

Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc



Organized in 1894

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July 29, 2022

Sisters,

It is an honor to be serving as the Freedom for All Ireland Chair for the next two years. I am a member of JFK Division 1 Albany, NY where I serve as Division President and FFAI chair. These past two years as National FFAI Chair have been rewarding as I have seen continuous growth of our Order in all aspects, particularly in Freedom for All Ireland. Our sisters across the nation have joined together to study the issues and promote peace and freedom in the north of Ireland. At the convention in Pittsburgh, we held a very engaged FFAI Committee Meeting with input from our members, AOH members and Ciaran Quinn of Sinn Fein. At our general session, we heard from Michelle Gildernew (MP) on the issues and the current challenges and opportunities in Ireland.

The people of Ireland have seen their country changing daily over the past few years due to the COVID pandemic and Ukrainian War, working to accommodate refugees, providing health care and housing to all, and struggling through economic challenges. These next two years will be challenging as well with the critical issues of Brexit, Amnesty Legislation and forming the new government in Stormont among the top priorities. The recent announcement of a Seanad Eireann Public Consultation open to all on the constitutional future of Ireland is a welcome development intended to give all who have a stake in the future in Ireland a voice in planning for Irish unity. We look forward to commemorating the 25th Anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement next year against the backdrop of united Ireland discussions.

The **Freedom for All Ireland Christmas Appeal** provides a way for us to contribute to reinforcing the peace that was brought to the north of Ireland with the Good Friday Agreement nearly 25 years ago. Please continue to support the Appeal and if your division or state has not contributed before, please urge them to do so. Donations are accepted all year round; please mail your contribution to Dolores Desch, 20 Arlene Ave, Albany, NY 12203 and be sure to include your email address, entity name (Division, County, State) and whether there is a particular group on the list you want your donations sent to.

I encourage all of you to engage in the day-to-day issues in Ireland through the latest updates on social media including the LAOH FFAI Facebook page: LAOH Freedom for All Ireland <https://www.facebook.com/LAOHFFAI32>, Facebook pages

www.ladiesaoh.com

for Relatives for Justice, Pat Finucane Center, Paper Trail as well as on-line newspapers such as the Belfast Telegraph, Irish News, Irish Times, Belfast Live, Belfast Media and Derry Journal. I send regular updates as needed via email and post new developments in the Lady Hibernian Herald. Please subscribe to my mailing list by sending an email to laohnationalffai@gmail.com so that I can add you to my distribution list.

Thanks to my committee who will work to ensure that our program is a huge success over the next two years: Kathleen Savage (MA), Catherine Rheinholdt (MD), Nancy Ann Tindall-Sponsel (IN), Joan Moore (NY), Rita O'Hara (OH), Louise Sullivan (FL), Kathleen Varady (PA), Patti Johnston (LA), Connie Buscha (TX), Sandy Merrell (MO), Kathy Twohig-Hamelin (DE).

Many thanks to President Madigan for appointing me to this position and thanks to all of you for your tremendous support for this program.

Ar scáth a chéile a mhaireann na daoine. It is in the shelter of each other that people live.

Le meas,

Dolores Desch
LAOH National Freedom for All Ireland Chair