

Lady Hibernian Herald

Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians - Irish · Catholic · American

January 2023

LAOH President's letter

Special Gifts

by Marilyn Madigan

Every December, we start preparing for Christmas. The Cards are sent out to friends and family. In today's worlds we also send greetings out using social media. At Christmas when we reflect on our greatest gift as Christians the presence of Jesus in our lives, we also want to spend time with those who are important on our life journey. One Irish tradition that I love is the lighting of a candle to show the Holy Family that there is a place in our home for them on their journey.

Recently, I was able to present a candle with a saying about Strong Irish Women to the new Irish Ambassador to the United States Geraldine Byrne Nason from the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians. When presenting the candle to her, I referenced how the first woman President of Ireland Mary Robinson had a candle to welcome the Irish Diaspora and this candle represented our welcome to her on her new journey as Irish Ambassador. As members of the Irish Diaspora, we look forward to our joint journey with her to promote our Irish Heritage.

This year my special gift is to be able to serve as the leader of the best Irish Catholic Women's Organization: The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians. I am humble and honored to serve the many women who have made an impact on my life. More importantly these women have made many contributions to their local communities.

We all have people in our lives that are special gifts. How blessed we are for them to be on our journey. Thank you to all those who have served our Order this past year and thank you to those willing to serve as Officers next year. A special thank you to Amanda Bacque; Chair of the Young Hibernians for developing the LAOH Advent Calendar. What a special way to unite us as we looked forward to daily opening up the next door and made us feel like children again in our anticipation as we prepared for the Birth of Christ.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.



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Catholic Action

Kathleen Diulus

After our Convention in July, President Madigan created a new way for the LAOH to put our motto into action with the formation of the Hibernian Humanitarian Fund. This Fund was created in response to the devastation created by Hurricane Ian in Florida. After outreach to our Florida LAOH Sisters, we were relieved to learn that our FL LAOH Sisters did not experience the devastating damage that destroyed Fort Meyers and surrounding communities. The funds collected through the generosity of our national network of LAOH members allowed us to send a donation in the amount of \$4,000 to the Catholic Charities of Venice FL. As President Madigan mentioned in her letter announcing the formation of the Hibernian Humanitarian Fund, it is a way to put our Catholic Faith into Action.

The Fund will remain an active designation for Catholic Action donations so when the next crisis is upon us, the LAOH will be able to proactively provide assistance to those in need. Please send future donations to the Catholic Action officer and indemnify them as Hibernian Humanitarian Fund.

The generosity of our organization is outstanding. THANK YOU for your generosity! May God's blessings continue to be bestowed upon each and every one of you and your families.

Merry Christmas!



Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc.
National Board
Established 1804
Maire Leffel, Fundraising
nationallaohrafflechair@gmail.com

Congratulations to our Thanksgiving Early Bird winner:
Thanksgiving 2022: LAOH Div. #6 - NJ
Christmas 2022: TBA

GET THOSE TICKETS IN TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR:

29 more chances to **WIN!**
If you win, your ticket goes back in the bin

6 more months of winners!

\$100.00 St Patrick's Day 2022
\$25.00 winner every Monday for 26 weeks
January 2nd, 2023 thru June 26th, 2023

\$1,000.00 GRAND PRIZE
July 4th, 2023

Tickets are \$20.00 each

Make checks payable to: LAOH, Inc.
C/o Maire Leffel, LAOH National Raffle Chair
17710 Flamingo Ave.
Cleveland, OH 44135

Need more tickets, email me at: nationallaohrafflechair@gmail.com

Keep posted to: ladiesaoh.com for Fundraising details and winners!

National FFAI

Dolores Desch

Freedom For All Ireland Christmas Appeal

The annual FFAI Christmas Appeal is underway, and we are asking all Divisions, Counties and States to get their donations in by March 1. We have a matching donor this year so all donations received by March 1 will be matched! Please remember that all donations should be mailed directly to me from the entity making the donation. My address is 20 Arlene Ave, Albany, NY 12203.

Good Friday Agreement

Next spring marks the 25th Anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement and our Committee is offering LAOH Commemorative Pins – “GFA 25 Years Peace” for sale at \$10 each. We have them in both gold and silver finish. For orders of 5 or more we are waiving postage. The pins are selling so get your orders in soon! You can mail in a check to my address

Story continued on next page

FFAI continued

listed above.

In celebration of the upcoming anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement our National FFAI Committee is working with Relatives for Justice on a project to celebrate and promote the contributions of women to peace and progress in their communities. Too often women are written out of the history books and through this project we are working to add them back in. We have contacted women from both sides of the Atlantic to share their thoughts and reflections over the past 25 years in a written piece. We will work with RFJ to produce and launch a publication this spring.

News from Ireland

Stormont House which hosts the devolved government in the north of Ireland has still not seen a government formed since the May election. This is because the DUP (Loyalist/Unionist Party) refuse to accept the results of the election where for the first time a Nationalist party has won the majority votes. What this means is that Sinn Féin's Michelle O'Neill would be the First Minister and DUP's Jeffrey Donaldson would be the Deputy First Minister. The DUP has said that their reason for the refusal to form the government is that they want the protocol scrapped.

For the first time since the Good Friday Agreement was signed, a British Army veteran has been convicted of killing an unarmed civilian during the Conflict. David Holder was convicted on November 25th of shooting 23-year-old Aiden McAnespie in the back in 1988 as he walked through a British Army Checkpoint. Aiden was unarmed and on his way to a Gaelic football match across the Irish border when he was killed. His family noted that security forces had routinely harassed him before the shooting. After 34 years of fighting for Aiden's case to be heard, the family were finally able to get vindication. Aiden's family reaction to the verdict illustrates how important these cases are for the families: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gosaDqy08LI>

The recent Amnesty Bill Webinar which was hosted by AOH FFAI Chair Martin Galvin had guests Una McCabe, Aiden's niece, Solicitor Niall Murphy and

RFJ's Mark Thompson speak of the importance of this case and the broader impact it has on other families seeking justice. This is why the British Parliament Amnesty Bill must be scrapped. It will basically halt all inquests and provide no legal path for families to seek justice for the killing of their loved ones. The AOH YouTube Webinar from Saturday December 10 can be found here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=66SwdrNUwBs&list=PLx5HpgbQ0F1JvBKmBAIhuS_SI6cFcTbJm&index=19

The Soldier F trial (Bloody Sunday) trial is moving forward. Soldier F is charged with two counts of murder and five counts of attempted murder from Bloody Sunday in 1972. The Springhill/Westrock Inquest is also moving forward; five innocent civilians were killed by the British Army including 3 children and a Catholic Priest.

The United Nations has called for the Amnesty Bill to be scrapped: <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/press-releases/northern-ireland-united-nations-calls-troubles-bill-be-scrapped>

Ireland's Future is continuing to engage people across the island on the subject of a united Ireland. They held two large events, one at 3Arena in Dublin on October 1 and the other was in November in the Ulster Hall. The Ulster event panel was made up of all Protestants /unionists or former unionists. You can catch the recordings on their website: <https://irelandsfuture.com/>

Special Envoy

It is expected that President Joe Biden will appoint Joe Kennedy, grandson of Robert F. Kennedy to be the special envoy to Northern Ireland. The position has been vacant since January of 2021, and it is vital to have it filled to advocate for the sanctity of the Good Friday Agreement and ensure that all parts of the GFA as well as all agreements are honored.

Project Children

I was thrilled to be able to attend the showing of *"How to Diffuse a Bomb: The Project Children Story"* which was held recently at the Irish American Heritage Museum in Albany, NY. Denis Mulcahy, founder of Project Children was in attendance to give

Story continued on next page

FFAI continued

founder of Project Children was in attendance to give a briefing and answer questions. If you have never seen this film, I highly recommend it. For more information go to <http://www.projectchildren.org/>.



Pictured attending the showing of the documentary film: “How to Diffuse a Bomb: The Project Children Story” with the founder of Project Children, Denis Mulcahy, LAOH National FFAI Chair Dolores Desch, AOH National Director Tim McSweeney and his daughter Isabella McSweeney - Albany LAOH Juniors President.

Thanks to all of you for your support of this very important effort. Stay tuned and follow our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/LAOHFFAI32> and visit the LAOH National webpage for FFAI at: <https://ladiesaoh.com/freedom-for-all-ireland>.



Missions and Charities

Natalie Peterinelli

Sisters, Thank you for your continued donations. I know that Divisions, Counties, and States donate to countless charities across the nation and when I see the funds that are chosen to go to the Columban Sisters, Columban Fathers, and the Appeals for Aid fund. I am constantly amazed by your generosity.

I held a Zoom with State Missions and Charities Officers this fall. For those unable to attend I

sent out a slide deck of the information covered, please reach out if you would like a copy. It was a refresher and information session. If you have any questions about donation procedures or any of the charities, please feel free to reach out to me via email. (laohnationalmissions@gmail.com)

A friendly reminder, Please send your Missions Donations to my home address. 4350 Regency Ridge Ct #204 Cincinnati, OH 45248 Also please remember to send a copy of your Mission Donation Form to your Division, County, and States Mission and Charities Officers.

I am looking forward to working with you all in the New Year and wish you all the blessings.



Treasurer

Cathy Turck

Nollaig Shona agus Athbhlian faoi Mhaise Duit! (Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!)

I hope this finds you healthy and counting your blessings as we move into the new year. But, before we get too far ahead of ourselves, we need to wrap up 2022 with a tidy bow and “on time” Treasurer reports.

As a reminder, deadlines for reports remain unchanged: Division-January 31st, County- February 28th, and State- March 31st, 2023. If you submit your annual report early, it offers you the opportunity to correct any discrepancies and resubmit it a timely manner.

Instructions for these reports and a copy of the tax bill for the Division, County, and State levels have been placed on the LAOH web site (ladiesaoh.com) under the Treasurer section. If you have any questions, please email me at laohnationaltreasurer@gmail.com

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Please, please, please.... complete your treasurer report in conjunction with your secretary. Why, you ask? Because the tax bill is based on membership numbers and establishing your taxable member number is completed by the secretary on the membership report.

Based on a change to our constitution, Article XV, Section 8, **assessments** established by the National Board **apply to taxable members only**.



Saint Columban's Story

Columban (Columbanus) was the greatest of the Irish missionaries who worked on the European continent. As a young man who was greatly tormented by temptations of the flesh, he sought the advice of a religious woman who had lived a hermit's life for years. He saw in her answer a call to leave the world. He went first to a monk on an island in Lough Erne, then to the great monastic seat of learning at Bangor. After many years of seclusion and prayer, he traveled to Gaul with 12 companion missionaries. They won wide respect for the rigor of their discipline, their preaching, and their commitment to charity and religious life in a time characterized by clerical laxity and civil strife. Columban established several monasteries in Europe which became centers of religion and culture. His writings include a treatise on penance and against Arianism, sermons, poetry, and his monastic rule.

Like all saints, he met opposition. Ultimately, he had to appeal to the pope against complaints of Frankish bishops, for vindication of his orthodoxy and approval of Irish customs. He reproved the king for his licentious life, insisting that he marry. Since this threatened the power of the queen mother, Columban was deported back to Ireland. His ship ran aground in a storm, and he continued his work in Europe, ultimately arriving in Italy, where he found favor with the king of the Lombards. In his last years he established the famous monastery of Bobbio, where he died. Saint Columban's liturgical feast is celebrated on November 23.

State News

North Carolina

Welcome to St. Brigid of Kildare of Southport, Brunswick County, North Carolina!

As a new division, we unveiled our Charter at our Christmas dinner party.



Mary Jane McQuade, Irish historian holding charter with Mimi Shaffer, Division President.



Division members

Kentucky

Boone County Division 1

Early fall the Boone County Division gathered to celebrate the 30th anniversary of its founding. Dinner and entertainment were enjoyed by members and guests, at the Irish Heritage Center of Cincinnati. Following a toast to members past, present, and future, Division President Natalie Peterinelli was presented with a certificate commemorating the event by Past National President, Carol Sheyer, on behalf of the National Board.

State news continued

On the second Saturday in December, the Boone County Division celebrated its annual Christmas Party at the Fort Mitchel Country Club. Members enjoyed a luncheon, and entertainment, with an Irish and Holiday themed sing-along.

The Christmas party was also more than fun for the members, they also collected toys for the Notre Dame Urban Education Center. The division also collects funds and puts together stockings for the students in the after-school program and the homebound seniors for City Heights in Covington, Ky.



R to L: Terri Durkin, Jean Durkin, and Pat Hahn



PNP Carol Sheyer and Division Pres. Natalie Peterinelli



Sr Maria Schepoert and Missions and Charities Officer Rebecca Abel-Kennedy

Massachusetts

LAOH Division # 10 Lynn: Friday November 4, 2022 Kathleen Savage, presented an evening of reminiscing of her time spent in the North of Ireland starting in the 1980's. Her early visits were as a member of NORAIID, but she currently travels with the Freedom For All Ireland Committee of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians. Kathleen was interviewed by Marie Magee, LAOH Division #12 Bessie Bradley, Providence, RI.

Finbar Doyle, an Irish musician out of Boston, joined Kathleen with music that was relevant to her accounts.

We relived those times with her as she recalled her visits to the prisoners in Long Kesh (H block). It was during this time she was lovingly given the name "Queen of Long Kesh" for her years long visits, correspondence and deep commitment to the prisoner's and their families. As well as her prison work, she participated in demonstrations in Belfast, Derry and Boston. She also shared a firsthand account of the atrocities put upon the Irish in the North right up through today.

I was fortunate to be able to spend time with Kathleen on her visit to the North in April. She invited me along to spend time with her friends in Derry. It wouldn't be exaggerating to say she is adored by those friends who have not forgotten all she has done and all she continues to do for them.

Zoom link: [1916 Lecture November 4, 2022 - YouTube](#)

State news continued



Finbar and Savage



LAOH

members

attending Our Lady of Knock Mass

Montana

The LAOH, Anaconda Division 1 has an annual fundraiser called a Sarma Dinner which is open to the public and the proceeds are used for scholarships, Irish history awards and local charities. The picture is of LAOH members in attendance. October 5, 2022. For those that do not know what Sarma is - it is an ethnic dish of seasoned hamburger rolled into a large cabbage leaf then baked with either sauerkraut or a tomato base. A very popular event in the community.



All four of Montana's Divisions participated in the Our Lady of Knock Mass held in August at the beautiful and historic St. Patrick's church in Butte, Montana. Father Patrick Beretta said Mass, A luncheon followed and a State Meeting was held as well.

Florida

There is a new Irish Consulate opening in Miami, Florida. We were formerly covered by the Atlanta, Ga office. The new office in Miami will likely be covering Mississippi, Alabama, Puerto Rico, US Virgin Islands and of course Florida.

I had been corresponding with Sarah Kavanagh for a few months prior to her arrival in Florida. At her suggestion we met on Tuesday, November 15, 2022 for a get to know you luncheon. My husband, Jim Sullivan (Florida State FFAI Chair and National FFAI Committee member) traveled with me to Miami. We formally met Sarah and her Vice Consul Dara McGabhann, then had a brief tour of their temporary office before heading to lunch.

Honestly it was like getting together with old friends. There was no pause in our conversation as we found many common friends, discussed American Irish affairs, sports, family and of course having the LAOH as a close working partner. Before we realized about 2 hours flew by and we needed to say goodbye with promises of getting together again.



Jim Sullivan, Sarah Kavanagh, Louise Sullivan, Dara McGabhann,

State news continued

Connecticut

The Connecticut LAOH held a celebration honoring their 25 and 50 year members. These ladies were honored with a pin and a certificate for their longtime, loyal service to our Order at the Mary McWhorter Division 58.



Kay Egan, of Newtown, CT and Joan Finn of Bethel, CT enjoyed a delicious cake to honor their longtime members of 25 and 50 years.



Mary Hearty, seated, of New Fairfield, CT and Patricia Fedigan, standing, of Danbury, CT



Eileen Cunningham pictured with her mom Peggy Cunningham, of Danbury, CT



The Mary McWhorter Div. 58, Danbury, CT ladies who were honored

25+ years:

Patricia Brady
Helen Collins
Peggy Cunningham
Ginny Dachenhausen
Julianne Gallagher
Katie Gehan
Kathleen Hedtke
Alanna Kabel
Anne Lewis
Gini McCauley
Maura Melody

50+ years:

Kay Egan
Patricia Fedigan
Joan Finn
Mary Hearty
Bernadette McNerney
Marcell Chamberlain

LAOH Division 59 in Stamford, Connecticut celebrated their 100th anniversary with Mass and a luncheon on October 22, 2022. Mass was said by Fr Liam Quinlan. Music was presented by Margie Kelley and the St Thomas the Apostle Choir. National Treasurer, Cathy Turck, presented Marggie Laurie, Division President, with a proclamation from the National Board. The past presidents of Division 59 were recognized.

continued

State news continued



Members of Division 59



National Treasurer, Cathy Turck (right), presenting Marggie Laurie, Division President, with a proclamation from the National Board.

California

For the last 103 years, the Irish community in San Francisco has commemorated the achievements of Robert Emmet, Irish patriot & orator at his statue in the Golden Gate Park on the anniversary of his execution. In 1919, Eamon De Valera who was on a fundraising tour of the West Coast dedicated the statue. It is one of four copies of the statue including ones in Dublin and in Washington, DC. Sponsored by the United Irish Societies of San Francisco, this year's event was organized by two members of LAOH Peter Yorke Division 3, Hilda Kissane and Valerie McGrew as well as Diarmuid Philpott. The celebration included a procession of flags through the band course, led by the Irish Pipers of San Francisco and the Pearse and Connolly Fife and Drum band, and a laying of a wreath at the base of the statue. The event culminated by a recitation of Emmet's stirring Speech from the Dock by Peter Cooper.



Hilda Kissane (LAOH San Francisco Div. 3)

On September 9, 2022, the United Irish Cultural center in San Francisco was host to the “Friends of Sinn Fein” Dinner where Mary Lou McDonald was the guest speaker. Chris Del Carlo and Margaret McAuliffe were (LAOH San Fran Div. 3) Committee host for the night.



(L to R) Chris Del Carlo, Mary Lou McDonald, and Margaret McAuliffe

continued

State news continued

LAOH Members taking care of the Monarch butterfly and bee population. A monarch waystation was established in Covina California by LAOH members. It was named St. Brigid's Garden of hospitality Monarch waystation.



Peggy Cornish (Ca State Secretary) planted the garden

Michigan

In September, the **Elizabeth Fagan Division**, of Wayne County collected nonperishable food for St. Christine's Food Pantry and Soup Kitchen in honor of An Gorta Mor. They also donated funds to the Food Pantry as well as Michigan's only An Gorta Mor Monument in the Irish Hills section of Brooklyn, MI for upkeep and maintenance of the monument and grounds.

The **Catherine McAuley Division**, of Oakland County celebrated their sister, Maureen Moriarity-Root as she was honored as Pallottine Woman of Year for her dedication to Detroit's Irish community and missions of the Irish Pallottine Fathers.

The **St. Brigid Degree Team of Michigan** conducted a Degree Ceremony on Sunday, October 23, 2022 at the Steven Walsh AOH Hall in Redford. Eighteen members of various Michigan Divisions received their degrees in this timeless and lovely ceremony. The degree candidates were: Darlene Brooks, Nora Cassidy, Marilyn Couture, Margaret Cytacki, Patsy

Dible, Dorothy Gowen, Christine Lareau, Patricia Finnegan, Connie Frolich, Sharon Knoph, Heather Limas, Patricia Malin, Leonilda McDonagh, Kathleen Partyka, Nancy Robertson, JoAnn Smith, Jan Stankiewicz and Lori Zerber.



Newly degreed LAOH members



The St. Brigid Degree Team: Front Row L_R: Mary Ann Knight, Karen Fleming, Pam Teunis, Agnes Gowdy, Julie Lewis, Mary Ochab, Shirley O'Kelley, Doris McCarville. Back Row L-R Helen Gallagher, Christine Berryman, Margaret Wright, Stacey Blair, Maureen Shelton, Anne Doulette, Kathy Wade, Helen Barron and Cindy Lloyd.

The **Rose Kennedy Division**, Wayne County, held a lovely Christmas Bazaar on Nov 19 and 20th at the AOH Hall featuring 20 plus Irish and holiday vendors with goodies of all shapes and sizes. Food and some tasty Irish coffee were available to purchase. Pictured are some of the vendors, volunteers and little shoppers in front of the Santa Shop where children can buy small gifts for their families. This year in addition to choosing treasures for their family and themselves, the children decorated their own special gift bags. Great and messy fun, and hopefully some future LAOH and AOH members!

Continued

State news continued

The **Ethel Kennedy Division**, of Macomb County, had a table at the Christmas Bazaar to sell tickets for their Christmas raffle. The winner was drawn at their annual Christmas luncheon. The winner was one of our sisters in the McAuley Division who had purchased her ticket at the bazaar.



A Memorial Mass for deceased members of the LAOH and AOH was held on Sunday November 26th at St Mary's Church in Redford, Michigan. A chicken dinner and fellowship followed at the Stephen Walsh Division Hall. OMembers of the Elizabeth Fagan, Rose Kennedy and Ethel Kennedy Divisions as well as AOH Divisions were in attendance.



Pennsylvania

LAOH Division 21, Castle Shannon, Allegheny County, Pa. hosted its annual card party fundraiser Oct. 1 at St. Winifred Church. About 120 people, including division members, attended the event, which began at 11 and included a croissant sandwich, Jell-O salad and dessert lunch. Dozens of attendees came away as winners in the big raffle the Irish Auction, with several tables of prizes donated by local businesses and Division 21 members. The division also raffled off 2 tickets to a Pittsburgh Steelers Game and dinner. A 50-50 raffle and lottery tree also raised money.

The division raised about \$3,900, through ticket sales, and raffles. Profits from the card party benefit 16 charities in the Pittsburgh region, including women's shelters, a soup kitchen, Meals on Wheels, and Little Sisters of the Poor.

All members of the division contributed in some way – donating items for the Irish Auction, selling tickets, preparing and serving lunch, set up and cleaning.

Members of LAOH division 21 gathered for their annual Christmas dinner on Dec. 5 at Houlihan's Restaurant. All members brought warm socks that will be given to local homeless shelters. The division's traditional Christmas raffle was held, too, with each member receiving a small gift. Members also donated more than \$350 for the Jessie Games, an annual charity event that benefits children served by Catholic Charities of Pittsburgh and was created by the family of a Division 21 member in memory of their daughter.

The dinner began with a reading of the Irish Christmas Blessing: "The Light of the Christmas Star to You, The Warmth of Home and Hearth to You, The Cheer and Good Will of Friends to You, The Hope of a Childlike Heart To You, the Joy of a Thousands Angles to You, The Love of the Son and Gods Peace to You. Amen."

Several LAOH Division 21, Castle Shannon, Allegheny County, Pa. members volunteered at the Jessie Games Aug. 6, an annual charity event that

State news continued

benefits children served by Catholic Charities of Pittsburgh. More than 250 people, including volunteers, attended the August event, which was held at a Cool Springs Sports Complex and featured, games, races, crafts, bingo and a homerun derby. LAOH volunteers helped with bingo, T-shirt distribution, and carnival games, and crafts. The National Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians donated \$500 to the 2022 Jessie Games, which raised more than \$30,000 from sponsors, donors and attendees. This year's event also welcomed refugee children from Afghanistan. The Jessie Games was created by the family of a Division 21 member in memory of their daughter.



Card party



Christmas Dinner



Ohio

Our Lady of the Rosary Division, Cleveland Ohio: During our October Meeting, we inducted 3 new members, Annie Ahern, Kelly Riley & Bridged Farrell and Honored Rita O'Hara for all her work with Freedom for all Ireland.

Some of our Members participated in a Walk for a Charity we support "Friends of Mothers and Infants." We also got together in November and made sack lunches for the Homeless.



State news continued



Mahoning County, Division 6, Golden Rose, Ohio
The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians held a women's feminine hygiene drive on November 5th to benefit a new women's pantry at the Youngstown City Health Department. With the help of the community, the AOH and LAOH were able to collect many items for the pantry, which they will distribute.



LAOH members pictured with items donated are Kathleen Maloney, Linda Lambert, Melissa Kelly, Michelle Neal, Mackenzie Kelly, Susan Henley, Ingrid Cassidy, Maureen Coughlin, Patty Blevins, & Donna Marsolo.

Division President Pat Lavelle (L to R), Rita O'Hara, National President Marilyn Madigan



Annie Ahern, Kelly Riley & Bridged Farrell

Our Lady of the Rosary 5 & 10 and State of Ohio Freedom For All Ireland Appointee Rita O'Hara presenting her sister Sheila (Casey) O'Hara Gray with her award for contributions over a thousand dollars to Freedom For All Ireland. They both were on the latest FFAI trip this past April.



Rita O'Hara (L) and Sheila (Casey) O'Hara Gray

State News continued

New York

LAOH Albany Division 1

The Albany LAOH Division 1 has been busy living the Hibernian motto of Friendship Unity and Christian Charity. Our Sisters in Albany have been busy raising funds and items for many organizations these past few months including the “Socktober” drive for socks, delivering over 1,000 pairs of socks to the Albany City Mission. Leading up to Veteran’s Day, LAOH Division 1 Veterans Chair Roz Adair teamed up with the AOH’s Peter Lounsbury on a fundraiser for the Veterans Miracle Center in Albany. In early December Roz and Peter presented the check from both Hibernian Divisions.



Veterans Miracle Center representative Joe Pollicino (far right) LAOH Division 1 Veterans Affairs Chair Roslyn Adair (L to R) and Division 5 Veterans Affairs Chair Peter Lounsbury with NYS Treasurer and President of the Capital District Irish American Association Kevin O’Reilly.



LAOH Missions and Charities Officer Christine O’Reilly and AOH member Tim Carey

In November, once again Albany put on a spectacular FFAI Event, raising funds for the Christmas Appeal. The LAOH Division 1 and AOH Division 5 committee landed Ciarán Quinn Sinn Féin Representative for North America as their guest speaker. Ciarán gave a very informative update on where things are with Brexit, the Legacy Amnesty Bill, and Irish Unity. This was so very important for many in the audience who had not been aware of the current events and issues. Bob Bollbach Division 18 Westchester, a member of the AOH National FFAI Committee was presented with the Father Murphy Award. Both Albany Divisions received the 2021-2022 FFAI Award for donating \$1,000 or more.



Co-Chair John Levendosky, National FFAI and Local Co-Chair Dolores Desch, Ciarán Quinn Sinn Féin Representative for North America and Bob Bollbach (L to R)



Members of LAOH Division 1 Albany proudly display the FFAI Donation Award

Albany held their Installation Dinner in early December. This was an historic event, not only did we also have our Juniors installed for the first time in many years, but we also saw Tim McSweeney installed as AOH President and his daughter Isabella installed as Junior President. Dolores Desch was installed as LAOH Division 1 President.

State News continued



Newly installed Albany LAOH officers



(L to R) Newly installed Albany LAOH, Junior and AOH president



The Albany Junior Division were Santa's elves for the Children's Christmas party. The girls organized games, craft tables and helped Santa hand out presents to all the good girls and boys!

Division 1 Albany Celebrated their 109th Anniversary in September. Hibernian of the Year Elissa O'Reilly was presented with a gift from the Division and a Certificate from the National President. Irish Dancers from the Albany Junior Division performed beautifully and were very well received! Well done girls! Here's to another 109 years of the LAOH in Albany!



LAOH Division 1 Albany Past Presidents, Cecilia Leonard, and Kathleen Stevens, presented a check for \$300 to the Holy Cross Family Ministries at our annual "Fr. Peyton Dance"



Albany's Junior Division "Daughters of LAOH JFK Division 1" delivered hundreds of pull-tabs to Ronald McDonald House in Albany, following their September meeting

State news continued

The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Kitty Geissler Division 11, Tarrytown, New York held a very successful bake sale at the Transfiguration Church, Tarrytown, NY the weekend of October 22 & 23, 2022. The baked goods sold out in no time! This bake sale will help Division 11 continue the work of our order.

The Kitty Geissler Division 11, Tarrytown, NY has grown in 2022 with the installation of three new members. The Division has also welcomed the new Pastor of the Church of the Transfiguration, Fr. Francis Amodio, O'Carm., who joined us for our Christmas party and installation of 2023 officers. Division 11 has continued to support all parish activities including the Transfiguration twinning parish, Our Lady Queen of Peace in Soyapango, El Salvador and St. Vincent DePaul Society food bank as well as WFUV, the Fordham University Radio Station, People of Ukraine, and all our LAOH charities and fundraisers.

This year we are proud to have a contestant for the Irish History essay contest, the first in many years. Our officers and members look forward to continued growth and service to our Noble Order.



(left to right) Colleen Dorsett, Marge Murphy, Alice Geissler Koraca, Irene Daniels

Schenectady Co NY

Schenectady County LAOH Division 1 was busy this fall. We collaborated with Notre Dame Bishop Gibbons High School to collect socks for Things of My Very Own during their Soctober sock drive. Things of My Very Own is a 501 c3 who helps

children and families in crisis. Installation of the new LAOH officers was held in November. During the program, the LAOH presented their Spirit of St Brigid award to Cheryl Gardiner. In addition to all she does for her family and volunteering, she spends the year raising funds to donate to Northern Ireland as our division FFAI appointee. She was shocked to be selected this year. We were also presented with our National FFAI award during the installation banquet by Dolores Desch, National FFAI Chair. Division 1 made and delivered 50 Thanksgiving dinners to Street Soldiers to help feed the homeless and underserved in our community.



President Kim DePeaux is dropping off the large donation to Things of My Very Own



Past President Joanne Planty presenting LAOH Member Ellen Celentano with her 50-year pin.

State news continued



National FFAI Chair, Dolores Desch (L) presenting Cheryl Gardiner with the National FFAI award.



Cheryl Gardiner (center) with Committee members (L to R): Cathy Turck, Betsy Henderson and Pat Macken, with outgoing County President, Kim DePeaux (far right).



LAOH members (L to R) Michol Murphy, Cheryl Gardiner, Cathy Turck, Peggy Osborne, Mary Sieder and Emma Osborne, dishing up Thanksgiving dinners to help feed the homeless.



(Left to right) Veteran's and Military affairs committee member, Susanne Messina, Broome Co and NYS Veteran's and Military Affairs appointee, Jeannine Mannarino show their support for the LAOH and fellow veterans at a NYS veteran's symposium. Additional symposiums are planned throughout the year.

