

Lady Hibernian Herald

Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians - Irish · Catholic · American

March 2022

President's Message

Happy New Year is the current sentiment for the season! We asked each other about resolutions and plans for the new year. If I was to survey those who know me about what my resolution should be, the answers would be: lose weight, stop using vulgarities, be kinder, be more patient, blah, blah, blah. All excellent ideas, but not what I am looking for or need. 2021 was a very difficult year for me with sprinkles of good times. I not sure how many know that I have struggled with depression and suicidal ideation for the last few years, and 2021 was the most difficult. I'm not looking for sympathy or attention, but I believe talking about it may help others.

In the past, including the darkest days of my life, I was not prone to depression; I was always the person that grew stronger and became more certain with each situation that arose. But something was different this time. Before COVID, I was in therapy to help with goals and boundaries in relationships. It was with a faith-based therapy and really help me. It was easy for me to incorporate the strategies learned, as I had a strong personal prayer life. Don't laugh, but my best prayer time was each

morning in the shower; any mother with children will tell you the bathroom is the only private place for them (most of the time). I reviewed the day's agenda and asked God for guidance in each situation; listened for better communication, prioritize the situations and the importance of each to the other person. I truly would feel strong enough to handle whatever the day would bring and throughout the day I would reflect on the encouragement I felt in the morning.

COVID hit and my routine was completely disrupted; everyone was home all day (not a good situation with grown children); I didn't shower in the morning; and never found the time to have solitude and personal prayer time. My world was out of my control, nothing was the same in my mind; everything was negative; suicide went from passive to acute; and medications were not working. Yet I had to carry on with the Zoom conferences or webinars, answer questions, work my paying real job, and carry on like nothing was wrong. The struggle inside my head was real and overpowering all my being.

Story continued on next page

In this Issue

Embracing Our Heritage	Page 2	Freedom For All Ireland	Page 4
Missions and Charities	2	State News	4
St Brigid Award	Page 3	Next Deadline for articles is April 10th	
Political Education Committee	3		

President's message continued

My new therapist, not faith based, asked me what was missing; what coping skills did I have before and why were they not working now; what had changed in me, as COVID was not my doing or issue, nor had my life changed. I spent time thinking about that. I have excellent friends, some saw what was happening, others not so much. I have things to live for, but that it not what is in your thoughts as those things feel like burdens and not as an encouragement. Burdens, emptiness, darkness, hopelessness; all the things we are taught is in people without Christ. But I go to Church, why can't I shake this off.

Finally, I realized that while I am a Church going Catholic, I was no longer engaged in a relationship with Christ. Prescribed prayers for me are good for meditation, but not for engaging and searching for the guidance I needed. I need that daily engagement when I am anew in the morning, planning my day, asking for guidance and what I can do for others. Since I have made the time each day, I am seeing myself turn a corner. My self-harming thoughts are passive now; my thoughts aren't as dark and do not last all day; I don't feel hopeless today. I do feel Christ walking with me. He was always there but I couldn't see him in the dark.

So, I'm trying each day to be kinder, use less vulgarities, but no promises on a diet. I love to eat. Everyone has at least one vice. I want to thank my friends that have seen me through these last eleven months. I know we all carry our own thoughts, struggles, and pain. We must remember to help each other and to pray for ourselves as we pray for others. I know 2022 will be better.

Karen Keane
natlpresidentlaoh@gmail.com



Embracing Our Heritage

Sisters

Our Embracing Our Heritage Program has been successful with 3 offerings in 2021. We have already doubled the interest in this Program this year. March will be a busy month for all of us with Masses and Parades to honor our Patron St. Patrick. The LAOH Webinar Team hopes that you will be able to participate in our offerings during Irish Heritage Month..Here is an article that was featured in Irish Central about the March Programs.

<https://www.irishcentral.com/events/ladies-aoh-webinar-irish-heritage-month>

An invitation was sent to the top 4 AOH Officers and a request to share with their membership. This Embracing Our Heritage Program is made possible with the Emigrant Support Grant from the Irish Government. With the support of this Grant, the LAOH is able to publicize the Programs to a wide audience. Ads and articles have appeared in iIrish, Irish Echo and Irish Central. Past Programs can be seen on our website under Embracing Our Heritage on the Home page as well as the LAOH National Youtube Channel.

Here are links to past articles on Irish Central
<https://www.irishcentral.com/culture/ladies-aoh-irish-music-feis-musician>

<https://www.irishcentral.com/events/ladies-aoh-bloody-sunday-event>



National Missions and Charities Officer Cathy Turck

Spring is just around the corner!! I hope. Well, considering my hometown area will be getting almost a foot of snow today, maybe the most I can hope for is warm temps to melt away the white stuff. Anyway, I wanted to include a little info on our Appeals for Aid fund that will be distributed at the

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National LAOH convention in Pittsburgh in July.

Pursuant to our constitution in Missions and Charities Officer responsibilities: Section 8.G.

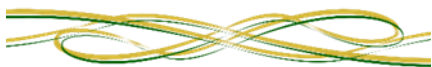
“Appeals for Aid are intended to provide limited aid to charities at the National Convention. All appeals for aid requests must be from a 501(c)(3) charity and submitted to the Missions & Charities Officer 45 days prior to the Convention. The Missions & Charities & Appeals for Aid Committees will bring these recommendations to the National Convention delegates for approval.”

I am in the process of updating the Appeals for Aid application and instructions and will have them out to all the State Missions Officers to early in March to distribute to the Division Missions Officer. This will allow almost 3 months for you to complete an application for one of your designated 501(c)3 charities before the due date on or about May 28th, 2022. My understanding is, that online committee meetings will be held prior to the actual convention. At the convention, we will hold an in-person committee meeting, however, we will only be finalizing our report from our online work. I can't wait to see all the great charities that you support by submitting them for consideration for this one time grant.

Be well and enjoy your upcoming St. Patrick's Day season!!

May your days be many, and your troubles be few.
May all God's blessings descend upon you,
May peace be within you, may your heart be strong,
May you find what you're seeking wherever you roam.

In our motto,
Cathy



St Brigid Humanitarian Award Vice President, Marilyn Madigan

At the National Convention, Our Order's prestigious St. Brigid Humanitarian Award will be presented. Divisions can send nominations to their State, any members who have contributed to their communities of a civic or humanitarian nature. This individual must

display qualities of kindness, compassion and show respect for all human beings. They also need to promote our Hibernian Spirit in promoting Catholics in action. We have many worthy candidates. Please refer to the National Constitution on the process to nominate. The State President needs to sign the nomination form and submit to National by April 15. A letter was sent to the State Presidents to be shared with Divisions in early February.

I will be in Ireland on the FFAI Tour during the period of the submission deadline and the date that the ballots are to be mailed. President Keane has offered to assist so that the deadlines as outlined in the National Constitution will be met. Your completed nomination form and State Board letter of support are to be returned to President Keane postmarked no later than April 15, 2022. These named materials may be submitted via USPS to Karen Keane 2 Mill Hill Court Apt. 211 Slingerlands, New York 12159 or via email at natlpresidentlaoh@gmail.com



Political Education Committee News

One part of the mission of the PEC is to educate LAOH members on social justice issues. In line with our mission, the PEC developed draft position statements that are posted on the PEC web page. The position statements are on disability rights, racism, environmental justice and gun control. The PEC is currently working on drafts of position statements on migration and maternal and child health. These additional statements will be posted on the PEC web page in the near future. The position statements are based on Catholic social teaching and will be considered for adoption by the full membership at the upcoming national convention.

The PEC put out a webinar last year on disability rights and receiving the sacraments. This webinar is also posted on the PEC web page. The PEC will host the following upcoming webinars related to the PEC position statements on racism and environmental justice:

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PEC continued

Saturday, March 19, 2022 at 11 am -12 noon Eastern.
The webinar will be on racism. Two speakers from Catholic organizations will talk about their organizations' efforts on education and advocacy. Mr. Christopher Kerr, the Executive Director of the Ignatian Solidarity Network (ISN) will talk about the ISN's work for social justice and how Catholic social teaching and the Gospel can be a guide for us in responding to racism. Joan Neal, Executive Director and Equity Officer for Network Lobby (you may know them as the "Nuns on the Bus") will speak about Network Lobby's history based on fighting racism, their policy and education advocacy and their lobbying efforts and how all of this is guided by Catholic social teaching.

Saturday, May 21, 2022 at 11 am - 12 noon Eastern.
The webinar will be a workshop on environmental justice. Mr. Wesley Cocozello, Communications and Outreach Manager for the Columban Center for Advocacy and Outreach will be the speaker. The workshop will cover scriptural foundations and Catholic teaching on the environment, the root causes of environmental degradation, how vulnerable communities are impacted by environmental degradation, and ways that your community can stand in solidarity with the exploited earth and vulnerable communities. The workshop will discuss vulnerable communities in the U.S., for example Newark, NJ and "cancer alley" in Louisiana.

A link to both of these webinars will be sent out soon by email to the members and on the LAOH social media sites.



Next deadline for Articles is April 10, 2022. Please send in word document Times New Roman 12

Freedom For All Ireland

Dolores Desch

News from the North of Ireland:

Dysfunction reigns in the politics of the Unionist parties as First Minister Paul Givan (DUP) resigned in early February due to what he claims is a threat that continued Brexit arrangements posed to Northern Ireland Institutions. In doing so the First Minister has collapsed the Stormont Executive, thereby eliminating the power sharing between the Unionist and Nationalist ministers that run the executive. These Brexit 'arrangements' also known as the Protocol were negotiated and agreed to by all parties, are a set of operating regulations which allow for free trade on the island of Ireland and provide for many trade incentives to a country that has left the European Market. Rather than embrace the opportunity, the Unionist parties are protesting at how unfair it all is. The truth is, the Unionist majority is shrinking, and the Nationalist and non-unionist population is expanding. As Unionism loses leverage and power, desperation is the response from their community. Meanwhile the Ireland's Future group and Nationalist Parties are reaching out a hand of friendship and offering to bring the issues out into the open in discussions on what the new Ireland will look like. The temptation to be part of the European Union again is something that is bringing at least some of the more progressive unionists to the table.

The legacy British Amnesty bill designed to prevent government inquiries, investigations and inquests into Conflict related murders and other serious offenses is rumored to be heading to Parliament soon. This legislation would eliminate legacy inquiries such as the Bloody Sunday and Ballymurphy inquiries and basically exonerate all perpetrators, including British state agents of any accountability in the killing or torture of victims. Please check to see if your member of Congress has signed on using the link below and if not, please contact them urging them to do so.

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-resolution/888/cosponsors?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%22keating%22%7D&r=1&s=1>

FFAI continued

Christmas Appeal:

Donations from Divisions, Counties and State boards that were received by January 15, 2022, were included in the 2021-2022 Christmas Appeal and will be distributed on the FFAI trip in April. Donations received after the January 15th date will be included in the 2022-2023 Christmas Appeal.

Please mail all donations from Divisions, Counties and States directly to me and forward a copy of the donation to your State FFAI Chairperson. My mailing address is **Dolores Desch 20 Arlene Ave. Albany, NY 12203**. Checks need to be made payable to LAOH, Inc. Also please include the entity information - Division, County Board or State Board that is making the donation, contact name, email, phone, and mailing address and if the donation is earmarked for a specific group, please provide which one it is.

Presidents, please make sure your Division has an FFAI appointee who will receive 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 is being updated with the latest 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. Thank you for your support for Freedom For All Ireland.

Go raibh maith agat.



Convention News

Ladies, Please ensure you are calling the correct hotel for 2022 Convention reservations. The Digest had the wrong phone number listed

Wyndham Grand Pittsburgh Downtown

600 Commonwealth Place

Pittsburgh, PA 15222

Phone: 412-391-4600

State News

Ohio

Ladies of Ohio Mahoning County, Division 6, Golden Rose, Queen of Ireland helped the community during the Christmas Season by ringing the bell for Salvation Army, serving dinner on Christmas Eve, and collecting toys for distribution at St. Vincent De Paul's Christmas party with area GetGos.



Shannon Lehn and Maureen Coughlin ringing the bell for Salvation Army



Shannon Lehn and Margaret Kidd from St. Vincent de Paul stand in front of some toys donated through the LAOH and GetGo.



State news continued on next page

State news continued

LOUISIANA

Members of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Margaret Haughery Division, New Orleans, Louisiana, gathered at the home of our Vice President, Kate Ferg, for our December Meeting and Annual Christmas Tea.

Because of all the COVID restrictions, we have not had many meetings or events during 2020 and 2021, so this was a special treat for members to come together for a meeting and socialization during the Holiday Season.

Kate graciously agreed to host the meeting and prepared a delicious High Tea for those attending. Irish egg salad sandwiches, cucumber sandwiches, baked Scotch eggs, scones, gingerbread cake, Christmas tea, and many other delicacies graced the table...and, of course, champagne!

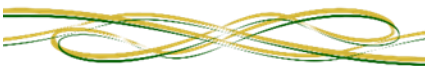
After our meeting, all enjoyed the wonderful food and tea. Each member also received a little gift. Hopefully, 2022 will be better and let us get back to our regular meetings and activities!



Left to right: Kate Ferg, Vice President; Nora Lambert, Historian; Patti Johnston, FFAI Chairperson; Pat Carreca, Secretary/Treasurer



Kate Ferg, Hostess for Meeting & Christmas Tea



Nebraska

Omaha Chapter, Mother McAuley Division

In December, some of our members worked the local diaper drive to collect diapers for the Lydia House here in Omaha. The Lydia House is a local shelter for single mothers. The LAOH team loaded approximately a quarter of this trailer during their two hour shift on a cold Saturday morning.



Story continued on next page

Nebraska News continued

The picture by the Christmas tree is of our annual wrapping party where we wrap the gifts we donate to the family we adopt for Christmas. This year, our Christmas family was a local family with seven children ranging in age from 12-1. They attend a local Catholic school and the story we were told was that when the dad drops them off at school, he gathers the children up in a circle and prays with them before sending them into school. He does the same thing with them before getting in the car to go home at the end of the day when picking them up from school. So sweet. I also attached the picture of the tree with just all of the gifts that were donated by the ladies of our chapter to this family of nine.



2022 officers, In photo: L-R - Natalie Olsen, Maureen Stinebaugh, Kerry Knight, Pat Fitzgerald, Lisa Russell, Nancy Casey, Mary Jean Sims, Kelly Hajek and Erin Woolman. Not pictured Colleen Warder and Katie Drelicharz.

Texas

While the coronavirus pandemic continues to cause disruptions in many aspects of our lives, it certainly has not curtailed the generosity and enthusiasm of the Golden Rose, Queen of Ireland division in Travis County, Texas.

As in 2020 we continued to hold our St Brigid's Day fundraising tea and all our meetings over Zoom. We did however gather in person with spouses for our Christmas party, due to the generosity of our President, Amanda and her mother Kathie who graciously offered their backyard for our celebration. We were blessed with mild weather, good food, and great company. We used the occasion to bid farewell to Claire McCarthy, the Irish Consulate General who was able to attend with her Vice Consul, Niamh Clark. Claire McCarthy will return to Dublin, and we will continue our relationship with her replacement.

In 2021 we started a book club in which we plan to read books by Irish writers or books that have Irish themes. We enjoyed reading "Nora" by Nuala O'Connor, and are currently reading "This Is Happiness," by Niall Williams.

Although we look forward to meeting in person again, we all agree that Zoom has provided our division with the opportunity to feel much more connected to the National LAOH membership. Several of our officers enjoyed Zoom meetings with their national counterparts. What a difference friendly faces make! We will use technology once again to partner with Kendra Scott Jewelry in April to raise money for our local charity, Saint Louise House. Saint Louise House provides housing and long-term social services to woman and children who might otherwise become homeless. Our Zoom Tea Party brought in close to \$500 and we hope to raise that amount again through Kendra Scott Jewelry sales. This year our division was proud to contribute more than we ever have to the various National LAOH charities.



Story continued on next page

State news continued

Pennsylvania

LAOH Division 1- Mary Ellen Everett, Bristol PA

On December 13th, LAOH Division-1 hosted our annual Christmas Luncheon. We had almost 42 members in attendance where we had a delicious spread of food including a beautiful cake. We played our White Elephant Gift Exchange where many steals occurred during the game. At the Christmas Luncheon we awarded two women for their Funniest Christmas Sweater and another for Most Festive Sweater.


LAOH Division 1 had an amazing end to the year by hosting an amazing December event with another LAOH division. We hosted a joint event with Langhorne, PA Bucks County's Division 5 at Brickyard Girl Tea Room in Bristol Borough on December 4th. At this event we had our PA State President, Maria Gallagher, in attendance with us along with our Past PA State President, Ellen McCrane. It was a fun filled day as we sampled tea sandwiches, many desserts, and lots of delicious tea.



Ohio

Cleveland Our Lady of the Rosary Division's Sheila O'Hara Gray awarded for her very kindhearted donation to the Freedom for All Ireland Campaign from Rita O'Hara Division FFAI Appointee.





LAOH NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON
POLITICAL EDUCATION

SAVE THE DATE
WEBINAR MARCH 19, 2022
11 am-12 noon Eastern

PEC Social Justice Webinar #2: Responding to Racism
Speakers:

Christopher Kerr, Executive Director, Ignatian Solidarity Network:
Our Gospel Call: Responding to Racism

Joan Neal, Deputy Executive Director and Chief Equity Officer, Network Lobby:
Responding to Racism: Policy/Education Advocacy and Lobbying Efforts

Register in advance for this webinar:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/9t0Zn0SMub7y88g5i0g>

After registering you will receive a link to the webinar

State news continued

State news continued

MICHIGAN

The **Annette Marie Byrne Division** of Kent County reports that despite having very few in person meetings and not having their very profitable fundraisers for the past two years, their members and community have been extremely generous. They gave \$1200.00 to the Baby Pantry, and \$2400.00 to HELP. The division also made a donation to FFAI and donated many hats, scarfs and baby items to West Michigan Catholic Charities. They are tentatively planning to do more events as a Division once they feel it is safe to gather.

Macomb County's **Ethel Kennedy Division** have also had more zoom meetings than in person meetings. They continue to donate to Mary's Mantle, a home for expectant mothers, and Secondhand Rose, a thrift store to benefit Turning Point. Some members attended the Christmas Craft Show hosted by the Rose Kennedy Division in November, a Christmas Division luncheon, the St. Brigid Prayer Novena via zoom and the Grand Marshal Luncheon. Upcoming events will include their member, Agnes Gowdy speaking at the LAOH Heritage Day Event. Heritage Day and participating in the Detroit St. Patrick's Day Parade. Their Division proudly has six members of the St. Brigid Degree Team and with all the High Holy Days events they will be quite busy.

The **Sarah Regan Division** of Livingston County reports have also had many zoom meetings and a few in person gatherings. They hope to have an outdoor meeting/membership drive this summer and also plan to have a fundraiser of some sort, just not sure what yet. They will take part once again in the Pinckney St Patrick's Day Parade.

The **Elizabeth Fagan Division**, Wayne County is meeting virtual as well as in person. They will be holding a Flower Power fundraiser with more information coming. The ladies are planning on marching in the St. Patrick's Day parade.

The **Rose Kennedy Division**, Wayne County, reports they along with the AOH Walsh Division held their annual Charity Ball where members Nancy Robertson

and Dean Henry were honored. A donation was made to the AOH Raise the Roof and St. Valentine School. In November they collected diapers and wipes and made a monetary donation to the Guadalupe Workers. Special guest Patrick Cummings came to the meeting and spoke about how he got involved in this very worthwhile charity and the division hopes to help them more in the future. The two day annual Christmas Bazaar was a huge success. Historically, Irish women gathered on January 6, (Little Christmas/ the Feast of Epiphany) to enjoy a break from household chores while the men stayed home and took over the cooking for the day. Although it is questionable if this tradition is still practiced in Ireland, four years ago the ladies of our division started their own tradition of celebrating this feast by having a luncheon. This year's annual Women's Little Christmas was on Sunday, January 9th with 90 division members, sisters, mothers, daughters, granddaughters, nieces and friends present. It was wonderful for the Irish ladies to have an afternoon to laugh, eat, tell stories and simply enjoy precious time together.

The meeting on Valentine's Day had members showing the love by bringing items for the Corner Shower & Laundry in Corktown, Detroit. This facility provides a place for people to shower and do laundry. We look forward to all the annual Irish activities which we have missed for the last two years.



Rose Kennedy members and guests at the Women's Little Christmas Luncheon.

Michigan continued on next page

Michigan news continued

The AOH/LAOH Memorial Mass was held on November 13th at St Mary's of Redford Church. This was coordinated with the LAOH and AOH respective Catholic Action Chairman. The AOH State Chaplain Fr. Richard Leliaert was the Celebrant. There was a time for fellowship at the Stephen Walsh AOH Hall following Mass.

A Mass in honor of St Brigid's feast day was planned, but due to an increase of covid it was decided to resort to zoom and rather than a Mass, have a zoom Prayer service. This was a nine-day St. Brigid novena and since there are nine LAOH Divisions in Michigan, each division was invited to have someone read one of the days, for those who could not, some of our dignitaries read. Our state chaplain, Fr. Brenda McCarrick, opened with prayers and stories about St. Brigid and then introduced each reader with a prayer. Fr. then concluded with a prayer and blessing.



The **Schenectady JFK Division 1** LAOH celebrated St Brigid's Mass at St Luke's Church with celebrant Fr Isopo.

New York

LAOH JFK Division 1 Albany

Our Division Sisters Celebrated the feast of St Brigid following our February monthly meeting and were happy to be joined by our Chaplain Father O'Connor. Father said a special prayer to honor St Brigid, and we read about her great commitment to spread Christianity throughout Ireland. We really enjoyed the evening of sisterhood, and the cake and other refreshments were fantastic! Many thanks to our Catholic Action Officer Elissa O'Reilly for making this such a special occasion in honoring our patron saint.



Left to right: President Kim DePeaux, Shelly Valek, Kathleen Hutton, VP Mary Sieder, Immigration appointee Peg Burch, Secretary Cathy Turck, FFAI appointee Cheryl Gardner, Treasurer Jackie Clute, Financial Secretary Marcella Dietz, Fr Isopo, Brenda Adams, Stephanie Hayes and Missions and Charities Kathi Calder.

