

Lady Hibernian Herald

Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians - Irish · Catholic · American

April 2022

The History of the LAOH

It is always a good time to share the history of the LAOH and how we became the largest women's Irish Catholic organization in the United States, but now is a great time. This comes from National Vice President Marilyn Madigan as shared with the membership at our 125th anniversary celebration. Please feel free to share our history as needed.

“Congratulations Sisters on our 125th Anniversary. This is a wonderful time to be a member of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians as we celebrate 125 years of dedication and service to our Catholic Faith, our Irish Heritage and our American homeland.

Let us go back in time and reflect on our beginnings and our accomplishments over the past century and quarter. First, we need to thank our Brother Hibernians who established the Auxiliary at the Omaha Convention in 1894. Our first elected President Anna Malia in an article in the National Hibernian describes the beginning of our Order. “In May 1894 at the National Convention of the Ancient Order of Hibernians held in the city of Omaha, Nebraska, some ladies had the temerity to ask permission to organize an Auxiliary to the

Ancient Order of Hibernians, whose principal object would be to help promote the three great principles of the parent body and to be an auxiliary in the true sense of the word. The AOH delegates (like all good, tender-hearted Irishmen) I presume could not refuse the ladies and the privilege was granted, with the thought, no doubt, Oh we will never hear from them again. It is but a whim of the moment. (But they did hear from us again and continue to hear from us.) At the following Convention held in Detroit Michigan “the Auxiliary left no doubt of its earnestness and by the perseverance of its representatives succeeded in having a National Organization effected.” As we meet here in Detroit celebrating this milestone, I think we can all say that the LAOH and AOH is a blessing to the Irish American Community.

One of our first accomplishments was the establishment of the Trinity College Scholarship. Trinity College was the first Catholic Woman's College. The idea of establishing the Trinity Scholarship was Mary E. Halloran a Past State President from Detroit Michigan and the 1902 delegation approved this endeavor. The Ladies collected \$10,000 for this scholarship even before

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they had a National Treasury. Upon the presentation of \$10,000 to the College, Archbishop Farley stated “we have here today in the presence of so many Irish American mothers, sisters and daughters, filled with the same old love of learning which has never forsaken the Irish heart. May this day, to you ladies of the Auxiliary, be a memorable one in your lives, may the thought of it and the part you played long remain in the hearts of your children and your children’s children, and may they point in future days with pride that you were the first to recognize the magnificent work which is being done by the Sisters in charge of Trinity College.” Just image all the woman who received a College education because of the efforts of our early members and the contributions they have made to our Country.

In the August 15, 1906 issue of the National Hibernian, it was stated that “The convention of the Ladies Auxiliary was just as much a success, taking material things into consideration as that of the men’s Order itself. It may not have been attended with all the parliamentary knowledge of the latter, nor with the flow of oratory or fervid appeals, which generally distinguish the men’s gathering (times have changed) but its business was in a manner that reflects the highest credit on our women and proves them to be possessed of that genius and ability necessary for the management of their own affairs. This year marks a new era in the history of the Ladies Auxiliary, and henceforth they will be empowered to elect their own board of officers, levy their own assessments and manage their own funds and they will be only subject to the men’s Order in matters which imply loyalty to the fundamental principles of the organization. In all else they will possess home rule.” Today as we celebrate our Anniversary, we are no longer an Auxiliary but a organization in our right. I am sure that the early leaders are proud of our achievements.

The 1906 Convention was presided over by the President of the Advisory Board Mary Quinn from Illinois. At the Convention there were over 300 delegates representing nearly every State and Territory in the Union. In the National Hibernian the

delegates were described as “the cream of the Catholic womanhood of America and embraced within their ranks many of the brightest and most gifted minds.” National AOH President Dolan in the National Hibernian “bears testimony to the excellence of the Ladies Auxiliary and gives them full credit to for the noble work they have performed.” [“We believe the Irish American woman of this country are realizing the great advantages of membership in an organization of this character and that the Ladies Auxiliary is destined to become the greatest fraternal society of Catholic woman on this continent.”](#) **“Sisters, we are this legacy.”**

The Decade from 1910-1920 was a very troubling time for the world. The Easter Rising, World War I and the movement to obtain the votes for women. Our Order was blessed with wonderful leadership during this period. I call them our Trifecta: Ellen Ryan Jolly, Mary McWhorter and Adele Christy. All of these women were aware of our proud Irish and Irish American History. It was Ellen Ryan Jolly who was the brainchild behind the Nuns of the Battlefield Monument to remember the Sisters from 12 different order who nursed the wounded and dying during the American Civil War. The membership was behind this monument and worked hard in collecting donations and working with Congress to find a suitable place for the Monument. This Monument is across the street from St. Matthew’s Cathedral in Washington DC. When visiting the Monument, you have to go to the back to see that the Ladies Auxiliary of the Ancient Order of Hibernians was responsible for this Monument that tells the story of an important period in our History. No one should have to go to the back of any monument to see the accomplishments of our Order and we are working with the National Park Service with plans to change this situation. Jolly, McWhorter and Christy were very committed to the establishment of an Irish Republic. Only 5 women of those 5, 3 were leaders in the LAAOH were invited to address a Congressional Committee on the Irish Question in 1918. Women did not even have the right to vote yet

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LAOH History continued

but members of our Order were addressing a Congressional Committee. We as members of the LAOH need to remember the voices of these early leaders and add our voices to the causes that are important to our Catholic Faith, Irish Heritage, and our homelands both Ireland and America.

Our Order has been very generous to our Church with donations to the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception with gifts of the St. Brigid Altar, Chalice and paten, replica of the Cross of Cong, Missal stand and an illuminated Missal. During World War I donations were collected to supply the Chaplains with Mass Kits. Bishop Galvin approached our Order for assistance with the Columban Missions in 1935. Our primary Charity is the Columban Fathers and Sisters. Just think of all the Missionaries we have helped with spreading the word of Christ. Our Religious have always held a special place in the Irish heart. Our Order has contributed to All Hallows Seminary in Ireland but one of the greatest achievements is the establishment of Project St. Patrick with the AOH under the leadership of Ed Wallace and Kathie Linton. This project was established to continue the vision of St. Patrick “to bring the Gospel and the Eucharist to all people.” We truly live our motto of Christian Charity.

In 1978, the AOH and LAOH joined together to establish the Hibernian Chair at the University of Notre Dame. Funds collected by the Hibernians have been donated to the Hibernian Scholarship, Cushwa Center for the Study of American Catholicism, and the Keough Naughton Center for Irish Studies. These funds have assisted many of our sons and daughters attend the University with scholarships. The centerpiece is the Annual Hibernian Lecture and Hibernian Research Grants. Anyone who has attended the Lectures can attest that we are meeting the goal of our early leaders to promote Irish and Irish American History. Many of our Members have had the privilege to attend these lectures and I encourage more to attend.

As an individual that loves history, I could go on and on about our proud history but it is time to celebrate.

In 1907 AOH President stated, “that the Ladies Auxiliary is destined to become the greatest fraternal society of Catholic woman on this continent.” In 2019, we can say that the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians is the greatest Irish American Woman’s Organization thanks to each and every member who has dedicated themselves to our motto of Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity today and during the past 125 years. Sisters we have a proud legacy. What will be the legacy of today’s members? I am confident because of my Sisters here today as well as those across our Country that it will be a great legacy. Thank you for your dedication and commitment to our Order. Since our Anniversary, we have made great strides with promoting our Organization with the Embracing Our Heritage Program with a Grant from the Irish Emigrant Support Program, our own Hibernian Herald, speaking up on Women Veterans’ issues, Political Education Committee, hosting webinars on Immigration, Catholic Social Justice and issues in the North of Ireland. Our members have been very generous to FFAI, Project St. Patrick, SOAR, Columban Fathers, Columban Sisters and the Ukraine Appeal.

The LAOH is proud of our longstanding history of working with our AOH Brothers. We want to continue to live our Motto in Friendship with the AOH, united in our common goals and an example of Christian Charity.”



NATIONAL CONVENTION UPDATE

Hello ladies! As I write this final article prior to the National Convention, there are only 89 days left until the Convention! The National Committee met with the local Committee in Pittsburgh this past weekend and I can assure you that you are in for a great time in the Steel City and the Convention. If you have not done so, please register for your room and package. The hotel rooms are filling up fast. Any information that you need with regard to registering for the hotel,

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Convention update

package, Degrees, Ad or merchandise purchase can be found on the National Convention website: www.2022pittsburghconvention.com.

There have been a few updates. Salmon has been added as a meal choice for the final banquet. If you have already purchased your package, you will be receiving a note to see if you wish to have salmon rather than beef, vegetarian or vegan. The hotel does not offer shuttle service to and from the airport. Please contact The Allegheny Port Authority at 412-442-2000 or www.portauthority.org for public transportation information. If you need a mobility rental, please contact Steel Town Mobility Services at 412-375-7641 or www.steeltownmobility.com. Please note that the company that was previously listed is no longer in business. As you know, hotel valet parking is \$35 per day. You can come and go as you please with no additional cost. There is also the Stanwix self-parking garage located near the rear of the hotel for \$22.00 per day. You can visit their website a www.iparkit.com. Last but not least, please remember to bring a sweater with you to the meetings. Large meeting rooms tend to be on the cool side.

The general session of the LAOH National Convention will open Thursday morning, July 14, promptly at 8:00 a.m. A joint meeting with the AOH will follow at 10:00 a.m. The general session of the LAOH will reconvene immediately following the joint meeting. Committee breakout sessions will be Thursday afternoon. General session will continue on Friday and Saturday. Voting will take place Saturday morning from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. A more detailed schedule of the Convention will be forthcoming.

The Degrees of the Order will be exemplified by the Claddagh Degree Team of Allegheny County, Pennsylvania at 9:00 a.m. Saturday morning. Registration opens at 8:30 a.m. “The Degrees of the Order are an essential part of being a member of the LAOH, Inc. Each member, when receiving the Degrees, is shown the grand history of the Irish people and Catholic Faith, the importance of women in that history, and is sworn to a solemn obligation that is taken as Degreed members.” Observers are also encouraged to attend. Registration forms have been sent to all State Presidents/Vice Presidents. The form can also be found on the Convention website. If you have any questions, please contact Peggy Cooney, Degree Team Director, at 412-921-6348 or Patty Flaus, Degree Team Guardian, at 412-427-4728.


Looking forward to seeing “yinze” in Pittsburgh! Feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. Kathielin10@gmail.com or 330-714-4826.



Degrees

The Claddagh Degree Team of Allegheny County Pennsylvania will be exemplifying Degrees. The Degree Ceremony is scheduled on Saturday July 16, 2022. Degree Registration is scheduled at 8:30 am with the Degree Ceremony to start promptly at 9:00am. You can get the registration form on the LAOH National website. Click on degree pin.

Convention Schedule

 Schedule for 2022 LAOH Convention	
June 20- July 3, 2022 ALL Committees will meet virtually and have final draft reports ready by July 6, 2022.	
Tuesday, July 12, 2022 –	
• 8:00 AM – 11:00AM – Spirit of St. Brigid Service Project	
• 12:00 Noon – 5:00 PM Constitution Committee Meeting - King's Garden 5	
Wednesday, July 13, 2022	
• 8:30 AM- 11:00 – LAOH President's Roast (cost approximately \$55.00) Fundraiser for Local charity \$25.00 for three (3) minutes to roast the President.	
• 12:00 Noon - 5:00 PM Constitution Committee Meeting – King's Garden 5	
• 6:00 PM Mass – King's Garden and 7:00-10:00 PM Icebreaker -Grand Ballroom	
Thursday, July 14, 2022	
• 7:30 AM – Doors Open for General Session – Grand Ballroom 2	
• 8:00 AM – Gavel banged and Meeting Opened- State Presidents Introduced	
• 8:45 AM – Adjourn for Joint Session	
• 9:00 AM – 9:45 Joint Session (Sites for 2026 Convention and Greetings) – King's Garden	
• 10:00 AM – Back in General Session – Reports and Nomination of Officers – NO ENTRANCE after 10:30 AM	
• 12:00 – 5:00 PM - Committee Meetings	
12:00 -12:45	Missions and Charities – Birmingham Juniors – Smithfield Freedom for All Ireland – Fort Pitt Scrapbooks - Stanwyck
1:00 – 1:45	Degrees – Birmingham Immigration - Smithfield Veteran & Military Affairs – Fort Pitt Supplies - Liberty
2:00 – 2:45	Resolutions - Birmingham Catholic Action – Fort Pitt Press & Publicity - Smithfield Grievance - Liberty
3:00 - 3:45	History - Birmingham Website - Smithfield Political Education – Fort Pitt Elections - Birmingham Fundraising – Fort Pitt Appeals for Aid - Smithfield
Friday, July 15, 2022	
• 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM General Session (Committee reports, old business, new business, etc.) – Grand Ballroom 2	
• Awards Night – 6:30 Grand Ballroom 1	
Saturday, July 16, 2022	
• 6:30 AM – 9:00 AM – Voting - Rivers	
• 8:00 AM – Doors opened for Major Degrees	
• 9:00 AM – Degree Starts Promptly – Commonwealth	
• 11:30 AM – 2:00 PM General Session (Election Report, President's Report, Adjournment) – Grand Ballroom 4	
• 4:30 PM – Mass and Installation – King's Garden	
• 6:00 – 10:00 PM Banquet – Grand Ballrooms	

National President's Testimonial



**Join us for the Testimonial
Breakfast
Roast for The LAOH National
President
Karen Keane**

When: Wednesday, July 13, 2022 Time: 9:00 AM
Place: Wyndham Grand Hotel, Pittsburgh, the Convention Hotel
Price: \$55.00 includes plated breakfast, Mimosa Bar, and breakfast stuff

Interested in roasting the President, see our website (ladiesaoh.com) under "Presidential Breakfast" to make your donation to a local Pittsburgh Charity
(\$25.00 for 3 minutes for attendees only)

LAOH Presidential Testimonial Breakfast

Name: _____ State: _____

Send checks for \$55.00 per person made payable to "LAOH Division 1 Albany"

Mail to:
LAOH Division 1
575 Ontario Street
Albany NY 12208

You can send one check for multiple people, just please send a list.

While in Washington, Karen and I visited Trinity College. The LAOH established a Scholarship at Trinity in 1902. Trinity is celebrating their 125th Anniversary. Over the past 120 years our Scholarship has assisted with the financial aid for many young women to attend this College.

Returning home from the Irish Ambassador's Reception in DC, I had the honor and privilege to Install the Officers of the newly established Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians in the Cleveland area. The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians have been active in the Irish Community of Cleveland for over a century. It is wonderful to see the growth of the Hibernians in the Cleveland area.

On April 2 at the Ohio State Board Meeting, I had the honor and privilege to recognize the Ohio Degree Team on their 35th Anniversary. All Directors, past and present along with the Team received Proclamations recognizing their service in providing this important Ceremony to our members.



VICE PRESIDENT REPORT

Marilyn Madigan

Our lives seem to be getting back to a new normal after the COVID Pandemic. It was great to see St. Patrick's Day Parades and Activities back this past March. I was honored to attend the Mass and take up the gifts with AOH President Danny O'Connell at St. Patrick's in Washington DC. The Irish Ambassador's St. Patrick's Day Reception was held for the first time since 2019. The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians were represented at the reception. I was privilege to receive an invitation along with President Karen Keane and PEC Chair Gail Dapolito.

Ten of our Juniors as well as many children and grandchildren of our members are competing in the World Championship of Irish Dance as I write this report. Good luck to all. Our Juniors are the future and we are very proud of how they keep Irish Culture alive.

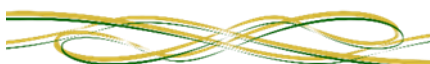
The Embracing Our Heritage Program hosted two successful Webinars during Irish Heritage Month. In April, National Treasurer Sandi Swift presented a Facebook Live Event highlighting

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Vice President continued

an Annual Traditional Irish Music Concert and workshops held in St. Louis.

In April, I will be traveling on the Hibernian FFAI Tour. A special thank you to FFAI Chair Dolores Desch and the FFAI Committee for a very successful Christmas Appeal. I am overwhelmed at the generosity of our members to donate to all the causes the LAOH near and dear to our hearts. The LAOH is truly the Heart of Irish America as Only a Women's Heart can know.



Ellen (Sis) Tocher
July 27, 1935 – February 7, 2022

Sis was supposed to be Montana LAOH nominee for Life Time Membership, and hopefully honored at the National Convention this July. God had other plans for Sis and called her home to be with him instead.



Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians held a special place in Sis's heart. She first became a member in 1974, after she and her husband, Don, came home to Anaconda after living throughout the United States following construction jobs. However, this stay was short lived. One night at dinner, they asked their five kids if they would like to live in Persia and the adventure began, living in Iran and Thailand. Sis then followed Don to Mexico before returning to Anaconda for good. That is when she was reinstated as a member of the LAOH in 1991.

Sis held many LAOH offices at the Division and State levels: Division President, Historian, Catholic Action and publicity chair; State President, Vice President, Historian, Catholic Action and publicity chair. Besides being an officer, Sis spearheaded the

drive to order vests and sashes for each member, was a charter member of the Irish Washer Women Brigade and the Aishlings Irish Dancers. Every year she donated a square for the Anaconda Division 1 Irish quilt raffle, proceeds going to a local charitable organization. Finally in 2005, Sis was honored as LAOH Grand Marshall of the St. Patrick's Day Parade. In 2006, Sis attended the National Convention in Boston, Massachusetts, where she received the Celtic Degree.

Sis's involvement with the Ladies AOH was not all work; she made plenty of time for fun and entertainment. When she was no longer able to march with the Washer Women, she began to assemble floats for the Parade for those sisters who would not otherwise have been able to be a part of the parade. She came to the LAOH Christmas Party as Mrs. Santa to add to the fun and holiday spirit. The most memorable entertainment was when she presented her original skit of a "Cheerleader Wanna Be." She would bring down the house with laughter. Running a close second was her rendition of Patsy Cline's "She's Got You." Our Chaplain, Fr. McCallum, laughed so hard he had tears in his eyes when she performed this at the State LAOH Convention.

Whenever the state or a division requested information concerning procedure or other types of archive materials, Sis was the go to person. She served on many committees and was always ready to lend a helping hand.

We have been blessed to have had Sis as our LAOH sister. Well done good and faithful sister.

Presented and written by Sis's sister, Lenore Manning, and friend, Rosemary Corrigan



Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc.
National Board
Established 1894
Office of National Catholic Action
Peggy Cornish

Dear Sister Hibernians,

Our help is needed in Ukraine and their bordering countries where there are already 2.9 million people in need of aid. LAOH members are asking how they can help. We have always been very generous in times of trouble; the corporal works of mercy tell us what to do. We are asking all members, Divisions, Counties and State Boards to help our sisters and brothers in the Ukraine.

The LAOH is taking a collection that is going to be distributed to Catholic Relief Services. They are on the ground in Ukraine, Poland, and all surrounding countries. The suggested donation is \$50.00 per division. We will thankfully accept all donations both large and small from our individual members as well as from our divisions, counties, and state boards.

Make checks out to: LAOH Inc with Ukraine in Memo.

Mail to: Peggy Cornish
141 N Kinsella Ave, Covina CA, 91724.

We know that this time of year is a remarkably busy one for all of us. Please pass this on to all members so they may send their donations as quick as possible.

As much as the Ukrainian people need the physical necessities of life they also need our prayers. We ask all our members to say three Hail Marys every day for peace in the world. We know what it means to come from a war-torn land; let us not forget our sisters and brothers in the Ukraine.

Lest we forget the words of St. Pope John Paul II – "in the words of the Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church by the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace – *"Peace is founded not only on human rights but also on respect for the rights of peoples, in particular the right to independence."* (Page 69, #157). And the same pope famously taught us: *"Peace is the fruit of solidarity."* (Sollicitudo rei Socialis, "On Social Concern", no. 38, December 30, 1987). "

Your prayers and support will make a huge difference. I say to you my sister Hibernians let us all

"Go boldly into the darkness and be the light".

Yours in Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,

Peggy Cornish
National Office of Catholic Action
Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc.
141 N. Kinsella Ave
Covina, CA, 91724
626-331-3905

Fundraiser for Cathy Turck for National LAOH Treasurer Paint and Sip



Do you like to laugh? Do you like to have fun?

Do you like to eat, drink, and be merry?

Then this is the place for you!!

Saturday May 14, 2022- 2pm – 4pm. Doors open at 1pm.
Schenectady Hibernian Hall -1748 State St.

Cost is \$50 per person which includes an Irish themed painting, appetizers, desserts, beverage, and lots of fun.

Can't make it? Consider donating or dropping a raffle basket off at the Hall the week before.

RSVP by May 10 to kimdepeaux@gmail.com

Payment by Venmo @Kim-DePeaux, cash, or check

Missions and Charities Officer

Cathy Turck

Sisters,

I hope you all had a wonderful St. Patrick's Day and a Blessed Easter. Hard to believe it is almost May!! Summer is just around the corner; I can feel it. I would like to thank all the individual sisters as well as the Divisions, County, and State Boards for your continued support of the Columban Missions and their mass cards. Your generosity is overwhelming and inspiring. If you were not able to attend the Zoom meeting with Sister Corona and Father Chris from the Columban Missions, please go to "LAOH YouTube Missions" and watch this informative video. You can see how your donations are used to have a direct impact on individuals.

It is now time to submit your applications in for the Appeals for Aid one-time grants. I know you ladies work with wonderful 501(c)3 agencies in your communities and this grant gives you an opportunity to request funds for these agencies. Go to the National LAOH website and see the link with my letter on how the process works and the application. The link is at the top of the page when the website opens. The deadline is May 30, 2022. The agencies who receive grants for 2022 will be announced at the National Convention in Pittsburgh on Friday July 15th, 2022, during our general session.

All committee meetings for the National Convention will occur prior to convention, via Zoom. During the convention, the committees will reconvene and finalize their reports for presentation to the delegation that gathers in person for convention. You must attend the committee Zoom meeting and the committee meeting at convention to have your attendance recorded.

Zoom meetings for Missions are as follows: June 23rd, 2022, at 7pm EST- Missions and Charities, and June 27th, 2022, 7pm EST -Appeals for Aid.

Hope to see your smiling faces soon!

STATE NEWS

OHIO

Ohio State President Teresa Harris of Franklin County welcomed the new Division and Installed the 30 new members into the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians. This new Division joins Divisions throughout the State of Ohio in the following areas: Akron, Cleveland, Columbus, Dayton, Toledo and Youngstown. Witnessing this important moment in Hibernian History in Ohio was the following State Officers; Vice President Nicki Parks Norris of Akron, Treasurer Mary Jo Rawlins of Cleveland, Mission and Charities Marie Rizzo of Akron, Catholic Action JoAnn Shirer of Cleveland and Past State President Maire Manning of Cleveland, Division President Patricia Lavelle represented the Our Lady of the Rosary Division of Cleveland. National Vice President Marilyn Madigan and National Fundraiser Maire Leffel also were present. I think this was the first time that all levels of the organization were present at the Installation of a new Division in the State of Ohio. A special thank you to Dan Hanson of Cleveland People and Amy Schulte of the Our Lady of the Rosary Division for taking fantastic photos of this occasions.



Congratulations to the new Officers of Division 11 Deirfiur of Charity
President Sarah O'Brien Dirk
Vice President Bridgit Waite
Secretary Debbie Arth
Treasurer Peggy Bennett
Financial Secretary Melissa Lewis
Irish Historian Colleen Laffey
Missions and Charities Kathleen Hatcher
Catholic Action Kathleen Banc
Mistress at Arms Helen Vura
Sentinel Linda Walsh

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State News– Ohio continued

In welcoming the new Division, the Our Lady of the Rosary Division gave the Division a statue of our Patron St. Brigid demonstrating the Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity between the Divisions in the Cleveland area as the Division was welcomed into a Sisterhood from Coast to Coast. The State also presented gifts to the new Division.

The Hibernians in the Cleveland area are a wonderful group of Brother and Sisters Hibernians demonstrated by the many members of both the AOH and LAOH that were present at this special occasion.

MICHIGAN

Our Divisions were thrilled to participate once again in the festivities surrounding the High Holy Days.

The **Rose Kennedy Division** held their Irish Heritage Day on March 6th. We opened with a Mass celebrated by Fr. Richard Leliaet. Following there was a presentation on Freedom for All Ireland by LAOH member Agnes Gowdy. The Irish Genealogy Society of Michigan and a History of the “Irish Little People” were among the presenters. Ardan Academy of Irish Dance and Ironwood Band provided entertainment. Attendees were introduced to the 2022 St. Brigid Scholarship winners as they were given the Daniel O’Connell Scholarship certificates. The making of Irish soda bread was explained by “The Irish Baker,” Charlie French himself, and enjoyed a sample. There was a display of the history of the LAOH in Michigan. The Rose Kennedy Division held their yearly basket raffle to support the Columban Fathers and Sisters. Many people gathered around the table taking chances on the large variety of baskets. This event was open to the public and well attended. It was grand way to start off the March celebrations.



Fr Richard at Mass



Charity basket raffle



St. Brigid Scholarship Recipients: Claire Moloney, Genevieve Rodgers and Abigail Howles

Story continued on next page



State News Continued– Michigan

The **Ethel Kennedy Division** of Macomb County, Michigan was founded in 1969 and is honored to have one of its founding members, Mary Ochab, still an active participant. Long time members include Agnes Gowdy, Mary Ann Bodendistal and State President, Stacey Blair. As we were contemplating how to celebrate our 50th anniversary as a division, life's "detours" got us "off course." Now in our 53rd year we celebrated our Irish Culture and our commitment to promoting it with a trip to the Fox Theater in Detroit to see the fabulous Celtic Women. We ended the evening with breaking bread at a local restaurant called the "Traffic Jam." Our wish for the future is that "the road will rise up to meet us!"



Ethel Kennedy members at Fox Theater

Maureen Moriarty-Root, President of the **McAuley Division** of Oakland County reports they have been very active in 2022. Most of last year we held Zoom meetings but now are once again meeting in person.

To honor those who suffered during the "An Gorta Mor", the "Great Hunger" we designate a food pantry each month and each member donates non-perishable food. We also choose a charity each month to donate needed items. MEP-Mercy Education Project is the April charity.

We held a fundraiser for the AOH Hall. This included serving pizza & salad while the Irish Music Cafe radio show hosted by Patrick Johnson was broadcasted. Over \$3000.00 was raised and donated to the AOH Hall's building fund.

Many of our members participated in the National Irish History Zoom on Irish Music & Feis Music with Fr. Ryan on 2-19-22.

The Grand Marshal brunch was held in February honoring our McAuley Division sister, Peggy Gray, as the Grand Marshal of the Detroit St. Patrick's Day Parade. Peggy and her late husband Gary, are the parents of five. She is known as GiGi to her 15 grandchildren. Peggy is a very active member of Detroit's Irish community. She is involved with many organizations and events including organizing the Parade Times, Catholic Action Chairperson for our Division and the State Board. She is active with Pro-Life movements in Michigan and oversees an Irish display at the local Library. Peggy also works with the Irish American Unity Conference and the Motor City Irish Festival as well as numerous other committees. She was recently honored at the Detroit Piston's Irish Heritage Night. We are so proud of Peggy who embodies the LAOH Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity motto in all she does. This year's Parade theme "Always Marching Forward in Honor of Our Irish Heritage" was penned by our McAuley member, Bridget Hanson.

Many of our members including our Grand Marshal, Peggy Gray participated in the ceremonial "Painting of the Shamrocks" on Friday March 11 by painting 3 large shamrocks on the road where the Parade begins and where the Irish Plaza is located. This event is followed by a luncheon at the Gaelic League and officially kicks off the Parade and St. Patrick's Day festivities.

On, Sunday, March 13th our Division marched together in the St Patrick's Day Parade. The parade is held in Detroit's oldest neighborhood, "Corktown" established by Irish immigrants came to Detroit fleeing oppression and starvation.

On March 23rd our Division held a "Baby Shower" for Project Guadalupe which aids economically disadvantaged Mothers and their babies. We all brought in cases of much needed diapers. We are having a movie day at the AOH Hall on Sunday, April 3rd.

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State News continued– Michigan

We will be showing the movie “Belfast”.

During our May meeting we will have a “May Crowning” of our Blessed Mother.

Other events include: hosting a “Paint & Pizza” event/fundraiser on May 14th, volunteering at the Motor City Irish Fest, the Detroit International Feis and attending the AOH/LAOH picnic, Our Lady of Knock Mass and the Detroit Tiger’s Irish Heritage Night.



Rose Kennedy member, Jennifer Laird, poses with “St. Patrick”

Peggy Gray - at Detroit Pistons Irish Heritage Day when she was brought on center court and announced the Grand Marshal of the St Patrick’s Day Parade, and leading off the parade on a snowy March 13th.



A cold snowy St. Patrick’s Day parade in Detroit

DENVER

This year has already been a busy one for the members of the LAOH Denver, Division 1. We have jumped into in-person meetings again with both feet! In January 2022 we held our Division Christmas Party and the Initiation of our new Board Members where we welcomed our new President - Mary Russell, Vice President - Nan Alonso, Treasurer - Sheila Thunboe, Recording Secretary - Cheryl Lavan and Financial Secretary - Kris Zwiezen.

February 27th, 2022, we were finally able to hold our 20th Anniversary Celebration for our Denver Division which was chartered in 2000. Our members were very excited to once again be able to see each other in person. Over 60 LAOH members, family, friends and spouses attended the celebration dinner. We were honored to have LAOH National Vice President, Marilyn Madigan travel all the way to Denver to represent the National LAOH, meet our members, share in our celebration and bring her special good cheer and humor to Denver.

Story continued on next page

State News continued– Denver

On March 5th we hosted an Embrace Your Heritage webinar, presented by James Walsh, Associate Professor, CU Denver whose expertise is in Labor and Immigration History/Politics; Social Movements in the U.S.; Irish American History; Community Theater; Community Organizing. He discussed the Leadville Irish Miners Memorial and the 1400 Irish who are buried there in unmarked graves. His research lead him to trace where those Irish immigrated from and how they made it from sea level to a Colorado town situated at over 10,200ft. The webinar is available for viewing on YouTube.

On March 12th we were back to marching in the Denver St. Patrick's Day Parade! What a fun day it was. Our members and their families and friends dressed in green to make the 1½ mile parade trek through downtown Denver. Our LAOH marchers waved to over 350,000 attendees as we happily walked by, glad to be out again with other like minded Denverites.



MASSACHUSETTS

Division 8 Lawrence, MA recently held their installation of officers with the AOH and Juniors of the Division on March 13, 2022 after a mass said by their Chaplain, Father John Delaney.



Left to right: Back row: Susan Fink, Immediate Past Division President, Division 8, Cathy Callahan, Division Catholic Action, Margaret O'Connor, Immediate Massachusetts Past State President, Helen Mathison, Division Historian, Middle Row: Carol Calderone, Division Vice President, Joyce Buckley, Division Financial Secretary, Kathleen Melvin, Division Mistress at Arms, Ellen Melvin Division Treasurer, Mary Ellen Pelletier, Past State President, Front Row: Nora Carroll Bevilaqua, Division Missions and Charities, Mary Bevilaqua, Junior Division Historian, Anne-Marie Nyhan-Doherty, President, Division 8 and PSP, Isabella Fiore, Division 8 Junior President, Jackie Lamprey, Past State President and Marie Pacheco, Division Secretary.

State News Continued

Rhode Island



Marie Magee FFAI committee LAOH Division 12 Providence RI
alongside donations bound for the Ukraine



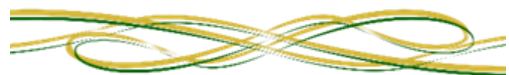
Past PA State LAOH President Colleen Bowers, LAOH
Allegheny County Catholic Action Officer Mary Ellen Myers and
Division 11 President Mary Rodgers Schubert lead division 11
down the parade route

PENNSYLVANIA

LAOH Division 11 Oakland Allegheny County: One of Division 11's newest members MacKenzie Ridge was crowned Miss Smiling Irish Eyes Queen 2022 Friday March 11th the day before the Pittsburgh St. Patrick's Day Parade. While in the early morning hours of parade day 7 inches of snow fell in the Pittsburgh that didn't stop the Irish of Pittsburgh from coming out marching and celebrating. After the parade Division 11 held its Annual after parade get together on Mt. Washington.



Past National LAOH President Peggy Cooney with division 11's
Erin Madigan McCormick and LAOH Allegheny County
Publicity officer Kalyn Populo



Story continued on next page

State News continued– Pennsylvania



Past National LAOH President Peggy Cooney with division 11 members, Miss Smiling Irish Eyes Queen MacKenize Ridge and her court at the Miss Smiling Irish Eyes crowning.



A crowd of more than 250 people gathered to listen to Irish Music and enjoy Irish Dance. Div. 21 members acted as hostesses.



Past National LAOH President Peggy Cooney, Past PA State LAOH President Colleen Bowers, LAOH Allegheny County Catholic Action Officer Mary Ellen Myers and Division 11 President Mary Rodgers Schubert, many division 11 members and Miss Smiling Irish Eyes Queen MacKenize Ridge and her court at the Miss Smiling Irish Eyes crowning.



Standing Left to right: Darlene Vietmeier, Mary Ann Raymer, Peggy Bond, Helen Rafferty, Eileen Sheridan, and Becky Ricci

Members of LAOH Division 21 helped host an afternoon of Irish music and dancing on March 20 at St. Winifred Church, with proceeds going to South Hills Catholic Academy. The division provided refreshments, including more than 100 scones made by member Peggy Bond, and hundreds of cookies. Members also donated items for Irish raffle baskets, which were assembled by member Helen Rafferty. The raffle raised about \$1,600 for the school. Singer Michael Gallagher and dancers from Shovlin Academy of Irish Dance entertained the crowd of more than 250 people.



Division 21 members gather for its annual St. Patrick's Day dinner meeting. Seated left to right: Annie McCann, Mary Ann Raymer, Eileen O'Malley, Jean O'Malley, Becky Ricci, Darlene Vietmeier, Kathleen Duggan, Kathy McCarty and Helen Rafferty

State News Continued

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Cathie Norton Doherty, National Veteran's and Military Affairs Appointee with PJ Higgitt, NYS District 1 Director and retired SGM, Bronze Star recipient, 42nd Infantry Division



The NYS LAOH Trinity Degree team exemplified degrees on April 23rd to new members of the Schenectady and Albany divisions.

NEW YORK

On April 24th, Jeannine Mannarino, LAOH NYS Veteran's and Military affairs appointee, held a Veteran's Symposium at the Hibernian Hall in Schenectady, NY. The speakers addressed military trauma, challenges, and resolutions. It was an informative afternoon, with our own National Veteran's and Military affairs appointee, Cathie Norton Doherty as the final speaker. Cathie is a retired Navy Veteran. Vendors were available to provide information and handouts to the attendees. Thank you to the Schenectady LAOH for hosting this event and to NYS President Aggie O'Leary for her support and attendance.



Left to right: Jeannine Mannarino, NYS Veteran's and Military Affairs Appointee, Cathie Norton Doherty, National Veteran's and Military Affairs Appointee

The **LAOH Kitty Geissler Division 11, Tarrytown, NY** enjoyed a very busy March starting with a hugely successful bake sale fundraiser where the many soda breads sold out in no time!

There was the annual Irish Heritage display at the Warner Library which included two glass cases. Featured in one case is memorabilia of the Division including medals, a sash, a ritual, a detailed history of the Division formation from 1907 and other artifacts. The second case exhibited popular Irish musical instruments and step dancing shoes along with a trophy that was awarded to Suzanne Koraca, daughter of Div. President Alice Koraca and granddaughter of Life Member Kitty Geissler.

State News Continued– New York

Members of Div. 11 were an impressive presence in the Sleepy Hollow St. Patrick's Parade held on March 13th as well as the NYC Parade on the 17th.



Yonkers

It was great to be back and march in the 67th Yonkers St. Patrick's Day Parade held on March 19, 2022. Yonkers recently came in ranked 9th out of 200 in the best largest cities St. Patrick's day parades and this year really proved it! It was a beautiful day to march the Emerald Mile on McLean Ave. Nancy Walsh, our current Recording Secretary, was honored as an Aide to the Grand Marshal. It was a glorious day to celebrate the Irish Catholic Community, the sidelines were electrifying!



Nancy Walsh, Recording Secretary, was honored as an Aide to the Grand Marshal

State News Continued– New York



Yonkers, Division President, Noreen Ryan, along with the sisters were greeting spectators with flying kisses and waves

LAOH representatives are in Ireland presenting the FFAI checks to our causes.



National Vice President Marilyn Madigan (left) presents the LAOH FFAI donation to Tyrone National Graves representatives



L.A.O.H. Spirit of St. Brigid Charity Project
at our LAOH National Convention, Pittsburgh PA, July 2022

This LAOH Charity project was started as a hands-on charity project that we may do together as a group of Hibernian sisters. We have done this project at every convention since the project was started in New Orleans in 2008.

This year we will be helping the two charities:

Center for Victims, which is a domestic violence shelter in Pittsburgh PA. &
The Red Door Kitchen at Divine Mercy Parish (2 blocks from convention hotel.)

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS & SPONSORS!!
This is a wonderful way of Living our Motto.

All volunteers and/or sponsors should return the attached form.

To be a volunteer please return the attached form.
Volunteers and Sponsors please join us in the Hotel Lobby on
Tuesday Morning, July 12, 2022, at 7:30am.
All volunteers will check-in at 7:30am, with the Project coordinator,
our LAOH Catholic Action Officer Peggy Cornish. We will then
assign volunteers to specific assignments among the two charities.

To be a sponsor of our LAOH Charity project please donate \$20.00 to sponsor the Project; A \$20.00
donation will sponsor a volunteer's T-Shirt and expenses for the Project. [if we collect enough
sponsorships then we will provide a shirt to the individual sponsors; please see form.]
A Sponsor form is attached and is due by May 30, 2022.

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We have also organized another way to participate for those wishing to be part of our LAOH Spirit of
St. Brigid Charity Project who will not be at the convention on Tuesday, our volunteer day. The Center
for Victims, which is a domestic violence shelter in Pittsburgh PA. is also requesting donations of
towels. We have set-up a link to order towels for the Center for Victims.

*Below, there is a link to Amazon. You can order items for the shelter so you do not have to carry them
in your luggage or if you wish you can bring them in person to the convention and we will collect them.*

The links to purchase items are:

www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2QD0VW6EG2R0?ref=wl_share
Or <https://pages.donately.com/centerforvictimsfundraiser/2022-spirit-of-st-brigid>

Any questions please contact LAOH National Catholic Action Officer Peggy Cornish at 626 367-1899.

*For additional info on our two charities please go to: www.centerforvictims.org
[Divine Mercy Parish - Pittsburgh, PA \(divinemercypgh.org\)](http://DivineMercyParish-Pittsburgh,PA(divinemercypgh.org))
LAOHNationalCA@gmail.com*