

# Lady Hibernian Herald

Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians - Irish · Catholic · American

December 2020

## State President Interview

### Amanda Bacque, Texas State President

Amanda is a member of Golden Rose, Queen of Ireland Division 1 in Austin Texas. They started their division in 2015 and are currently the only division in Texas with about 20 members. Each member is given a handcrafted golden rose when she is initiated. (see photo) Amanda and her mom joined the LAOH in 2017. After going on a family trip to Ireland in 2013, they became more interested in their Irish heritage and wanted to join a group where they could embrace it. They saw an advertisement in the parish newsletter and called for more information.

Amanda became the Mission and Charities officer her second year as a member in her division. In 2020 she became president of her division. Not fully realizing at first that this also meant she was now a State President, she has embraced the position and is working hard to learn as much as she can.

If a positive can come out of 2020, it is that the National Board went virtual. This has allowed Amanda and other state officers the ability to attend quarterly meetings and watch presentations. She has

met so many people and is getting a lot of support, just what every new president needs. Amanda takes it all in and brings it back to her division, keeping them informed of what is going on around the country. She has already been tapped to join the national membership committee to work on ways to increase our membership.

Working in the healthcare field, Amanda knows it is important to keep her members safe, so they have not been meeting in person. She has been able to keep her division engaged and active through zoom. She hosts trivia nights, holds Rosary zooms and keeps up their Facebook page.

Locally there are Irish dance groups, a Cultural Center and the Irish Consulate General, Claire McCarthy. The division participates in the Celtic Festival sponsored by the Cultural Center, by having a table and selling water. They had a fundraising tea to raise money for the St Louis House, helping women and children. Their division is proud that they were able to raise enough resources to purchase sashes to wear when attending events. When they were able to meet in person, they would attend mass at their members different parishes and then gather for a meal together

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afterwards. Amanda is working on a virtual advent calendar so she can stay in touch with her members during the holy season of advent.



Amanda Bacqué, LAOH Texas State President



Advent is the period of preparation for the arrival of Christ. The Texas LAOH is staying connected during the Advent season by having a virtual advent calendar. Daily a link is sent out and members are presented with bible quotes, videos of singing/dancing, holiday recipes, and other photos and stories.

## Reflections by Marilyn Madigan National VP

Every year in December, we look back and reflect on the past year. This year will be one that most of us would like to forget. We should not want to forget this year. This year helped a lot of us focus on what is really important in our lives: Family, friends, health and most importantly our faith in God. Hopefully we will be able to celebrate Christmas with our families and not place anyone's health in jeopardy. Christmas is a time of blessings for all that God has given us. Look back this Christmas and tell those you love how important they are on this journey of your life.

I am glad that my Hibernian Sisters are on my journey. We have much to be proud of starting

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## Reflections continued from front page

with the publication of our History Book. Thanks to Sandi Swift for her dedication and hard work in making this project come to life. This project could not have been completed without the help of our Sisters across this nation in sharing the history of their Divisions, Counties and States. Every Hibernian should have a copy of Celebrating Our History on their library shelves. This Book will make a perfect Christmas present. Order forms can be found on our website.

On New Year's Eve, we will look back on this year remembering our disappointments and challenges. I was disappointed that St. Patrick's Day activities, Irish Festival, the Hibernian Convention, family reunions and vacations were cancelled. I was grateful that our technology was able to keep us together and also strengthened our relationships. Masses being streamed, recorded and shown on facebook or Youtube allowed me to attend Mass in Ireland and many areas of America. Hosting a Virtual Convention allowed more of our Members to attend. Hosting ZOOM Meetings with participation for Hibernians from all areas can only help the Organization. Many of the Irish Festival musicians are hosting Concerts virtually. Please support them if possible.

I look forward to 2021. Hopefully we will be able to have our St. Patrick's Day Parades, Hibernian Conventions and Irish Festivals and what a celebration they will be. We will again be able to travel to Ireland and other vacation spots. Enjoy time with family and friends and not be worried that any of us could be spreading the virus. If we spread anything let us spread faith and love in each other.

### **LAOH Political Education Committee**

President Karen Keane announced during the 2020 Convention the establishment of a LAOH National Political Education Committee (PEC). The Committee is part of President Keane's goal of greater visibility for the LAOH in the hopes that we will attract and encourage young woman to join our ranks. The mission of this committee is to focus on political, social justice and woman's issues related to our Catholic values and Irish heritage both in the Unites

States and Ireland. We are thousands strong and can make a difference in initiating dialogue for various topics paramount to Our Order.

### **Gail Dapolito - MD**

(laohnationalpoliticaledu@gmail) has been appointed as chair of this committee and is joined by the following LAOH sisters representing various states in Our Order; **Cheryl Daniels - SC** ([cheryld668@gmail.com](mailto:cheryld668@gmail.com)), **Nan Alonso - CO** ([alonso05@gmail.com](mailto:alonso05@gmail.com)), **Barbara Flaherty, - DC** ([momflaherty@yahoo.com](mailto:momflaherty@yahoo.com)), **Lori Shannon Forbes - VA** ([lmherself@aol.com](mailto:lmherself@aol.com)), **Patricia Levelle - OH** ([plave31228@gmail.com](mailto:plave31228@gmail.com)), **Sandy Merrell - MO** ([merrell97@gmail.com](mailto:merrell97@gmail.com)), **Madonna Noltz - NY** ([mnoltz@yahoo.com](mailto:mnoltz@yahoo.com)) and **Kathleen Norris - MD** ([laohmdstatepresident@gmail.com](mailto:laohmdstatepresident@gmail.com)). LAOH Vice President, Marilyn Madigan is the National Board Advisor to the committee.

The committee's inaugural meeting was held last August via Zoom and has to date established a plan for monthly meetings and maintenance of an LAOH social media page on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/socialjusticelaoh>) which we encourage all LAOH members to bookmark. This site will provide in real-time information and events of interest to all of us that support the mission of this committee including appropriate activism and guidelines for our Sisterhood.

In October, we held our first national event via Zoom featuring Mary O'Meara on Oct 15, 2020. Mary is the Director of the DC Archdiocese's Office of Deaf and Disabilities and spoke to us about the Archdiocese's program for ministry to persons with disabilities. Annually, the DC Archdiocese holds a "White Mass" where servers and readers, etc. are disabled persons. Hopefully, this will lead our sisters throughout the country to seek out, participate and support such events locally. In addition, the committee has established templates for letters that can be written by our sisters to encourage national, state and local representatives to support both Irish and woman's issues.

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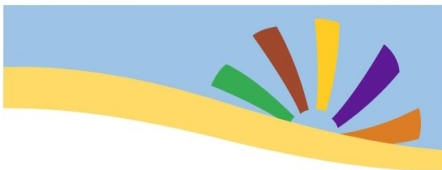

## LAOH PEC continued from front page

The LOAH PEC is planning to present on a quarterly basis beginning early in 2021 other speakers including government representatives and social justice organizations that lead vital Catholic, social and Irish causes of interest to Our Sisterhood. The PEC will work closely, and in conjunction, with the LAOH National Freedom For All Ireland Committee to alert our membership to national activism in support of Irish political issues. If you would like to suggest potential topics that would increase awareness of political or social justice issues or have any questions for the committee, please reach out to any committee members via email. Be assured your ideas will be discussed by the committee. Our Order is on the move to increase enlightenment and activate a strong voice. We look forward to hearing from you!

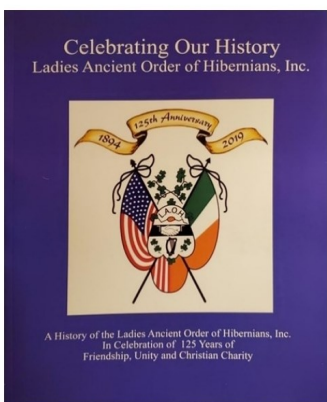
*National Vice President Marilyn Madigan appeared on the Gerry Quinn Irish Radio Show, WHK 1420 am, Cleveland. She discussed the many contributions the LAOH has made and continues to make.*



(pictured here with JC Sullivan, show co-host and past National Board Press Officer)



## Just Released



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

The price of **Celebrating Our History** is \$25.00 including postage.  
Limited number available for \$20.00 from top National Officers.  
A dozen books for \$22.00 each.  
See [www.ladiesaoh.com](http://www.ladiesaoh.com) for order forms



National FFAI Appointee Dolores Desch, presented the Albany and Schenectady LAOH with a token of appreciation for their \$1000 donation to the 2019 Christmas Appeal. Pictured left to right Karen Keane, Albany Div 1, Dolores Desch, Kim DePeaux, President Schenectady Div 1, Cathy Turck FFAI Chair, Schenectady Div 1, Joan Moore, NYS FFAI Chair

## Cathy's corner- Missions and Charities

Hello ladies. It is that time of year for your Division to think about making their end of year donations to the Columban Sisters, Columban Fathers and our Appeals for Aid fund. In this article I will focus on the Appeals for Aid fund.

The National LAOH Appeals for Aid fund is intended to provide limited aid to charities that **you, the members**, submit for consideration at the National Convention. Per our constitution Article XV, section 8. G.: "All appeals for aid requests must be from a 501(c)(3) charity and submitted to the Missions & Charities Officer 45 days prior to the Convention". At the Virtual National Convention that occurred in July 2020, the fund was able to award grants of approximately \$1600 to ten very worthy causes. These are charities that your sisters from around the country are involved with and support locally. The thank you notes from these agencies were not only heartwarming but showed the direct impact our Order can have in your community.

Whether you run a 50/50 at your Division meetings, hold a bake sale, or conduct a basket raffle, every little bit collected for Appeals for Aid will go toward the charities that are supported by LAOH members. Times are very difficult now with COVID 19 on the rise throughout the country and raising funds can be more challenging than ever before. However, our next National Convention is scheduled for July 2022 in Pittsburgh, PA, and there will be plenty of time to be creative in raising money for this fund. There is also plenty of time to consider a local agency for submission to receive funds. Start planning now and be ready to submit requests early in 2022 so you do not miss the deadline. I will be reporting on the balance in this fund periodically until our National Convention in 2022. Currently there is a little over \$3500 in the Appeals for Aid fund.

I hope you all had a safe and Happy Thanksgiving and by the time you read this we will be inching

toward the Christmas season.

"May you be blessed with the spirit of the season, which is Peace, the gladness of the season, which is Hope, and the heart of the season, which is Love."

Cathy

## Freedom For All Ireland – Dolores Desch

**Christmas Appeal:** The 2020-2021 Christmas Appeal is underway and will run until Spring 2021. We do not have the end date identified yet, but as soon as that is determined, I will send a notification to those on my mailing list and post it to the Facebook Page and Website. The groups we help in the north of Ireland are in need of our support so we are asking all Divisions to support this appeal. Please send your donations directly to me at this address: 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.

For 2019-2020 we had a record setting 7 entities which gave \$1,000.00 or more to FFAI. Congratulations and a big Thank You to: Maryland State Board, Michigan State Board, New York-Albany County JFK Division 1, New York-Schenectady County JFK Division 1, Pennsylvania State Board, Pennsylvania-Philadelphia County Board, Pennsylvania – Pittsburgh, Mary Ellen Myers. The awards are in the process of being

**Story continued on next page**

## FFAI continued from previous page

delivered to the donors. Thank you to all who donated in 2019-2020.

**Brexit News:** Time is running out for Britain and the EU to work out a post-Brexit trade agreement and the next few weeks are critical to getting a deal in place by December 31. If that deadline is missed, the risk is a significant trade disruption which would cause catastrophic economic losses. In addition to a trade deal, there are also other agreements required to be settled such as fishing rights, dispute resolution and treaty pacts. The showstopper is the UK plan to pass legislation for trade between the north of Ireland and the rest of the United Kingdom in the event of a no-deal Brexit. That bill would violate international law by over-riding the withdrawal agreement previously agreed to with the EU in January by allowing UK ministers to not apply the EU rules if no trade deal is made with the EU. With the EU regulations not being enforced, the threat of a EU required hard border to protect the Republic from unregulated products is high. In the US, American Irish groups are putting pressure on elected officials to not approve any trade deal with the UK if the bill goes through. Members of the US Congress and other elected officials have said that they will oppose any trade deal with the UK unless they adhere to the Withdrawal agreement and ensure that there will be no hard border on the island and no dismantling of the Good Friday Agreement.

**FFAI Events:** On October 24, 2020 Hibernians were honored to be invited to the Plastic Justice event sponsored by Relatives for Justice. We joined RFJ at this virtual launch of the Plastic Justice Report and heard heart-wrenching stories from families who had loved ones killed in the conflict with plastic bullets fired by security forces. RFJ discussed their research based on years of analysis and spotlighted many of the cases and the lack of anyone being held accountable for these killings. The full report as well as the Zoom recording can be found on our national website page at: <https://ladiesaoh.com/freedom-for-all-ireland/>. On December 5, we will again be hosting an event with our AOH brothers and those in the north of Ireland regarding the Hunger Strikers. As the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Hunger Strike nears, we are looking forward to hearing from some of those who went on Hunger Strike. Please stay tuned for the details, which

will be available on our LAOH Freedom For All Ireland Facebook Page, national website page and will be mailed to all on the FFAI mailing list.

I recently held the quarterly meeting with FFAI State Chairs, as well as all other interested members and we discussed several topics, including what we can do to increase participation and awareness of FFAI in the LAOH. We all agreed that communication and knowledge is key and that our goal is to **make sure that all Divisions have an FFAI appointee**. This appointee is critical for each Division in relaying the latest information on the news, issues and programs affecting those living in the north of Ireland. Division Presidents, please appoint a FFAI Chairperson and provide them with the FFAI information available on our national website page and Facebook Page. I am also happy to assist if you need any help.

**Exciting News!** Our sister Kathleen Savage, Massachusetts FFAI Chair was honored on November 20<sup>th</sup> by the Golden Bridges Committee with the David Burke Award. The Golden Bridges initiative connects Boston, Massachusetts and Northwest Ireland. Congratulations to Kathleen for her years of service to the community and in bringing hope and support to those in the north of Ireland. For more information go to <https://golden-bridges.heysummit.com/>.

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.





## Fundraising, Maire Leffel

My Sister Hibernians,

I hope all of you have received your LAOH raffle tickets to support our Organization. Make that motion to sell those tickets! Please spread the word that **tickets are available, but scarfs are limited.** Contact me at the email address above with requests or questions.

I would like to recognize the **top 4 States on selling tickets**: We have New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio and New Jersey. Thank you so much for your support.

We also have those **States that have participated 100% returns from the mailing.** I would like to thank the states and the State Presidents (please pass on to Divisions): South Carolina - Barbara Smith; Louisiana - Elizabeth Rafferty; and Colorado - Sheila Thunboe. *You might be small, but you are mighty.*

And last, but **DEFINATLY** not least, we need to recognize our **TOP SELLERS**:

From the great State of New Jersey, Marianne Sweeney and our Sisters from the Margaret Fitzpatrick Div. #3, also from New Jersey is Maureen Winski and Mary Ellen O'Halloran from St. Bridget Div. #4.

The State of Indiana, Joan Gutzwiller, and our Sisters from Our Lady of Knock, Div. 1. The State of Massachusetts, Anne Marie Nyhan-Doherty and our Sisters from Div. 8, James T. Reilly.

The State of Maryland, Jane Bannon and Denise McCarthy from Ann Arundal Div. #1, you ladies are the best. And we must recognize Lynn Burkart, CA; Sharon O'Rourke, CT; and Joan Gutzwiller, IN. Thank you all for your support.

Let us not forget our top sellers for our **Scarfs. TOP SELLERS**: New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio and Michigan (we know where it will be cold this winter). Thank you, Marlene McGrath-Otis, from Sun City enter Florida, we know it can get cold down there too!

**SCARFS ARE LIMITED, VISIT WEBSITE.**

**Don't forget our LAOH National Fundraising promotion:**  
**Free Commemorative LAOH 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Bracelet** to the **seller of 5** LAOH National raffle tickets before the Thanksgiving and Christmas Early Bird Drawings.



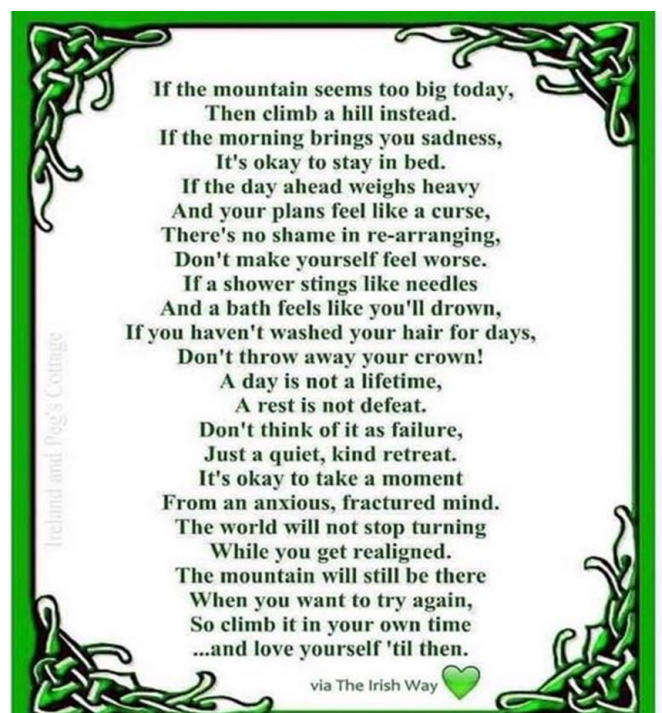
**Early Bird Drawings:**  
**\$100.00** Thanksgiving, November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020  
**\$100.00** Christmas, December 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Promotion deadline ends: December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020

**Tickets are \$20.00 each**

Keep posted to:

**ladiesaoh.com** for Raffle



# State Happenings

## Celtic Cross, Div.1, Sussex County, DE

As we rang in the New Year and looked forward to upcoming plans and events for 2020, the possibility of a Global Pandemic could not have been foreseen nor the impact it would have on every level of our lives.

To support a local charity The Children's Beach House in Lewes (help for children with special needs to reach their highest potential), a group of sisters assisting non-profit Lunch with a Purpose contributed gifts, sold tickets and enthusiastically participated in both silent and live auctions. Much needed funds were raised and everyone had a great time and it brightened a blustery winter day.

Also in January, arrangements were made for our annual celebration of St. Brigid's feast day on February 1st. Many members with their families attended Mass at St. Edmond's and afterwards enjoyed sharing breakfast together.

A presentation by Seamus Caulfield at Washington College provided the inspiration for a collaborative discussion at February's meeting on Prehistoric Farming Communities in Northern Mayo County. In the hopes of discerning new sources of revenue a suggestion was made at this time for our Division to produce and sell a cookbook. This did not go forward because of COVID, but is a future endeavor to consider. On a more local level and in addition to our designated charities, members contributed to Sister Rosa's diaper drive "No Child Left Behind" - always a fun and beneficial event. Another accomplishment in February was providing overflowing backpacks for Sussex County Foster Parents Association for foster children in crisis. For our sisters and their families undergoing difficulties, we established the "Sunshine Sisters Fund" - a resource to provide financial assistance during an emergency.

Our Governor, John Carney as in the past designated March IRISH-AMERICAN month. LAOH members Mary Lydon Cappelli (President), MaryJo Venerus (Vice President) and Barbara Kelly (Mission and Charities) accompanied by AOH President Kevin Cunnion bore witness to the signing of the Proclamation in the Governor's office in Legislative Hall in our State capital, Dover on March 5th.

A fortunate date change to March 8th made it possible for LAOH sisters and AOH lads to march in the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Milton prior to the Covid lockdown. The Pandemic crisis brought activities

including Mass to an abrupt halt in mid-March. Most annual events including High Tea at Victoria's in April, the pot-luck dinner in June, participation in the International student dinners and a much anticipated Retreat in October with Brother Mickey O'Neill McGrath OSFS had to be cancelled.

Fortunately, with the aid of technology, lines of communication became critical assets. In addition to emails and text messages, the introduction of ZOOM enabled greater connectivity.

With the outstanding organizational skills of LAOH National, many were able to attend Committee meetings and the National Convention via ZOOM in July. Now we know what to anticipate for 2022 in Pittsburgh.

## Greene County LAOH in East Durham, New York

Greene County LAOH in East Durham, New York will be planning a Feast Day of St. Brigid's event on *Sunday, January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021* at the Shamrock House in East Durham, NY. All LAOH & the Community will be invited to attend. Our goal is to promote awareness to our children and community about St. Brigid and to bring the Irish American Community together during the Winter months.

## Our Lady of Knock Div. 1, Marion County, Indiana



(Pictured: Mary Dougherty, Colleen Simon, Trish Condon, Mary Ann Klein)

Members of the LAOH, Our Lady of Knock Div. 1, Marion County, Indiana gathered to celebrate the Respect Life Mass at the St. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis, Indiana.

The 2020 theme for Respect Life Month of October was "Live the Gospel of Life."



## State happenings continued



Colleen Simon (left), of LAOH in Indianapolis, Indiana, presented a check for \$1,618.69 from LAOH National Appeals for Aid, to Keri Carroll (right), the Director of Birthline in Indianapolis, IN, at the Oct. 14, 2020, LAOH General Meeting.

Birthline provides material support for pregnant women and mothers of infants in need. They serve approximately 1100 clients each year.



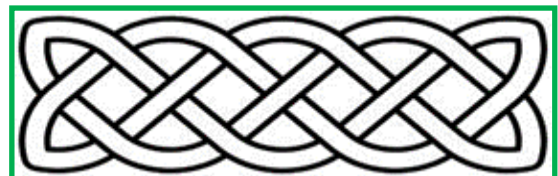
Members of the LAOH in Indianapolis, Indiana held a baby shower for Birthline at their Oct. 14, 2020 General Meeting.



The Indiana LAOH of Indianapolis gathered at their Oct. 14, 2020 meeting wearing their favorite Halloween hats.

The LAOH, Our Lady of Knock, Div. I, Marion County Indiana Division had an Irish Sale at their November 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting.

The Sisters to Christmas shop for some Irish Merchandise since the Indy Irish Fest was cancelled this year because of COVID.



Story continued on next page

## State happenings continued

### Allegheny County, Pennsylvania

The Sisters of Maud Gonne Division 32 in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania held a party to publicly honor our Sister, Patti Flaus, on receiving National Lifetime Membership with the LAOH. The party was held at Riley's Pour House in Carnegie. We were honored to have Colleen Bowers, our National Historian, present Patti with her medal. We were also glad to have our PA State Secretary, Kathleen Diulus, and our Allegheny County President, Eileen O'Malley join us for the celebration. AOH Past National Director and Past PA State President, Denny Donnelly, AOH Allegheny County, President, John Tarpey, and AOH Allegheny County Division 4 President, Rick Duffy were also in attendance.

Respectfully Submitted, Maureen Seuffert President and the Sisters of LAOH Maud Gonne Division 32



### Cleveland, Ohio

St John Paul II issued a papal encyclical on November 30, 1980 declaring that "Jesus Christ taught that man not only receives and experiences the mercy of God, but that he is also called 'to practice mercy' towards others."

The Cleveland LAOH Our Lady of the Rosary and the AOH Boland Berry Divisions were grateful to be able to "practice mercy" safely donating a variety of dinners to St. Herman House in accordance with the pandemic regulations.

St. Herman House, a Cleveland Shelter helps the homeless lovingly and with warm hospitality get back on their feet and on a path of living an independent life once again.

### California

The California LAOH Honors Sister Mary Edith Hurley with a drive-by parade and honors on her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Sister Mary Edith (AA Aileen Hurley) was born on November 15, 1920 to John and Margaret Hurley, both proud Corkonians. She was raised to celebrate her Irish roots in St. Peter's Parish in San Francisco. Along with her sister Margaret and brother Joe, Aileen was an accomplished Irish step-dancer with Healy's School of Irish Dancing.

Aileen was educated by the Sisters of Mercy at St. Peter's School in San Francisco. After graduating from high school, she answered the call and joined the convent in 1939.

During her 81 years of teaching as a Sister of Mercy she taught countless elementary school students throughout California, a beloved teacher!

Continuing to celebrate her Irish roots, Sister is a member of and Chaplain for the Rebel Cork Ladies and the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians. Only the cancellation of this year's parade due to the pandemic prevented Sister from participating in the San Francisco St. Patrick's Day Parade, one of her favorite events.

Sister has enjoyed trips to Ireland to explore her family roots in Dunmanway and Bantry and the roots



## State Happenings continued

of the Sisters of Mercy founded in Ireland by Mother Catherine McAuley.

After retiring from the classroom Sister spent some wonderful time in Australia working with the Sisters of Mercy in Sydney.

Now living at the Mercy House in Burlingame, California, sister is still enjoying life, keeping in touch with family, friends and former students who all feel blessed to have this amazing woman in our lives.



### St. Brigid's division 1, Orange County, California honored our deceased sisters.

The beautiful Catholic tradition of remembering and praying for the souls our beloved deceased family and friends was continued in California. The Orange County Ladies St. Brigid's Division one made an altar to honor our deceased members. An altar would usually have pictures of our recently deceased members but this year in honor of our ongoing celebration of the LAOH's History we honored all our deceased sisters by displaying the History book only, in Remembrance of them all.



### We now Pray:

Hibernian Sisters, as you go to Tir Nan Og

We know that Tir Nan Og is the Place of the Blessed

Where there is no pain, no sorrow, only great joy.

Weep but briefly for your loved one.

By now they have obtained a pleasure that is unobtainable

On this earthly realm, for by now Our Hibernian Sisters have seen

The face of God. We shall meet them again when we join them in Tir n'an Og

(pronounced Tiernan Og), through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Massachusetts

The Massachusetts State Board, and the members of Division 10, Lynn are excited to share with you that Kathleen Savage is this year's recipient of the David R. Burke Golden Bridges Award. This award was established in 2009 by Martin O'Maheur of the Irish Echo to honor the memory of David Burke (well known throughout the Irish Republic and Northern Ireland) who passed away on May 27, 2009. The purpose of this award is to honor someone from America who has built a bridge through actions and works between America (Boston and New England) and Ireland. Kathleen has been a member of Division 10 for 38 years, and has also held many elective positions at the division and county levels. Kathleen, the Freedom for All Ireland LAOH Chair, has held that position at the division, county, state and national levels. Kathleen was a recipient of the late John Murphy award given by Division 5 AOH in Albany NY for her effort on behalf of FFAI and was the first woman from outside of the state of New York to receive the award. For more than 30 years, Kathleen has worked tirelessly with the LAOH and AOH Freedom for All Ireland Christmas Appeal, and has written Christmas and birthday cards to prisoners in Northern Ireland while encouraging LAOH sisters to join her. Kathleen has made more than 20 trips to Northern Ireland where she witnessed the discrimination of Irish families by the British Government. She has visited prisoners in Long Kesh, Crumlin and Maghaberry prisons where she became a



## State Happenings continued

friend of many of the member's families, and has, on occasion, stayed in their homes. Among her Irish friends are Gerry Adams, the late Martin McGuinness, Rita O'Hare. Damian McCafferty, Martin Ferris, and many others as she is well known in Northern Ireland. Kathleen is also a past recipient of the St. Brigid of Ireland Humanitarian Award given by the LAOH. Kathleen is a member of Sacred Heart Parish in Lynn, MA where she serves as a Eucharistic (Extraordinary) Minister, is a member of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, and worked for many years at the food pantry. Kathleen also belongs the Secular Franciscan Order Church Fraternity.

## Maryland

Patricia Slaughter from the LAOH, Annapolis Division #1 and has spent the past two decades in a position of giving herself to those in their time of need. Through her selfless dedication to the betterment of others, she has established herself as a progressive thinker with a drive for success. Patricia has been passionate in her determination for assisting others, which was very apparent early on as she spent over a decade with Christian Child Care spearheading efforts on a global scale. Spending almost 15 years in the field, side by side with many Catholic societies, working in offices located in Africa, Germany, Bangladesh & Honduras she met with various religious and foreign dignitaries to bring light to the cause. The CCC organization benefited greatly from her creative approach to basic principles and the idea that everyone deserves a chance at a better life. This mantra has followed Patricia throughout her charitable career and is evident in the daily work she immerses herself in.

Her spark and vision to provide support to others was the very foundation of what has become The Bernie House, which is a unique transitional home for victims of domestic violence.

While volunteering for the abused persons program as a court companion, she witnessed and assisted a victim having a panic attack, while waiting for the abuser's arraignment. It was then and there Patricia heard God's call and answered.

Having no formal degree in social work or a similar field, Patricia took the vision she had and made The Bernie House a reality through a passionate pursuit and a clear understanding of what it is she wanted to accomplish. Most who look to accomplish this type of idea do so in about 10 years, Patricia got it done in

4 years, which is a shining example of how her drive and focus have been able to help her achieve the seemingly impossible.

To date The Bernie House program has facilities in Montgomery County, MD and Anne Arundel County, MD. 9 families have benefited from the program including 19 children. When graduating from TBH program they are prepared for a life of independence with a strong foundation for sustainability. While in TBH the very vulnerable children watch their mother hurdle real financial, emotional, and physical abuse caused by domestic violence, they see that anything is possible which makes a lifelong impression on them. They learn that violence is not an effective way to resolve conflicts or problems and is not the norm in relationships. Above all they feel safe, and often for the first time in their lives. They can be a child.

Patricia has a history of success because of her skilled ability to pool different agencies and resources so they work together seamlessly which ensures a more successful transition and assistance program. This approach has given The Bernie House an 80% success rate due to focusing on one family at a time. Her tireless efforts have developed a support system for those in need and she continues to hone and polish the process with the future always in mind.

If you are interested in learning more about The Bernie House program and ways you can support the program please visit [www.theberniehouse.org](http://www.theberniehouse.org)



Patti Slaughter, LAOH, Annapolis Division #1, Founder of The Bernie House.

## State Happenings continued



These are some of the ladies who have been so helpful to the mission of The Bernie House. They are a tribute to our order

## Florida

On October 23, 2020, Our Sister Mary McNamee, Financial Secretary and Treasurer delivered a \$200.00 donation to Tim Rumpetz, Director of St. Vincent DePaul's Food Pantry in Spring Hill. This is the second \$200.00 donation this year we were able to contribute since COVID. Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Murray  
President- LAOH  
St. Theresa's, Div#1.  
Hernando Co. Florida



## District of Columbia

Dear Sisters,

I proudly submit this short memoir by Barbara Flaherty, a member of the LAOH, District of Columbia, Division 9. I asked Barbara to share her story with us because I believe it is unique. Barbara is a Hibernian, by marriage (not by ancestry), and she has been an integral part of the DC Irish community for many years. I think you will find her story of finding a place in the Irish community interesting.

Thank you  
Gail Dapolito, Secretary, Division 9, DC LAOH

## When the garlic meets the Gaelic

### Barbara Flaherty

His Excellency Bishop Fulton J. Sheen once said that coming events cast their shadows before them. And how true that is especially as applied to my life. I am 100% Italian and proud of my heritage as anyone could be, but the majority of my adult life has been spent with my Irish friends. In fact, I married a very handsome, gregarious Galway man and that made all the difference. It cemented me into Irish culture and activities. Now, like Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi, I have Irish grandchildren.

Growing up in the great state of New Jersey, I was in a community that was strongly populated with Irish and Italian people. So, it is not surprising that the Irish and Italians often married. These formed solid, Catholic marriages because religion is a cornerstone of both cultures. My best friends then were Pam Murphy and Irene Miller. Pam and I are still very close.

Every year, my family and friends celebrated Columbus Day. We participated in the Columbus Day parade, and we celebrated the Feast of St. Gerard by joining in the procession through the neighborhood of St. Lucy's church in Newark, N.J. I remember being lifted so I could pin money to St. Gerard's cape. The festival was wonderful.

## State Happenings continued

When March rolled along, with my Irish friends, I participated in the St. Patrick's Day parade. We wore green and honored the great saint.

Later, when I met Martin Brendan O'Flaherty, who soon became my husband, he introduced me to Irish society. He took me to Irish dances, sporting events, political meetings, and parades. My husband was one of the founders of the Washington, D.C. parade which we and our family marched in almost every year. We, also, picketed the British Embassy and several other places. We joined Irish Northern Aid which was then led by Jack O'Brien and Mary Baggarly. I have been actively involved in Irish politics ever since.

I am delighted to say that I have a very close relationship with Martin's family. I was particularly close to his brother P.I.-May he Rest In Peace. P.I. often said, "When the two of you married, Martin met his match."

## New York

### Erie County



Greetings from Erie County, Buffalo and Western New York! Our LAOH chapter was able to safely meet in person twice this fall, with good turnout each time. The Buffalo Irish Center where we meet is suffering financially with the Pandemic but holding its own, leveraging take-out and additional virtual fundraising activities to keep it afloat until it can start

hosting live music and other cultural events again. We were proud to be able to bring them some business, many of us leaving after each meeting with dinners in hand.

Our LAOH Division continues to support the South Buffalo Community Table, serving over a thousand hot meals a month to the hungry in our community since its creation in 1983 by the South Buffalo Ecumenical Association. As the number of poor continually increase with the Pandemic, in our area and around the country, so does the need to feed the hungry. Director, Sister Kristen Schmitz SSJ, tells us what she needs most, we then make the bulk purchases and deliver them to her doorstep. From her website <https://www.sbcommunitytable.com>: "It is because of our many wonderful volunteers, local farmers, businesses and the South Buffalo community that we are able to offer nutritious, hot meals Sunday through Thursday each week and on holidays."

This summer's LAOH virtual convention was attended by several of our members. Many thanks to all the presenters, and we have already been able to help our Western New York seminarians with what we learned. Our local Christ the King seminary closed this year due to dwindling attendance, transferring students into St Mary's Seminary and University in Baltimore, MD. By learning more about the LAOH Project St Patrick to support vocations, we were able to get St. Mary's added to the list of eligible colleges for students to receive vocational grants, allowing our local seminarians to apply for funding to cover their new additional travel expenses.

We'll now be on Hiatus until January. Sadly, no LAOH Halloween fundraising luncheon or Holiday gatherings, but, as my church deacon advised: "This too shall pass, eventually..." Let's hope and pray for sooner rather than later. In the meantime, we keep all our elderly and at-risk members in our prayers and wish all our LAOH and AOH sisters and brothers a very blessed holiday season.

### Kings County

COVID has canceled our regular meetings, our hall has been closed. It seems every time restrictions loosen up a bit the virus rears its ugly head and closes down things again. Our members are excited to be going to the NYS Board meeting up in East Durham. Gavin's resort is a great place.

Division Six, Greenpoint:

We do have some good news: **Congratulations** to



## State Happenings continued

Ellen Flanagan from Div. Six in Greenpoint for her twenty-five years as a Hibernian. Ellen comes from a Hibernian family; her mother and Aunt were both Hibernians. We want to say a big THANK YOU to Ellen from all your sisters. Ellen is a nurse and is working during this pandemic.

**Congratulations** to Aileen Cahill from Div 6 and to her new husband JP. Even in the middle of a pandemic love still wins out. We wish you both much happiness.



Our members continue to donate food to parish food pantries, clothes to the Salvation Army. We will be attempting a ZOOM call for a meeting and just to say hello to all.

Both LAOH and AOH members in Brooklyn volunteer at a local food pantry at St. Thomas Aquinas Parish.



Members assisted in running a basket raffle for our local Irish Cultural Center in Gerritsen Beach, the Baile Na Gael. Our Hibernian Hall sponsored a blood drive. Even though we are not having meetings we can still help others.

## Monroe County

Our Mass in honor of Our Lady of Knock was held in August. The Mass was said at St. John the Evangelist in Rochester.

On October 10<sup>th</sup> there will be an **outdoor Rosary** said at St Boniface in Rochester. We will have members in attendance. This is a wonderful way to gather and say the Rosary while keeping social distance.

**The Mass for deceased Sisters will be said at St John the Evangelist in Rochester on Sunday, November 1<sup>st</sup>.**

We are making plans to attend the fall state board meeting on October 31<sup>st</sup> in East Durham. The Catskills would be lovely that time of year and it would be nice to be together again. However, times being what they are, we are prepared to attend remotely if necessary.

All of our recent meetings have been held via Zoom. We are thankful that we are able to continue with the business of the order despite not being able to physically meet. We are hoping that our October 27<sup>th</sup> meeting will be in person at Johnny's in Rochester. We continue to pray for peace in our city, our country, and our world. We hope for a vaccine soon. We also pray that people will recognize the need for God in our lives.

## Richmond County

The Ladies from Richmond County, Staten Island have been self-quarantining whenever possible. We are trying to make plans for our Annual Hibernian Ball that takes place in February and honors our Grand Marshal and Aides for our St. Patrick's Parade. We will meet next week and try to plan for the future but COVID will dictate this year. We were able to have our last parade; this year we will be selling our raffles for our 'sack of cash' fundraiser. Hopefully come March we will all be marching again.

Like so many others we have not been able to have our regular meetings; we will be attempting a ZOOM meeting. And yes we will be having elections also. Wish us luck.

The virus has so many casualties; for the past 20 years Ann Clark, LAOH Division Four Ann has coordinated and run for over 20 years an Annual Fundraiser for Eden II a non-profit organization whose primary purpose is to provide much needed funds for programs and services that support individuals with autism. Sadly it will not go on this year.

## State Happenings continued

### Westchester County

On September 14<sup>TH</sup> President Alice Koraca held her second zoom meeting with several officers and members joining in. At that meeting a new member, Margaret ‘Peggy’ Sullivan, was installed. Peggy is the sister of longtime Hibernian, Eileen Kennedy. Sadly, Moira Roche, a founding member of Yonkers Div. 19 passed away in late September when Div. 11 attended the wake and funeral where they formed an honor guard. Moira was a well-loved, loyal, dedicated Hibernian and will be sorely missed by all her sister Hibernians. On Saturday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> **the division held a very successful Irish bake sale fundraiser at The Transfiguration School Fair.** The soda breads were the first to go. On November 15<sup>th</sup> a mass for the deceased members of the LAOH will be offered at The Church of the Transfiguration in Tarrytown at 10:00 A.M. We look forward to the NYS Zoom meeting on October 31<sup>st</sup>.



**Left to right front row** - Mary Gorman, Alice Droogan, past County Presidents, Eileen Carey, Div. Financial Sec., Peggy O'Sullivan, Eileen Kennedy, Kathleen T. Casey, Westchester County President, Joan Lyons Ceconi, past County President. **Back row** – Alice Geissler Koraca, Division President

The NYS LAOH was finally able to hold an in-person meeting, the meeting was held in the beautiful Catskill Mountains. Gavin's Irish Country Inn hosted the gathering, The Inn Keeper Bernadette Gavin (LAOH Pres Div. 32, Greene County) was our host. Even though there was a limited number of members allowed in the meeting room many others attended the meeting via Zoom. NYS President MaryBeth Durkee presided over the meeting; everyone was happy to be able to actually see one another in person, talk in

person, and share a laugh. Hibernian business was taken care of, we even conducted a fundraising 50/50; congrats to Maureen Caffrey the winner. Congratulations also go out to Albany and Schenectady Counties for their support of FFAI.



Masked LAOH NYS members attending with the Zoom members on computer

### Albany County



Albany Division 1 Juniors at Irish American Heritage Museum.

### Monroe County

Despite the holidays approaching, things have been quiet. The pandemic has hampered so much of our activities. Our meeting in October was a hybrid with some ladies gathering at Johnny's Irish Pub in Rochester and some watching the in-person meeting via Zoom. Thank goodness for Zoom! It was at that meeting that it was announced that a long-time member, 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



## State Happenings continued

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 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.

## Schenectady County



At the NYS LAOH Board meeting on 10/31/20, National FFAI chair, Dolores Desch (far left) and NYS FFAI Chair, Joan Moore (far right), present an award to Schenectady JFK Division 1 current President Kim DePeaux and Immediate Past President Cathy Turck for their Division's donation of more that \$1,000 to the FFAI Christmas Appeal in 2019

## Ohio



**Patty Lavelle, Mary Jo Rawlins and Maire Leffel**, members of Our Lady of the Rosary Division, Cleveland, Ohio, participating in the first *American Land Cruise for a United Ireland* on October 3rd. The car owned by member **Lenore Pikus**, took the prize for best orange car. The cruise was organized by the Cleveland "One Island One Ireland" Committee and supported by the AOH and LAOH.

For further information  
contact: [OneIslandOneIreland@gmail.com](mailto:OneIslandOneIreland@gmail.com)



## State Happenings continued

### Connecticut

On March 8, 1895, the first Connecticut Division of LAOH was established in Naugatuck with Elizabeth Haggerty as president. As the oldest continuously active division in the United States, we are celebrating our 125th Anniversary today, September 27th, 2020.

We have come a long way to keep our Irish Heritage strong in Division #1 for the past 125 years. We are grateful to all the dedicated women who have worked and continue to work to keep our Division so vital to our church and community. We have participated in all areas of the Order serving as Religious Educators, Parish Council Members, Eucharistic Ministers and lectors.

We are currently sponsoring camperships for young girls at the local YMCA, providing scholarships, working at the local food bank, serving lunch once a week to our local Senior Center and collecting and donating food to the St. Vincent dePaul Shelter in Waterbury. Along with the AOH, the LAOH volunteers at the American Legion promoting civic viability in Naugatuck. We remain involved in our community when special needs occur.

In 2015, the membership had dwindled down to a few and the Division was near closure. However, since then the Division has grown and become an organization which is vital to our town and state.



### An Irish Christmas Prayer

The light of the Christmas star to you  
The warmth of home and hearth to you  
The cheer and good will of friends to you  
The love of the Son and God's peace to you



*Nollaig faoi shéan is faoi shaonas duit!*

(A happy and prosperous Christmas to you!)

