**Freedom For All Ireland – Dolores Desch – 26 September 2021**

**Christmas Appeal:** The 2020-2021 LAOH FFAI Christmas Appeal was a huge success resulting in over $21,000 being raised. This was done through the hard work of our Divisions, Counties and States who despite the pandemic, found a way to support this very important initiative. Fifteen groups received much needed donations; please refer to my Interim Board Meeting Report on the LAOH National website for details. Six groups gave $1,000 or more as follows:

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| **Contributing State** | **Division/County/State Board** | **Total Amount** |
| MD | Maryland State Board | $1,000.00 |
| MI | Ethel Kennedy Division, Macomb | $1,025.00 |
| NY | John F. Kennedy Division 1, Schenectady | $1,000.00 |
| NY | John F. Kennedy - Division 1, Albany | $3,150.00 |
| OH | Our Lady of the Rosary Div 5/10, Cuyahoga | $1,000.00 |
| OH | Our Lady of the Rosary Div 5/10, Cuyahoga individual donation | $1,000.00 |

The funds were distributed on August 28 at a Webinar from the Houben Center in Belfast by the AOH National Chairman, Martin Galvin. The webinar can be viewed here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rG0GDNdwOdc&t=871s> .

**I am now collecting funds for the 2021-2022 Christmas Appeal.** 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.

**News from the North of Ireland:** The recent announcement by NI Secretary of State Brandon Lewis to propose legislation in Parliament to deny inquests, inquiries, and prosecution of those responsible for conflict related murderers has been met with protest. This amnesty bill benefits the UK government, providing sanctuary for British soldiers and is seen as undermining the Stormont House Agreement. Hundreds of families on both sides - Nationalist and Unionist - who have been working for decades to uncover the truth behind the killings of their loved ones during the conflict have responded overwhelmingly against this proposal. This is the latest of many attempts by the British government to hide the truth. Members of the US Congress as well as leaders around the world have come out against this proposal. On September 25 there were protests across the island of Ireland against the legislation and members of the US Congress have said that they will not support a trade deal with the UK if this proposal is pushed through.

**Please make sure your Division has an FFAI appointee** who willreceive 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.