



*Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians*  
*Pennsylvania*

Friendship, Unity & Christian Charity



2022 Edition 2

*A Word from Maria, our President...*

Greeting Ladies,

As Lent comes to a close and we await the Resurrection of Our Savior, let us take some quiet time to reflect on trying to hear what Our Lord is saying to us.

Living our motto of Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity can sometimes be hard to do when situations around us make us wonder where the kindness is? Unfortunately, we face a situation that can bring out the uncaring, unpleasant, and unfeeling nature of something being proposed that I feel threatens what the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians has strived for in the past 125 years.

AOH National President, Danny O'Connell is proposing to do away with the "Men's Only" restriction on membership (which is being said will help their declining numbers), so they can recruit "younger members" oh and WOMEN. Yep, I said WOMEN. We are not talking about MERGING the AOH and LAOH, so do not get it confused. A committee is being formed and will hold meetings in the next few months to allow the State, County, and Division AOH Presidents to give opinions on the idea. This idea is being presented as "moving into the 21st Century," and let's not forget that the Elks, Moose, and Rotary club except women. Sorry to inform you, Mr. President, that the Elks, Moose, and Rotary clubs do not have established women's groups that have been around for 125 years. So I'm guessing If it is felt that this is something to give a "go ahead," then it will be voted on at the next National Convention in Pittsburgh this summer.

I am making you aware of this so you can contemplate what this will do to our organization since we know all of our divisions at this time are struggling for members. Just think about it and pray about it. It seems to me like a slap in the face, a sneaky role for an elected President to take against his own Hibernian sisters. There will be more to come so hold on to your hats, it's going to be a bumpy ride.

Hopefully, everyone was able to get the Membership and Treasurers reports completed without too much stress and effort. It can be difficult and demanding quite a bit of time. Financial and Recording Secretaries as well as Treasurers, I sincerely thank you for your dedication.

I am looking forward to seeing all the pictures Maura puts together from the many parade celebration around the State. Some marched in very, very cold weather and others got a bit of a break. We now look forward to Easter Celebrations and the Churches once again filled with people.

If we are not able to get another newsletter out before vacation time, please be safe and enjoy some much-deserved rest and relaxation.

I am always available if you have any questions or concerns. Feel free to reach out to my email address [meglao@gmail.com](mailto:meglao@gmail.com) or at 609-304-7929.

In Our Motto of Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,  
Maria  
Maria Gallagher  
PA State President

Don't forget to periodically check the our 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

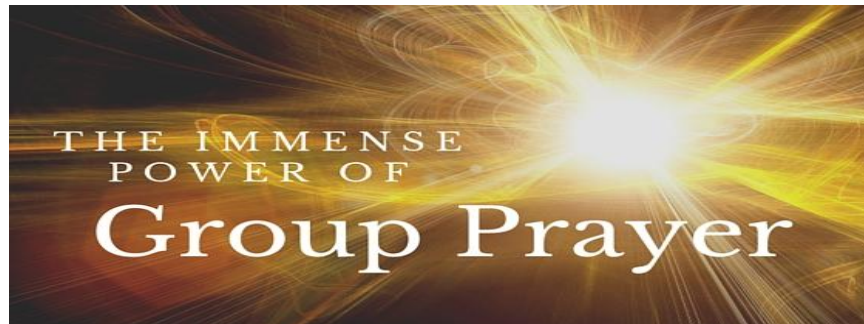
✦ Important Dates

✦ Fundraising from the State and Divisions

✦ State and National Convention details available!



Also check out our Facebook page at LAOH Pennsylvania State & Instagram page



The members of Bucks County Division 1~ MaryEllen Everett in Bristol welcomes you to join us every Tuesday at 8pm EST to say the Rosary via Zoom.

The Zoom link is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5420434510> and the Meeting ID: 542 043 4510. You can also join by phone: +19294362866,,5420434510#

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Brianna M. Curran ~ [Brianna.M.Curran@gmail.com](mailto:Brianna.M.Curran@gmail.com)



## *LAOH and our Military Connections*

### LAOH Veterans

If you or someone in your Division served in any branch of the US Armed Forces, please forward the following information to Maura Roszyk: [maurar9992@aol.com](mailto:maurar9992@aol.com).

Name, Division, County, Address, Phone number, Email, Branch, Rank, Years of Service, Dates of Service, and Combat Veteran? If yes, what war/conflict.



### LAOH Blue and Gold Star Mothers of America

To build yet another network of support for the proud Blue and Gold Star Mothers, the National Committee wishes for us to collect the names and information of those proud Moms.

We ask that all Division Presidents send in a list including name, phone, email, and name and service their children serve or have served. Please forward the listing to Maura Roszyk: [maurar9992@aol.com](mailto:maurar9992@aol.com).



## *Ladies Just a Reminder!*

If you send a Sister an email, **please do not assume that she has received it.**  
If you do not get a response, please follow up with a phone call or reach out to someone else in the Division. With so many more people utilizing technology, emails are not always received, go to junk, or are missed by the receiver. Thank you!

## *Congratulations*

### Division 25 ~ Brigid McCrory, Philadelphia County

On March 18th, our Historian Liz Kerr presented a check to Sister Kathleen of the Sisters of the Order of St. Basil the Great of \$1,000.00 to help the cause in Ukraine.

An international Order of Eastern Catholic women consecrated to God, the Sisters are located at 710 Fox Chase Road, Fox Chase Manor, PA 19046. The Order consists of provinces and delegatures around the world. This local branch of the Order consists of approximately 30 Sisters, many of whom have Ukrainian families and some are even from Ukraine.

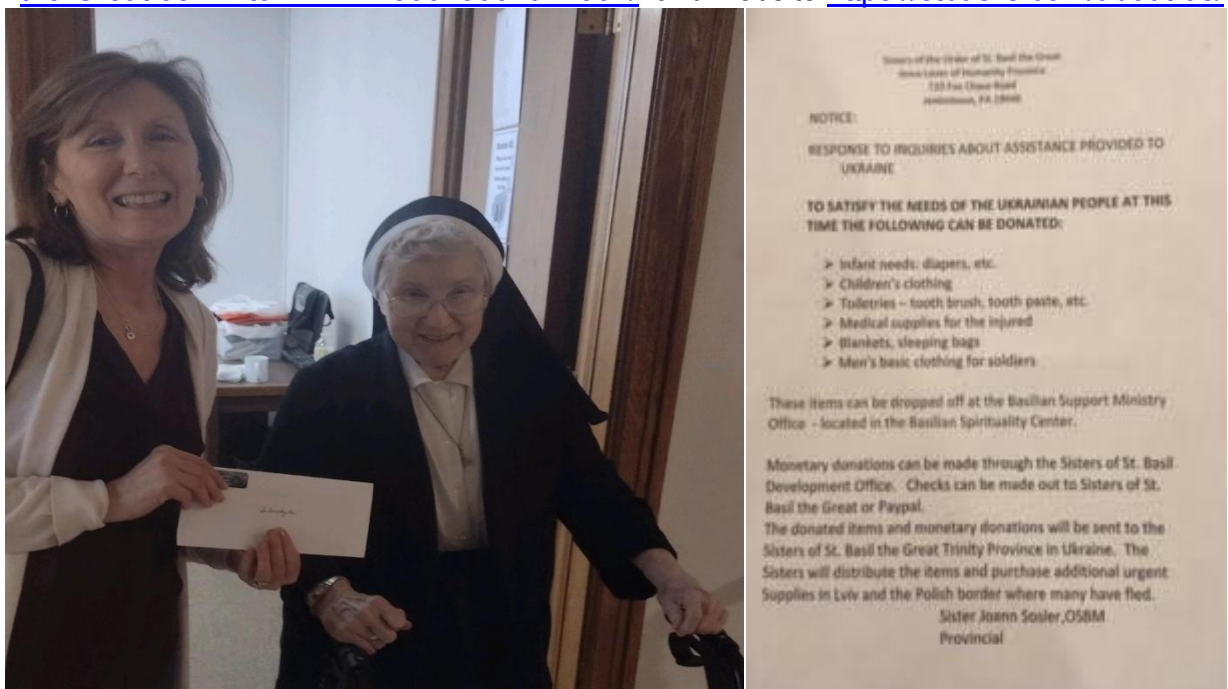
The Sisters accept donations of clothing, toiletries, and medical supplies; however, monetary assistance allows them to send help quicker to provide relief aid efforts for their Sisters staying in Ukraine, the Ukrainian soldiers, and civilians in Ukraine.

The Sisters in Lviv are not evacuating. Instead, they shuttle people to the Polish border and shelter some at their convent.

They shuttle people to the Polish border and shelter some at their convent.

Below is a list that Sister Dorothy Ann Busowski, Provincial Superior, provided Liz of items they are accepting.

The Sisters Facebook page is <https://www.facebook.com/Sisters-of-the-Order-of-St-Basil-the-Great-Jenkintown-PA-280623061977867/> and website <https://stbasils.com/about-us/>.





# Congratulations

**Due to Jeanne Hermley of Division 39 and Liz Sees of Division 17  
in earning membership into the Ring of Honor of the  
Philadelphia St. Patrick's Day Parade.**

**The St. Patrick's Ring of Honor is to recognize people who have given exemplary  
service in and to the Irish Community of the Philadelphia Tri-State Area. Honorees  
should be persons who have Irish background or who have made a profound  
impact in the Irish Community or the Parade.**



We are so proud of our former State President, Colleen Bowers, as she continues her devoted, powerful, and significant campaign for her daughter Melissa, raising awareness for in fight against Domestic Violence. Check out her newest update!

So excited the article about my “You Are Not Alone” campaign back in October for Domestic Violence Awareness was sent to All Amazonian’s through their internal notifications.

Well I was contacted by Amazon Corporate Global Securities Team concerning getting approval to use this article in a new internal Domestic Violence Training to all of their LPM managers. Once that is done the will be including this article for Domestic z violence Awareness training modules for all leadership in Amazon. Yes this is around the world my article will be in all these training modules. I can’t wait! This is an honor of Amazon recognizing Domestic Violence is a major issue in todays world more than yesterday.

I am still busy working on this issue with The Ancient Order of Hibernians to grow in taking the Pledge to speak up about Domestic Violence. It could all start here! All victims remember ‘You Are Not Alone’!



"It's a club you never want to be a part of," said Colleen Bowers, an IT equipment coordinator at PIT5 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Colleen's 35-year-old daughter, Melissa Bowers, was murdered on February 8, 2012, by a former partner.

Since then, Colleen has honored Melissa's legacy by raising awareness and advocating for other victims of domestic violence.

"If one person hears my voice, maybe it will give someone the strength" to come forward with their own story, Colleen said. One in four women and one in nine men have experienced violence by a close partner, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Melissa left behind two children, Brittany and Brendan, who were her "heart and soul," said Colleen, who helped raise them after her daughter's death. Like her grandmother, Brittany also proudly works for Amazon.

Colleen said her daughter was studying to become a nurse at the time of her death. "She loved people," Colleen said.

As the 10-year anniversary of Melissa's death nears, Colleen's goal is to strengthen domestic violence laws in Pennsylvania and beyond. "I've been relentless," said Colleen, who is working with local lawmakers on several resolutions.

Colleen also asked site leaders at PIT5 to support her domestic violence awareness initiatives, and they responded. Last year, Amazon donated in Melissa's name to the Center for Victims. The nonprofit organization is a powerful resource for victims and families of traumatic crimes, which provides counseling services and shelters.

When asked if she had any advice for those who may be experiencing domestic violence, she said the most important thing is to not be afraid to tell someone. "Try not to hold something in when you know it isn't right," said Colleen. "There's a bigger community out there than people know."

By continuing to share Melissa's story, Colleen hopes that it will help other domestic violence victims feel comfortable coming forward.

"If you make that step, there is support out there," Colleen said. "You are not alone."

~Let your Good Deeds be like rain, Drop a little everywhere! ~



# Congratulations

## **LAOH Division 23 Allegheny County**

Although it was a snowy and blustery day, these Ladies marched with pride in the Pittsburgh St Patrick's Day parade!

They did such an outstanding job that they were rewarded with the Mary Long Award for Best Irish Marching Women's. Job well done Ladies!



## *Mary Long Award*



Best Irish Marching Women

**LAOH Division 23**



## **LAOH Division 3 Marie Drumm, Montgomery County**

After three canceled parades, we finally marched at the Conshohocken St. Patrick's Day Parade.

It was much fun and we won the award for Best LAOH Presentation!



# 2022 National Convention Update



## LAOH-LAOH NATIONAL CONVENTION PITTSBURGH 2022

### *Degree Information*



*Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc.  
National Board  
Established 1894*

*Office of the National Vice President  
Marilyn Madigan*

March 4, 2022

Sisters,

This is an exciting time for our Order assembling at the first National Convention since the Covid Pandemic. I know that many of our members are interested in receiving the Degrees of our Order at this upcoming Convention. 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.

From the National Constitution: "DEGREES Section 4. **The Degrees of our Order are an essential part of being a member of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, 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. Every member wishing to advance in the leadership of this Order, as well as every member wishing for a deeper understanding of the Order, is encouraged to take the Degrees as soon as possible after initiation, or as soon as made available. The importance of the Degrees cannot be put into words and must be experienced by each member to be fully understood."

I would encourage our members to receive their Degrees. For those who have already received their Degrees, please observe the Ceremony to support your Sisters as well as recommit to this essential part of our Order.

Any questions, please contact the Claddagh Degree Peggy Cooney, Director at 412.921.6348 - email at [peggy.cooney@ymail](mailto:peggy.cooney@ymail) or Patti Flaus, Guardian at 412.427.4728 - email at [pfpalaoh@gmail.com](mailto:pfpalaoh@gmail.com)

Yours in Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity

*Marilyn Madigan*

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

216-470-3773

### *Registration Form on next page*

Check out all the website ~ <https://www.2022pittsburghconvention.com/>

Registration (package prices) and Accommodations can also be found at

the LAOH State website ~ [statepalaoh.com](http://statepalaoh.com) or

<https://ladiesaoh.com/2022aohlaohconvention/>

Follow the convention on Facebook @irishconventionpgh22 to keep up to date on the goings on and keep watching for our merchandise.



**2022 REGISTRATION  
NATIONAL CONVENTION  
LAOH DEGREE EXEMPLIFICATION**

The Degrees of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc. will be exemplified at the Wyndham Grand-Hotel, July 16, 2022 at 9:00 a.m., Pittsburgh, PA.

The Degrees will be conferred by the Allegheny County Claddagh Degree Team.  
Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m.

This will be an excellent opportunity for members to receive their Degrees, and if you have already received your Degrees it is an opportunity to observe this beautiful ceremony.

**Fees:**

Candidates wishing to receive Degrees - \$25.00 per candidate

Observers wishing to observe Degrees (must have previously received their Degree) - \$10.00 per observer

If you have any questions, please contact, Peggy Cooney, Director at 412.921.6348 - email at [peggy.cooney@ymail.com](mailto:peggy.cooney@ymail.com) or Patti Flaus, Guardian at 412.427.4728 - email at [pfpalaoh@gmail.com](mailto:pfpalaoh@gmail.com)

**PLEASE PROVIDE REGISTRATION INFORMATION BELOW**

**CANDIDATE NAME:**

(As it appears in LAOH Member records)

Address:

City, State, Zip Code:

Division #, County, State:

Initiation Date:

**OBSERVER NAME:**

Date Degree Received/Name of Degree Team:

Degrees Received at (Convention/Other):

**MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO:**

Allegheny County Claddagh Degree Team

**MAIL ALL DEGREE REGISTRATION FORMS AND CHECKS TO:**

Karen Brodrick  
1516 Mobile Avenue  
Turtle Creek, PA  
15145-1736

**DEADLINE TO REGISTER is July 1, 2022**  
**(Please complete a separate form for each Candidate/Observer)**



**Just a reminder:**

The National Convention is fast approaching **register and book your rooms** by visiting <https://www.2022pittsburghconvention.com> the room rate is \$129 at night.

**Full package is \$210 before June 1<sup>st</sup>, after June 1<sup>st</sup> a full package will be \$230.**

A full breakdown is on the Convention and Facebook page.

Like and follow the Convention on Facebook AOH LAOH National Convention PGH 2022

@irishconventionpgh22

**Our Convention Merchandise is up!**

Feel free to order early, directly from our website ~ we have golf and tee shirts, Convention glasses and canisters, and even a Convention folding chair!

All orders will be picked up at the convention in Pittsburgh!

**Are you interested in taking out an ad in our souvenir book?**

See the form on the next page or on the website on the

website. [https://www.2022pittsburghconvention.com/files/ugd/fd7919\\_ba1ba77f12ee47cea779ec5879ed3694.pdf](https://www.2022pittsburghconvention.com/files/ugd/fd7919_ba1ba77f12ee47cea779ec5879ed3694.pdf)



***Happy Easter & Looking forward  
to seeing you in July ~ National Convention Committee***

**Pittsburgh Fast Facts:**

- ✓ Pittsburgh is dubbed the “City of Bridges” and rightfully so. It has 446 bridges, more than any other city in the world, including Venice, Italy.
- ✓ The Burgh should also be called the “City of Steps.” There are more than 700 sets of public stairs within the city limits.
- ✓ BINGO! The very first Bingo game was played in Pittsburgh in the 1920s and quickly become a nationwide phenomenon.
- ✓ Pittsburgh is the only city in America that all of its sports teams wear the same colors ~ black & gold!

# AOH/LAOH NATIONAL CONVENTION

July 13–16, 2022 | Wyndham Grand Hotel, Pittsburgh, PA

If you would like to purchase an ad in the Souvenir Journal for the AOH/LAOH 2022 National Convention, please complete the form below and send with your payment no later than **June 15, 2022**.

## ONE FORM PER AD PLACEMENT, PLEASE

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### AVAILABLE AD UNITS (choose one):

- ☐ Inside Front Cover – \$500 (4.5w x 7.25h)
- ☒ ~~Inside Back Cover – \$400 (4.5w x 7.25h)~~ **SOLD**
- ☐ Full Page Color Ad – \$250 (5w x 7.25h)
- ☐ Full Page B/W Ad – \$150 (5w x 7.25h)
- ☐ Half Page Ad – \$100 (4.5w x 3.5h)

Ad should be submitted as CMYK color or black and white, camera-ready or scannable art, no bleed. If emailing art, send a high-resolution (300 dpi) PDF with fonts converted to paths. There will be an additional \$10 charge if artwork is not sent to specifications. Do not staple artwork to this form.

**CHECKS SHOULD BE MADE OUT TO:** AOH/LAOH National Convention Ad Book

### IF SUBMITTING ARTWORK BY MAIL, SEND WITH THIS FORM AND PAYMENT TO:

AOH/LAOH National Convention 2022 Journal Ad, P.O. Box 788, Carnegie, PA 15106

**ARTWORK MAY ALSO BE SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY TO:** aohlaohFPA@gmail.com

**PAYMENT MUST ACCOMPANY THIS FORM, REGARDLESS OF HOW ART IS SENT.  
FORMS RECEIVED WITHOUT PAYMENT WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**





# *The return of Irish Potato Season!*

**Throughout the Commonwealth Ladies rolled up their sleeves and took to some rolling!**

## **Division 87~ Our Lady of Knock, Philadelphia**



## **Division 1 ~ Bristol, Bucks**



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







### ***Division 25 ~ Philadelphia***



### ***Irish Potato Candy***

***Did you know that Irish Potato Candy does not come from Ireland, but from Pennsylvania!  
And they do not contain Potatoes, and they got their name because they look like potatoes!***

Do you have a fresh and fun idea for the Newsletter?  
Please reach out.  
We are all members of the PA State Newsletter team!



# News & Photos from Around the Commonwealth

We ask that all Counties & Divisions submit their  
Good News and Photos to share with each other

## Allegheny County

Follow LAOH Allegheny Co. on Facebook page: @laohalleghenycom

Our high holiday season was filled with many wonderful events including marching in the St Patrick's Day Parade!

Special **Congratulations** to our Division Sister McKenzie Ridge as Miss Smiling Irish Eyes and her Court. Including a shout out to Erin Burkhart who has been with the LAOH since she was a member of Division 23 Juniors.



## Philadelphia County

### Volley for Life on May 7th at Lawncrest Rec.


In April, we had a guest bartending gig at Curley's Pub benefiting the Volley for Life volleyball tournament.

All monies donated to Fox Chase Cancer Center's Mobile Mammography Unit in memory of JoAnne McGill Duffy, LAOH Division CD '71.

If you can make a donation, buy a chance, or be a sponsor, you can venmo Tricia McCoy McCool @tricia-mccool5

Chances are \$100 to win \$5,000, \$3,000 or \$2,000.

Only about 80 chances left so get them now!

N2 0001	Name: _____	L.A.O.H. DIV 23		Volley for Life In Memory of JoAnne Duffy	FUNDRAISER BENEFITTING The Mobile Mammography Unit @ Fox Chase Cancer Center \$100.00 per ticket 1st Prize: \$5,000 2nd Prize: \$3,000 3rd Prize: \$2,000 Winning Tickets will be drawn at The "FINAL Volley for Life Tournament" May 7, 2022 Need not be present to win Only 225 Tickets will be sold	N2 0001
	Address: _____					
	Phone: _____					



## Lackawanna County



*County Board President  
Dot Crowley  
had the honor of participating  
in the 2022 raising of the Irish  
Flag at the Lackawanna  
County Court House in  
Scranton on March 7th.*



## ***Division #4 ~ Maud Gonne ~ Lackawanna County Celebrating 25 years***

We attended the annual Irish flag raising at the Lackawanna County Court House, Scranton Pa on March 5, 2022 along with Ladies from the Lackawanna County Board.



Front row left to right: : Division 4 President Nancy McAndrew Yavoroski, Division 4 Historian Mary Kate Werner, Division 4 Vice President Mary Anne McAndrew, Division 4 Member Nancy Butler, Lackawanna County LAOH President Dot Crowley, Lackawanna County Historian Kate Schneider, Lackawanna County Chaplain Sister Kathleen Smith  
Back row: Lackawanna County Mistress of Arms Patty Jones, Lackawanna County Secretary Alice McDermott, Mary Kay Sears



We did a March collection of  
non-perishable food and  
monetary donations for  
Catholic Charities of  
Carbondale Pa



One of our charter members, Patsy Joyce passed away in February.

Patsy lived in the Beechview neighborhood of Pittsburgh her entire 101 years, 10 months, and 3 weeks!!

(She would have turned 102 on March 21).

She will be dearly missed by her friends in the Irish community, especially the AOH/LAOH, the Gaelic Arts, the All-Ireland Social Club, friends of Echoes of Erin, the Parade Committee, and all who had the pleasure of her acquaintance.



Along with the Ladies of the Lackawanna County Board, we celebrated Mass together at the Cathedral of St Peter prior to marching in the 60th Saint Patrick's Day Parade in Scranton.



Left to Right 1st row; Jean Hannon , Genette Rotherforth , Mary Anne McAndrew, Division President Nancy McAndrew Yavoroski ,2nd row; Nancy Butler MaryKate Werner , Chrissy Lavelle , Sara McCormack , Micky Gillott , 3rd row; County Board President Dorothea Crowley , Kathleen Schneider , Karen Savage and Patty Jones.



### **Division #61 ~ St. Katharine Drexel ~ Philadelphia**

*We had a fabulous time marching once again!*







## **Division #2 ~ Notre Dame ~ Montgomery County**

We gathered to honor St. Brigid at St. Patrick Church.



We may have been in the basement Church, but it did not dampen our enthusiasm. Father Gus gave a poignant homily, and the Choir sang beautifully! Irish Thunder led our procession, and our Division color guard carried our Flags. We were joined by two of our newest members, who were in uniform for the first time. This Mass was a wonderful tribute to our patron Saint on this clear and cold winter morning! We pray for fundraising to repair the ceiling in the upstairs magnificent Church!



Parading once again!





## **Division # 1 ~ Molly Maguires ~ Carbon County**



We had a special celebration at church and at the Old Jail Museum for St. Patrick's Day, thank you to Father Minner !



And then, off to a meal together!



## **Division # 3 ~ Lackawanna County**

We had a great time at our St. Patrick's Day Luncheon!







### ***Division #2 ~ St. Columbkille ~ Boyertown ~ Berks County***

We recently devoted the entire month of March to our Irish Roots.

We had a meet and greet, Scone and Potato Sale, Duffy's Cut presentation, and on the last weekend in March, we showed the movie "Belfast" to our parishioners and their

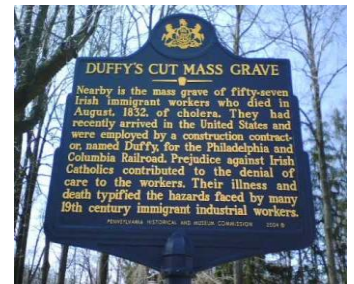


friends and family who wanted to attend. It has been a very busy month of March for us to say the least!!!

The Duffy's Cut Project is the un-earding and identifying of 57 Irish railroad workers who came to the Malvern area from Tyrone, Derry, and Donegal to help build a mile of the then PA Columbia railroad line, known as the Main Line, in 1832.

Within six weeks, all 55 men and two women were dead. Several died of cholera, but most were brutally murdered by a vigilante anti-Catholic, anti-Irish group and buried in a mass grave.

The files were kept hidden until 2004, when a history professor from Immaculata University, William Watson, and his brother Frank took the files that he received from his grandfather, who was the secretary to the President of the railroad at that time when the massacre happened. Two victims were identified from their dental records and DNA. Both bodies showed signs of being murdered brutally, and their remains have been sent back to Ireland for proper burial - John Ruddy, age 18, and Catherine Burn, a widow about 30 yrs old. The Duffy Cut Project is considered the one of the most important Irish anthropological project in the United States, yet lack of funding has slowed the further identification process.



### ***Division #11 ~ Oakland ~ Pittsburgh***

We were thrilled to be once again able to participate in many of the Pittsburgh areas St. Patrick's Day celebrations. We were well represented at the parade fundraiser, the Annual Button party, AOH St. Patrick's Day Communion Breakfast, the Miss Smiling Irish Eyes luncheon, and of course, marching in the Pittsburgh Parade on March 12!





*After the parade, we hosted a party at a local social club. It was a very festive event with wonderful food and music. Division 11 appreciated all those who attended and made the party a great success. Several Division 11 sisters are assisting with planning and organizing of the National Convention to be held in our home city this July. Division 11 looks forward to welcoming our fellow brother and sister Hibernians to our great city. Hope to see you!*







## **Division # 87~ Our Lady of Knock ~ Philadelphia County**

Was it not wonderful to get bak to Parading!



It took almost 3 years of hard work for the AOH Division 87 to open the new clubhouse, but the pandemic, inspections, and liquor license wait may have delayed things, but it was all worth it.

The Ladies enjoyed our first meeting last Tuesday there, and it might take a little time, but soon it will start to feel like home.

We are planning some fundraisers~ including celebrity bartending and happy hours, to raise funds for our charities. Yesterday, we delivered 20 Easter baskets and two shopping bags of extra candy and gift cards to the Providence House for domestic abuse outreach center families. In addition, our Division does Thanksgiving and Easter to assist those in need.

Outside the Division, many of the ladies work at St Francis Inn a shelter for the homeless, donate to food pantries, and make and serve soup for those in need. Happy Easter to all, and may God hear our prayers for an end to the suffering in the Ukraine.







### **Division #1 ~ Mary Ellen Everett ~ Bristol**

*We had a most exciting and successful Potato Rolling season!*

*In 2021, we decided it was best not to make them. As a result, in 2022, the Potato Candy flew out of our fridge and off the local businesses' shelves! Our first batch of 260+ lbs was claimed in less than a week. And as a result, we made a second batch for a total of 551lbs!*

*We had 11 local businesses assisting in promoting and selling our Irish Potatoes! We could not be happier with how successful the fundraiser was, plus we are incredibly grateful to our local business and our community for supporting us! A lot of love and hard work went into making our potatoes. We will have these wonderful memories for the rest of our lives, plus the profits will benefit our Annual Giving for 2022!*



We celebrated our annual Hoolie with their AOH Brothers on Saturday, March 12th at the A.O.H. Clubhouse on 614 Corson Street, Bristol. Unfortunately, the Bucks County St. Patrick's Day Parade was cancelled for inclement weather, but everyone still came out in the snow to have a great time at the club! During the Hoolie, there were two live bands- Birmingham Six and the Broken Shillelaghs, the Fitzpatrick Irish Dancers, complimentary food-ham, cabbage, potatoes, raffles for a Wheelbarrow of Cheer and a Guinness Bike, our Homemade Irish Potatoes, and lots of fun!

We had a wonderful time with family, old friends, and making new friends too! It is one of our division's favorite events of the year!



Lastly, we are so excited about our new Junior Division we are trying out! We discussed ten fun facts about Ireland and Holy Thursday, breaking the bread, and washing the disciples' feet at our last meeting. Then we did some fun coloring sheets and then got right to work.



The girls made 41 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, all of which we dropped off to be distributed to the local homeless encampments. Along with each sandwich was an apple or orange. The girls were very proud of their newfound sandwich-making skills and helping those in need.



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

*On March 19<sup>th</sup> we proudly marched in Schuylkill Haven (Schuylkill County), Pennsylvania, first St. Patrick's Day Parade. We had a grand day!*



*From left to right: Lydia Laughlin, Carole Cooney-Syzdek, Mary Ann Lubinsky, Kathy Benyak. On Thursday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, we resumed in-person monthly meetings. Discussion will continue to conduct a Paint and Sip during summer, 2022. Please watch Facebook for details and we welcome your participation.*





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

So thrilled to be back rolling Irish Potatoes! Did you check out our pictures!

On April 9<sup>th</sup>, we hosted our Division Mass and Memorial Dedication for deceased members.

Thanks to all Sisters who attended, brought desserts, volunteered to help throughout. It was a beautiful day!



Congratulations to Mary Ellen Duffy for winning the title of Irish Soda Bread Winner 2022!

And of course, we were so thrilled to be back marching at the Philadelphia St. Patrick's Day Parade





### ***Division #23 ~ Allegheny County***

So thrilled to be back parading, and then we won The Mary Long Award(Best Marching Irish Women)!  
at the Pittsburgh St. Patrick's Day Parade







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

Like many of you, our Division was most excited to celebrate finally, St. Patrick's Day season. Our Division has a few former Queens of the Allentown St. Patrick's Parade and now one of the Queens is the President of the Allentown Parade, so of course we were out and about for all of the events.



*Some of the Ladies  
at the Coronation Ball.*



*On Saturday, we hosted a craft table  
at the Community Culture Day.*



*Some of the Ladies were able to attend the Mass  
at Immaculate Conception Church before the  
parade.*

Once again this year, we celebrated Easter with the families in residence at the Cay Galgon Life House. We enjoyed a pizza dinner, then egg dying and rolling in whip cream and food coloring dye!





# *News & Updates from the State Board*

*Chaplain ~ Sister Lisa Breslin SSJ.*

By the time you read this, dear sister Hibernians, Easter might be over. The feasting complete and time to put away the bunny and egg decorations. Nevertheless, what is Easter really about? What does it mean for each of us and those we love that Jesus rose from the dead?

*A Sister of Saint Joseph, Sister Rita Woehlcke, wrote the following:*

*I do not think of Resurrection as a reward for suffering. On the contrary, the inevitable outcome of love withholds nothing. A love that refuses to be self-absorbed, a love that trusts that conventional wisdom is not the font of wisdom, and may indeed be folly, a love that stays true to the experience of a loving God when all else would contradict that.*

For me, too, Resurrection is about love. For me, Resurrection is about Hope. Not the false Hope that resembles wishing, but the real virtue of Hope that requires us to trust in our Loving God, to trust in Jesus who triumphed over death and redeems all suffering. Trust that good does come from all death and suffering in everyday life even when we do not see it or feel it. Keep this knowledge in your heart and be Resurrection people, faithful and hopeful.

In our motto,  
Sister Lisa Breslin, SSJ



*Vice President ~ Kathleen Diulus*

Happy Spring!

Hope everyone is as happy as I am with the change of the season. Pleased to share that our Commonwealth has two degree teams and the Allegheny County Claddagh Degree team is busy preparing for the 2022 National Convention. If you have not received your degree, please consider signing up for the Degree Ceremony on Saturday morning during the Convention. The Degree ceremony is based on the three degrees of happiness in the olden Celtic days, referred to as the Land of the Ever Living, the Land of the Ever Youthful and the Plains or Dwelling Places of Sweetness of Happiness. It is a great way to strengthen your commitment to the Order. Also, Degrees are encouraged for officers on all levels of the Order.

If you have any questions, please reach out to me.

Something new to share is that Bristol 1(Bucks County) is gauging interest in establishing a Junior Division in the area. Currently, PA has one Junior Division in Allegheny County. The Juniors are open to young ladies from 6 to 18 years of age who would like to learn more about their Irish heritage and be involved in community works. Your child/grandchild, etc. could be involved in the Juniors without you changing Divisions.

*Irish Historian ~ Carole Cooney Syzdek*

First and foremost, may you and your families have a Blessed and Happy Easter!

On February 12th, I submitted our Irish History Essays for the 2021-2022 Contest, which were received from Division Irish Historians to Mary T. Leathem, National Historian.

The topic was, "On the 40th Anniversary of the Irish Hunger Strike 1981: What was the Impact on Irish History?" Thank you Pennsylvania Judges, Sara Benz and her sister, Maureen, Sarah McAuliffe, Stacie Guerin, and Mary Hogan for their time and talent.

Unfortunately, we did not have any National winners this year, but we are so proud of all of the students that participated.

## *Missions & Charities ~ Sister Kathleen Smith RSM.*

Sister Kathleen is away on a Mission trip.  
We offer up prayers that the trip is successful in every way.  
Looking forward to her return!



## *Catholic Action ~ Brianna Curran*

Ladies,

Thank you for your dedication and passion for helping those in need. For 2021, we finished the year strong in fundraising! We donated a total of \$1000.00 to Support Our Aging Religious. We were second in fundraising for SOAR! For Project Saint Patrick, we raised \$1,896.00. We were third in fundraising for PSP!

For our 1468 Pennsylvania members, we averaged \$1.97 per member, which places us at 17th out of 31 states.

In the First Quarter of 2022, we have raised \$100.00 for SOAR, \$233.00 for PSP, and \$725.00 for Ukraine. Great job, Ladies!! I would also like to let you know that the PA State Board has approved a donation of \$200.00 to Ukraine. In comparison, for the First Quarter of 2021, we raised \$75.00 for SOAR and \$306 for PSP. And in the First Quarter of 2020, we raised \$163.00 for SOAR and \$328 for PSP. Plus, I have been notified that more donations are on their way!

In 2021, I sent an email asking our Catholic Action Officers if they had any recommendations on how they fundraise for SOAR and PJP. Many of our officers advised their Division does not have an annual fundraiser for SOAR or PSP. However, we did have several great suggestions. Here are a few that I wanted to share with the group:

- Raffle Basket and sell tickets at 3-6 membership meetings, then select a winner
- Dinner at their Hall where a portion of the proceeds would benefit SOAR and PSP
- Sold handmade decorative Celtic Crosses
- Sold Zeps: A sandwich that originated in the Norristown area composed of salami, provolone, tomato, onion, and oregano on a round pan roll. Kind of like a hoagie without lettuce, but the roll is round.
- Sold Dip Mixes. They are made by a local company who are friends with one of our members. They come in different flavors, such as southwest jalapeno, cucumber dill, and some blends that can be used with fruit. The mixing instructions come on the label. They sell them for \$5 per pack. They're dehydrated spices just like you would buy in a store, and they have about a dozen or more flavors.
- Offering a 50/50 at every meeting. 50% goes to the winner, and 50% goes toward annual donation
- And here is a list of 100+ fundraisers ranging in creativity: <https://funds2orgs.com/unique-fundraising-ideas-guide/>

Please let me know if you have a recommendation that I can share with the group. If you email me and do not receive a response from me within 48 hours, please feel free to call or text me. Sometimes I have emails that go to spam, and I forget to check.

If you need my home address, please email me at [Brianna.M.Curran@gmail.com](mailto:Brianna.M.Curran@gmail.com). Please reach out if you have any questions or need a sounding board. I am here to help and listen.

Hope you have a lovely week and a wonderful Easter!

Brianna M. Curran

Cell: (267) 229-7034 ~ Email: [Brianna.M.Curran@gmail.com](mailto:Brianna.M.Curran@gmail.com)



### *Past Presidents*

**We here in the Commonwealth are so genuinely blessed to have so many active Past Presidents, so we reserve this section of the Newsletter for them to add some of their knowledge, wisdom, and inspiration.**

**Ellen McCrane** – Hopefully, all of my sisters across the commonwealth have remained safe and warm during this crazy winter. I am still mentoring my Division (#61 Philadelphia) and Bucks County Division #5. Recently I ran a very successful basket fundraiser for my Division that raised a lot of money for our scholarship program, The Maureen T. Lavin scholarship program. We award grants every year to worthy 8th-grade students attending Catholic High School in the fall.

### *Catching up with other Committees: Freedom for All Ireland ~ Kathleen Varady*

Just a reminder as we live in a political climate, The LAOH is a 501 (C) 3 and the IRS watches our activities closely. The LAOH members cannot write letters to our Representatives on our letterhead, mention in the letter they are a member of the LAOH or sign the letter as being a LAOH member. Our members are welcome to send letters to their Representatives expressing their concerns as an Irish American citizen. Encourage them to keep supporting the Good Friday Agreement and let Prime Minister Boris Johnson know that America does not support the UK leaving the EU without a deal or without the "backstop". If Mr. Johnson leaves the EU without a deal it could mean chaos in Ireland and could very well mean a hard border between N. and S. Ireland.

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

*Greetings, Publicity Ladies!*

I recently read an article that publicity/communications must expand to increase and maintain membership. So, keeping that in mind and consciously aware not to step on the toes of the Historians ~ I have begun to post Facebook posts on our state page that pertains to important upcoming events that are touched in Irishness.

Within my Division, I have watched Ladies' families adopt old traditions into their families, brag to the AOH husband's their new Irish words or knowledge, and see the excitement about the knowledge from their motherland. The excited direct messaging that I have received has been positive with the few events that I have posted about, and with the blessing of the State Board, I plan to expand this. So please send me ideas, feel free to post yourself, and feel free to use the posts on your social media, Newsletter, or at your meetings.

In other housekeeping issues, I ask that all Divisions forward me a copy of your Newsletters. I hope to be able to better post our Good News and Activities to the Lady Hibernian; please forward pictures too. Also, our very own Brianna Curran serves as the National Webmaster, so check out the National website; she has done an incredible job. Please feel free to send your Newsletter to her to add it to the Pennsylvania page; here is the page for the Newsletters:

<https://ladiesaoh.com/laoh-newsletters/>

As always, feel free to reach out with any suggestions or questions. If you email me and do not receive a response from me within 48 hours, please feel free to call or text me.

Sometimes I have emails that go to spam.

Happy Spring!

Maura

610-509-0444 ~ maurar1117@msn.com



## *Degree Team Information*

### **ALLEGHENY COUNTY CLADDAGH DEGREE TEAM**

Busy, Busy, Busy... the Degree Team is busy preparing for the Degree Ceremony at the National Convention. Be sure to visit the website, the link and more details are on page 6 and 7 of this Newsletter.



### **PHILADELPHIA COUNTY TARA DEGREE TEAM**

**The Philadelphia Tara Degree Team is looking for members to join our Team!**

**Q:** I would like to join the Tara Degree Team but I am a degreed member in good standing that belongs to a division in Montgomery County. Can I join?

**A: YES, YOU CAN!** This question was asked by the Tara Degree Team Director to our National Vice-President and it was confirmed that although the team is sponsored by Philadelphia County, any degreed member in the state can join the team.

What is the Tara Degree Team? Actually, it is two parts.

1. You are the first part.
  - a. Each member should be degreed - this is a beautiful ceremony taking about one hour to complete.
  - b. It is a secret celebration of ancient Ireland. And because it is a secret ceremony – sorry, no details are available in this newsletter.
  - c. The degree is a ceremony acknowledging our heritage and showcases our motto of Friendship, Unity & Christian Charity.
  - d. All members are encouraged to become degreed; however, if you want to become an officer in your division, you should definitely be degreed or make plans to be degreed as soon as possible.
2. The second part concerns the history of the team. The state of Pennsylvania has two Degree Teams – the TARA Degree team sponsored by Philadelphia County and the CLADDAGH Degree team sponsored by Allegheny County. What type of commitment is needed to join the TARA degree team?
  - a. The team tries to meet quarterly for general membership meetings. When a date to exemplify a degree is determined, the Director of the Degree Team will set up practices in the two months preceding the degree date.
  - b. We have had LAOH sisters come from Maryland, New Jersey, Delaware and New York to be degreed by our team. We performed the degree ceremony at the National Convention in Atlantic City in 2016 and most recently at the Pennsylvania State Convention in Philadelphia in 2021.
  - c. Our meetings are generally held at the AOH Division #39 hall in Philadelphia. We have had the privilege of conferring most degrees at Roman Catholic High School, Broad and Vine Streets in Philadelphia.
  - d. After you receive your degree, you are welcome to attend any future degree ceremony as an observer – where you can really appreciate all aspects of the ceremony.
  - e. We recently found out that although the TARA degree team is sponsored by Philadelphia County – any LAOH member in the state of Pennsylvania can become a member...so ladies in Bucks, Chester, Delaware and Montgomery counties are welcome to join as well as any other county.... those counties mentioned are the closest to Philadelphia but our latest member is from Lehigh County.

**Please feel free to contact a member of the Membership Committee for further information**



Maureen Dougherty Brown  
Mary Anne Dooley  
Ellen McCrane  
Marie Nealis  
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*The blessing of God on you ~ Bail ó Dhia ort*  
*Dearlly Departed Sisters*



Patsy Joyce ~ Division #4 ~ Maud Gonne ~ Lackawanna  
Marie C. Donahue ~ Division #87 ~ Philadelphia  
Rita Mullen ~ Division #1 ~ Berks

Compassionate and Gracious God,  
we come to you today to thank you for giving us a chance to live with our loved ones who recently left this world to come into your presence. Lord God Almighty, we know that they were not perfect, but they did love you with all their heart and truly repented for their sins. May they find love and peace in your presence. Do not let our loved one to be parted from you, let your faithful servant enjoy your glory forever. In Jesus' powerful name, I believe and pray. Amen.



*Prayer Requests*

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



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.



Mary Denise Schneider, past President of Division One, Lehigh Valley, as she faces difficult medical issues.



Those impacted by the horrific situation in the Ukraine.



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



Additionally, we ask for prayers of strength and courage to all of those ailing & their caregivers  
Also, to all the Sisters, Priests, and others without loved ones to pray for their soul.  
And, a prayer for us all as each one of us faces our daily struggles, fears, and pains.

## *Be safe ~ Bí curamach*

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

Please email them to Maura O'Donnell-Roszyk at [maurar1117@msn.com](mailto:maurar1117@msn.com)  
To be sure I received ~ please message me if I don't send you a RECEIVED response.

### A WOMAN'S PRAYER ~ SR. PEGGY FLAHERTY, CDP

*Make us, O God, spirit-filled women...women of prayer...women of vitality...women of vision..  
women of courage...risk-taking women.*

*Fill us with your love...a love, which affirms...a love, which calls forth...a love, which challenges...a love, which  
frees.*

*Grant us your gift of Godliness... a reverence for you. Instill in our hearts the spirit of holy Joy...the joy that  
sanctifies...the joy that gives...the joy of one who loves... the joy that imparts to others the spirit born of self-  
control.*

*Make us Peace-seeking women...instruments of your peace...directed by your Wisdom,  
bridge builders...working with others for justice to bring about true peace.  
Give us Patience...a strong patience which enables us to trust and to keep heart in the face of disappointments,  
frustrations, and failures.*

*Plant deep within our attitudes your kindness...make us women who are open and friendly...women of  
hospitality...women who image our people friendly God. Impart to us your spirit of Goodness...Make us women  
who believe in the good of the other...who speak the good to each other and about each other...who do good for one  
another...Bestow on us your gift of knowledge that we may know you who are the source of all good.*

*Root us in your Fidelity...a fidelity that keeps us true to you...walking in integrity in your presence...  
Mold us into faithful women...women who are true to ourselves...true to others... true to life and all creation.  
Form us into women who follow your Counsel in all things, who uphold true values and the rights of all people.  
Make us, O God, Spirit filled Irish women, trusting you and one another as we move into this 21<sup>st</sup> Century.*

Our Late Pennsylvania State Chaplain, Sister Peggy Flaherty, also Dorothy Weldon's sister, wrote this beautiful & inspirational prayer.

Sister Peggy was a member of the Sisters of Divine Providence in Pittsburgh, PA.  
She was the youngest member of the Order to become a Principal of St. Peter and Paul School in Beaver County, PA until her death.

Sister was also the Chaplain of the LAOH, Allegheny County and loved by all.  
She was elected State Chair of Catholic Action before her untimely death and served us well.  
She was truly loved by everyone, always available to assist and a genuine Irish Catholic Woman as her Father, Martin Flaherty was born in County Galway, Ireland, and Mother, Mary McElligott Flaherty, born in County Kerry, Ireland.

