

Erin's Echo

Maryland State Board
Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc.

President's Message

Welcome 2023

As I look back on 2022, some special moments come to mind. In July we traveled to Pittsburgh to attend the National Convention. For many, it was our first time in attendance. MD, VA, and D.C. hosted our first LAOH hospitality room. As the convention came to a close, it was hard to say goodbye to our new LAOH sisters and promises were made to stay in touch.

November brought us together for the MD LAOH State Fundraiser, Samhain. Attendees dressed in colorful costumes, indulged in Irish food, and spun a wheel or two as we helped raise over four thousand dollars.

Divisions held successful fundraisers and raised awareness of causes special to their communities.

I cannot close the book on 2022 without mentioning those who passed away. I, like so many, wished for one more day to say thank you for being our friend. You enriched our lives, and we were proud to call you a fellow sister.

As we welcome 2023, the MD State Calendar is quickly filling up. Divisions and The MD State Board have begun planning their fundraisers. The State Board encourages all divisions to get their fundraisers up on the calendar as soon as possible.

We hope that many of you will join us at this year's MD LAOH/AOH State Convention. This is the time for members to step up to the plate and consider running for an office on the State Board.

To a successful New Year.

-Kathy Norris-
Maryland LAOH State President



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Calendar

January

Jan. 1-Mar. 15: Sarah E. Murphy Educational Assistance Program, Applications available <https://marylandlaoh.org>. Due by Mar. 15, 2023.

Jan. 20: National March for Life, bus at 11 AM, St. John the Evangelist, Severna Park

February

Feb. 12: St. Brigid's Day Mass, St. Ignatius Church, 1 PM, \$30, Flyer

Feb. 27: MD March for Life, St. Mary's Annapolis, 5 PM

March

Mar. 4: Maryland State Board Meeting, 10 AM, TBD

Mar. 5: Annapolis St. Patrick's Parade, 1 PM

Mar. 11: Ocean City St. Patrick's Parade, 11 AM

Mar. 12: Baltimore St. Patrick's Parade, 2 PM

April

Apr. 29: Trivia Event, St. Mark's Parish Center, 1 PM, LAOH Harford 1, \$30, Flyer

June

June 13: Sight and Sound Theater/Moses, 11 AM, LAOH Harford 2, \$140, Flyer

Cultural Corner

TRESPASSES by Louise Kennedy
WE DON'T KNOW OURSELVES by Fintan O'Toole
DUFFY AND SON by Damian Owens, book club selection for January 24

-Joanna Cox

-LAOH Website



Go to www.marylandlaoh.org for events, flyers and forms. There are links to items of interest in the local Irish Community as well as information on the national scene. You can also find us on <http://www.facebook.com/marylandlaoh>



Gatherings

**(Writer needed for this column; please contact
Kathy MDlaohstatepresident@gmail.com
or Jane janedear1@verizon.net)**



Sarah E. Murphy Educational Assistance Program

The Sarah E. Murphy Educational Assistance Program awards **\$1,500** annually through the Maryland State Board. Any active Maryland LAOH member, her children, grandchildren, brother, sister, niece, or nephew is eligible for assistance.

Applications are available on January 1st and must be postmarked on or before **March 15th**. Candidates must have at least a C average and fulfill application requirements. The award applies to all levels of education, including grade school, high school, college, graduate school, etc.

For further information, please contact Maureen O'Brien at MarylandLAOH@gmail.com or you may download the application form and mail it along with the required documents to:

Maureen O'Brien,

Sarah E. Murphy Educational Assistance Scholarship,
Committee
36500 Wild Rose Circle
Selbyville, DE 19975
Chair

Harford County, Division 2

Our annual St. Ita Mass was held on Sunday January 8th at 2 PM at St. Mark Church in Fallston. A handmade replica of St. Ita's Heart of Jesus was a new addition to the procession to the altar. Father Ron was the Celebrant and attendees included State Board members and sisters from other divisions. Other Irish community members including The Emerald Isle Club, Old Tenth Ward, and the Catholic War Veterans Auxiliary were also in attendance. A bagpiper and division sisters were in the procession. Music was provided by a Cantor and organist. A reception featuring crab cake dinners and homemade desserts was held after the Mass. The Emerald Isle Club demonstrated Ceili dancing.

Pat Zaccari of Division 4 did a presentation on the life and values of St. Joseph at our January 17th

division meeting at the McCall Center. Donations received will go to Division 4 and St. Mark for the use of the church and the McCall Center.

There will be a Sight & Sound presentation of Moses on June 13th in Lancaster, PA. The ticket price of \$140 includes bus transportation and a buffet lunch. Please address questions to Mary Asaki at mary.asaki@gmail.com or text to 443-504-3260.

We continue to support our ministries which include The St. Gabriel Project, FED, Autism Speaks, our Veterans, Gilchrist Hospice, and The Salvation Army.

We are looking forward to St. Patrick's Day activities with the Parade Marshal's Installation and the Parade. Our division will conclude the celebration with the Old Tenth Ward with a dinner and dance at the St. Elizabeth School. All proceeds go to the school.



-Gleela Kolakowski-Reporter

Cecil County, Division 1

Cecil County has two LAOH Irish History Writing contestants: Abigail Lambert, Grade 8 from Havre de Grace Middle School and Brooks Riddle, Grade 10 from St. Mark's High School. Our first St. Patrick's Day Breakfast will be held on March 4, 2023 from 9-2. It will feature a traditional Irish breakfast, live music, storytelling and more. Event tickets will be available soon. We will select the winner of our Snowflake Quilt Raffle that day. Those tickets are available on marylandlaoh.org.

During our annual Boscov's Fundraiser/Membership Drive we were visible at all Cecil County Masses and collected over \$1500 in donations for Boscov's shopping passes. Our division's presence could be felt at the state fundraiser on October 16th. The Samhain event was a great success! Gina Simon helped me with decorations; many of us donated cakes and wines. Cecil County filled two tables!

The weekend of November 11-13 I volunteered at the Irish Festival at the Timonium Fairgrounds, showing Irish Celtic Quilts while several of our division members represented LAOH at the ICC Christmas Bazaar. November 18-19 we set up at the Good Shepherd Bazaar. At both events, we handed out

applications and offered a free children's game with prizes and quilt raffle.



On December 7th we all enjoyed games during our Christmas Party at Immaculate Conception. On January 6th we gathered for Women's Little Christmas at the home of Gina Simon, singing carols and playing instruments!

-Christine Hild, President-

Harford County, Division 1

Athbhliain faoi mhaise daoibh!

A new year, a new opportunity to be our best selves; to again embrace our heritage, our faith and each other as we practice our motto of Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity.

On November 20th eleven of us donned our sashes and attended Mass at St. Joan of Arc in Aberdeen where we were warmly welcomed and had several ladies approach us asking for applications and information. We are so happy to have initiated Genevieve Conway Stephenson at our January meeting. Welcome Geny! We have another membership Mass scheduled for the spring at St. Patrick's in Havre de Grace.

Chris Brown, our Catholic Action Officer, has organized a food drive for the Outreach Center at St. Marks. Donations will be made at our February meeting.

We look forward to all the festivities leading up to the St Patrick's Day Parade. Congratulations to the LAOH Deputy Marshals, Mary Agnes Fogerty and Christine Hild! Prayers for a sunny day! Our division will celebrate the Feast Day on Friday, March 17th with our annual Luncheon. Please plan to join us! *More information to follow...*

Our main fundraiser in 2023 will be our *Trivia Luncheon* on Saturday, April 29th. Mark your calendars. Come with family and friends and have a fun time along with some very tasty food!

Slainte

- Kathy Lay, President-

Baltimore County, Division 14

Kennedy Kreiger Festival of Trees was held in November, the weekend after Thanksgiving. The trees are donated and decorated by organizations and individuals who support their cause. As in previous years, the LAOH decorated a tree including members of our division. Our tree was decorated with the colors of the flag of the Republic of Ireland and the unique topper was a manikin figure. The Kennedy Kreiger people priced it at \$150.00 and it was sold.

In December, some members of our division, including our Division Chaplain, Father Brian Frain, had an enjoyable outing at the Evergreen Mansion on North Charles Street. It is operated by Johns Hopkins University. A docent guided us through the mansion while telling us about the history and the families who lived there over the past centuries. We gathered together for a box lunch in one of the mansion's rooms after the tour.

Viva House in Baltimore is one of our charities. At each meeting we collect donations for their cause that is to help those in need in Baltimore. Last year we donated blankets. This year Viva House asked for cold weather articles of clothing. At our November meeting we decided to collect hats, scarves, and gloves for men, women and children.



Since we didn't have a meeting in December, our goal is to deliver the articles to them in January after our meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

-Eileen Edwards, President-

Howard County, Division 1

We closed out 2022 on a high note, with our membership being represented at the Tinsel Tea sponsored by Anne Arundel County Division 1 and the MD LAOH Holiday Luncheon. We also gathered together as a Division for our annual Holiday Luncheon at the home of the Division President. At that time, we installed and welcomed a new member and collected non-perishable food items which we donated to Columbia Community Cares. We were fortunate to be able to make charitable donations to multiple organizations including



FFAI, Columban Fathers, the Little Sisters of the Poor, St. Vincent de Paul St. John's Conference, Sister's Academy, St. Alphonsus Church in Baltimore and the Alzheimer's Association in honor of our Past President. Our donations will be reflected on our annual Treasurer's Report which is in progress.

As we begin 2023, we will continue learning prayers in Irish and are exploring means to increase our membership and maximize our fundraising activities, including working with the Knights of Columbus on a St. Patrick's Day celebration. We continue to make LAOH sashes as one of our fundraisers.

In January, the President attended National's mandatory Secretary's meeting and the National President's "State of the Sisterhood" webinar. The annual membership report was



submitted to the State Secretary. We look forward to attending the St. Brigid's Mass in February and the St. Patrick's Day events in March.

-Sharon Strobel, President-

Carroll County, Division 1

Happy New Year Everyone! November saw many of our members volunteering and attending the Maryland Irish Festival. Great time was had by all. Our own Chaplain, Fr. Collin, celebrated the Mass at the Maryland Irish Festival and it was beautiful.

In December many of our Division attended the State Board Christmas Luncheon at the Blue Stone. The food was delicious and the fellowship was heartwarming. We sang Christmas Carols and got into the spirit of the holidays. Our Division sponsored a family for Christmas and had our own small Christmas party/meeting at our President's house. On New Year's Eve our Charter Member Margaret Parks went home to her Heavenly Father. Margaret truly loved being a member of the LAOH and especially, the Carroll County Colleens. She will be missed by all.

At the beginning of January our Division was honored to participate in the Funeral Ritual for Margaret Parks. Our sisters also sent Margaret off with a beautiful Honor Guard. We know she is up in heaven smiling down at us. The Carroll County LAOH Division attended the Installation Mass of our new Pastor Fr. Collin by Bishop Lori. We were honored to be there and Bishop Lori gave us a shout out in the beginning of the Mass. We are looking forward to our Annual St. Patrick's Day Bake Sale at St Bartholomew's and celebrating all things green in March.

Respectfully Submitted,

-Mary Beth Connolly, Secretary

Baltimore City, Division 1

Happy New Year from the ladies of the Venerable Catherine McAuley Division of Baltimore City!

Before the holidays, we enjoyed a lovely Christmas dinner at the re-opened James Joyce. Our charity is Marian House, a holistic, healing community for women and their children who are in need of housing and support services.

We meet the 4th Thursday of each month, 7pm, at Squire's restaurant. We invite you to join us in helping women in need in the City of Baltimore and celebrating our Irish history and culture.

-Dorothy Reed, Reporter

Anne Arundel County, Division 1

Anne Arundel County Division I is looking forward to a great 2023! THANK YOU to all our LAOH Sisters that helped make our 2022 Winter Wonderland Tea such a successful fundraiser!



We anticipate membership increasing and new ladies joining our division. A shout out to Beth Lund and the other ladies that hosted the different tables at the 2022 Maryland Irish Festival! You built a lot of goodwill. We are currently organizing our 2023 year; we are purchasing fast food gift cards for the Winter Relief Program. St. Mary's opens its doors and hosts the homeless for a week, January 15-22. This is run by the St. Vincent de Paul Society for the homeless of Anne Arundel County.

Inquire about and attend the following upcoming events: National March for Life, January 20 (bus from St. John the Evangelist, Severna Park 11 AM), AOH presentation on Sister Clare Crocket, January 27, 7:30 PM at the Charles Carroll House, the St. Brigid's Day Mass, February 12 at 1 PM, Maryland March for Life, Monday, February 27 from St. Mary's parking lot, Annapolis' St. Patrick's Parade on March 5, 1 PM. Help out our AOH Brothers-Trip to Ireland for 2! Contact Patrick Bannon (443-852-2422) of the Annapolis AOH, to secure your trip to Ireland raffle Ticket, just \$10. Proceeds go to their many Catholic Irish charities.

-Jane Bannon, President-

Baltimore County, Division 1

We wish everyone a blessed, healthy and happy new year!! The Samhain - State fundraiser was a great event and hopefully a profitable one. Some of our members volunteered at the LAOH membership table at the Irish Festival. Sharon Strobel brought attention to LAOH by providing a beautiful basket.

The Irish Workers Rail Road Museum's booth was next to the LAOH booth; that worked out very well as we could direct festival goers to the opposite booth to promote the Irish traditions in both venues.

Anne Arundel County's Winter Wonderland Tea was wonderful as usual; great tea and finger food and entertainment were definitely enjoyed by all. The Christmas Brunch was again a festive time starting the holiday season. It's such a great time to catch up with all our sisters throughout the state.

One of our faithful members, Jan McCann, had to resign and was thoughtful enough to pass her sash to one of our newer members.

We're looking forward to the St Patrick's Day Parade fundraisers and pray for good weather for parade day. Our Taste of Ireland raffle basket drawing will be at our meeting on January 23rd so there's still time to buy a few chances to win. You'll feel like you're in Ireland with all the Irish treasures.

May you always walk in sunshine
May you never want for more
May Irish angels rest their wings right beside your door!

-Maureen Shettle, President-

Baltimore County, Division 4

Greetings Sisters,
Welcome to the year 2023. We are looking forward to a healthy happy and prosperous future ahead. 2022 presented quite a challenge. We were all hoping that COVID would be behind us. Unfortunately, we're still dealing with it. Some events were not cancelled and a good time was had by all. Our Christmas party brought many of us together to celebrate the season. We caught up with friends we hadn't seen in quite a while.

We joined forces with our parish, St. John the Evangelist, and did a presentation on St. Joseph. It was a successful fund raiser. Pat, along with her co presenter, have been asked to present the same talk at St. Marks in January.

The winner of our gift card fund raiser was drawn by our State President and the winner received \$100.00 in gift cards. The winner was ME (Mary Miller). I was quite surprised.

Our next meeting is on January 22nd at Saint John's Church in Hydes Maryland at 1:30 p.m. If you know anyone who is interested in joining and learning more about the Hibernians, please have them join us. They can also bring a friend. Call Pat at 443-799-6120 to let us know, so we can be ready to greet them.

Please remember our sisters in need of prayers. May God bless us all.

-Mary Helene Miller- Reporter

Worcester County, Division 1

We look forward to getting together again in the New Year after the holiday break. Our first event will be our Mass for the Feast of St. Brigid on Wednesday, the First of February at 9 AM at St. Luke's Church in Ocean City. Mass will be followed by a breakfast for those who wish to attend. This is always a nice break in the winter and all are welcome to join us.

Just after that Mass we will be preparing for the St. Patrick's Day Parade. The parade this year is scheduled to be held on the



11th of March. Hopefully the weather will cooperate this year and we will not face a postponement. If any sisters are interested in marching with us you are more than welcome, just let us know. We understand that the Baltimore Parade is on the 12th so that may cause a conflict.

We will be moving ahead with our yearly scholarships that we offer to seniors at the Stephen Decatur High School in Berlin, MD. Our funds have usually made it possible for us to offer two \$1,000.00 scholarships to deserving students.

-Mary Rosenhagen, President-

Let Us Pray

Let us remember in prayer our Sisters who are sick and suffering, especially those in nursing homes and hospitals, as well as our deceased sisters, that they may rest in God's eternal embrace.



In Memoriam

Margaret "Peggy" Parks, Carroll County, Division One