



# *Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians ~ Pennsylvania*



*Friendship, Unity & Christian Charity*

Pennsylvania 2021 edition I

*A Word from Mary Ann Amesbury, our President...*

**Dear Sisters,**

***I hope all of you had a Happy and Blessed Easter.***

***I was thrilled to be able to attend Mass on Easter Sunday.***

***The Convention Committee is working very hard on our upcoming State Convention, held at the Radisson Philadelphia, Trevose, PA.***

***The Convention will take place from July 29th to August 1st.***

***Detailed information on the Convention is included within the Newsletter, but please check our Website periodically for updates.***

***We are proceeding with plans for an in-person Convention and praying that Covid-19 will be under control. I would urge all my sister Hibernians to get their vaccines as soon as possible.***

***The LAOH PA State Board will meet on April 24th via Zoom.***

***Discussion of the upcoming Convention will be a big part of this meeting.***

***We will keep our members updated as to our progress. Remember, your State Officers are always there to serve you. If you have any questions or problems, please don't hesitate to contact one of your state officers.***

***Please continue to pray for all of our Sister and Brother Hibernians, frontline workers, and everyone working to keep us safe during these challenging times.***

***I am looking forward to seeing you at the 2021 convention in July.***

***Yours in Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity,***

***Mary Ann***

***We offer a prayer of Hope for  
those affected by the Corona Virus and to protect us all***







Hello All,

The weather is sure getting nicer, and it is time for everyone to get ready for the PA STATE Convention! The 101st Biennial Pennsylvania AOH/ LAOH State Convention will take place on July 29th, ending on Saturday, evening, July 31st, at the Radisson Hotel Philadelphia/Trevose, 2400 Old Lincoln Highway.

**BE SURE TO BOOK YOUR ROOM NOW!!!!**

Summer is coming, and the hotel is close to Sesame Place and other attractions. We need to make sure the hotel holds rooms for our event; we ask that you book soon.

Everything you need, including the hotel link, can be found at the convention website at [www.aoh61.com](http://www.aoh61.com) or on our State LAOH Website [www.statepalaoh.com](http://www.statepalaoh.com), or below in the Fast Facts area.

In this Newsletter, you will also find information regarding our Convention Package, Ad Book details, and form, and Fundraising information, including our golf fundraiser... plan a fun outing at the golf course!!!!

Let us know that you plan to have a foursome coming by May 1<sup>st</sup>.

We hope that you will support the Convention efforts to make this a genuinely fun-filled time.

*Please share this information with anyone who may be interested.*

*If you have any questions, be sure to contact anyone on the Convention Team.*

Brian Coleman

[poncho2143@comcast.net](mailto:poncho2143@comcast.net)

Becky Puchalski

[irishski61@gmail.com](mailto:irishski61@gmail.com)

Ed Doc

[eddoc215@verizon.net](mailto:eddoc215@verizon.net)

Maria Gallagher

[gallagm913@gmail.com](mailto:gallagm913@gmail.com)

Ellen McCrane

[e.mcrane@comcast.net](mailto:e.mcrane@comcast.net)

Bob Haley

[defenders1836@gmail.com](mailto:defenders1836@gmail.com)

Pearce Kerr

[pearsekerr@aol.com](mailto:pearsekerr@aol.com)

## ***Fast Facts about the 2021 Convention!***

- ☛ ***Check in: Thursday, 29-July 2021***
- ☛ ***Check out: Sunday, 1-August 2021***
- ☛ ***Group Name: 2021 Convention Committee***
- ☛ ***Hotel Name: Radisson Hotel Philadelphia Northeast Trevose***
- ☛ ***Hotel Address: 2400 Old Lincoln Highway, Trevose, PA, 19053***
- ☛ ***Phone Number: 215-638-8300***
- ☛ ***Room Costs \$109 per night plus taxes, free on-site parking***
- ☛ ***Room Blocks Sunday, July 25, 2021 to Sunday, August 1, 2021.***
- ☛ ***Free Wi-Fi in rooms***
- ☛ ***Participants will be responsible for their own Registrations.***
- ☛ ***Booking link, guests can start making reservations now through this link.***

**<https://www.radissonhotels.com/en-us/hotels/radisson-trevose-sesame/deals/2021-convention-committee>**





## **AOH/LAOH PA STATE GOLF OUTING FUNDRAISER**

JUANITA PARK GOLF COURSE

May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021

8:30AM REGISTRATION 9:00AM SHOTGUN START

\$90.00 A GOLFER

INCLUDES GOLF CART, PRETZELS, SOFT DRINKS, WATER, CAN BEER, GIVE AWAYS

BBQ Lunch and beverages will be provided at the course after golfing

BETTING HOLE

50/50

NOT A GOLFER NOT A PROBLEM

COME JOIN US FOR LUNCH \$25 DONATION 12:00PM- 3:00PM

We ask that you get your foursomes in by April 23<sup>rd</sup> so that we can plan accurately.

For more information Call Maria Gallagher 609 304-7929 [gallagm913@gmail.com](mailto:gallagm913@gmail.com)

Annie McCrane 215 459- 8105 [anniemccrane@gmail.com](mailto:anniemccrane@gmail.com)

## **PA STATE GOLF OUTING FUND RAISER HOLE SPONSOR \$75 TO SPONSOR A HOLE**

Please submit your business name and phone number, family name to what you would want on your hole.

We ask that all submissions be made by April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

***Checks can be made out to: AOH LAOH PA State Convention***

Please send all checks to:

Becky Puchalski  
7200 Brous Ave  
Philadelphia PA 19149

**Business Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Business Phone Number** \_\_\_\_\_

**Organization Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Family Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**In Memory of** \_\_\_\_\_







## Convention Package

The Complete Package is \$200.00\*, if received prior to June 20, 2021.

After June 20<sup>th</sup>, the Complete Package is \$210.00.

The Complete package includes Registration, Ice Breaker, and Final Banquet

### [Package Registration Form](#)

*Completed Registrations forms are requested by June 30, 2021*

## Our Ad Book

We will be publishing an ad book to support the efforts of our Brothers and Sisters in Philadelphia County to help offset some of the costs for convention activities. We ask that you consider taking out an Ad to help defray our costs while showing your Division/ County pride.

Prices for the Ad Book are as follows:

1. Full page price is \$120.0 (5.5 inch by 8 inch)
2. ½ page price is \$75.00 (5.5 inch by 4 inch)
3. Quarter page ad is \$40.00 (5.5 inches by 2 inches)

### [AD Book Form](#)

All ads must be submitted as in a Print Ready Format and *must be received no later than June 30<sup>th</sup>.*

Any questions please reach out to: Brian Coleman poncho2143@comcast.net

## Fundraisers

### **The perfect CD for Irish music lovers!**

This CD is a collection from **fifteen of our Local bands** with **eight tunes being original cuts** from our talented artist. CDS are \$15.00. Please click the link below to place your order.

Any questions please reach out to: Brian Coleman poncho2143@comcast.net

**[CDs 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Up the Celts - various Irish bands \\$15 a CD](#)**

### **50/50 fundraiser**

The PA State Board will, conduct a 50/50 fundraiser to benefit the Hospitality Room.

Only 500 tickets will be sold, the numbers are played straight as drawn by the three digit PA Lottery 7pm drawing on May 8<sup>th</sup>.

The winner will take home 50% of the sales of tickets sold, the ticket cost is \$20.

### **We have a short time to sell all 500 tickets.**

We need your help in buying these tickets for a fun time in our Hospitality room.

Many thanks in advance for your help with this fundraiser. For tickets please reach out to

Ed Dougherty [eddoc215@verizon.net](mailto:eddoc215@verizon.net)





Looking forward to seeing everyone in July!

## News & Photos from Around the Commonwealth

We ask that all Counties & Divisions submit their Good News and Photos for this portion of the Newsletter.

Don't forget to periodically check the Pennsylvania LAOH Website

<http://statepalaoh.com>

✚ The History of the LAOH

✚ The History of the Pennsylvania LAOH

✚ State Board Members Introduction Letters and means to contact

✚ The Anna C. Malia Ruddy Award winners

✚ Bylaws

✚ Newsletters

✚ Information from Degree Teams

✚ Photo Albums

✚ Important Dates

✚ Fundraising from the State and Divisions

✚ State Convention details already available!



### Division #2 ~ St Columille ~ Berks

*We have been meeting regularly in person since November.*

*Because of our great parish, we held a couple of fundraising events - through online ordering –  
Which has kept us visible to our parish family.*

*We sold over 300 apple dumplings made by our local bakery in November, which also helped their business. In addition, on St. Patrick's weekend, we had a very successful potato and scone sale. We are very excited about our May baby shower for Mary's Shelter coming up Mother's Day weekend.*

*For anyone interested, we are running a parish trip to Ireland to celebrate our 100th anniversary - our LAOH's 30th. This trip has been rescheduled to June of 2022, so if anyone wants information on how to sign up, please let us know by contacting Kathleen at [kvarady2@gmail.com].*



### Division 18 ~ Daughters of Ireland

*Although we have been unable to hold a regular meeting due to the Covid restrictions, we remain together as always in Friendship, Unity, Christian Charity, and for the past year, isolation. As restrictions loosen and our regular meetings resume, we will begin our charity and community based activities. Our held our annual masses for St. Brigid and Our Lady of Knock with Covid restrictions in place.*

*The Daughters of Erin look forward to resuming our fundraising work and planning for the annual Girardville St. Patrick's Day Parade, which was cancelled the past two years due to the virus.*

*The parade will return in 2022.*

*Happy Spring to Everyone!*





## Division # 2 ~ Notre Dame ~ Montgomery County

*In December, we hosted our Stockings for the Homeless.*

*We spent two weekends assembling enough to send 80 stockings to the Community Homeless Outreach. We also were able to make nine extra to donate to Bridgeport Borough.*

*In February, we celebrated St. Brigid's Mass, a bit different than years past, but we celebrated!*



*On Saturday, March 13th, we held a curbside take-out Irish dinner from noon until 3, and then served meals for membership who came out to enjoy an Irish singer from 3 until 6 p.m. at our AOH hall/pub/& outdoors. It was a huge success!*

*Membership contributed by doing the pre-cooking, preparing that day, running the curb-side event, baking desserts, and serving the AOH event. This date would have been our Conshohocken parade day, which unfortunately was postponed, yet another year, but we managed to enjoy ourselves and celebrate our heritage!*

to







### Division #39 ~ St. Brigid ~ Philadelphia

*In December, we hosted a clothing drive to support Marie's Closet. Marie's Closet is run by the staff of St. Francis Inn and volunteers. Each month 300-400 change of clothing is given to guests of St. Francis Inn. The Inn is a drop-in center, a dining room for the poor, a thrift shop, and a shelter in the Kensington neighborhood.*



*We must not forget about the Wonderful Award one of our Sisters received, Maureen Brown! Maureen was honored as Advisor of the Year-by the PA State SADD for her distinguished service for many years and wonderful works as the Chapter Advsiior at Roman Catholic H.S.*



### Division #3 ~ Carbondale ~ Lackawanna

*We proudly and excitedly attended the "Raising of the Irish Flag" at Courthouse Square, Scranton, PA.*



*Representing were Sister Kathleen Smith, Div. 3 and County Chaplain; Kathleen M. Connor, President; Laure Carlo, Mission & Charities Officer; and Karen Titanski.*

*In December, we participated in the "Tinsel Trail" located at Carbondale City Park. Our tree was decorated with Irish treasures.*







### ***Division #11 ~ Pittsburgh ~ Allegheny***

*Division 11 has just finished another successful Sarris Candies Fundraiser.*

*We were able to have a small St. Patrick's Day celebration.*

*We are looking forward to the State Convention in Philadelphia.*

*You can follow Division 11 on Facebook at LAOH Div 11*

*Instagram and Twitter @laoh\_div11 ~ our website is laohdiv11.org*

*Happy Spring to Everyone!*



### ***Division #4 ~ Trinity ~ Delaware County***

*On March 22, 2021, Trinity had their first in person (with a Zoom option) meeting since February 2020.*

*It was wonderful finally to connect with our Sisters after such a long time.*

*Congratulations to the new Division Officers sworn in that night.*



*We wish them all much success under the leadership of President Beth McDowell and look forward to an amazing year ahead.*



### ***Division #2 ~ John F. Kennedy ~ Pottsville, Schuylkill County***

## ***Celebrating our 50th year!***







## Division #3 ~ Marie Drumm ~ Montgomery County

*Greetings from Montgomery County!*

*We hope everyone is healthy and staying safe.*

*The pandemic has certainly put a wrench in everyone's schedule however, our Division has been trying to move along. We made a few changes in our meeting and fundraising methods, but we have been successful in continuing to help the people in our community.*

*We held food drives in May and June.*

*We hosted a pizza kit fundraiser in October, which helped raise funds for our Thanksgiving and Christmas donations. With the fabulous success of the fundraiser, we donated over 300 lbs of Thanksgiving turkey to Project Outreach in Royersford, PA and provided Christmas gifts to local families.*



L-R Megan Bethel, Shawn Marie Brown



L-R Megan Bethel, Jim Carr, Patrick Bethel, Shawn Marie Brown and bag piping Santa is Mike Brown

*We also helped the AOH in Port Richmond with their toy drive and again in March with their food drive. Most recently, we had an online basket raffle, which was very successful and will help with all of our Spring donations.*



St. Patrick's food drive

*Hopefully, soon we will all be able to meet in person and put Zoom behind us!*



## - AN IRISH PRAYER -

May God give you...For every storm a rainbow,  
for every tear a smile, for every care a promise,  
and a blessing in each trial. For every problem  
life sends, a faithful friend to share, for every sigh  
a sweet song, and an answer for each prayer.





### **Division 87 - Our Lady of Knock, Philadelphia (Port Richmond)**

*Fox News Channel 29's, Bob Kelly asked our Maria Gallagher and Mary Cabbage to assist him in making some Irish Soda Bread on air!*



*Together with the AOH, in honor of S. Patrick's Day, we collected over 45 bags full of non-perishable food and donations for the St. Joan of Arc Pantry through the streets of our Port Richmond. Not only did we gather an incredible amount of items for those in need. We also spread cheer along with the local Firefighters, Bikers, Pipers, Natters Jack's Irish Band, St Patrick, and even the Easter Bunny gave out candy and beads.*



### **Division #4 ~ Mary Ellen O'Neill ~ Washington County**

*On Sunday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, we hosted an Irish Prayer Service at St. Andrew the Apostle Parish/Charleroi, PA. 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.*



*Left to Right - Helen June Bednarczyk, Ellen Lahey Cmar (Missions & Charities) Dorothy Flaherty Weldon (Div #4 President, Past State and National President) Tom Kadlick (Seminarian), Carole Seader (Financial Sec., Irish Historian, Catholic Action), Pat Loversidge and her daughter, Jackie and Back Row: Rev. Gerald Mikonis.*

*Not pictured - Dottie Taylor (Vice President), Kathleen Lynch (Recording Secretary), Francis Smith (Sentinel), Gloria Tracey (Past Division President).*





## Division #1 ~ Chester

Well, the "year of the virus" has made it difficult for us to meet in person, have fundraisers, and do the normal charitable work we try to accomplish. We did have a joint mass and picnic with the AOH of Chester Co. in July 2020.

We all wore our facemasks for church and then after we socially distanced while still visiting and eating outdoors at the lovely country church St. Malachy's (built by Irish immigrants).

We had a few fall meetings in the backyard of one member but then had to stop all group activities in November. Now that more than half of us are vaccinated, we hope to get back together and begin again.

Our Division did purchase and wrap Christmas presents for a family through Domestic Violence of Chester Co., as we have for the past eight years. Since we had to cancel our Christmas meeting/party, we did not collect gift cards as we usually do, but made individual donations to our three main charities (St. Agnes Day Room, Mom's House, and St. Mary's Shelter). We are hoping to be able to have brunch/meeting in June to try to get back on track.



## Division #1 ~ MaryEllen Everett ~Bristol ~ Bucks County

In late January, the Ladies were thrilled to collaborate with Catholic Social Services of Bucks County to host their first community Diaper Driver. The Family Service Center is the first 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. The Buck County Catholic Social Services offers Pregnancy and Parenting Support, Diaper Pantry, Mary's Food Cupboard,



and Catholic Clinical Consultants for counseling needs. We

collected over 6,600 diapers, 6,500 wipes, baby wash, and baby shampoo during three drop-off days.

This year we also hosted a PA Pick 3 Lottery Fundraiser for our SCHOLARSHIP FUND for two St. Mark 8th graders.

This was a huge success, we sold out in less than four days! After the sunset on April 3rd, the Ladies decorated the lawns of twenty-five homes with eggs for Easter morning. They started to take orders for "Egg My House!" about a month before the event and finished with over 700 plastic eggs filled with candies. It was a tremendous success



raising over \$500 and brought enjoyment to many children on Easter morning. It was a perfect way to embrace our motto of "Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity."





## **Division #1 ~ Tir Na'N Og'~ Lehigh Valley**

*The Lehigh Valley's Ladies have continued to gather as best as possible over these last few months. We met with breakfast meetings to support the Hall where we meet, and we had Zoom meetings.*

*This year we celebrated Woman's Christmas with a small gathering at a local establishment. Unfortunately, not much could be done with St. Patrick Day, which is even more disappointing now that one of our own Sisters, Dianne Mascari, is the president of the Allentown St. Patrick's Day Parade, till next year.*

*Before National President Karen Keane's challenge that we assist local agencies that support teen mothers trying and have made the right choice - the pro-life choice, we have worked with the Cay Galgon House (formerly known as Mary's Shelter). Each year we host several themed dinners, as well as supporting monthly and yearly campaigns. Recently, we hosted a pizza dinner/ Easter egg dying night. Unfortunately, we could not spend the evening with the girls, however, they sent us some pictures to see the fun!*



*We have continued working on our St. Brigid's Project, the Purse Project, collecting gently used purses and filling them with personal items, hats, scarves, socks, emergency blankets, and rain ponchos.*

*We utilize our Fundraising dollars and donations from within and local groups to fund this vital Project.*

*Since we began the Project in November 2016, we have donated 970 purses, 395 during 2020, and 70 already in 2021.*

*Wishing our Sisters across the State a Wonderful Spring!*





## *News & Updates from the State Board*

This portion of the Newsletter, we wish to inform of happenings and reminders at both the state and national levels.



### *Vice President ~ Maria Gallagher*

Thank you to everyone who purchased one of our Celtic Knot or Claddagh masks this past year. This fundraising event created an opportunity that allowed us to help a local business while showing some fun Irish spirit in Covid safe approach.

Everyone, please take the time to read over the Convention details, If you plan on attending, the Committee respectfully requests that you reserve your stay soon so that we meet our quota with the hotel.

Also, please consider partaking in the Convention package. The Convention Team has worked so hard to create an enjoyable Convention experience, something I know everyone is looking forward to!

Happy Spring!



### *Secretary ~ Kathleen Diulus*

Thank you to all the Divisions and Counties for completing the annual reports.

I appreciate the time and effort put forth to complete this duty.

I was happy to see that even during a Pandemic, some Divisions were able to grow their membership!

In the next few weeks, I will be sending out the Call to Convention and the Delegate forms.

Please do your best to adhere to the deadlines included in those communications.

Lastly, should your Division or County have any officer changes, please get the details to me as soon as possible.

I hope you are all doing well and look forward to seeing you in July!

Kathleen



### *Treasurer ~ Carolyn Killion*

Thank you! Thank you!

To all of our Division and County Treasurers and other officers that completed their annual financial reports, I extend my deepest gratitude. By the time you read this, our state report should be finalized and submitted to the National Treasurer.

It would not be possible without every Division doing its part.

While it is a tedious task gathering and assembling the information needed for the State report, in the end, the generosity of our Sisters makes what we do seem so worthwhile.

Despite 2020 being almost a lost year in so many aspects, and fundraising impossible for many of us, the LAOH sisters of Pennsylvania made donations to charities and gifts to people in need totaling \$70,000. It is truly something in which we can all take pride!

Carolyn





### *Historian ~ Maura O'Donnell- Roszyk*

Covid hit, but the Historian Ladies were still busy!

We did it again. One of our three submissions **won first place** for the Irish History Contest!

The winner of Level 1 (middle school students) is from Blue Bell!

**Congratulations to the Montgomery County Division** that submitted the winner!

The National and State Awards will be sent out soon. I will be in touch.

I hope to release the topic for next year's contest. I am thinking out loud, maybe we could get the information out to the school liaisons earlier, possibly they could assign it as a summer essay or perhaps earlier in the school year. Just trying to brainstorm ways to get more participation.

Additionally, we Historians completed 2020 Division and County Reports.

I thank everyone for their efforts with this. I know a Report had not been completed for a bit, and due to COVID, there was not much to report, but I do thank those of you that met the task!

Looking ahead, I hope everyone is enjoying and learning and then sending along to your own Ladies some of the Today in Irish History Blurbs that are on the PA Facebook page.

*If you have a history topic that you would like discuss, please feel free to reach out.*

*Sending many Blessings to everyone as we embrace Spring!*

Maura



### *Missions & Charities ~ Bobbie Thompson*

M&C activity - first quarter:

*Received the 2020 year-end report from National M&C Officer, Cathy Turck.*

*I reconciled National report with what I had for the state and sent to all Divisions.*

*Divisions are doing a much better job of making sure I get a copy of forms when they send donations to National – I greatly appreciate everyone's diligence.*

*Cathy Turck hosted a Zoom meeting for State M&C Officers on March 4th.*

*Unfortunately, I was not able to attend.*

*Once Cathy issues the Minutes which I will pass along to our Divisions.*

Bobbie



### *Catholic Action ~ Carole Syzdek*

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY, UNITED STATES.....

HAPPY BELATED MOTHER'S DAY, IRELAND

*Mother's Day in the United States of America will be celebrated on May 9, 2021.*

*This began thanks to a American woman named Anna Jarvis holding a memorial service for her mother on May 12, 1907.*

*Yearly Mother's Day traditions consist of attending mass as a mother or with your mother, grandmother or mother-in-law, purchasing/receiving cards, various gifts and celebrating dinner as a family.*

*Carnations are a famous flower presented to a mother; pink or red for a living mother or white to honor a deceased mother. Why carnations, you may ask..... they represent the first celebration when Anna Jarvis delivered 500 carnations to a church in memory of her mother.*

*Again, why carnations.....because they were her mother's favorite flower.*

*On May 9, 1914, President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day "a public expression of love and reverence for the mothers of our country".*

*Mother's Day in Ireland was celebrated on March 14, 2021,*



*always on the fourth Sunday of Lent, three weeks before Easter.  
In past centuries and pre-WWII, it was known as "Mid-Lent Sunday" or "Mothering Sunday in Britain"  
and focused on individuals residing elsewhere returning to the "Mother (Baptismal) Church"  
to attend mass with their mother and family members. Today in Ireland and much of Europe, Mother's Day  
celebrations are similar to that of the United States, showering mothers,  
grandmothers and mothers-in-law with gifts, flowers and meals.  
A child across-the-miles can easily honor their mother if unable to be with them  
by sending a card or by simply "making a phone call!"  
I wish all mothers in the United States of America a heartfelt "Happy Mother's Day"  
and all mothers in Ireland, a belated Happy Mother's Day!!*

Carole

### *Past Presidents*

Our state is most blessed to have so many past Presidents to lend their assistance to our state.  
Below is a few words of encouragement from one!

#### *Ellen McCrane*

*So happy that some things are starting to get back to normal. My Division has  
done many virtual fundraisers and recently we had a basket fundraiser to raise money  
for our 8<sup>th</sup> grade Diocesan grant program. This program, the Maureen T. Lavin grant program  
has been in existence for 22 years and we have raised over \$50,000 in grants  
for deserving students attending Catholic High School towards their first year tuition.  
I was asked to work with the Philadelphia Convention Committee  
as its Treasurer for the upcoming State Convention in July.  
I hope to see many of my Sisters from across the state at this convention!*

Ellen

### *Catching up with other Committees:*

This portion of the Newsletter, we hope to share and applaud all of the wonderful  
activities that occur across the state due to these hardworking Committees!

#### *Freedom for All Ireland ~ Kathleen Varady*

As the PA STATE BOARD FFAI Chair, I have been extremely busy sending emails out from our National FFAI  
Chair, Dolores Desch, and Fr Sean McManus.  
Father Sean serves as President of the Irish National Caucus and  
Chief Judge World Peace Prize Washington DC.  
The LAOH Facebook page and the AOH Facebook page are loaded with incredible historical and current Irish  
events and issues. I have been informing FFAI Officers that they should tell their Divisions to  
sign on and look at all the YouTube sites and webinars.  
Currently, I serve on the National FFAI Committee, and we have had several Zoom meetings with our  
members and with Irish representatives both in Washington and abroad.

In Our Motto,

Kathleen





## *Immigration and Education ~ Maureen Cooper*

The Immigration and Education Committee is presenting a Panel of Experts on Irish Immigration:

Siobhan Dennehy, Executive Director of the Emerald Isle Immigration Center,

Dr. Maureen Murphy Historian, Lisa Johnston Immigration and

Family Lawyer, Aileen ***Dibra Executive Director of the Coalition of Irish Immigration Center***

***and Ray O'Hanlon Author and Editor of the Irish Echo***

***Please Register at You are invited to a Zoom webinar.***

***When: Apr 29, 2021 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)***

***Topic: Immigration History and Challenges***

***Register in advance for this webinar:***

***<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6161740765>***

## *Publicity ~ Maura O'Donnell-Roszyk*

### *Staying Connected!*

Never did we know how important staying connected would be before Covid!

*Everyone still enjoys receiving a note or card in the mail, however in today's fast paced world utilizing the internet has really been a wonderful thing throughout the many lockdowns and times away from each other.*

*Many Divisions and our State host a Facebook page.*

*Additionally, some have expanded to Twitter and Instagram ~ connect to other Divisions, nothing is better than being able to celebrate or offer up prayers with those with similar beliefs as you!*

*Additionally, the National Board has created ways to connect with Sisters*

*across the country within our Organization* 🍀🍀🍀

*Please feel free to follow across all social media channels:*

😊 Facebook - Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians

🐦 Twitter - @LAOHNational

📷 Instagram - @LAOHNational

👤 LinkedIn - <https://www.linkedin.com/company/laohnational/>

📺 YouTube - <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwiWZjklavtrurGsQzDUopA/videos>

Also, please remember to send me blurbs regarding your events and happenings, along with pictures so that I can send them into the Lady Hibernian!

Our next Newsletter will be out just before the Convention, please start collecting some Information!

Happy Spring,

Maura

Stay connected with the PA LAOH via Facebook!

### **LAOH Pennsylvania State**

Join the group to stay informed, learn new things, and keep connected with your Sisters throughout the Commonwealth.

Please remember Facebook is for fun,

Please watch content as some of our information should remain private.

## *Webmaster ~ Mary Ann Lubinsky*

*As I sat down to write about being State Webmaster, it dawned on me that I have been doing this job almost continuously since 2005! Can that be right? That is a long time, but it has also been great!*



*I thank Mary Ann Amesbury for asking me back in 2019 to continue as a Webmaster. In today's times, there is a lot to be said about Social Media, but not everyone likes Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram. I have heard some people calling Facebook "evil," which I do not believe. I must admit it can be a breeding place for some nastiness but for the most part, and it is a great way to keep in touch with friends and even find old friends we thought we lost touch.*

*Despite Social Media being the rage, I still fervently believe that the best place to show off our organization is with a website. Unfortunately, it has been like pulling teeth getting information to get out there. I hope it is because of the Pandemic that information is not coming in and that things will pick up soon. Some Divisions are not doing meetings, and many are using Zoom to stay in touch and keep together.*

*With that said, I expect to hear from those Divisions out there who are keeping it together and those who are struggling.*

*Right now, I need all Division and/or county Webmasters to contact me and to send me the link for their website. If you do not have a website, then the President can send me an email address for a contact person. We want information on our site for anyone to find us no matter where they live in PA.*

*Thank you for allowing me to reach out.*

*Mary Ann*

*Please send in your Good News, Committee Updates, or Prayer Requests so together, we can celebrate & support each other.*

*Please email them to Maura Roszyk at [maurar1117@msn.com](mailto:maurar1117@msn.com)*

### ***A few last minute items!***

#### ***Congratulations to Our National Immigration Co Chair***

*Siobhan Dennehy and to Special Envoy Dan Dennehy on being recognized for all the work they do for Irish America.. Senator Pete Harckham presented them Commendation Awards, as they have done so much for the community, not only to promote Irish heritage but to help those most in need.*

#### ***From the desk of our National President...Karen Keane***

*I clearly remember what I was doing 29 years ago today. I was scared out of my mind while in labor with my first child. What if the baby is sick; what if I lose my job; what if my husband and I split: and so on. I had a good job, a partner, and family to help me. Imagine if you are a young girl without that support; no partner, job, education, and no family. What do you do?*

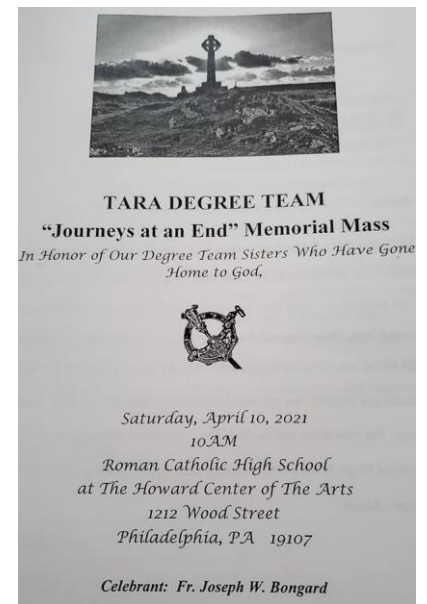
*This is why we must support the maternity centers in our community. Each Diocese has such organizations that help girls who made the hardest choice, to keep the life inside them. For the LAOH every month is Pro Life month and pro life is more than being an anti-abortionist. It is about supporting, both financially and emotionally these young adults. Give your time to volunteer at these centers and in senior centers. Pray for people being executed in our prison systems. That is all pro life.*





## *Degree Teams*

The Tara Degree team of Philadelphia held a special Mass on Sunday, April 11<sup>th</sup> in honor of their members that have passed. Team Director Maureen Dougherty Brown, along with other members of the Team brought everyone together for this “Journeys at an End” Memorial Mass.



*God Bless all of our passed Sisters.*





# Prayer Requests



*The Power of Prayer is so very mighty  
therefore, we ask you to include the following  
Special people in yours.*

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing of the following Sisters,

- ♥ Lana Yagatch-kretchun , Sister with Division 23 Allegheny County
- ♥ Kathy Deacy-Moore, member of Tara Degree team (costume designer) and long time Sister ( Division 87).
- ♥ Peggy Kelly Norder, a retired Sister who served as Division One ~ Lehigh Valley's President.
- ♥ Corinne Reilly, Sister who served as the Treasurer of Division One ~ Lehigh Valley



Division 39's, Philadelphia requests for Barb Sich, as she is recovering from a full knee replacement. And, Maureen Dougherty who is recovering from medical issues.



Sharon McGrath, who faces medical issues.



Ellen McCrane, PA Past State President, Maria Gallagher, PA State Vice-President, PA State Secretary Kathleen Diulus, and all of our Sisters who are battling Breast Cancer or are survivors. St. Peregrine and St. Agatha, pray for them.



Division Eleven, Oakland requests prayer for Sarah McCalla, Maggie Cloonan, Kathy Horgan, and Pamela Stewart as they recover from injury and ailments.



Division One, Lehigh Valley requests prayers for Dorothy Coughlin, Jeanette Denton, Juliann Donohue, Mary Denise Schneider, and Darlene Wentzel as they battle medical issues and recovery from injury and ailments.



*A special prayer for everyone's Special Intentions.*



Additionally, we ask for prayers of strength and courage to all of those ailing & their caregivers. In addition, to all the Sisters, Priests, and others without loved ones to pray for their soul.

Lastly, a prayer for us all as each one of us faces our daily struggles, fears, and pains

*Be safe ~ Bí curamach*