

Erin's Echo

Maryland State Board
Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc.

President's Message

The first quarter of 2021 has been remarkably busy as MD LAOH Divisions began to meet virtually and in person.

Missions and Charities put on a successful Tombola Fundraiser, raising more than we have done in the past few years, thanks to M&C Chair, Patti Petti. Our MD LAOH raised over \$1,800 dollars for the MD Food Bank. Our **CHARITY** work in the community, reflects who we are as a Roman Catholic, Irish Organization.

We have divisions holding on-line fundraisers and many have done quite well encouraging other divisions to participate with their own fundraisers. National LAOH and local social media channels are offering online Webinars and Tutorials, reaching those LAOH sisters still shut-in due to COVID-19.

As we look forward to recovering from the shutdown, membership growth will be our focus. It is key to our future if we are to succeed as an organization and we need to work together in **FRIENDSHIP AND UNITY** to achieve that goal. Change can be a scary thing and a threat to many. All I ask is to keep an open mind and not allow the Letter of the Law to restrict us, but the Spirit of the Law guide us.

I want to thank everyone for the amazing job you have done in bringing your divisions through this Pandemic. Rejoice in the knowledge that you have played a part in our success.

In Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,
Uachtarán (MD State President)

-Kathy Norris-

LAOH Website

Go to www.marylandlaoh.org for events, flyers and forms.

There are links to items of interest in the local Irish Community as well as information on the national scene. You can also find us on <http://www.facebook.com/marylandlaoh>



Volume 56 No. 2

May, June, July, 2021

Calendar

May

May 5: Cecil County LAOH Baby Shower

May 16: Harford 1 LAOH Basket of Cheer Raffle Drawing

June

June 5: MD LAOH State Board Meeting, 10 AM

July

July 15: Erin's Echo Deadline

August

Aug. 8: Anne Arundel's 40th Anniversary Celebration, Carroll Gardens, St. Mary's Church, Annapolis, 6PM

October

Oct. 28-31: Maryland LAOH-AOH 2021 Convention, Holiday Inn, 6600 Coastal Hwy, Ocean City

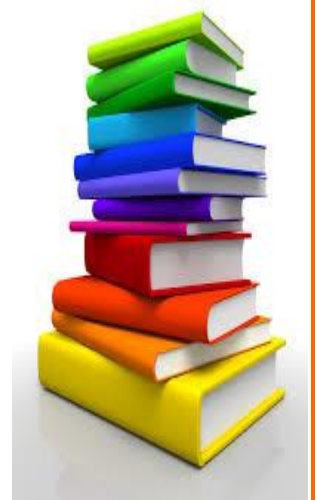
Cultural Corner

THE ELEPHANT OF BELFAST by
S. Kirk Walsh

NORTHERN SPY by Flynn Berry

THE LONG HOT SUMMER by
Kathleen MacMahon

-Joanna Cox-



Gatherings

This year marks the 105th anniversary of the Easter Rising, one of 25 rebellions since 1534, but one that changed the course of Irish history.

Led by a seven-man Military Council of the Irish Republican Brotherhood, along with 1,600 followers (including members of the all-female Cumann na mBan), Pádraig (Patrick) Pearse read the Proclamation of the Irish Republic from their headquarters in Dublin's General Post Office. Within one week (April 24-29, 1916), 2,600+ were wounded and 485 killed: 260 civilians, 143 British military, and 82 Irish rebels. Of the 82 rebels, the British subsequently executed 16.

I've read about the 1916 rebellion, watched movies about it, took part in the LAOH's commemorations in Baltimore and in NYC in 2016, but it wasn't until I toured Kilmainham Gaol, where these patriots were executed, that the gravity of that week really hit me. To this day, I have a framed copy of the Proclamation hanging in my home.

Every year I fly the Irish flag for the month of March but now, reflecting on the events of the Rising, perhaps it's a good idea to add a few more days in honor of these men who gave their lives to free Ireland:

- May 3: Patrick Pearse, Thomas MacDonagh, Thomas Clarke
- May 4: Joseph Plunkett, William Pearse, Edward Daly, Michael O'Hanrahan
- May 5: John MacBride
- May 8: Éamonn Ceannt, Michael Mallin, Seán Heuston, Con Colbert
- May 9: Thomas Kent
- May 12: James Connolly, Seán Mac Diarmada
- August 3: Roger Casement



Marker where James Connolly was executed – the others were executed at the opposite end of this courtyard

-Sharon Sullivan-

Baltimore City, Division 1

This year we collected donations for the Maryland Food Bank. Two of our members picked up donations from our houses and delivered them on behalf of our division. They also collected Pennies for the Poor from those members that were visited to pick up food.

We hope to soon be able to hold in-person meetings again, on the third Tuesday of every month at 7pm, location to be determined. Until then, we will continue meeting virtually.

We invite you to join us in helping those in need and celebrating our Irish history and culture.

-Dorothy Reed, Reporter

Harford County, Division 2

On January 2021 Division 2 still found a way to hold our 9:00 AM St. Ita Mass at St. Mark of Fallston. Just a few of our sisters braved COVID-19 to attend; checks and gifts for the Gabriel Network and Angels Supporting Your Troops were donated to honor St. Ita.



In order to support our charities, Division 2 raffled Irish baskets. The drawings were on March 17th. Donations for the raffle were given by our sisters, families of members, and friends. Our division greatly appreciates and thanks our sister divisions for their generous ticket purchases. Irish basket winners received their prizes by in person delivery or by mail. Plans are being made to conduct more raffles this year.

Thelma Graziano and Mary Asaki have planned a Rosary Mass Celebration at our October meeting. It will be held at St. Mark, Fallston on October 19 at 6:00 PM. We invite other divisions to join us and to purchase a memorial rose or an honorary rose for loved ones. We ask that you write a list of names on one paper. Price is \$1.00 for every name listed. Donations for our Gabriel Network and Angels Supporting Your Troops will also be accepted. More to follow...

Peace,

-Gleela Kolakowski, Reporter-

Baltimore County, Division 1

We hope all of our sisters enjoyed a happy and blessed Easter. We're loving the different raffles other divisions are holding since our division is very lucky; we seem to have a winner in each one. We've got our hopes on winning the basket of cheer

from Harford County. If one of us wins they'll be required to bring a bottle or two to get us back in the spirit.

As I said, we have a lucky division; Pat Vallar and Tish Akins won prizes in the Tombola. Jan McCann and I won in the Carroll County raffle so we're rubbing our shamrock to win the Basket of Cheer.



Tish Akins won a bracelet in the Tombola but was in the hospital with Covid 19. Thanks to all the prayers and the grace of God, she's completely recovered. Good news is that all members at Charlestown have been vaccinated and also most of our outside members.

Kellie Hendley in our division forwarded some Irish Gaelic words to share:

Deirfiúr is the word for 'sister'- We 'sisters' have all been brought together thru LAOH.

Cara is the word for 'friend'- We are all 'friends' because of LAOH.

Aoibhneas is the word for 'joy'- We will all feel true joy when we can be together again.

We are in anticipation for all of us 'sisters' to join together again to share the 'joy' of our 'friendship' in LAOH.

"May God bless your days in so many ways,
With good friends to love, and gifts from above,
With sunshine and laughter and joy ever after"

Maureen Shettle, President-

Baltimore County, Division 4

Greetings Sisters

He is risen Alleluia! Alleluia! Our faith has been acknowledged and our hope for better things to come has been renewed. The arrival and distribution into arms of the COVID vaccine is our hope. Thankfully most of our division has been vaccinated. Though we're feeling safer, we still have to keep our guard up due to rising virus numbers.

Even though some of us have gone to church, outside restaurants, and gathered together in small groups, we find it important to wear a mask and remain socially distant.

Most of our fund raising and social gatherings have been on hold but we are still promoting chances on our gift. Chances are available now from Pat Zaccari. They are \$2 a piece or 3 for \$5. You can reach Pat by email vangoghatphoenix@aol.com or 14100 Blenheim Rd N. Phoenix, MD 21131. The drawing is postponed until our Xmas Party in December 2021.

We are still hoping to have our baby shower in October. As the weather gets nicer, we're looking into outdoor events to raise funds.

Please remember our sisters and those who are having difficulties and need help in your prayers.

-Mary Helene Miller, Reporter-

Anne Arundel County, Division 1

Save the date! August 8, 2021 (8/8). We don't look a day over 40? And we don't feel it.

We've gotten to work on several different initiatives already this year; foremost, dispersing our funds to our local charities and to our national organization sponsored charities, recruiting, planning a celebration and other special events (stay tuned), helping with the State fundraising efforts, and working with the Annapolis Juniors.

During February and March we recruited and installed two new members! We've had fun participating in different National LAOH and LAOH Junior events, albeit some virtual.

As mentioned, we are rolling right along planning a spectacular event outside in the Charles Carroll Gardens in Annapolis to commemorate our 40th anniversary on August 8, starting at 6pm. We hope you will join us in celebrating our 40 years as a Maryland division! Definitely more information to come regarding this! Remain safe and God Bless!



-Jane Bannon, President-

Carroll County, Division 1

Easter Blessings to our Sister Hibernians! Our Division has been keeping busy. We did not meet in January because of the Pandemic numbers being on the rise. In February our Division welcomed a new member, Danielle Adams, Danielle was a member of the Frederick County Division that didn't seem to get off the ground. We are very happy to have her join our Carroll County Division.

In March we held an Irish Raffle. Fr. Roach allowed us to sell raffle Tickets in the back of St. Bartholomew's Church.

We did send fliers to our fellow LAOH Divisions and we would like to thank all those Sister Hibernians who supported our



Raffle. The following winners are: Maureen Shettle won the Irish Sweater, Kathy Lay won the Irish Poncho, Bill Morley won the Celtic Knot Stained Glass made by our own Marge Chowning, Grant Kajihara won the Waterford Flowers & Irish Plate and Jan McCann won the Beleek Mug & Irish Towel. We did meet on March 14th and had a small pot luck Irish Celebration.

We met in April; many of our sisters have been vaccinated so it will be easier to have Division Meetings. We are planning a Baby Shower in May to support the Pregnancy Center in Westminster and Catoclin.

We hope to have our Annual Division Retreat in June. We continue to pray for all our Sister Hibernians, for the Pandemic to end and for Peace in our Country.

Respectfully

-Mary Beth Connolly, Secretary-

Howard County, Division 1

We continue to meet virtually but are hopeful now that spring is here and more of us are getting vaccinated, we can begin to gather outdoors and still maintain Covid-19 guidelines. Despite our distancing, we have been able to reach out personally and as a Division to assist others in need. We continue to donate to our local food banks, participated in MD LAOH's Feed the Hungry campaign, sent a monetary contribution to the Little Sisters of the Poor



and donated 3 large themed baskets for auction at the Knights of Columbus' spring wine event benefitting the Tanzanian Children's Project. In recognition of Mother's Day, we will be collecting baby items for donation to the Columbia Pregnancy Center and are exploring potential fundraising activities.

Members who attended enjoyed "Shades of Green – Celebrating Irish-America on St. Patrick's Day" sponsored by the Irish Embassy, Washington D.C. It was a wonderful way to celebrate our Irish heritage and hope to march in the Parade together next year.

With spring comes new life and for us, that has been reaching out to 2 women interested in LAOH with the hope they decide to join our Division. We are eager to build our membership and will be focusing on that for the future.

We pray each of our MD LAOH Sisters remains safe and healthy,

-Sharon Strobel, President-

Baltimore County, Division 14

Spring greets from Division 14!



Everyone greatly enjoyed the family photo slideshow that was put together by the State Board. With the nicer weather, the ladies are hoping to start having our meetings outside. If you attend one of the meetings, please plan to bring your own chair! Meetings outside will depend on weather conditions and cicadas! If the weather conditions or cicadas make meeting impossible, we will continue to use Zoom for our meetings.

As of now there is no set time for the division to return to Villa Assumpta so we will be meeting in the parking lot at 2 Southerly Court when possible. Please reach out if anyone has any questions or suggestions about future meeting locations.

-Ashley Knapik, President-

Worcester County, Division 1

We are so happy. Next Tuesday we will be having our first division meeting in 14 months and everyone is so excited about seeing each other again. At this meeting we are hoping to install one new member and celebrate the presentation of 4 Maryland Lifetime Memberships. We will be collecting cereal for one of the local food banks. We will also discuss plans for future division fund raisers.

At our May meeting we will collect Pennies for the Poor and dedicate our work in May to the Blessed Mother. Our June Meeting will be our annual Baby shower where baby and toddler supplies are collected and distributed to Worcester GOLD (Giving Others Lives Dignity) and Grace Center.

We are just so happy to be meeting again and hope there are no further pauses in meetings. Looking forward to fall events

especially the State Convention which will be held here in Ocean City- Hope to see many of you here in October...

Submitted by:

-Mary Rosenhagen, President-

Cecil County, Division 1

For St. Patrick's Day, a few of us met at the Heritage Pregnancy Center in Elkton to drop off diapers. The LAOH sisters of Cecil County have been busy meeting on Zoom but we actually met in person last week. We have devoted some time to firming up our funeral/condolence protocols and revising our phone tree. We also have a committee working on installing a shrine to Our Lady of Knock and another to St. Brigid at two of our churches. We are getting a jump on planning for a 2022 Respect for Life Diaper Drive and a Fill the Trunk Food Drive.



On May 5 at 1pm, we will have our 5th Annual Baby Shower in the parking lot of the Cecil Pregnancy Center in Elkton. We are looking forward to the State LAOH Convention and we already have four Cecil Sisters committed to attending! Lastly, we are starting a Friends of Ladies of Cecil (FOLC pronounced folk) email group so that we can draw on the support of anyone who is interested in what we do but may not qualify to join. We are hoping they will help/participate in fundraising, catholic action and join us for social activities.

In our Motto,

-Christine Hild, President-

Harford County, Division 1

Wishing all of you a spring and summer full of outings adventure and fun!

The pandemic has certainly helped us to appreciate the small things in life. We were able to have an

outdoor in-person meeting on a beautiful spring day. It was so refreshing to see everyone, to talk to each other, pray together and plan future events.

We are in the midst of our Basket of Cheer Raffle and the name of the lucky winner will be drawn at our meeting on May 16, 2021. Our Basket of Cheer includes Jameson, Baileys Irish Cream (2), Guinness Stout, Guinness Blonde, Tullamore Dew, champagne, sparkling wine Malibu Coconut Liqueur, a variety Of wines (6 bottles) Waterford wine coaster and more!!!

Tickets are \$5 each, 3 for \$10. Mail checks to: LAOH Harford County, Division 1, 2210 Old Joppa Road, Joppa, MD 21085. If you need a flyer, contact me at 410 893 9589. Many thanks to anyone who has helped to make this a successful fundraiser.

We hope to have an outdoor social meeting in June and are working out the details. A 2022 fundraiser is planned for April and additional information is forthcoming.

I would also like to welcome Barbara and Courtney. We are pleased that you have returned to Harford County, Division 1. As people are vaccinated, and more businesses are reopened to an increased number of patrons, we hope that all of you remain safe.

- Christine Brown, President-

In Memorium

Mary Ellen Henry-Anne Arundel County, Division 1

Mary Ann Huey-Harford County, Division 1

Dorothy Burnham, Baltimore County, Division 14

Let Us Pray



Let us remember in prayer our Sisters who are sick and suffering, especially those in nursing homes and hospitals as well as our deceased sisters that they may rest in God's eternal embrace.