



Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians Pennsylvania



Friendship, Unity & Christian Charity



2024 Edition I

A Word from Kathleen, our President...

Sisters,

As we embark on a new year, I hope everyone had a happy and blessed end to 2023! This year is going to be a busy one for us. I gave up on making New Year's resolutions many years ago, as I needed to improve at seeing them become a permanent change, but please know I am a work in progress!

Please let me share a few of the exciting events ahead for the Hibernians this year.

Beginning in a few days, it will be the start of the Bridget 1500, the 1500th anniversary of St Brigid's passing. Bridget 1500 is a year-long celebration of our patron saint, St. Brigid of Kildare. The National Board is working on ways to celebrate St Brigid all year; as information becomes available, I will pass it along. Please keep this in mind as we celebrate her Feast Day. Solas Bhríde is asking for a moment of silence at Noon on Thursday as a "Pause for Peace."

If you still need to, please visit the national website members-only page or the LAOH National YouTube channel to watch President Madigan's State of the Sisterhood webinar. It is very informative about activities that occurred in 2023 and what is to come in 2024.

In August, our National Convention will occur in Orlando, FL (August 7-11). The Orlando Convention team has their website up and running with information and merchandise. Please check out www.orlandoirish2024.com. The package and room information are on the site. A word of caution from National President Madigan, who has performed some site visits, is that the rooms tend to be smaller than many of us may be used to, and it is suggested not to have at most two people per room.

Our very own Mary Ann Lubinsky from Schuylkill County is running for National President. Having many PA LAOH Sisters in Orlando would be wonderful to celebrate Mary Ann!

September will mark the 100th Anniversary of the Nuns of the Battlefield monument being dedicated. As some of you know, President Madigan loves history, and since her time as Historian on the National Board, she has been working to refurbish the monument. The memorial's re-dedication will occur on 9/21/24 in Washington, DC. Details are forthcoming.

Prayers for each of you and your families.

Take Care

In Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity,

Kathleen

Kathleen Dilius

PA State President

National LAOH Catholic Action



State Things to Know... *Our Website*

Do not forget periodically to check our Website! ~ <http://statepalaoh.com>
Have you been on the website lately, come see all the new and helpful additions.

We now have tabs that will directly take you to discover:

 **The Board**

State Board Members Letters and means to contact them

 **Divisions, Find one near you or discover one to reach out to, and do an activity with**

 **News & Links**

State Newsletters, National Website, PA, and National AOH Website

 **Juniors**

 **Members Only Page**

Reach out to your Division President or to our Webmaster for the special Members Only Password
In this section, you will find our Bylaws, the Official National Constitution, and our Official Ritual Guide

 **Degree Teams**

Contacts for Philadelphia and Pittsburgh teams

 **Calendar ~ send in what is up with your Division! Also under this tab is a great write up of the**

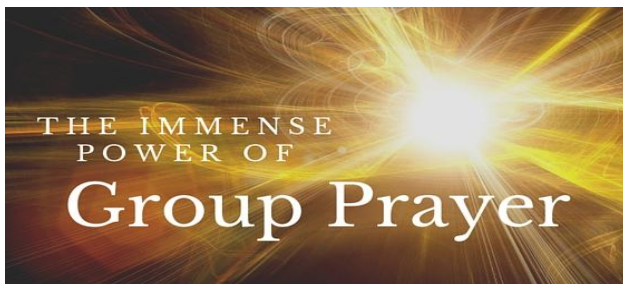
The History of the LAOH ~ The History of the Pennsylvania LAOH

 **Media**

Check out pictures from State events as well as events around the Commonwealth

Be sure to send in some from your Division

Also, check out our Facebook page at LAOH Pennsylvania State & Instagram page



The members of Bucks County Division 1~ MaryEllen Everett in Bristol welcomes you to join every Tuesday at 8pm EST to say the Rosary via Zoom.

Please keep our Sisters and their families in your prayers. Also, keep those who were impacted by negative issues, those who are suffering medical issues, and all those who can use our prayers.

If you have special intentions that you would like us to mention

before we start the Rosary, please email me at briana.m.curran@gmail.com .

The Zoom link is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5420434510> and the Meeting ID: 542 043 4510.

You can also join by phone: +19294362866,5420434510#

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you, Brianna M. Curran ~ Brianna.M.Curran@gmail.com



LAOH and our Military Connections

If you or someone in your Division served in any branch of the US Armed Forces, please forward the following information to Maura Roszyk: paLAOHmor@gmail.com.

Name, Division, County, Address, Phone number, Email, Branch, Rank, Years of Service, Dates of Service, and Combat Veteran? If yes, what war/conflict?

LAOH Blue & Gold Star Mothers of America

To build yet another network of support for the proud Blue and Gold Star Mothers, the National Committee wishes for us to collect the names and information of those proud Moms.

We ask that all Division Presidents send in a list including name, phone, email, and name and service their children serve or have served. Please forward the listing to Maura Roszyk: paLAOHmor@gmail.com





LAOH's Embracing Our Heritage Program

Please visit the National website~ www.ladiesaoh.com and the LAOH National YouTube channel for upcoming and past programs.



Ladies Just a Reminder!

If you send a Sister an email, **please do not assume that she has received it.**

If you do not get a response, please follow up with a phone call or reach out to someone else in the Division. With so many more people utilizing technology, emails are not always received, go to junk, or are missed by the receiver. Thank you!



State Convention 2025!

We here in Scranton are very excited to let you know that the Hilton has been secured for our Convention in 2025.

Tom Gilbride and myself and all of our "Brothers and Sisters" in Lackawanna County cannot wait to welcome all to our Fair City.

*A lot of preparations are being put together to make this event one to remember!
So save the date...JULY 17-19, 2025*

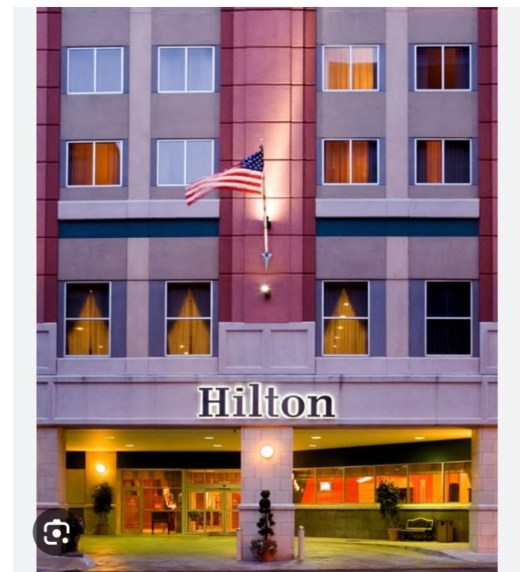
We will post the room rates as soon as possible and let you know when our block is available to start booking your rooms.

We are planning a few surprises, so be prepared to have an "Electric City" experience!

We will post the room rates as soon as possible and let you know when our block is ready to go!

Scranton Fast Facts

- *Scranton was one of the first cities in the country to use electricity. Electric lights were introduced in 1880 at the Dickinson Manufacturing company. Six years later, Scranton was the first city to use electric streetcars.*
- *Present-day Scranton and its surrounding area had been long inhabited by the native Lenape tribe, from whose language "Lackawanna" (or lac-a-wa-na, meaning "stream that forks"), is derived.*
 - *The city hosts five colleges and universities: The University of Scranton, The Commonwealth Medical College, Johnson College, Lackawanna College, Marywood University.*
- *The Houdini Museum is located at Scranton, Pennsylvania. Houdini appeared in Scranton and did several special challenges there. The museum features memorabilia, artifacts, mannequins and films of Houdini as well as The Houdini Tour, which includes a magic show.*



Hilton Scranton & Conference Center

Visit >



National Convention 2024

102nd Biennial AOH-LAOH Convention in Orlando FL
Aug 7th - 11th 2024



The website is up! ~ <https://orlandoirish2024.com/>

The schedule is not posted yet, but information is posted regarding the hotel.

Convention Packages and Registration pages is ready to go.

Be sure to USE Code **"GRPAOHAUG2024"** to get the correct room rate
Convention package before June 15th - \$215, after June 15th \$235.

Print Package and Journal Ad Forms are available.

The Convention Store is not open yet, but please keep checking it out!



"Getting to Know You"

A Sister will be asked a series of questions, so the rest of us can get to know a little more about her.

Please enjoy learning a little more about this month's featured member ~ **Dorothea Crowley Dot** is a member of Division 1, JFK Division, Lackawanna County; she serves currently as Lackawanna County LAOH President and CoChair for our 2025 State Convention



What Division do you belong to?

I belong to JFK Division 1 Lackawanna County Pennsylvania. I moved to Scranton Pa in July 2011 and transferred into JFK Division 1 in January of 2012.

Growing up, Where are you originally from, and who did you live with -Tell us about your parents. Do you have siblings?

I am originally from Philadelphia, where I was raised by my parents, James and Dorothy O'Donnell. They were the best parents in the world! I was one of three children, older brother Jim and a younger brother Tom (who incidentally is a past AOH State President). Of course, I was the middle child so that could explain some of my quirks! My Dad was a carpenter and a proud AOH member, my Mom was a stay at home mom, which was the norm back then. Both my brothers and their sons belong to the AOH Division 39 in Philly. I also was a member of Division 39 ~St. Brigid in Philadelphia. I joined in 1996 got Degreed in 1997.

Your Family, Tell us about your family now-Are you married, do you have children ~ details!!!

I have three children, Tim, Tom, and daughter-in-law Terri. My grandchildren are Jimmy and Catie and I must say they are the light of my world! I share my life with my best friend John Michaely. He is my rock and I am his! Our Combined family consists of nine children (which includes two daughters in law and one son in law), nine grandchildren (of which two are mine), and 15 great grandchildren (all are John's). They keep us pretty busy!

Do you/did you work outside of your home, what do/did you do?

I worked in Travel and Tourism for 26 years doing various jobs for various companies (travel agent, tour operator, group coordinator, and so on). When I relocated to Scranton, I worked in the Scranton School district as a para for emotional and behavior support as well as working with "Special needs" children. It was a very rewarding job as I too had a special needs child.



Do/Did you participate/volunteer in other charities, at church?

I am involved in my Parish, Mary Mother of God at Holy Rosary Church. Volunteering for the parish Block Party, contributing to our St. Matthew fund (helps parish members who are in need of immediate assistance) selling carnations for the Little Sisters of the Poor. Helping wherever and many projects in the Parish, along with JFK Sisters whenever and wherever I can.

My favorite color: My favorite color is purple! Of course, I love green too!

My favorite holiday:

My favorite Holiday is Christmas, I love the way people seem to get into the spirit of Christmas with greetings, faith, and love and wish they could hold that spirit all year! I must say that St. Patrick's Day is another favorite!

I would love to visit: I would love to visit Ireland some day and actually be able to feel and experience my heritage!

What makes you happy, and what can quickly make you cry?

Simple things make me happy...a shared smile, a hug, my family and friends!

Why did you want to become a member of the LAOH?

I joined the LAOH to be able to connect with others who have the same faith and heritage as me. People who could share stories and history of where we come from and where we are going. People whose sense of giving to others and making them feel welcomed is what I love

When did you join and have you held any positions?

I joined the LAOH in 1996 via Division 39. While a member of Division 39, I held the Offices of Missions Catholic Action, Financial Secretary, and Vice-President. In addition, I held the offices of Missions, Catholic Action, Historian, and Vice-President for Philadelphia County. I was very active in the Juniors at a Division level and County level. I organized the Junior Convention in 2010 with the help of Kathy Brown of Division 17 Philadelphia and Peggy O'Donnell of Division 39 Philadelphia (my sister -in-law) and many of our sisters, it was held in Hershey PA. I am honored to be one of the founding sisters of the Tara Degree Team. I am still a Degreed team member and help when I can, due to my relocation it is not possible to be active member. In July of 2011, I moved to Scranton PA. I then transferred into JFK Division 1 in January 2012. I have held the office of Division President. Currently I am the LAOH Lackawanna County President. I served on the PA State board in the Office of Catholic Action. I have been involved in many Conventions both State and National. In addition, I had the honor of being on the committee at the National Level for the initial meeting of "Protecting God's Children"; at the request of Past National President, Margaret Hennessey. In 2017, I was the PA State Convention co-chair in Lackawanna County and I will once again co-chair our PA Convention in 2025 being held in Scranton, PA.

If you could offer your Sisters of the LAOH one piece of advice or inspiration, what would it be?

My advice for all of you is this... (An old Irish saying)

Do not stand behind me for I may not lead

Do not stand in front of me for I may not follow

Just stand beside me and call me friend!

Thank You Dot!

News & Photos from Around the Commonwealth

Pennsylvania Proud!

The Hibernian Hunger Project/Philadelphia AOH & LAOH

Together we provided 215 food baskets for families & local pantries on Saturday Dec. 16, 2023.

We fundraise yearly to make this happen.

So often, when we get together it can be heard by many that this particular project exemplifies our motto of Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity. Thank you to Shamrock Foods for assisting us.

Merry Christmas Brothers and Sisters!



“Kindness is Giving Hope to those who think they are all alone in this world”



“Giving is not about making a donation, but it is about making a difference.”

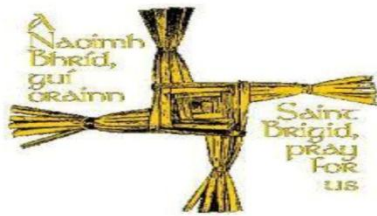
Look at our very own Past President Bonnie Collins who attended the National Interim Board Meeting and was able to Congratulate and reconnect with Kathleen Savage of Massachusetts. Kathleen is the first recipient of the Constance Markievicz Award.



County and Division Updates

Allegheny County

The LAOH Allegheny County Board will for holding its annual St. Brigid Mass & Breakfast February 11th



**St. Brigid Mass and
Breakfast celebrated on
February 11, 2024
Chartiers Country Club
10:00 a.m.**

Please join the LAOH of Allegheny County in celebration of the feast of St. Brigid

Mass will be celebrated at 10:00am at the Chartiers Country Club. Breakfast buffet and valet parking is included with a program immediately following at Chartiers Country Club, 601 Baldwin Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15205.

Cost is \$35 per adult and \$25 for Jr. LAOH/AOH Members. Valet parking is included.

Please **RSVP by Monday, January 29, 2024** directly to Shirley Sestric via email at ShirleySestric@gmail.com For questions, call or text 412-370-4127.

Payments by Venmo or mailed USPS, made payable to the LAOH County Board, should be received by Monday, February 2, 2024. Venmo @Shirley-Sestric or via USPS to Shirley Sestric, 311 Kearsarge Street; Pittsburgh, PA 15211-1505.

Please include the full name and LAOH/AOH highest office held. A spreadsheet listed by last name will be at the registration desk for convenience.



Montgomery County

Happy New Year from the Montgomery County LAOH Board!

*We are getting ready to celebrate the feast of St. Brigid and looking forward to parade season!
This Spring we hope to have another County sponsored retreat, which was so successful last year.*

Wishing all of our LAOH sisters across the state a healthy and successful 2024!



*L-R-Susan DeMedio, Megan Bethel, Rae Dispaldo, Mary Jo Katona, Eileen Modica, Gert Burton,
Jayme Gonzalez, Bobbie Liberace, Shawn Marie Brown*



Division #1 ~ Berks County

Celebrating Little Christmas

Little Christmas is a long time tradition for our Division.

Hosted by Maureen Caherly, our treasurer from County Cork has taught us of this lovely tradition for several decades. She frequently shares memories of growing up celebrating this occasion and always treats us to her homemade plum pudding.



Members in attendance were Bonnie Collins, Maryanne Welch, Mary Pearsall, Kathleen O'Connell, Sr. Catherine Glackin, Denise Erbal, Merilyn Donaldson, Laurel Ann McHugh, & our hostess, Maureen Caherly. Also present but not pictured (she took the picture) was Carolyn Toplak.



Division #4 ~ Trinity ~ Delaware County

Celebrating our 25th Anniversary





Division #11 ~ Allegheny County

One of our Division's traditions at Christmas, includes recognizing and congratulating our Sisters for their exceptional service to our organization.



A Certificate of Distinction was awarded to Maribeth Cringle for her willingness to serve our order first as Recording Secretary, and then as Vice-President. Maribeth has been a trusted and valued member of the leadership team.

This year the recipient of the St. Agnes Award was Melanie Costanza. A member since 2006, Melanie is always ready to help and contribute for the good of the Order. She has served on the leadership team in various roles for many years and will now become our Recording Secretary. She has been a valuable member of both the Masquerade Charity Ball and Monte Carlo Night committees. You certainly live our Motto.



A Certificate of Distinction will be awarded to Eileen Papale for her service to the Division as Sentinel and her efforts to secure feminine hygiene products to be donated to the Birmingham Clinic and Mary's house. Eileen has been instrumental in making sure women's needs are not forgotten.

Fundraiser Alert! *Our annual Sarris Easter Candy fundraiser for Division 11 runs to March 22.*

This will include candy for Valentine's Day, St. Patrick's Day, and Easter!

Orders maybe placed at <https://www.sarriscandiesfundraising.com/VIEWBYCATEGORY.aspx?id=VA>.

You must use our Group ID#10-2957 for Division 11 to receive the credit.

Again, this year, Sarris will only charge \$5 for handling/packing, no additional delivery fee.

Like us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/LAOHdiv11/>



Division #5 ~ Lackawanna County

*"It's not how much we give, but how much love we put into giving"
We proudly raised and donated money to St Patrick's Food Pantry of Scranton.*



Left to Right: Michael McDade, Father Richard Fox, Maureen Wallace, and Amanda Gavin.



Division #4 ~ St Brigid ~North Hills~ Allegheny County

Our Sisters have been busy volunteering in the Community with PLF ~ Pittsburgh Leadership Foundation, packing school supplies and we hosted a Homeless Men's Shelter Dinner, participating in Amen to Action, which prepares 1,000,000 meals for local food banks.



At the North Hills Cares event, at The Block at Northway, our President Joan Tielsch was recognized as Volunteer of the Year!

Volunteer of the Year



Congratulations to our 2023 Summer Lunch Program Volunteer of the year:
Joan Tielsch

We ended the year with a Christmas Dinner and Gift exchange! Happy New Year!



Division #4 ~ Maude Gonne ~ Scranton ~ Lackawanna County

.As we begin 2024, here are some fun items of the fall/winter of 2023

"Sharing warmth one coat at a time."

We collected 100 + coats for charity along with nonperishable food during October.



From left to right; Mary Anne McAndrew, Carolyn Wahl, Kathy McDonnell, Mary Alice Browning, Chrissy Lavelle, Lynn Walsh, Katie Murray, and Judy Krell



"Giving is not just about making a donation; it's about making a difference."

Vice President Mary Anne McAndrew and President Nancy McAndrew Yavoroski, proudly stand with their highly successful coat and food collection thanks to all the members of their Division.



"May your home always be too small, to hold all your friends."

At the State Convention in Johnstown PA, LAOH State President Maria Gallagher issued us a "Certificate of Appreciation" ~"For the hard work and efforts that resulted in a significant increase membership."

From left to right; Division 4 Vice-president Mary Anne McAndrew, Lackawanna County Board President Dorothea Crowley, and County Board

Publicity Officer / Division 4 President Nancy McAndrew Yavoroski.



Blessed are women whose hearts and souls are joined together by laughter and tears for they shall be known as sisters.

Merry Christmas to you and yours!





Division #1 ~ Chester County

As we have moved quickly from our lovely fall into colder winter, our small LAOH has tried to keep very active. At one of our fall meetings, we collected several bags of food to donate to the food cupboard of the Day Room at St. Agnes.

Starting in August, we sold the Friends Helping Friends Coupons through Boscov's. This is always a good fundraiser for our group and enables us to donate to three local charities we support. Mom's House (daycare and counseling provided for single parents going back to school), St. Mary's Franciscan Shelter and Day Room at St. Agnes (providing hot meals, food for pantry, etc).

We also purchased and wrapped Christmas gifts for a family we adopted through Domestic Violence of Chester County again this year. This is always a rewording endeavor.

At our Christmas lunch party, we collected gift cards to food stores, Wawa, etc., rather than exchanging gifts with each other. This year we collected enough to send each of our three local charities \$170 worth of cards. The LAOH Ladies are the most generous and caring people.



Division # 3~ Maire Drumm ~ Montgomery County

We recently celebrated our 15-year anniversary and are proud to say that our Division has grown tremendously over this past year!

We have been busy raising funds for our Thanksgiving Turkey donation and "adopted" local families for Christmas.

*Megan Bethel presenting the "Hibernian of the Year" award to Susan DeMedio
Congratulations Megan!*



Welcoming new members at our meeting



We had a great turnout at our annual Christmas dinner and celebrated the Irish New Year together!



Ring in the New Year!

*L-R-Susan DeMedio, Mazie DeMedio,
Shawn Marie Brown, Jo-Ellen Roberts*

*L-R-Jo-Ellen Roberts, Eileen Hughes, Dot Shrader,
Megan Bethel, Shawn Marie Brown, Pat Mestichelli, Nancy DiFiore*

We hope that everyone has a healthy and blessed 2024!



Division #2 ~ JFK ~ Pottsville

In December, we donated purses, hygiene items, and blankets for those in need to the Servants to All Center.



We held our Christmas Party at the Black Diamond Navy Club on January 13, 2024. Our friendship along with delicious food from Tony's Market, Minersville, made it a perfect evening. We thank AOH Officers, Bob Laughlin, and Dan Koury, for their hard work and dedication in making our parties a success. Thank you Frank Syzdek for also being our photographer.



In November, we had a great Paint N' Sip



Division #2 ~ Notre Dame ~ Montgomery County

As we begin 2024, here are some fun items of the fall/winter of 2023

Halfway to St. Patrick's Day Dinner Prep and Party

Our Brother's decided to hold a Halfway to St. Patrick's Day party on September 16th and asked us if we would make Sheppard's Pies for the event.

Through donated ingredients and time,

Bobbie, Marianne, Pat, Judy,

Lynne-Marie, Julie, Eileen, Cathy made Sheppard's Pies for the party; also, Rae, and Eileen made ham and cabbage.

When all was said and done, we made a combined six pies. It was nice to get together and work on a common goal while having a little bit of fun as well.



Honor Flight

Bobbie Liberace looked into an organization called Honor Flight Philadelphia that welcomes home Veterans who were not originally recognized during their days of service. Some Veteran's included WWII, Korean, and Vietnam Veterans who, after all these years, finally got the welcome home they so deserved. It was a humbling experience at St. Simon and Jude Church in West Chester, PA to see five tour buses pull up and unload

Veterans after a long day of activities that included various tours of the memorials in Washington, D.C. We were located right at the beginning of a Red Carpet, welcoming the Veterans as they got off their buses and it brought tears to our eyes to see how much happiness the day's event brought to them. One Veteran of WWII celebrated his 100th birthday the same day as the Honor Flight!



We thank each Veteran for their service and were deeply proud to honor them.

The Montgomery County Notre Dame Division 2 was present along with their Honor Guard. One of our sisters, Eileen's husband, Russell Modica, was a recognized Veteran.



Degree Ceremony

We had 3 members become Degreed members on November 12, 2023, at Roman Catholic High School.

Eileen Gallagher, Gianna Bender and Marianne Dobbins joined other fellow members from various Divisions to experience a wonderful degree ceremony by the Tara Degree team in Philadelphia. They were joined by Anne Gabor and Mary Jo Katona who supported them through the whole process.



Honoring Ladies for 25 years of LAOH

November 16th was a special night for us as we honored and recognized quite a few members who dedicated their time and services to the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians for 25 years! It was an inspirational night, and we are truly in awe of their dedication to our Division.



Wreaths Across America

Carol Smith and Holly Smith along with other members gathered at St. Benedict's Cemetery in Conshohocken to lay 300 wreaths on the graves of military members. It was a beautiful day not only because it was during the Christmas season, but because it was a great reminder of all those who served and sacrificed for our freedom.



Christmas Party with Santa and Family

December 8th we hosted a Christmas party with Santa. Children, family, and friends of members gathered to sing carols and hang out with Santa for a little while.

Each child who was on the Elf list received a present from Santa.



We ended 2023 with a wonderful Christmas party.

End of year awards were presented to Pat Boyle and Anne Gabor.

Anne was presented with the President's Award, which goes to a member who is acknowledged for her assistance throughout the year. Pat was presented with the Hibernian of the Year award which goes to a member who generously serves others in their Church, Community and Division.

Congratulations Pat and Anne!

Each member who wanted to participate brought a gift to participate in a Pollyanna. Also at our party, collections were taken up for local homeless communities of stockings filled with necessities such as toiletries, hand sanitizers, notebooks, etc. The donations were collected during the party and representatives from each organization came to pick them up for distribution.



Division #21 ~ Castle Shannon ~ Allegheny County

We hosted our annual card party fundraiser on Saturday, Oct. 7 at St. Winifred Church.

We had a great turnout of about 120 people! 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.

A 50-50 raffle and lottery tree also raised money.

The Division also raffled off two tickets to a Pittsburgh Steelers Game and dinner. The young man who attended the game -- thanks to the winning tickets -- is a longtime Pittsburgh Steelers fan and was overjoyed at winning. "There are absolutely NO words to describe the great experience in those great seats." His joy at attending made the card party an even greater success.

Profits from the card party benefit more than a dozen 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, setting up and cleaning.



Several members attended the beautiful Claddagh Degree program, both as observers and Degreed recipients, on October 15th at the Doubletree Hotel in Greentree.

Four members of the Division, Noreen Herward, Tara Chevdar, Darlene Vietmeier, and Clare Ansberry Smith, received their Degree. It was a beautiful and meaningful program for all involved and the hard work of the Allegheny County Claddagh Degree Team was evident and made for a beautiful morning.



We gathered for our annual Christmas dinner at St. Paul of the Cross.

All members brought warm socks to give to local homeless shelters.

Members enjoyed a catered meal of pasta, chicken, vegetables, and sweet treats made by Division members. We donated close to \$350 for the Jessie Games; an annual charity event that benefits children served by Catholic Charities of Pittsburgh, this event was created by the family of a Division 21 member in memory of their daughter.



After the dinner, the following officers were sworn in for new terms.



President Trish Conley; Vice President Eileen O'Malley; Secretary Tara Chevdar; Treasurer Helen Rafferty; Irish Historian Clare Ansberry Smith; Missions & Charities Peggy Bond; Catholic Action Darlene Vietmeier; Mistress At Arms Eileen Sheridan; Sentinel Becky Ricci.



Division # 1 ~ JFK~ Lackawanna County

At the holidays, together Brothers and Sisters collected toys and household items for the Catherine McCauley Center at our joint Christmas party!



AOH President Conal McHugh
and LAOH President Doreen Gilbride



Our 2023 Lady of the Year award was presented to Patty Jones with her are some of the past receivers of this award...
Left to right Karen Savage, Doreen Gilbride, Nancy Frick, "Patty Jones," Dot Crowley



Division #39 ~ Philadelphia County

In Early November, we hosted a Meet n Greet with our Sister Hibernians from Division 25. It was so nice to spend time with Kathy Brooks, Div. 25 President, and other Officers Marianne McFarland and Gerry Martin.



On November 2nd, we hosted a Blood Drive through American Red Cross in honor of our Division Sister Kathy Fanning who will be undergoing a bone marrow transplant on February 26th. Please keep Kathy and her Donor in your prayers. Thank you!



Here pictured is Kathy and some of her family.



On November 11th we celebrated Veterans Day Mass with our AOH 39 Brothers and enjoyed a dinner in our Hall afterward. LAOH 39 concentrated efforts of supporting Veterans by donating to Shamrock Reins a 501C3 organization here in PA that provides Equine Assisted Activities and Therapies for Veterans, First Responders and their families.



We also collected at our November meeting toiletries for

Female Veterans which were dropped off at the Veteran Multi-Service Center in downtown Philly.

On Nov. 18th. LAOH/AOH 39 hosted a Chili Cook-off/Membership Drive.

The Ladies had a special guest, our lovely State President, Kathleen Diulus stopped by to meet Sisters. So nice!



On December 3rd Christmas Craft Fair with the Vendors Table Fees going to support our Charities.

At our Christmas meeting/party we had a great time with a surprise visit from Santa Herself!



Our Christmas Charity included a Secret Santa to 20 school children at a Mission School in West Philly, St. Francis DeSales.

On December 16th LAOH 39 along with other Philadelphia County Hibernians packed over 225 boxes of Food for the Needy through the Hibernian Hunger Project.



On January 21st we hosted the Lifetime Achievement Award Ceremony and Party for Ed Halligan, National Director, Montgomery County Past President and All around wonderful Hibernian.



Here is Ed pictured along with all the Ladies in attendance representing Philadelphia County, Montgomery County, Bucks County, and Delaware County. Congratulations Ed!



Division #1 ~ St. John Neumann ~ Luzerne County

We participated in the Gifts for Kids Program through Catholic Social Services and Catherine McAuley Center.

Since 1999, we have participated in the Catherine McAuley Adopt a Family Program.

This year, we were blessed with a family of four: a mother and three children ages 3,4, and 7. Toys and clothes were purchased for each child. The mother received household items as well as other gifts. Mary Ann and Nancy Amesbury purchased and wrapped all the gifts.



Pictured left to right: Sue Cosgrove, Nancy Amesbury, Kellie Knesis, President, Mary Ann Amesbury, Past State President and Mary Ellen Dooley.



Division #1 ~ Mary Ellen Everett ~ Bristol

Little Ladies

This past October, our Littles did a fantastic job making our “Pattie O’Shamrock” scarecrow, which decorated our clubhouse lobby and helped promote our sock drive for Veterans.



We celebrated the birth of Jesus with a lesson about the first Christmas and the gifts the wise men gave. We also enjoyed

our Pollyanna gift exchange and ate many yummy goodies!

We look forward to starting the New Year with a collection to help feed animals in a local shelter.

Always following our Motto, “Faith, Unity, and Christian charity.”



The Ladies

We are thrilled to announce we were able to induct eight new members in September, October, and November



Dawn Myers, Michele Ushowitz, Connie Presser



Erin Moyer, Stephanie Carroll, JoAnn Joyce



Vicky Thompson

We have been holding “crash” events at some of the local business that sell our Irish Potatoes to say thank you for the support. We have been able to visit three local businesses recently and have much needed time with our fellow members.



On September 30th, we crashed Second Sin Brewing.



On November 4th, we crashed to Odd Logic Brewing.



On November 15th, we crashed Baileys Bar & Grill.



On December 2nd, we crashed Sadie's Irish Pub.

On October 21st, we participated in Historical Bristol Day. We had a raffle basket to raise money for our scholarship fund. It was a lot of fun interacting with our community and sharing the amazing work of the LAOH.



We had an eight members become Degreed members at the Tara Degree Teams Ceremony, November 12th at Roman Catholic High School.



Jamie Nazworth Hamilton, Connie Pressure, Erin Moyer, Lindsey Gougler, Anne Taylor, Amy Scheuer, Stephanie Carrol, Lauren Ivanchenko.

At our meeting on November 19th, we had the pleasure of honoring member Colleen Deck for being a Blue Star Mother and Melissa Hammond, our first recognized Veteran for our Division.



A few of our Ladies walked in the Bristol Borough Christmas Parade on November 25th. Our Division President, Brianna Curran, was named Grand Marshal of the parade this year



We held our annual Christmas Party on December 10th, we had a wonderful afternoon filled with food, love, and laughter. We even had a white elephant gift exchange and an ugly sweater contest.



We embraced the Christmas spirit this year by adopting three children in our community. Our community has experienced fires and hardships over the last year. The main request from the parents was clothing. Our Division purchased items for the children and our members purchased items, which made for a wonderful Christmas morning for the children. We are grateful for how our community organizes these drives and it reminds us of the true meaning of Christmas!





Division #61 ~ St. Katherine Drexel ~ Philadelphia County

Many of our Division members joined the Philadelphia Christmas Hibernian Hunger Project!



Christmas Party!!!



Division #87 ~ Our Lady of Knock~ Philadelphia County

We had a great time assisting with the Hibernian Hunger Project.



We visited with the women at St Mary's Home at 5th and Locust with Santa for lunch, sing a long, and BINGO!!!





And, we had a great LAOH Christmas celebration





Division #1 ~ Tir Na'N Og'~ Lehigh Valley *Shower of Roses*

In October, we had opportunity to serve as an Honor Guard at the Carmelite Nuns of the Allentown Monastery's Shower of Roses 🌹 .
What a beautiful Mass!



Pizza & Pumpkin Painting

We had a fun-filled evening at the Cay Galgon Life House, having a pizza dinner and painting pumpkins with the guests.



Purses, Purses, Purses

This fall, the Purse team assembled 251 purses for several local locations. For the 2023 year, the team led by Rosalie Goldstein, Mary Marshall, and Laura Weidman put together 460 purses.



Christmas Gathering

Once again, Dianne Mascari put together a festively wonderful Christmas Dinner!
Not only was the dinner delicious, the server superb, and the dessert decadent (and calorie free)
~ We loved our gift exchange game of Christmas trivia!



Wreaths Across America

Thank you to Jeanne Ferrucci, Sheryl O'Hurley, Maryclare Plucinsky, and Rosalie Goldstein for joining Maura Roszyk (a Blue Star Mom) at Wreaths Across America!
What a beautiful day to remember so many amazing people.



Happy New Year to All!



Degree Team Information

ALLEGHENY COUNTY CLADDAGH DEGREE TEAM

On October 15th at the Doubletree Hotel in Greentree the Degree, team held a Degree Ceremony.
It was a beautiful morning and we thank all who attended.



PHILADELPHIA COUNTY TARA DEGREE TEAM

On Sunday, November 12, 2023, The Tara Degree Team had the honor of conferring The Three Major Degrees of Our Order in Philadelphia. Forty candidates and twenty-five observers throughout Pennsylvania and New Jersey Divisions were present. It was a beautiful ceremony. The day ended with our LAOH sisters having a “cuppa” and spending time together. If you are degreed and interested in learning more about membership on The Tara Degree Team, please contact Maureen Dougherty Brown bmaureen51@gmail.com

A Question for the Board..

In this new section of the Newsletter, we will ask all the State Board Members a question for them to answer. We believe this provides yet another opportunity for Ladies across the Commonwealth to get to know their Board Members a little better.

Should you have a question you would like to ask, reach out!

As it is still early in the new year, did you make a New Year's Resolution?

**Have you kept it, and if so, have you seen a difference?
Did you know that approximately 38.5% of US adults set New Year's resolutions yearly.**

Did you know that self-help resolutions are most common.

Did you know people over 55 are 3.1 times less likely to have resolutions compared to younger adults.

Did you know that only 9% keep their resolution through the year!

Let's see what the Ladies of the Board do...

Sister Kathleen Mary Smith, RSM ~ Chaplain *I am attempting to be faithful to an indoor exercise routine so as to improve my endurance!*

Kathleen Diulus ~ President *I have given up on making New Year's resolutions many years ago as I was not very good at seeing them become a permanent change but I am constantly trying to be a work in progress!*

Carolyn Killion ~ Vice President *I resolved that this year I would chose how I spend my time more wisely. This means spending time with people I love, or chose to be with, as a top priority, and putting all the day-to-day tasks second. Work will get done, but time spent with others is priceless!*

Patti Flaus ~ Secretary *I didn't make a new year's resolution, but I have adopted a mindset for 2024. Kintsugi. This is a good article that explains it & how we can incorporate the concept in our everyday lives. (<https://www.malone.edu/gregmiller/from-the-presidents-pen/kintsugi-and-the-power-of-redemption/#:~:text=No%20matter%20how%20broken%20you,lives%20of%20those%20around%20you.>)*

Carole Cooney-Syzdek ~ Treasurer: *Every year try to log my low sugar, carbs, and calories intake. Started this in 2017 and have not broken it yet! I even take a travel food scale when going away. This year I added an additional one, to get out in the snow as much as possible. Got new snowshoes/poles and ski pants, etc., from Santa for Christmas... old ones were shot!.....lol.*

Brianna M. Curran ~ Historian: *As many in things in life, I like to take the road that challenges me. The following are my resolutions for 2024:*

- Workout a minimum of 3 times per week*
- Eat out less*
- DoorDash less*
- Work on saving for the wedding (which means eating out less and not DoorDashing lol)*



-Read one book per month

It is very early in the year, but I am doing well so far. They are more lifestyle goals than anything. Trying to focus on the positive and the things in life that I have control over. 2024 is going to be busy and exciting year for me. I want to ensure that I am meeting my goals and the expectations of our members. And I feel a healthier and positive outlook on life will help me to achieve them!

Mary Ellen Myers ~ Missions & Charities *Terrible to say, no new year resolution...*

Shirley Sestric~ Catholic Action *I did not make any resolutions this year.*

Maria E. Gallagher ~ Immediate Past President: *To live life to the fullest, enjoy my family and friends!*

Maura O'Donnell Roszyk ~ Publicity: *I actually started my Resolution back in October when my first Grandchild was born. I was so moved by this amazing happening to our family that I resolved each day to do my part to bring peace and grace to the world in any way I can. I will admit, this can be hard at times, but when I think of my Granddaughter, I take a deep breath and charge forward with this Resolution!*

Kalyn Populo ~ Webmaster: *Nope, I just take it day-by-day (que singing day by day from Godspell). I just try to be a good human every day.*

Of the 11 Ladies on the Board ~ 73% made Resolutions!

In true form, most were of the self-help nature, whether directly or to be more present and human in friends' and families' lives. The Newsletter Group feels really good the Resolutions made by our Ladies have an excellent chance of making through the year!

Past PA State Presidents

Bonnie Collins: *I haven't made a New Year's resolution in years. I find them to be frustrating, I just try to be positive. New Year's blessings to all!*

Nancy Cullen: *I really did not have any resolution to offer.*

Rae DiSpaldo: *I resolved to "de-stress" myself, at the same time, share my time and talents with others who request it.*

MaryAnn Lubinsky: *I do not make New Year's resolutions. Never did.*



Some Board Business

Treasurer ~ Carole Cooney-Syzdek

Deadline for submission of Financial Reports and Tax and Assessment Bill with check is as follows:

 *Divisions to State Treasurer without a County Board, January 31, 2024.*

 *Divisions with a County Board, submit your report to your County Board, January 31, 2024.*

County Boards to State Treasurer, February 29, 2024, due to Leap Year.

May God and peace be with you always and may 2024 be a most fun and productive year.



Publicity ~ Maura O'Donnell Roszyk

Reminder! Utilize this Dues Collection Period to check with all of your members if it is still okay to use their name, picture, and likeness in any and all LAOH publication medias.



Webmaster ~ Kalyn Populo

Please, please email me links to your Division(s)/County(s) Facebook, Instagram or X (formally Twitter)

and websites so I can link them on the State site in your Division's pages along with any photos, events, or fundraisers.

Additionally, I wish to add them to the calendar/feature them on the site.

My email is ~ palaohwebmaster@gmail.com

Speaking of the State Website, <https://www.statepalaoh.com> ~ Do you need the password for the Members

Only page of the website which is accessible via password?

Email me ~ palaohwebmaster@gmail.com



**The Blessing of God on you ~ Bail ó Dhia ort
Let's us remember the Souls of the recently departed
Eternal rest grant unto our Dearly Departed Sisters**



Paula Jean Plowey ~ Division 4 Mary Ellen O'Neil, Washington County



Compassionate and Gracious God, we come to you today to thank you for giving us a chance to live with our loved ones who recently left this world to come into your presence. Lord God Almighty, we know that they were not perfect, but they did love you with all their heart and truly repented for their sins. May they find love and peace in your presence. Do not let our loved one to be parted from you, let your faithful servant enjoy your glory forever. In Jesus' powerful name, I believe and pray. Amen.



The Power of Prayer is so very mighty therefore, we ask you to include the following Special people in yours.



Ellen McCrane of Division husband as he faces medical issues.



Brianna Curran's of Division One, Bristol family member, Susanne as she faces medical issues.



Shirley Sestric of Division 11's daughter Erin as she navigates her pregnancy.



Marie Nealis, Kathy Fanning and Carol Trask of Division 39 as they face medical issues.



Janet Connors of Division 39 as she recovers from a fall.



Nancy Cullen of Division 39's grandson, Ronan as he faces his medical issues.



Colleen Bowers, PA Past State President, Ellen McCrane, PA Past State President, Maria Gallagher, PA Past State President, Kathleen Diulus, current PA State President and all of our Sisters who are battling Breast Cancer or are survivors. St. Peregrine and St. Agatha, pray for them.



Kathleen Varady's grandson, as he deals with several obstacles thrown in his life path.



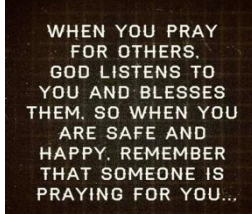
Sammi Smith of Division One~ Lehigh Valley ~ as she faces medical issues.



We pray for peace and civility in our home country, America and our motherland, Ireland.



A special prayer for everyone's Special Intentions.



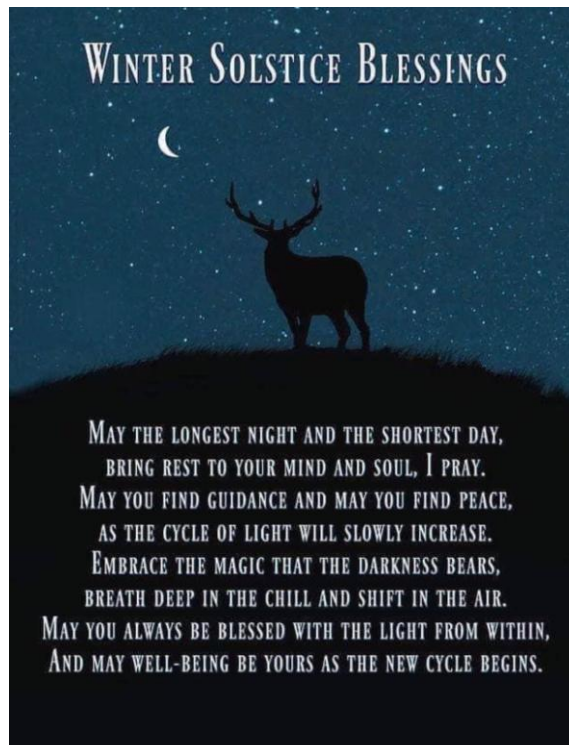
Additionally, we ask for prayers of strength and courage to all of those ailing & their caregivers Also, to all the Sisters, Priests, and others without loved ones to pray for their soul. And, a prayer for us all as each one of us faces our daily struggles, fears, and pains.



Be safe ~ BÍ curamach

Lastly, please send in your Good News, Committee Updates, or Prayer Requests so together, We can celebrate & support each other.

Please email them to Maura O'Donnell-Roszyk at palaohpublicity@gmail.com To be sure, I received ~ please message me if I do not send you a RECEIVED response.



A WOMAN'S PRAYER ~ SR. PEGGY FLAHERTY, CDP

Make us, O God, spirit-filled women...women of prayer...women of vitality...women of vision..

Women of courage...risk-taking women.

*Fill us with your love...a love, which affirms...a love, which calls forth...a love, which challenges...a love, which frees.
Grant us your gift of Godliness... a reverence for you. Instill in our hearts the spirit of holy Joy...the joy that sanctifies...the
joy that gives...the joy of one who loves... the joy that imparts to others the spirit born of self-control.*

*Make us Peace-seeking women...instruments of your peace...directed by your Wisdom,
bridge builders...working with others for justice to bring about true peace.*

*Give us Patience...a strong patience which enables us to trust and to keep heart in the face of disappointments,
frustrations, and failures.*

*Plant deep within our attitudes your kindness...make us women who are open and friendly...women of hospitality...women
who image our people friendly God. Impart to us your spirit of Goodness...Make us women who believe in the good of the
other...who speak the good to each other and about each other...who do good for one another...Bestow on us your gift of
knowledge that we may know you who are the source of all good.*

Root us in your Fidelity...a fidelity that keeps us true to you...walking in integrity in your presence...

Mold us into faithful women...women who are true to ourselves...true to others... true to life and all creation.

Form us into women who follow your Counsel in all things, who uphold true values and the rights of all people.

Make us, O God, Spirit filled Irish women, trusting you and one another as we move into this 21st Century.

Our Late Pennsylvania State Chaplain, Sister Peggy Flaherty, also Dorothy Weldon's sister, wrote this beautiful & inspirational prayer.

Sister Peggy was a member of the Sisters of Divine Providence in Pittsburgh, PA. She was the youngest member of the Order to become a Principal of St. Peter and Paul School in Beaver County, PA until her death.

Sister was also the Chaplain of the LAOH, Allegheny County and loved by all. She was elected State Chair of Catholic Action before her untimely death and served us well. She was truly loved by everyone, always available to assist and a genuine Irish Catholic Woman as her Father, Martin Flaherty was born in County Galway, Ireland, and Mother, Mary McElligott Flaherty, born in County Kerry, Ireland.

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and visit our revamped website ~ <https://www.laohalleghenycounty.com>