

Erin's Echo

Maryland State Board
Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc.

President's Message

"Hope is being able to see the light
despite all the darkness"

A New Year brings hope and promises for a better tomorrow, but to do so we need to reflect on yesterday. Like many I have talked to throughout 2021, we went into the New Year with hope of COVID19 being just a bad memory, instead it seemed as if it was going to be a repeat. As the months began to roll out, the seeds of hope planted in the previous year, come back stronger than before. Nurtured by hope, and its roots strengthened by faith, we grew stronger and persevered. This plant reflects who we are as an organization.



Divisions held in person meetings and fundraisers once again prospered. Our State Convention was a success and as we celebrated, we put our troubles aside. If you doubt it, I have the photos for proof. Your laughing faces told a story all its own. Box lunches were all the rage and as boring as they may have seemed, gatherings in one another's company was what mattered most.

As we enter 2022, I want you to reflect on what you have accomplished in 2020 and 2021. Approach each hurdle with optimism not discouragement. May your faith be your sword and hope your armor as we once again battle the darkness of uncertainty. As your State President, I could never be prouder of all that you have accomplished during these past two years.

-Kathy Norris-Maryland LAOH State President

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 57 No. 1 Feb., Mar., Apr., 2022

Calendar

February

Feb. 1: St. Brigid Mass, 9 AM, St. Luke's, Ocean City
Feb. 13: St. Brigid Mass and Luncheon, 1 PM, St. Ignatius, \$25
Feb. 27: St. Patrick's Parade Installation Mass, 1:30, Basilica
Feb. 27: LAOH Parade Fundraiser, 3 PM, Mick O'Shea's Pub, Flier

March

Mar. 5: State Board Meeting, 10 AM
Mar. 6: Annapolis St. Patrick's Day Parade
Mar. 12: Ocean City St. Patrick's Day Parade
Mar. 13: Baltimore St. Patrick's Day Parade
Mar. 17: Harford County, Div. 1, St. Patrick's Day Lunch, flier
Mar. 19: Cecil County, St. Patrick Dinner Dance
Mar. 19: Howard County and K of C St. Patrick Dinner

April

Apr. 23: Harford County, Div. 1, Fundraiser, Details to come

Cultural Corner

SMALL THINGS LIKE THIS by
Claire Keegan
DEATH ON CLARE ISLAND a Starr
O'Brien mystery by Martha Geaney
THIS IS HAPPINESS by Niall Williams, book club selection



Next meeting at Bluestone's, 1PM on February 22
Contact Susan Legg if you plan to attend.
susan.legg@icloud.com

-Joanna Cox-

Gatherings

Happy New Year! Mark your calendar!
Fly your flags! Dates to remember in 2022!

January 21	Declaration of Independence from UK/Irish War of Independence (1919)
February 1	St. Brigid's Day/Celtic Feast of Imbolc
March 1	Shrove Tuesday
March 2	Ash Wednesday
March 17	St. Patrick's Day
March 24	Catholic Relief Act (1829)
March 25	Feast of the Annunciation/Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire (1911)
April 5	Good Friday
April 10	Palm Sunday/Good Friday Agreement (1998)
April 17	Easter Sunday
April 18	Republic of Ireland Act (1949)
April 23	Battle of Clontarf (1014)
April 24	Easter Rising (1916)
May 1	May Day/Celtic Feast of Bealtaine
May 26	Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord
June 9	Saint Columba Feast Day
July 1	Battle of the Boyne (1690)
July 11	Saint Oliver Plunkett Feast Day
August 1	Celtic Feast of Lughnasa
August 15	Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
August 21	Our Lady of Knock – Marian Apparition (1879)
September 4	Flight of the Earls (1607)
October 31	All Hollow's Eve – Seachain!
November 1	Solemnity of All Saints/Celtic Feast of Samhain
November 11	Veteran's Day
December 6	Irish War of Independence ended/Irish Free State created (1921)
December 8	Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of The Blessed Virgin Mary
December 14	Ireland joined the United Nations (1955)
December 17	Pope Francis' birthday
December 25	Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord
December 26	St. Stephen's Day
December 29	Constitution of Ireland established (1937)
December 31	Arthur Guinness signed 9,000-year lease for St. James's Gate Brewery (1759)

-Sharon Sullivan-

Baltimore City, Division 1

Happy New Year from the ladies of the Venerable Catherine McAuley Division of Baltimore City! We hope you are healthy and warm during these wintry days. We meet the 4th Thursday of each month, 7pm, at Squire's restaurant and we invite you to join us in helping women in need in the City of Baltimore and celebrating our Irish history and culture.

-Dorothy Reed, Reporter

Baltimore County, Division 4

Greetings Sisters,

Happy New Year one and all. We have great hope for 2022. While still fighting COVID, we look forward to science finding the answers to help all.

Congratulations to Jane Lunney, who was the winner of our 2021 gift card fund raiser. Chances for our 2022 gift card fund raiser are currently available. 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.

We are always looking for new members. Our meetings are on the 4th Sunday of the month at St. John the Evangelist in Hydes, MD. We are planning to hold our baby shower for the Center for Pregnancy Concerns at our April meeting. If you would like to attend, please RSVP to Pat at 410-592-6338. We need to keep the number attending small but we are will to accept donations.

We are meeting on the 23rd of January to discuss the following: Recruitment, Fund Raising, and Goals. We are looking forward to getting together and planning fun activities.

Please remember our sisters in need of prayers. Be safe and may God bless you. Please remember to get a flu shot.

May God bless us all.

-Mary Miller, Reporter-

Harford County, Division 1

2022 is here! And so is Covid! We did not want to invite Omicron to our Installation of Officers and Luncheon scheduled for January 9th, so we decided to postpone. But we were able to have our Division Christmas Party graciously hosted by Eileen Verch where we enjoyed great fellowship and delicious



food. Our Secret Santa gift exchange was so much fun! And as an added bonus, Eileen's husband, Joe, donned his engineer's cap and showed us his magnificent train garden.

At the party we surprised our charter member and treasured friend, Ellen Frank, with a

90th Birthday Celebration! Ellen who is also a State Life Member has been with us through thick and thin for 35 years. She is an inspiration to us all!

Looking ahead, mark your calendars for our 35th St. Patrick's Day Luncheon on **Thursday, March 17th** at Blue Stone Restaurant. It is always a good time!

Another date to save is **Saturday, April 23rd** for our spring fundraiser:

Calendar Capers

More to follow on both events!

"A Sister is a gift to the heart and a friend to the spirit."

- Kathy Lay, President-

Harford County, Division 2

In October our Rosary Mass Celebration was well received. We are planning another Rosary Celebration for October 2022. At the end of October five of our sisters attended the State Convention in Ocean City.

November was the Memorial Service for our departed sister Jackie Waltmeyer. Division 2 provided the LAOH Funeral Ritual for Jackie's Celebration of Life. She was honored at the annual Memorial Mass. Sisters attended the Memorial Mass for the Veterans at the Garrison Forest Cemetery and sisters visited the Loch Raven Veteran's Rehab Center – handed out Christmas cards and had a sing-along with the veterans featuring Thelma and Mary on maracas. Election of our new division officers was held at our November meeting.

December found our sisters attending Baltimore Symphony Orchestra playing Handel's Messiah, the Old Tenth Ward Christmas Bull and Oyster Roast, the German Christmas Market at the Inner Harbor, and the Catholic War Veterans Christmas Party. We celebrated our Division Christmas Party at the Silver Mining Company.

Unfortunately, due to the Omicron variant, the St. Ita Mass scheduled for January 23rd was cancelled. Our division greatly appreciates the support we receive each year from our sister divisions with attendance and donations to our charities. So now we look forward to the Installation Mass in February and the Parade in March with our Deputy Parade Marshall Thelma Graziano. A Mass for the Blessed Mother is planned for May.

Peace,

-Gleela Kolakowski-

Cecil County, Division 1

Maureen Pietschmann, Regina Simon, and I attended the Ocean City convention as a trio this year! We are motivated by all the information discussed at the business meeting and had a wonderful time socializing with LAOH sisters from around Maryland. We wrapped up our Boscov's fundraiser having

collected \$2000. Our division had a full slate of officers for our November election (see below) and we will be installed at our February 5th meeting along with an initiation of one new member, Patricia Carpenter, who was enticed by our ladies at the membership table during the ICC Christmas Bazaar.



On December 1st we gathered for our Christmas luncheon. Lunch was catered by the Olive Garden. The White Elephant gift exchange was quite heated at times, but we all survived!

Cecil County Division One Officers for 2022-23

President-Christine Hild
Vice President-Anne Fazio
Secretary- JoAnne Bierly
Financial Secretary-Sharon Bittner
Treasurer-Maureen Pietschmann
Irish Historian-Joan Dinsmore
Catholic Action-Mary Anne Loftus-Smith
Missions and Charities- Karen Bower
Mistress at Arms-Pat Widmayer
Sentinel-Rose Holley

-Christine Hild, President-

Carroll County, Division 1

We hope our Sister Hibernians had a Blessed Christmas and the Carroll County Colleens wish you all an "Athbhliain Faoi Mhaise Duit!- Happy New Year!"

Many of our members attended the AOH/LAOH State Convention in Ocean City at the end of October. We really enjoyed the 60's Theme and were sad that the weather prevented us from having a bonfire on the beach. We would like to congratulate our new State Board Officers and look forward to working with them during their term in office.

We did not meet in November. We were extremely happy to be able to volunteer at the Maryland Irish Festival. It was wonderful to be able to celebrate our Irish Heritage with our Irish Community. We so missed doing this event last year.

At our December Christmas meeting/celebration we were happy to collect gifts for a family we sponsored through St.

Bartholomew's Parish. We also had our Division elections and look forward to our new officers being installed.

Wishing everyone a Healthy and Happy New Year,
-Mary Beth Connolly, Secretary

Howard County, Division 1

The pandemic remains a challenge to setting a consistent schedule and securing a stable meeting site since St. John's in Columbia remains closed to in-person meetings. Despite this, we've continued to meet virtually and in-person at my home. Attendance remains low; some members remain concerned about gathering in person, others don't have computer access.

In December, we donated 3 large themed-baskets to the Knights of Columbus, St. John's Council 7559 Charity Wine Tasting which benefited the Tanzanian Children's Project. Their auction helped the fundraiser and provided an opportunity to bring our LAOH Division to light. At our annual holiday luncheon, we collected food and personal items which were donated to Columbia Community Cares.



We are starting 2022 with hope and are joining our sister Divisions in completing our annual reports and outlining and healthy days for 2022! activities for the year. We have reached out to a potential new member who submitted an application at the Irish Festival and are looking forward to hearing from her.

We anticipate that slower Covid transmission will support our gathering for the St. Brigid's Mass in February, attending the Parade fundraiser and marching in the St. Patrick's Parade in March. We will also be donating and serving desserts for the St. Patrick's Dinner at the Oakland Mills Interfaith Center on March 19.

We look forward to the promise of a new year – increasing our faith, building membership, involving ourselves with the community and MD LAOH.

-Sharon Strobel, President-

Baltimore County, Division 1

We'd like to wish all of our sisters a Happy and Blessed New Year in 2022!



The State Convention 60's ice breaker was a blast. Congratulations to the new state board. The Irish Festival was a success but everyone missed the LAOH bake table. It was a lot of fun greeting and welcoming everyone as they entered the Festival. Thanks to all the sisters who volunteered.

We had our Christmas party at Chef Paolino Café in Catonsville which was very merry. We collected money for Feed the Hungry campaign to add to our year end donations. The winner of our Irish Christmas Spirit Basket raffle was Sandee Zaballa in our division. Thanks for taking chances and may your Irish luck be with you on the next one!

We missed the Memorial Mass due to the short notice and being held on a holiday weekend; however we do keep our deceased LAOH/AOH members in our prayers. We are looking forward to the St Brigid mass in February and hope to obligate two new members at our January meeting which we hope doesn't get cancelled because of the pandemic.

We're so happy the St Patrick's Day parade will be held this year and look forward to seeing everyone at the fundraisers and joining in the parade!

In the New Year "May neighbors respect you, trouble neglect you, the angels protect you, and Heaven accept you".

-Maureen Shettle, President-

Anne Arundel County, Division 1

Once again, due to safety concerns, we were busy this fall preparing, organizing, and administering our Tinsel Treasures virtual online auction and Basket of Cheer Raffle. We appreciated the Sisters that participated and supported our fundraising efforts; we do thank you kindly!

Our Annapolis Sisters enjoyed traveling to participate in the Irish Festival in Timonium, hosting our sisters and visitors for our State Retreat at the Charles Carroll House, joining our AOH

brothers and the Juniors at the Almost Unprecedented Canceled Parade of Lights Party and enjoying the State Board Christmas Brunch.



We are currently voting on our 2022 budget; we already purchased fast food gift cards for the Winter Relief Program. St. Mary's Parish opens its doors and hosts the homeless for a week. This is run by the St. Vincent de Paul Society for the homeless of Anne Arundel County.

Next up we will be prepping in March for the Annapolis St. Patrick's Parade on March 6. Please, Sisters from all Divisions, all are welcome; consider joining us! On St. Patrick's Day we hope to be marching in New York. If

interested in either, contact Jane Bannon 410-507-1826 by February 15th.

We wish you happy and healthy days for 2022!

-Jane Bannon, President-

Baltimore County, Division 14

At the end of November, Rita Hundley, Patrice and Tom Bell, Heather Breidigam and Denny Mullin took time out of their busy holiday schedule to decorate a tree for the Kennedy Krieger Festival of Trees. The division had intended to have a holiday luncheon gathering but with the COVID case increases, it was decided it would best to wait until a later date. At the last meeting of the year, the division decided to contribute to Prologue, Mother Seton Academy, Marian House, Viva House, and Little Sisters of the Poor for our yearly donations.

As we enter the New Year, Division 14 has a new slate of officers! As of our January meeting, our new officers are as follows: President – Eileen Edwards, Vice President – Heather Breidigam, Recording Secretary – Margie Hayes, Financial Secretary – Denny Mullins, Treasurer – Katie McCune, Irish Historian – Lauren Breidigam, Missions & Charities – Patrice Bell, Catholic Action – Rita Hundley, Mistress at Arm – Cathy Dolan, Sentinel – Margaret Sherwood. We look forward to a new year with new adventures with our sisters!

-Ashley Knapik, President-

Worcester County, Division 1

February will begin in a very special way for our division as we will have our Mass for St. Brigid on the 1st of February, her feast day. Mass will be at 9AM at St. Luke's in Ocean City.

At our meetings in February and March we will be collecting cereal for the Seton Center in Princess Anne, MD. The cereal will be taken to the center by several of our division members. March will find us preparing for the Ocean City, MD, St. Patrick's Day Parade on Saturday, March 12th.

Our officers for our division for 2021-2023 are President - Mary Rosenhagen, Vice President – Ann Cottingham, Recording Secretary – Jackie Choate, Treasurer – Kathleen Hensler, Financial Secretary – Maureen Morley, Catholic Action – Anna Rubino, Mistress of Arms – Cathy Bocci, Historian – Maureen Morley, Missions and Charity – Maureen O'Brien, and Sentinel – Peggy Bennett.

-Mary Rosenhagen, President-



2021 AOH-LAOH Memorial Mass

**-In Memorium-
Jackie Waltmeyer-Harford County, Div. 2**

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.

