



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

Office of the National President
Marilyn Madigan

March 8, 2023

Dear Sisters,

Today March 8 is International Women's Day. International Women's Day is a global celebration of Women's achievements and a day of action. The colors of International Women's Day are purple, green and white. Today wear these colors proudly; justice and dignity represented by the color purple, white signifying loyalty and green symbolizes hope. Today let us remember some words from women like Michele Obama: *"There is no limit to what we, as women, can accomplish."* For the past 128 years, members of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians have made a difference here in the United States and in Ireland. I encourage all Divisions, Counties and States to celebrate the achievements of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians. Our Order has been blessed with many great women to lead on all levels. Recently some of our young members have been recognized for their dedication and commitment to Irish America. How proud as an organization to have women receive this special recognition. Congratulations to Maggie Brogan, Maura Flynn and Brianna Curran. Brianna Curran was also honored by receiving the Empowerment of Women Award by the Irish Echo.

On this International Women's Day, I am proud to announce the new Award that will be presented this year. At the 2022 National Convention, the delegates approved a new Award to be presented in addition to our St. Brigid Humanitarian Award. A special thank you to the New Award Committee: Sandy Merrell, Stacey Blair and Kathi Twohig Hamelin. The Documents of the new Award were presented to the National Board and the State Presidents. The Award was approved by the State Presidents to be presented this year in conjunction with the Interim Board Meeting to be held on the November 11 in Cleveland, Ohio.

The new Award will be **CONSTANCE MARKIEVICZ AWARD**

"The Constance Markievicz Award will be bestowed biennially at the LAOH Interim Board Meeting to a woman who is outstanding, passionate, and shows a deep commitment in her endeavors, either professionally or in volunteer works. The Constance Markievicz Award will be conferred without regard to the nominee's race, creed, religion, color or National origin. The nominee must be a woman who, in the spirit of unity and cross community relationships, has made significant and committed contributions to peace and justice, and/or the social and economic wellbeing of her community and/or the broader world in which we live. This includes, but is certainly not limited to, political activism, social justice, immigration and immigrant issues, political education, veteran affairs, and peace and reconciliation in Ireland."

On this International Women's Day, it is fitting to honor a Woman Constance Markievicz that made History; fighting for her country's Independence and also being elected as the first woman to the Westminster Parliament, and Minister for Labour in the First Dail.