



Erin's Echo

Maryland State Board
Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc.

President's Message

Help Wanted, Irish Need ~~Not~~ Apply

I want to be a cheerleader for women who have never even considered running for office or being involved in a campaign, but who in the quietness of their hearts might think, 'Why not me?' Marianne Williamson

I love that quote because everyone has the potential within themselves to contribute their unique qualities.

After six wonderful years, the time has come for me and other State Board Officers to step down and make room for a new slate of officers.

Unfortunately, to date, there has been no interest in filling several State Officer positions. These positions are critical if our State Board and Divisions are to continue operating. Certain members may be reluctant to undertake these roles.

Fear of the unknown or being different is natural, but past officers will support and see that you succeed--- *The reward for being in a leadership role?*--- The positive difference you made to the organization and the lifelong friends you made along the way.

The sign "Help Wanted No Irish Need Apply" indicates historical exclusion from jobs and political offices for individuals of Irish descent in both Ireland and the U.S.

It is challenging to find one Irish Catholic woman interested in applying for a position on our State Board. Sadly, what a difference a few generations have made. When it is out of our reach, we crave it. When it is within our reach, the desire is no longer appealing.

-Kathy Norris-

Uachtarán (Maryland LAOH State President)



Volume 60 No. 2, Apr., May, June 2025

Calendar

April

May

May 2-3: Annapolis Irish Festival, County Fairgrounds, Crownsville, Fri. 5-9, Sat. 11-9, \$15

June

June 7: LAOH State Board, 10 AM, Location TBD

June 8: Harford 1 Raffle Drawing, Tickets \$5, Flyer

October

Oct. 2-5: MD AOH-LAOH State Convention, Ashore Hotel, Ocean City, MD, Details to Follow

November

Nov. 7-9: Maryland Irish Festival, Details to Follow

Cultural Corner

ROT:AN IMPERIAL HISTORY OF THE IRISH FAMINE by Padraic X



Scanlan (recommended by Beth Lund)

THE GHOSTS OF ROME by Joseph O'Connor,
2nd book in trilogy

TWIST by Colum McCann

STAR OF THE SEA by Joseph O'Connor, first
book club selection and April 29 selection

Meeting 12:30pm at Bluestone r.s.v.p

miskellycox@verizon.net

-Joanna Cox

-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>

Worcester County, Division 1

Our January meeting was held with our mass for St. Brigid's. The mass was scheduled by Joanne Kirby. Luncheon followed with 15 attending, wearing our black and whites. She did a great job last year and had our painting of St Brigid redone and it looks absolutely beautiful. Thank you for doing this for our sisterhood.

In February, we held the installation of four new members; a lovely ceremony with scones, sweets, decorations and bagels supplied by our dessert team which was headed by Mary Jean. Everyone enjoys their touch to our meeting. Toni is so talented. Next on the agenda is the St Patrick's Day Parade, Ocean City, Md. Ten sisters are walking and two husbands are carrying the banner.

Next year we will have a larger attendance. Anne Dolan's husband is going to lend us his flatbed trailer. Our Pot of Gold tickets were given out at this meeting. Kitty and Dottie will be selling them during the parade. Cathy Bocci will sell them at the Knights of Columbus Hall. I will not be attending; I am having a reversed shoulder replacement. I'll be there in spirit.

We went over our expenses; Jackie Choate and Peggy Bennet have secured the Ocean Pines Library for our meetings with kitchen for no charge. We were paying \$900/year at the Knights of Columbus. We are also working on other reductions.

During March, for the Parade...wonderful weather, Great Day for the Irish!!! Peggy Bennett won the \$500 pot of gold.

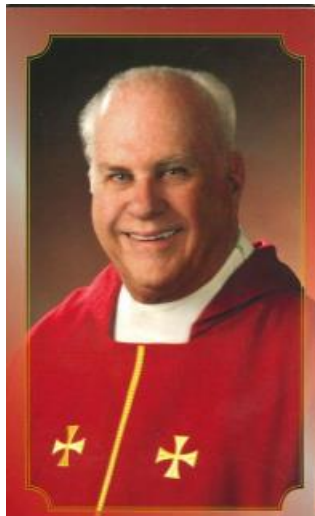
- Ann Cottingham, President-

Harford County, Division 1

We welcomed and installed our newest member, Kathleen "Kitty" DeCamp. Several members attended the St. Brigid Mass at St. Ignatius in Baltimore.

A truly lovely lady in our division, Pat Hunter, celebrated her 90th birthday on February 6th. Her family held a private celebration for her and as many of you know, requested cards and memories from family and friends. Her granddaughter made a booklet of those mementoes for her and she was thrilled.

On a sad note, we lost our dear friend Father Joseph Simmons on February 25th. He was our friend, division chaplain and past State Chaplain. A beautiful service was held for him at his parish of 40 years, Holy Spirit in Joppa, celebrated by Archbishop Lori. At least 15 ladies from our division and a few from Harford County 2 and Carroll County attended. Per his request, he was buried in the chasuble and stole given to him by our division.



About 9 of our division members rode the trolley for the St. Patrick's Day Parade and a few of us walked and braved the wind! Our division celebrated St. Patrick's Day with a casual luncheon the next day at Sapore Di Mare.

During our April meeting we are collecting items to benefit St. Mark's Outreach Program which is always in need of donations. Our Spring Fundraiser is also in progress... a 50/50 RAFFLE.. Drawing is June 8... tickets are available on the LAOH website. Happy Easter!

- Laurie Hauser, Reporter

Carroll County, Division 1

Beannachtaí na Cásca (Blessed Easter)!!! Wishing all our sister Hibernians and their families a Blessed Easter...

Our division has been busy. Some of our members attended the St Brigid/Memorial Mass back in February. We were moved by the Mass and enjoyed the lunch. It was nice to spend time with our sisters from other Divisions. Our members also attended the Installation Mass for the Parade Marshalls. We were proud to support our own Carole lafrate and Mary Asaki the 2025 LAOH Deputy Marshalls. We helped work the Parade fundraiser held at Mick Oshea's after the Mass.

We had a table at the Westminster Celtic Cantor and sold raffle tickets for an Irish Basket filled with goodies and also a crocheted blanket and a stained-glass Celtic piece, made by our member Marge Chowning.



We had fun marching and riding the trolley in the St Patrick's Day Parade. Our division met at Maggie's in Westminster for a St Patrick Day Luncheon with our Chaplain Fr. Collin. We enjoyed lunch and the chance to celebrate together.

We are working on our big Fundraiser, the Patriotic/Wagon Picnic. We are also planning a picnic in July at one of our member's houses and a trip up to Emmitsburg to visit the Shrine and the Grotto. We will be having our Halfway to St Patrick's Day bake sale at St Bartholomew's Church in September.

We will also be planning our annual Division Retreat at Aisling House in June. Blessed Easter to all...

-Mary Beth Connolly, President

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 Red Brick Station on the Avenue at White Marsh. 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

Baltimore County, Division 14

Happy Spring!

It is nice to finally feel 'Old Man Winter's' grasp loosening as the days get warmer, trees are starting to bud and plants push their way up out of the earth.

Lots of prayers were answered for us to make it through the Baltimore St Patrick's Day Parade without any rain! It may have been overcast, but that didn't lessen the shine and brightness of the Irish marching or cheering.

In May we will combine our Baby Shower with a Spring Luncheon. We look forward to seeing all the cute preemie outfits that are brought for the Mercy Medical NICU.

I hope everyone has a joyous Easter!

Respectfully submitted,

-Katie McCune, President-

Howard County, Division 1

This past quarter, we celebrated our Irish heritage with the St. Brigid Mass and St. Patrick's activities. We again contributed to the success of the St. John the Evangelist's Knights of Columbus St. Patrick's fundraiser benefitting the Tanzanian Children's Project high school building fund. We decorated the venue, donated coffee and served the desserts, created and donated 3 large baskets for the silent auction, and were members of the clean-up crew. We are very grateful to the MD LAOH State Board for the opportunity to designate Columbia Community Cares (CCC) as the recipient of our portion of the Irish Charities of Maryland proceeds. Despite local and state nutritional programs, food banks, and other services, thousands of families in Howard County struggle to find consistent access to food and essential resources weekly. CCC's food pantries are open to all and serve anyone requesting help, without question.

This quarter, as a Parish ministry, we are providing feedback for the update of St. John the Evangelist's Pastoral Plan. We are also involved in planning a Parish picnic with St. John's Pastoral Council, the Knights of Columbus and the St. Vincent

de Paul Conference. We continue to pray for all impacted by natural disasters, loss of employment and all who serve and support our communities.

May the peace and joy of Easter be with each of you, and may you always feel the love of God in your hearts.

-Sharon Strobel, President-

Anne Arundel County, Division 1

The cold weather of January and February gave us plenty of time to rest up for a very busy March. We had a great turnout for the Annapolis St. Patrick's parade on March 9th. The following Sunday was the Baltimore St. Patrick's parade – we had one member from our division march with a great group from the rest of the state.

A week later, the ladies broke out their cooking and serving skills to host a Lenten Soup Supper (a weekly tradition during Lent at St. John Neumann Church in Annapolis). About 130 hungry parishioners enjoyed gallons of delicious soup, salad, bread, and yummy desserts.



We will welcome a new member at our April meeting and are looking forward to attending a beautiful Stations of the Cross event at Manresa in Annapolis.

Wishing everyone a Blessed Easter,

In our motto,

-Dee McCarthy, President-

Cecil County, Division 1

LAOH Cecil County Division 1 met on February 5, 2025 in the basement of the ICC Parish Center where they welcomed and initiated a new member. The results of January's "Fill the Trunk" food drive for our two parish food banks were in: five carloads of non-perishable food was collected as well as cash donations of \$325.

More good news! Our Division winner of the Irish History Contest – Sarah Mulkern - also won at the State level. Our Book Club remains active, meeting every month at the ICC Parish Center. Plans were finalized for our 3rd Annual St. Patrick's Breakfast on March 8, 2025 in the ICS Cafeteria. Initial plans were begun for our annual Lenten Diaper Drive to benefit the two pregnancy centers in our county. This drive kicked off on Ash Wednesday and diapers will be collected from all churches through Easter Sunday. Many members paid their annual dues and live shamrocks were ordered for St. Patrick's Day.

Our March meeting on the 5th was jam packed with the final details of the St. Patrick's Breakfast coming up on March 8, 2025 from 9 to noon. The Breakfast was a grand success. Everyone enjoyed the performance of the Irish Jasper Green and "St. Patrick" enjoyed visiting with all the families in attendance. Our Irish History Essay Contest winner Sarah Mulkern was presented awards from our LAOH Division 1 and from the Maryland LAOH.

President Hild enjoyed the St. Patrick's Parade in Baltimore on March 16, 2025.

-JoAnne Bierly, Reporter

Harford County, Division 2

In January our division was preparing for our St. Ita Mass and Crab Cake Dinner, which had to be cancelled due to snow. The Crab Cake Dinner will now be held with our annual May Crowning Devotion to Blessed Mother Mary on Sunday, May 4, 2025, at 2PM at St. Mark's Church in Fallston. There will not be a mass. Instead, the event can be used as a time to treat one's mother as Mother's Day will be on the following weekend.

February was spent preparing for the May Crowning and the upcoming St. Patrick's Day parade. Fundraisers were attended, including the Irish Railroad Workers Gala.



March 2nd was the Installation of the Parade Marshals' Mass at the Basilica. President Mary Asaki was honored to be chosen and received her sash as a Deputy Parade Marshal for the LAOH. After the mass, there was an LAOH fundraiser at Mick O'Shea's Pub where one of our members won a large raffle basket.

Barbara Pitt will be our contact person for the May Crowning on May 4th. The dinner will also include a lasagna entrée as an option, along with garlic bread and a salad. The cost for either option is \$37. Barbara may be reached by phone or text at 410-790-6898 or email at yamawk3@verizon.net. Mail checks to Barbara Pitt, 42 Gilland Ct., Nottingham, MD 21236.

Respectfully submitted,

-Gleela Kolakowski-Reporter

Baltimore County, Division 1

NO REPORT "

-Maureen Shettle, President-

Baltimore County, Division 4

NO REPORT

-Pat Zaccari, President-

In Memorium-



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.