

# Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc



*Organized in 1894*

**NATIONAL CHAPLAIN**

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Dear Sisters and Father Duns,

It was an amazing privilege and pleasure to have served as your National Webmaster. I was so fortunate to be able to learn and grow with our organization while directly working with so many of our members on different states and levels. It has been very eye-opening learning about the needs, concerns, and achievements of our divisions, counties, and states.

I would be remiss if I did not say it was an emotional National Convention for me. During our 2018 Convention in Louisville, Kentucky, I remember sitting in awe of our National Board - their achievements, their passion, and the delegates' dedication and commitment to our order. I left convention so inspired and with a level of passion for nonprofit work that I had never experienced before. At that time, I could never have imagined the amazing opportunity I was given to serve you, let alone you would find me worthy of being elected to the National Board. When Patty Delaney read my nomination letter, I knew it would strike an emotional chord in me, she has known me since I was a very small child and is my "LAOH mom." Then to see so many delegates stand, I will never forget my "why", which is you and those we help. I am incredibly honored to serve the next two years as your National Catholic Action officer.

The highlight of being the Pennsylvania Catholic Action officer was organizing a Supply Drive for the Women's Help Center during the PA Convention in Johnstown PA. It was truly impactful to their organization, and it showed what an area without a LAOH could accomplish! I am also extremely grateful to Ed Dougherty and the PA AOH for supporting our efforts. We are an amazing organization of passionate, intelligent, and strong women, and when the AOH & LAOH collaborate and work together for a common goal the results can be life changing.

**Important Information:**

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Please send your Project St. Patrick and SOAR donations to me directly. Attached is also an updated donation form for you to use—a PDF for printing and a PDF fillable for online completion.

### **Recommendations from the National Convention:**

- To formally include the Humanitarian Fund under the auspice of the Catholic Action Officer. In addition, guidelines to be developed by the next interim board meeting, outlining how funds will be requested and distributed.
- To formally include Brigid's Hearth as a Catholic Action activity under the auspice of the Catholic Action Officer and work with this committee to develop guidelines by the next interim board meeting for inclusion and disbursement of funds.
- To align the Catholic Action annual report due dates to those of the financial and membership reports.

### **Support our Aging Religious (SOAR)**

Support our Aging Religious is one of the charities that is supported by the LAOH. This organization uses the donations to provide grants to religious congregations to improve their quality of life in their retirement years.

**\*Please do not donate directly to SOAR, or your Division/ County/ State will not receive credit in the quarterly or annual reporting.**

### **Project St. Patrick**

Project St. Patrick continues to be a joint project with the AOH. Sean Pender has appointed a new PSP appointee, Kevin Delaney. Once we have our internal meeting to discuss dates/deadlines, I will provide this information to our officers and an updated letter and application will be added to the website. In the meantime, please look into who your local directors are and please provide me with their contact information. We have a pre-existing list of those who we have worked with in the past, but I would be more than happy to add to the list. Our goal is to help those who need our financial support!

### **Need for Blood Donations**

We have an opportunity to help where it will not have a monetary cost to our members. We are asking our membership to promote making an appointment for a blood donation to the American Red Cross or your local blood donation center in the next month. If you would be interested in hosting a blood drive and need assistance, please let me know!

Even if you cannot donate yourself, please:

- Ask a friend and/or family member to make a blood donate
- Find and promote a local blood drive using - <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/find-drive>
- Host a local blood drive - <https://www.redcrossblood.org/hosting-a-blood-drive/learn-about-hosting/how-hosting-a-blood-drive-works.html>
- Share the LAOH Facebook and Instagram posts urging other members to make a blood donation

### **Brigid's Hearth**

Brigid's Hearth will be a new focus for our organization and will fall under the responsibilities of the National Catholic Action officer. Our goal is to support our local religious in need. We are working with our a few of our members, Sister Kathleen Smith (PA), Sister Lisa Breslin (PA), plus Father Ryan Duns, Father Timothy Harris, Father Henry Reid, and Father Pat Spicer. Our new initiative is in its infancy stage and more information will be shared once it is worked out amongst the committee. Then we can work together on the guidelines to be approved at the interim board meeting.

I would like to share a few of my favor quotes:

- “Pray for the dead, and fight like hell for the living.” – Mother Jones (A strong Irish born American woman)
- "If you judge people, you have no time to love them." And "Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love." – Mother Teresa
- " Be the change that you wish to see in the world." – Gandhi

Together with the help of the AOH, our families, and friends we will be able to make a positive impact on many individuals' lives. Please do not hesitate to reach out with questions or if you need any assistance. I am looking forward to the amazing work we will do together!

In Our Motto- Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,  
Brianna Curran  
National Catholic Action Officer  
Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc.

