



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Local Woman Elected President of National Irish-American Catholic Organization

Guilderland's Karen Keane Today Was Elected to a Two-Year Term as President of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians (LAOH) Inc.

ALBANY, NEW YORK -- July 28, 2020 -- The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians (LAOH) Inc., a national Irish Catholic women's organization, elected Karen Keane of Guilderland, N.Y., to serve as its President for a two-year term. The LAOH's motto is friendship, unity and Christian charity and has more than 10,000 members in 30 states.

Since joining the LAOH in 1998 as a member of JFK Division 1 in Albany, N.Y., she has risen through the ranks of officers on the local division, county, state and national levels. Ms. Keane's dedication, respect and devotion to her Irish heritage, the Roman Catholic religion and to helping the community at large propelled her as she ascended the LAOH chain of command.

During her more than 22 years of service to the LAOH, Ms. Keane served as an officer for the majority of her time. She was elected to every office for the New York State LAOH board including the offices of Catholic Action, Missions and Charities, Irish Historian, Treasurer, Secretary, Vice President and President. For the national board of the LAOH, she has been elected to the positions of Treasurer, Secretary, Vice President and now President. In fact, her term as New York State LAOH President overlapped with her second year serving as the national LAOH Treasurer and her first year as the national LAOH Secretary. Ms. Keane also served as the Missions and Charities officer, Secretary and Treasurer for the Albany County (New York) LAOH and as the Secretary and Treasurer for her local division.

As she embarks on this new leadership role as President of the LAOH, Ms. Keane reflected on her goals. "I am honored to be elected President of this prestigious organization and I'm excited to be at the helm shaping the LAOH's next chapter. During my tenure, I plan to grow the membership of the LAOH, for us to become more active on social justice issues such as a united Ireland and supporting veterans and their families, and to protect the Roman Catholic faith and its church. I want to connect individual members with our national board, as well as to empower our members to reach out and communicate with us," said Keane.

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To help reach her objectives, Ms. Keane plans to bring more transparency, openness and fiscal responsibility to the organization while making sure she listens and engages with the membership. She will use video conferencing for meetings, as well as seminars and lectures with guest speakers, as ways to broaden and increase the board's reach with membership. Ms. Keane also intends to develop ad hoc committees including Immigration, Freedom for All Ireland, Veterans Affairs and Political Education as ways to become more involved in social justice issues.

She added, "I could not have gotten to where I am today without the support and dedication of my Hibernian sisters. I am proud to be an Irish Catholic American woman and I feel honored to have been elected President of the LAOH."

For the first time in the LAOH's 125-year history, its national convention and initiation of officers was held remotely due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Ms. Keane and the other national officers were sworn in virtually using video conferencing technology. The convention was scheduled to take place July 22-26 in Orlando, Florida.

Ms. Keane resides in Guilderland with her son, daughter and nephew.

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About the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians (LAOH) Inc.

The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians (LAOH) Inc. is a 501(c) 3 charity. The LAOH membership is confined exclusively to practicing Roman Catholics, and Irish by birth or descent, legally adopted, the wife or mother of a Hibernian, the mother of a Junior Hibernian or a member of a religious order. The intent and purpose of the LAOH is to promote friendship, unity and Christian charity, to foster and sustain loyalty to the Roman Catholic Church and to the United States of America among its members, to aid and advance by all legitimate means the aspirations and endeavors of the Irish people for complete and absolute independence, and to foster the ideals and perpetuate the history and traditions of the Irish people and to promote Irish culture.