

Florida State Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians



April 2024
Issue 5

2024-2025 OFFICERS

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Fr Marcos Zamora

President

Louise Sullivan

Vice President

Mary McNamee

Secretary

Charlene Hollars

Treasurer

Debbie Demars-Clark

Mission & Charities

Anna Neve

Catholic Action

Maureen Leahy-Rice

Irish Historian

Laura Vahey

Mistress-at-Arms

Vacant

Sentinel

Vacant



A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Hello Sisters

I hope all of you are enjoying the many St Patrick's Day celebrations going on. Time is passing by so quickly and I am sure we have all been busy.

I returned to Florida for the New Year only to find it a bit chilly here. The fact that we turned on the heat tells me I am becoming a true Floridian.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE continued

- Our State Board has been busy, we did a 50/50 and raised \$1000 for the FFAI Christmas Appeal. I am so proud of us as it was not long ago nothing was raised for FFAI. We have come so far with every division donating.
- Our March Lotto Calendar has and will be on Facebook Live each night with prizes awarded all month. We sold 145 calendars this year, so I thank all of you for supporting this annual fundraiser.
- I attended a lecture/luncheon/meeting on March 6th at USF in Tampa. Also in attendance was our Vice President Mary McNamee along with both our husbands, Jim Sullivan, and Kenny McNamee. Prof. Knight and our Hibernian Sister Prof Elizabeth Ricketts-Jones hosted a lecture by our Sister Laura Vahey. Following the lecture, we had a wonderful lunch with members of the Irish Studies program along with a discussion of different programs the professors are hoping to implement. We are excited where this venture with the college is heading and look forward to being a participating partner.
- The state trip to Savannah is April 2-5 sadly only 9 or 10 of us are going. We were hoping for a larger turnout after everyone enjoyed St Augustine last year. Either way those attending are going to have a wonderful time.
- Our State Meeting will be April 20th at the Rosen Centre. I look forward to seeing many of you there. More information will be coming out shortly.
- Our National Convention is August 7-11 in Orlando at the Rosen Centre. Reservations can be made through the national website, rooms are \$129. The form is also there for the dinner packet. We are looking for volunteers to help during this time so please consider donating an hour or two of your time. More information will be sent out via email as I receive it. There will be a degree ceremony done by the new traveling degree team.
- We are actively working on two new divisions, one in the Debarry/Deltona area and in the St Petersburg area.
- As Easter is almost here, I would like to wish all of you a Blessed Easter.
- Louise Sullivan
- Florida State LAOH President



Indian River County, Div 2, Mother Teresa

A night out at The Crab
Stop to see our youngest
member, Colleen Jordan,
perform

Welcome to IRC Div 2's newest member, Maureen Sciortino



Welcome Maureen Sciortino!

Donating a \$560 check to the Michael Abt Jr. Have a Heart Foundation in front of Mel Fishers Maritime Museum



Mary McNamee, Nicole from the foundation, Linda Whalan Carosella, Peggy Connelly, Ruth Kucharski, Maureen Fitzpatrick, Patricia Cooper

Indian River County had a great final meeting of 2023 on December 6th



Patricia Cooper, Maureen Fitzpatrick, Laurie O'Donoghue Koblegard, Ruth Kucharski, Joan Lapenna, Kathy Garon Moody, Cathy Duggan, Dorothy Plitsch, Linda Whalan Carosella



We hosted Derek Warfield & The Young Wolfe Tones on January 27th, it was a grand evening!



Peter Bonell
Louise Sullivan



Dorothy Plitsch
Mary McNamee



Mary McNamee
Kathy Parent



Louise Sullivan
Gabby Jordan





Joan & Bob Lapenna

Linda, Ray and their friend



Kathy's friend with Pat C
And Ruth K

Trish & Ray Wesley



Frank Corcoran & Connie Hart



Maureen Fitzpatrick

Our Bartenders!
Charlie, Maggie & Ken



Dorothy P., Kathy M., Linda C.,
Laurie K., Ruth K.



On February 7th we welcomed three new members into our division, Mary M, Ruth K, Linda C, Lisa Saviano, Gloria Bonell, Louise S, Maureen F (not pictured Diane Page)

Diane P. Pat S,
Joan L



On March 6th Indian River County welcomed Our newest Member, Louise Thompson. We also reinstated Trish Wesley & Kelly Darmetko.

Mary, Trish, Louise T, Kelly



On February 28th I was proud to represent Indian River County LAOH and AOH at the Sebastian City Council meeting. It was an honor to receive the proclamation from our Mayor, Ed Dodd, acknowledging March as Irish American Heritage Month. Sharing our Irish American Heritage is important to our organizations, and it begins at home in our community. We are proud to support many local charities and organizations and truly appreciate the support they give back to us.

2024 Indian River County Div 2 Fundraiser Cruise



Louise & Jim Sullivan



Mark & Gabby Jordan



Husbands relaxing



Some of the crew



Peter, Mark, Gabby, Gloria



Mark & Gabby our lucky winners!

We baked 200 loaves of Irish Soda Bread to sell after all masses
The weekend of March 16th & 17th. Hoping to sell out



Margaret, Linda,
Louise, Kathy

Pat S



Linda, Margaret, Ruth



Dear Madam President,

Thank you for this opportunity to report how our LAOH Pasco Division is doing.

2023 ended on a high note for this Division. After changing our meeting day to Saturday, we had four new ladies join us. We welcome Norine Boyle, Eileen McNeil, Kerry McNeil Testani, and Sharon Lyle.

Our Nominating Committee did a great job resulting in a full Board being installed. We thank our Florida State Officers for making the drive to install our Ladies.

Our Fundraising Committee has also been busy at work with our first fundraiser being held at a local restaurant, Beef "O" Brady's. This fundraiser brought in 15% of everyone's meals for the day.

We are preparing for our St. Patrick's Day Basket raffle.

We are looking forward to a good year!

I gCairdeas, Aontacht & Carthanacht Chríostaí

Debbie Demars-Clark, President
St. Bridgid, Div 1, Pasco County, FL
(951) 333-4396
debbie@homesbydebbiedemars.com

Florida State Board members install Pasco County Board Members

Pasco County Board



Florida Board with
Pasco County Board

Pasco County Monthly Meeting



Had a wonderful time
Attending the monthly
meeting and then going
For a delicious lunch
afterwards





- To survivors, former residents, their families and advocates,

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- The Mother and Baby Institutions Payment Scheme is now open for applications.

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- The Payment Scheme provides financial payments and health supports to eligible people who spent time in Mother and Baby and County Home Institutions in Ireland. It is a key element of the Government's Action Plan for Survivors and Former Residents of Mother and Baby and County Home Institutions.

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- **How to apply**

- There is a straightforward application process in place to help everyone access the benefits that they are entitled to. The quickest and easiest way to apply is to do so online by visiting www.gov.ie/paymentscheme. To follow the link, click/tap on the underlined text. For those who wish to apply using a hard copy of the application form, this can be downloaded from the website, or applicants can request a copy by post by phoning the Payment Scheme Office helpline at +353 1 522 9992.

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- The Payment Scheme Office will process all applications as quickly as possible. It will give priority to applications according to the age of the applicant, and so applications from older people will be dealt with first. The first cohort to be processed will be applications from those aged 80 and older.

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- **More information**

- Further resources, including an information booklet, questions and answers, and straightforward information on the application process, is available at the dedicated Payment Scheme website – www.gov.ie/paymentscheme.

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Laura Vahey,
Florida State
Historian,
presents the
winner of the
FFAI Fundraiser,
St.Patrick's
Wreath, to
Barbara O'Dell.



Welcome Sandra Perillo and Colleen Savas to Hillsborough County, Div 1.



Prince of Peace Catholic Church hosted several Priests for a Day of Reconciliation in December during Advent. LAOH members served dinner to the priests.



Father Tim Cummings,
Father Dermot Dunne,
Father Alfred Kimaryo &
Father Brian McColl

Father Anthony Astrab,
Father George Gyasi_
& Father Tim Cummings



Father Tim, Lynn M, Karen H, Rosemary R, Charlene H, Colleen W

Halloween Party at The Lazy Gator

Colleen W, MaryJane B,
Rosemary R



Sheila B, Teresa W, Helen G,
Joe G, Nancy S, Sandi P



Pam and her Dad

Laura V



Carol R, MaryJane B, Pat C, Ron C,
Trish O, Pat S, Alycia S

Pat S, Kay L



Our little St. Valentine's Day get together...
We felt the LOVE!





Charlene Hollars, Past President
Installs Maureen Heaney as the
New President of Hillsborough
County, Div 1, St. Ita

Maureen receives
“ The Gavel”





FUNDRAISER FOR NATIONAL ELECTIONS



JIM SULLIVAN – AOH NATIONAL DIRECTOR

MARY McNAMEE – LAOH NATIONAL MISSION & CHARITIES

Date: Saturday, April 6th

Time: 5:00PM—8:00ish PM

Location: American Legion, Post 189

807 Louisiana Ave, Sebastian FL 32958

Cost: \$15 per person **Drinks:** Cash Bar

Food: Italian, including Salad, Main, Dessert

R.S.V.P. : Louise Sullivan - (347) 721-2477

Frank Corcoran - (315) 415-2602

Ken McNamee - (772) 588-4292



Music - Johnny & The Blaze

Raffles - 50/50

**COME OUT AND SUPPORT OUR AOH & LAOH
MEMBERS WHO WILL BE REPRESENTING
FLORIDA AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL**



CANT ATTEND? WE WILL MISS YOU.

YOU CAN SEND DONATIONS TO :

LOUISE SULLIVAN

222 STONEY POINT DRIVE, SEBASTIAN, FL 32958

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO LAOH



***Congratulations to our very own Mary McNamee and
Jim Sullivan! Donations are still being accepted.***

LAOH / AOH STATE MEETING

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW TO ATTEND THE UPCOMING
LAOH/AOH STATE CONVENTION – Saturday, April 20, 2024
At the Rosen Centre in Orlando.

LAOH / AOH NATIONAL CONVENTION

LAOH/AOH NATIONAL CONVENTION on August 7 – 11, 2024 in Orlando
at the Rosen Centre.

Copy the following address into
your web browser to take you to
the convention information:

<https://orlandoirish2024.com>

2024 Florida State Trip





Savannah, GA – 2024
Florida State Trip



Beautiful Georgia sights



FOR US IRISH CRAFTERS



may your stash be
EVER plentiful

may your needle be
FOREVER sharp



may your bobbin be
eternally full

