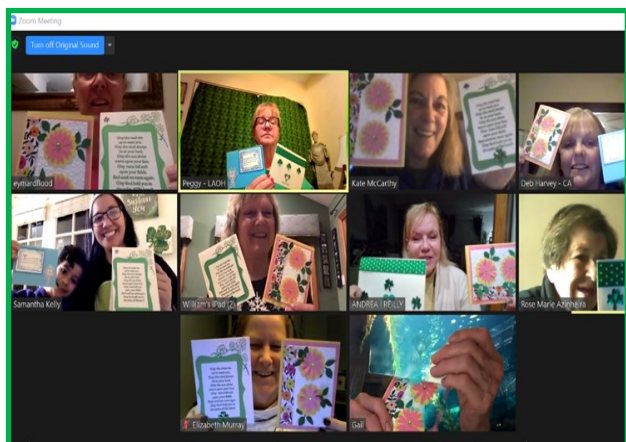


Photo Top L to Right, Sister Eymard Flood, Peggy Cornish, Kate McCarthy, Deb Harvey.

Middle L to Right, Samantha Kelly with Son Gabriel, Patty, Andrea Reilly, Rose Marie Azinheira.

Bottom Row L to R, Liz Murray and Gail Anderson.



## New York

### Yonkers, NY

In March the LAOH, Our Lady of Knock Division 19 of Yonkers, NY presented a \$5,000 check to the Aisling Irish Community Center for the Mulcahy Scholarship. The ladies hosted a fundraiser showing the film “How to Defuse a Bomb” The Project Children Story back in February 2020.

The Scholarship is a tribute to Denis Mulcahy and his family for their forty-year commitment to Project Children, a charity they helped found. Due to their untiring work, they changed the lives of children across Northern Ireland. The Scholarship aims to provide American high school students the opportunity to travel to Ireland and experience Irish culture in a fun and diverse way. The long-term goal of the Mulcahy Scholarship is to develop the necessary funding that will facilitate the growth of this unique program, enabling many American high school students to attend these cultural summer courses in Northern & Southern Ireland.



Photo: Members Noreen Ryan, Nancy Walsh along with Denis Mulcahy and the board of the Aisling Center

### Schenectady, NY

On March 10, 2021, the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians (LAOH) Schenectady JFK Division 1 celebrated its 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary. At a ceremony to mark this milestone, LAOH National President Karen Keane presented Schenectady LAOH’s president Kim DePeaux with a proclamation. During the event, they honored eight living past presidents from the Schenectady division as well as its deceased members. In addition, the division made a motion to donate \$120



## State News Continued

to each of their main community charities.

*Schenectady Auxiliary Division #1 was organized on March 10, 1901. For a few years, the Auxiliary flourished and held meetings regularly. Membership was small and the amount of money collected in dues was not sufficient to keep going. The Auxiliary became less active and for a while held meetings in the homes of members.*

*Early in 1911, a group of men in St Columba's parish decided to form a new division to be known as division #2. On July 3, 1911 auxiliary division #2 was organized; eleven members were initiated by a Degree team from Amsterdam. The Division had a small meeting room in Turner Hall on Albany Street, paying the rental fee of \$0.75 per meeting.*

*Shortly after the organization of Auxiliary #2, Auxiliary #1 reactivated and a county Board was formed. Schenectady is a small County and it soon became apparent that in the best interests of the AOH and Auxiliary in Schenectady there should be one AOH and Auxiliary Division. Consequently, Division #2 disbanded and most of the members transferred to Division #1.*

*In 1984, at the National convention, held in Albany, New York, the Ladies voted to change their name to The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians. In 1985, the AOH approved the change; we were now officially the LAOH.*

### Monroe County, New York Division 1 and 4

March is usually a busy month for us as it is for all of those who can proudly that they are of Irish descent. This year, same as last, was different due to the pandemic. But being the resilient and creative people that we are, we made the best of it. Zoom has made "gathering" possible and so we were able to enjoy some holiday events; a lecture on WB Yeats given by the Irish Studies Program at local college St John Fisher, an evening of traditional music and dance presented by the IACI, and Siamsa presentations given

on-line at Irish bars all over Rochester at one of which member Sandy Foley did a soda bread baking demonstration. We were very fortunate to be able to have a Mass, in person, on what would have been parade day. The Mass had limited seating but was well attended none-the less. It was held at St Joseph's in Penfield and our Bishop, the Most Reverend Salvatore Matano, presided. The LAOH sponsored the Mass and also provided the live music. Also on Parade day was a hour long presentation of a collection of taped past parades, trivia and live commentary that aired on local channel 8. It was a quite a task but came out beautifully. The LAOH also provided 3 days of photos, history and Irish culture in the Irish American History Month calendar.

We were all sad to hear that Eileen Fee, would be leaving Rochester, her life-long home, to move to North Carolina. Eileen is a Rochester icon and will be missed not only by her Hibernian sisters but by the whole Irish community.

Eileen was born in the 19<sup>th</sup> Ward, downtown Rochester, to Eileen and Tim Clifford both natives of County Kerry. Eileen's childhood memories were colored by the diagnosis of Polio at age 5. She was paralyzed for a year and remained in fragile health so that she did not attend regular grammar school until grade 4. She and her brother Jerry spent their early summers at Durand Eastman Rotary sleep away Camp from the end of June until Labor Day.

She met the love of her life, Patrick Fee, while singing at a school event at Our Lady of Mercy High school in 1959. As everyone gathered at the Hibernian Club on Alexander Street in Rochester afterwards, Pat deserted his date to sit with Eileen. And that was that! They married in 1962 and were married for 64 years until Pat's passing in 2016. They had 4 children and three grandchildren.

Eileen led a life of service here in Rochester. She was very involved at her church, was on the Irish Festival Committee for years and was on the Parade Committee for an impressive 41 years! In 1999 she was Co-Grand Marshall of the Rochester Saint Patrick's Day Parade. Her involvement with the

## State News Continued

LAOH was extensive. She joined in 1980. Locally she held the offices of secretary, treasurer, vice-president and president. She served as Chair of the County Board for 8 years and served on the New York State Board in Immigration, Catholic Action and as Historian.

Since her beloved Pat's passing she has lived alone. Of living alone she said, "I've never lived alone and hate, hate, hate it!" So when asked to move in with daughter Siobhan and son-in-law Darin in Wilmington, North Carolina, she accepted. Though there are no children in the house there are 2 resident black labs, Trinity and Guinness, who are reported to be anxiously awaiting her arrival.

What will she miss in Rochester? "Looking out of my window here and seeing the deer. I see them every day." She will also miss all of the people that she knows here and that is saying something because Eileen Fee knows everyone!

Adh mor ort, Eileen. You will be missed.



Most Reverend Bishop Salvatore Matano, Bishop of Rochester, who officiated at the St Patrick's Day Mass



Monroe County NY, Division 1 and 4 LAOH members at the St Patrick's Day Mass

## Kitty Geissler Division 11, Tarrytown, NY

Ann Walsh returned to her eternal reward on Sunday, April 11, 2021.

Ann was an active member of the Kitty Geissler Division 11, Tarrytown, N.Y. since 1990 and held various offices within the division.

She was a great lady and loved being a member of the LAOH.

Please remember Ann and her family in your prayers. May she rest in peace.

On March 8<sup>th</sup> President Alice Geissler Koraca held the regular monthly meeting virtually and reported that some of our members participated in the Galentine's Day zoom that was headed up by National President Karen Keane. It was a pleasant social hour with Hibernian sisters chatting, playing bingo, sharing stories and jokes.

President Koraca and Secretary Alice Droogan of The Kitty Geissler Division #11 of Tarrytown along with Noreen Ryan of Our Lady of Knock Division #19 of Yonkers, NY recorded a short greeting for the NYC St. Patrick's virtual parade.

Publicity Chairlady, Joan Lyons Ceconi again set up a display at Tarrytown's Warner Library commemorating Irish History Month and to celebrate the patron saint of The Archdiocese of New York.

Again Div. #11 donated to the Transfiguration Church Twinning Parish in El Salvador. An annual donation was also made to WFUV, the Fordham University radio program, a project which we have proudly supported for almost fifty years.