

Erin's Echo

Maryland State Board
Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc.

President's Message

Greetings from your president,

Starting off the New Year I was able to visit several divisions and had the privilege of installing officers as well as seeing the uniqueness of the individual divisions. I hope to continue my visits in May and June. Missions and Charities Bingo was canceled due to low ticket sales, but they will continue with the ever-popular Tombola Auction through mid-May. The LAOH State Board is happy to announce their largest ever jackpot fundraiser where some lucky winner will be the recipient of \$2,000 dollars. Tickets are available online or through individual divisions.

The National LAOH/AOH Convention is this August in the Sunny State of Florida. As in the past, it is a time for members to vote on recommended Constitutional changes. One of the recommended changes is to remove the word "women" from our field of membership and replace with "people" and switch to pronouns in our Constitution so we are "more up to date within the current use of pronouns."

Just as the gender/pronoun issue has divided our nation, it is my fear if both recommendations are passed it will not only divide our organization but exacerbate an already fragile decline in an organization that is struggling to find and retain members.

I want to thank those members who shared their thoughts with me, and I encourage all members to take part in the upcoming National Zoom meetings to express their concerns.

In Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity,

-Kathy Norris-

Uachtarán (Maryland LAOH State President)

-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>



Volume 59 No. 2 Apr., May, June, 2024

Calendar

May

May 4: Annapolis Irish Festival, AA County Fairgrounds, Crownsville, MD, 11 AM-10PM, \$25

May 4-5: "Mother's Day" Baby Shower, at masses, St. John the Evangelist, Columbia, Howard County Division

May 21: May Crowning, St. Mark's Chapel, 6 PM, Harford County, Division 2

June

June 1: State Board Meeting, 10 AM, Location TBD

August

Aug.: 7-11 AOH-LAOH National Convention, Rosen Centre Hotel, Orlando, FL., <https://ladiesaoh.com>

Cultural Corner

THE HUNTER by Tana French
LONG ISLAND by Colm Toibin
, sequel to BROOKLYN

SOME OF US ARE LOOKING
by Carlene O'Connor
April 23 book club selection

-Joanna Cox



Gatherings

Beannachtaí na Cásca oraibh!
The Blessings of Easter be on You!
Pronounced: Banak-tee/na/Cawsca/oriv!

Easter is a joyful time to remember how God saved a slave by offering up his Son and later raised Him from the dead to vindicate him and show him a victorious Savior. This Christian Easter message sounds ludicrous. But we are speaking about God, whose love knows no limits and who goes to any lengths to free us from the effects of sin and disastrous consequences. God's mercy endures forever and our grateful response is to live in such a way that gives God glory.

Easter Sunday celebrations in Ireland are like those in the United States: more Catholics attend Mass; eggs are dyed for the children; large dinners with lamb bring families together. The central difference is that this liturgical solemn holiday is tied to a rebellion in 1916 familiarly called the Easter Rebellion of 1916. Led by Patrick Pearse and James Connolly, paramilitary groups served as the Irish Volunteers in Dublin. One group of 200 women called themselves Cumann na mBan or The Women's Council. They were a significant group among the rebels. Although the Rebellion was unsuccessful, it ignited a determination in Ireland to free itself from foreign domination and secure independence through negotiation.

Easter is a holiday of freedom and liberation for Catholics, especially for the Irish. We have two very special reasons to make Easter a special time of year.



Father Frain, SJ, LAOH State Chaplain

Worcester County, Division 1

January: Four new members were installed. We discussed the donation of cereal for Joseph House or St. Vincent de Paul Society. We will be collecting both in January and February. Plus, scheduling the mass for St Brigid was planned by Catholic Action, Kitty Reeves, at Mary Star of the Sea Church, said by our Chaplain Father Solomon. Kitty also did a great job for the giving tree at Christmas for three families.

February: Our sisters attended a lovely tea at the Boardwalk Plaza Hotel, in Rehoboth Beach. Cathy Bocci led the group in prayer before the tea. St. Brigid's mass was celebrated on Feb. 1, 2024, by Father Solomon; breakfast followed. At our meeting we reviewed which charities we will donate to. Also, new business was discussed raising our ticket prices for our annual card party to \$30.00, as approved. .

Pot of Gold Raffle for the St. Patrick's Day Parade was approved for the tickets to be sold, 7 for \$10. Sisters will be selling them at the parade and at the Knights of Columbus; winner receives \$500. We will be marching in the parade and then going to the K of C.

Our ladies brought in 45 boxes of cereal. In March we will have another drive for cereal for the needy. SMEAP scholarship application was presented. .



March: The meeting will be on March 12 because of preparations for the Parade. Flags and banners will be distributed that day. Tickets must also be returned at the meeting.

- Ann Cottingham, President-

Anne Arundel County, Division 1

The Anne Arundel County ladies had a very busy 2nd Quarter. In January we installed our new executive board and new member, Stephanie Begley-Smith. We installed another new member in February – Loretta Walz – and are currently planning to install two more ladies at our April meeting.

February also brought a flurry of Masses and Parades that were attended by some of our members. We started with the St. Brigid Mass at St. Ignatius Church and 2 weeks later, attended the Baltimore St. Patrick's Parade Installation Mass at the Baltimore Basilica. The Installation Mass was even more special when our own Patti Petti was honored as a Deputy Marshal for the 2024 Baltimore St. Patrick's Parade. In addition, our Catholic Action officer, Lyn Tilden, presented an opportunity for our participation in a fundraiser sponsored by the Knights of Columbus for a local sick child. 12 members baked and donated 13 cakes for auction.



2024 Baltimore Parade Marshals

March was another busy month. Members, joined by the Annapolis AOH, served soup, bread, salad, and dessert to parishioners at St. John Neumann church for one of the Lenten Soup Suppers held during Lent. We also set up a membership table and sold a few State raffle tickets. On a cold, blustery

day, 5 ladies marched in the Baltimore St. Patrick's Parade. One week later, a large group of ladies, including sisters from Harford 2 and State President, Kathy Norris, marched in the Annapolis St. Patrick's Parade.

-Dee McCarthy, President-

Cecil County, Division 1

The members of LAOH Cecil County Division 1 engaged in their Third Annual Fill the Trunk Food Drive in January at several churches in both Cecil County parishes. The final tally was---12 trunk-loads of non-perishable food were collected and donated to support Good Shepherd Parish's St. Vincent de Paul Society and the Immaculate Conception Parish Outreach.

Our next project was the Second Annual Lenten Diaper Drive which began on Ash Wednesday and wrapped up on Easter Sunday. During that time, 9617 diapers were collected at the churches and will be donated to the two Cecil County Pregnancy Centers.

In March, our members enjoyed the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Baltimore and the Celtic Festival at Milburn Stone Theater. St. Patrick's Day was celebrated by Cecil County Division 1 at the Second Annual St. Patrick's Day Breakfast on March 23 assisted by the Knights of Columbus Council 2427. Over 100 Irish-loving souls braved the pouring rain and came to Immaculate Conception School to enjoy a traditional Irish breakfast and contemporary Irish entertainment. Irish musicians and Irish dancers were cheered by the enthusiastic crowd. Proceeds from a silent auction and 50/50 raffle offset the expenses of the beloved event.

To complete the first quarter of 2024, three new members were accepted and initiated in March. Division 1 welcomed Liz Orr, Terese Balzereit and Rebecca Hughes.

-JoAnne Bierly, Reporter

Harford County, Division 2

On November 28, 2023 our division, in conjunction with the Catholic War Veterans, decorated 61 doors for veterans at the VA Rehab facility at Loch Raven. These were taken down in January and stored at the facility to be available for hanging again after Thanksgiving 2024.

Our division's Christmas Party was held at the St John's 10th Ward Christmas Gala. The holiday spirit was overshadowed by Thelma Graziano being at Johns Hopkins Hospital. She passed away on December 21. Our division performed the funeral ritual at her wake and was the honor guard at her funeral.

Our St Ita Mass and Crab Cake Dinner was held January 14 in honor and memory of Thelma, who originated the mass for us

20-some years ago. Her family members participated in the event.

March was a busy month with the Installation of Officers at our March meeting, the St Brigid's Mass, the Parade Marshals Installation Mass at the Basilica, Parade fundraisers, and the St. Patrick's Day Parade itself.

Our division will be preparing for our May Crowning in St. Mark's chapel at 6 PM on May 21. All are welcome, so come join us. We will also be collecting baby items for the Gabriel Project Outreach and supplies for soldiers and veterans in honor of Memorial Day.



We are planning our Rosary Night for October 15 and also hope to organize a bus trip to Antietam for the luminaries on December 7, 2024.

-Gleela Kolakowski-Reporter

Baltimore City, Division 1

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

We support Marian House, a holistic, healing community for women and their children who need housing and support services. We meet the 2nd 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

Howard County, Division 1

Amidst Easter blooms and April showers, we have begun selling Maryland LAOH raffle fundraiser tickets and assisted the Knights of Columbus at their St. Patrick's Dinner celebration on April 6. We decorated, served cakes, donated a basket for auction and thoroughly enjoyed the evening of food and fun benefitting the Tanzanian Children's Project.

We look forward to attending the Maryland LAOH/St. John's Ward combined St. Patrick's Parade fundraiser at Jerry D's on April 21. During the weekend of May 4-5, we will be holding a "Mother's Day" Baby Shower benefitting the Columbia Pregnancy Center at all Masses at St. John the Evangelist, Columbia. On Saturday, June 29, we are partnering with the St. Vincent de Paul St John's Conference to hold a parish Flea Market from 8 – 1 pm. The fees collected for rental of spaces will benefit both organizations' charities helping those in need.

We continue to make sashes as a fundraiser. As our Division prepares to break for the summer, we wish our Maryland LAOH Sisters this blessing:

*May the raindrops fall lightly on your brow.
May the soft winds freshen your spirit.
May the sunshine brighten your heart
May the burdens of the day rest lightly upon you
And may God enfold you in the mantle of His love.*

-Sharon Strobel, President-

Carroll County, Division 1

"Beannachtai na Cascaoraibh" The Blessing of Easter to You. Happy Spring! Your Carroll County Sister Hibernians hope everyone had a Blessed Easter.

In February many of our sisters attended the St Brigid Mass. We installed our new Officers-President-Mary Beth Connolly, VP-Diane Zeller, Secretary-Mary Anne Byan, Treasurer-Kelly Parks, Financial Secretary-Chris Parks, Catholic Action-Pat Gauthier, Missions & Charities-Marge Chowing, and Sentinel - Redonna Genco, and Mistress at Arms- Barb Bray. Congratulations to the 2024-25 Carroll County Officers.

We also installed a new member, Colleen Berry, in our division. Some of our members attended the Installation of Parade Marshalls and attended the viewing of one of members whose husband passed away.

March was a whirlwind. Many of our sisters were excited to ride the Trolley in the Baltimore St Patrick's Day Parade. The Trolley was beautifully decorated with banners and balloons. Teresa Parks-Carpenter brought her three little leprechauns to walk in the Parade with the Ladies and they were a big hit. On St Patrick's Day our division attended the 10 o'clock Mass at St.

Bartholomew's and went to lunch after mass. We really enjoyed our time together.

At our April meeting we planned our next fundraiser, we are again doing our Patriotic Wagon Picnic Basket. We are also



2024 Baltimore St. Patrick's Day Parade

planning our Annual June Retreat at the Aisling House. We like the idea of doing some fun things along with our meetings.

Respectfully Submitted,

-Mary Beth Connolly, President

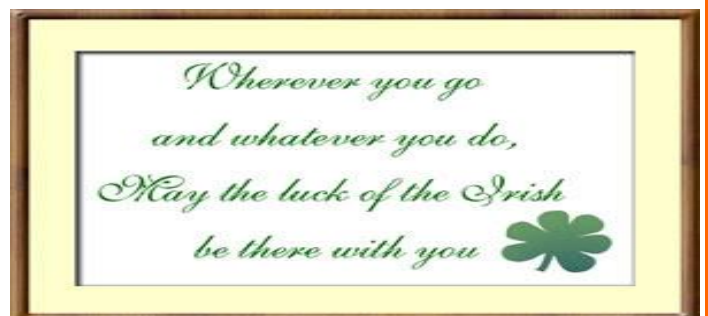
Baltimore County, Division 14

Happy Spring! A number of our members braved the winds and marched in the St. Patrick's Day Parade. We said prayers of Thanksgiving that there was no rain or snow! Now that the winter is behind us, we are embracing spring and in May we will be having a luncheon to enjoy each other's company and fellowship.

At our May meeting we will have our annual "Baby Shower". We collect preemie clothes and other baby items that are donated to Mercy Hospital's NICU. They are always thrilled when we show up to drop off all the items collected. We hope everyone has a safe Spring!

Respectfully submitted,

-Katie McCune, President-



Harford County, Division 1



Installation of officers occurred in January with state president, Kathleen Norris presiding. Eileen Verch, Chris Brown, Kathy O'Connell, Barbara Caine and Courtney Caine represented our Division at the St. Brigid's Mass at St. Ignatius in February.

Our Division's own Emily Jester was selected as one of the Top 40 Under 40 honorees by the @irishechnewspaper in February. Congratulations Emily!

More than a dozen of our ladies attended the St. Patrick's Day Parade on the trolley (and a few walkers) and then enjoyed a luncheon together in Timonium. Barbara and Courtney Caine represented our Division at Cecil County's St. Patrick Breakfast.

On St. Patrick's Day, 15 of our members attended a membership Mass at St. Patrick's in Havre de Grace. Members enjoyed a luncheon together after Mass at the Wellwood in Charlestown, MD. The 50/50 raffle winner of \$715 was drawn at the luncheon and that lucky lady was Mary O'Brien from Carroll County Division1. Many thanks to all who supported our raffle.

We were delighted to have several ladies from St. Patrick's Church express interest in our Order and at our April meeting we obligated two new members. Welcome Loretta Staal and Erin Walsh! We are working on plans for our next fundraiser, a Bingo with a tentative date of October 19th. We are planning on having a basket raffle and sale of Christmas items along with the Bingo. More details to come.

- Laurie Hauser, Reporter

Baltimore County, Division 4

Hello Ladies,

Hope everyone had a safe, holy and renewing Easter experience. Soon we should be seeing some consistencies in warmer temperatures with a rebirth of perennial flowers. As life goes on, we'll update you as to our participation in the LAOH's functions of the last quarter. Not only are we the oldest

division, (125 years), we may be the smallest, (six members with one member living out of state). HINT, HINT we need new members!!!

January, 2024, we welcomed the New Year in with our own family celebrations.

February, only one of our five in-state members was able to attend the St. Brigid Mass.

March, two of our members participated in the St. Patrick's Day Parade while the rest of us participated in family celebrations. Additionally, we got back to work and sent our charity, the Little Sisters of the Poor, a \$500 donation. Our 2024 fundraiser is a collection of gift cards. The chances remain the same at \$2.00 a chance or six chances for \$5.00. You can send your request for chances to Pat Zaccari at 14100 Blenheim Rd North, Phoenix, MD 21131 or email Pat at vangoghatphoenix@aol.com.

May God Bless us all.

-Jeraldine Ragan, Vice President

Baltimore County, Division 1

Happy Spring!!! Let's hope we just have a few light spring showers without any flooding. We attended the St. Ida Mass and the St Brigid Mass, which were both beautiful honoring two of our Irish saints.

We attended most of the St Patrick's Parade Fundraisers and enjoyed walking in the parade. I walked in the Annapolis Parade with the Anne Arundel County division and remembered when the Baltimore Parade had that many viewers. With so much going on, we didn't have our St Patrick's Day luncheon until a week later at Shannon's in Ellicott City.

Hope to see everyone at the LAOH/St Johns Tenth Ward parade fundraiser on Sunday at Jerry D's.

It's a shame the Bingo got canceled but hopefully the raffle will make up for it and raise a good amount for Mission & Charities. .

-Maureen Shettle, 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.



