



# Erin's Echo

Maryland State Board  
Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc.

## President's Message

Happy New Year

As I reflect on 2024, my first thought is "What a Year" this has been. Many would agree. The Maryland LAOH State Board ran an extraordinarily successful State Fundraiser bringing in over \$8,700 and one lucky winner walked away with \$2,000.

Divisions raised funds holding Bingos, Céili', Teas and Card Games. We even had membership growth in several divisions. All this was not possible without the hard work of our dedicated members.

Five of our Maryland LAOH sisters attended the National Convention in sunny Orlando, Florida and despite the hot temperatures, they were able to take in the local attractions.

This year our dream of an Irish Cottage came to fruition. The Maryland LAOH Cottage made its first appearance at the Maryland Irish Festival in Timonium, MD. Celtic Santa, Irish Storytelling and Irish Songs were enjoyed by all. The Cottage will be making its next appearance at this year's St. Patrick's Day Parade.

We wrapped up our year with a lovely Christmas Luncheon at the Bluestone and our special guest, State Chaplain, Father Frain was in heaven, excuse the pun, being surrounded by forty-two Irish lasses.

Sadly, this year will be my last year serving as your State President. After six years, it is time to pass the gavel to a new slate of officers. It is my hope that there will be a member amongst us who wants to make a difference in our organization and assumes one of the positions coming up for election.

**-Kathy Norris-**  
**Uachtarán (Maryland LAOH State President)**



Volume 60 No. 1, Jan, Feb, Mar 2025

## Calendar

### February

**Feb. 16:** St. Brigid's Mass and 2023-2024 Memorial Service, 1:30 PM, St. Ignatius Church, Baltimore, Lunch, \$30, Flyer

### March

**Mar. 1:** LAOH State Board, 10 AM, Location TBD

**Mar.2:** St. Patrick's Parade Installation Mass, Basilica of the Assumption, 1:30-3 PM

**Mar. 2:** St. Patrick's Parade Fundraiser, Mick O'Shea's Irish Pub, 3-7PM, sponsored by LAOH and Friendly Sons of St. Patrick

**Mar. 9:** Annapolis St. Patrick's Parade, 1 PM

**Mar. 15:** Ocean City St. Patrick's Parade, 12 PM

**Mar. 16:** Baltimore St. Patrick's Parade 2 PM

## Cultural Corner

THE HEART In WINTER by Kevin Barry  
WILD HOUSES by Colin Barrett  
SISTERS OF BELFAST by Melanie Maure

BOOK CLUB Selection for January 28  
Contact Joanna if you plan to attend  
[miskellycox@verizon.net](mailto:miskellycox@verizon.net)

**-Joanna Cox**

## -LAOH Website

Go to [www.marylandlaoh.org](http://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>



### Baltimore City, Division 1

Happy New Year 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**

### Harford County, Division 1

*We hope everyone had a happy and healthy Christmas and start to the New Year!*

Our October 2024 Bingo was a huge success and very profitable! A lot of work went on behind the scenes before and during the Bingo by our ladies but it definitely was rewarding. Our basket raffles were popular items and a big success too! Thank you to our sister division members that were able to attend or send in donations. We hope to have another Bingo in October 2025.

Several of our members were able to enjoy the Irish Festival this year and several were able to volunteer at the membership table.

Eileen Verch hosted our Division Christmas party which due to illnesses and travel became a small intimate gathering of 7. We were glad that Father Simmons was able to join us. We missed those that couldn't be there but enjoyed good food, good company and as usual, our "Secret Santas"!

We look forward to the New Year, staying healthy and looking forward to the upcoming fun events in March!

**- Laurie Hauser, Reporter**

### Baltimore County, Division 4

Hello Ladies,

Time is flying bye for all of us. We lost Pat Ragan in July and she is missed by all in Division 4. Thanks to all of you for your prayers for Pat and her family.

I have talked to Mary Helene Miller, our member in North Carolina. Although she is not a member of Division 4, we do try to keep in touch. She is busy in her new home with family and has met new friends. We are very happy that she is doing well.

We continue to look for new members – if you know of anyone who would love to join our division please provide me with contact information. We obligated Karen Levenstern in October. Division 4 is very happy to have Karen in our division,

Our 2024 fund is a collection of gift cards is continuing through 2025. The drawing will be at the 2025 Christmas party. 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](mailto:vangoghatphoenix@aol.com). With everything going in 2024 we did not sell many chances. Please consider supporting our charity drive.

May God bless us all.

**-Pat Zaccari, President-**

### Baltimore County, Division 14

Happy New Year! I hope that everyone had a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

We had a great time decorating the tree for the Festival of Trees.



We had a number of our members attend the State Board Christmas party. While we didn't win the big money, there were some door prize winners! It was a very enjoyable time relaxing and socializing with our sisters from other divisions.

As old man winter settles in, we will be collecting hats, gloves, socks and blankets to donate to Viva House.

We are looking forward to celebrating St Brigid's Mass and remembering our sisters that passed away.

Before you know it, it will be time for the St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Stay safe and warm!

Respectfully submitted,

***-Katie McCune, President-***

#### **Baltimore County, Division 1**

We want to wish everyone a happy, healthy and prosperous year in 2025!

We volunteered for the St Benedict's Shrimp and Bull Roast in October which was a success. Everyone enjoyed the food, raffles and music and dancing.

Some of our members volunteered at the Irish Festival in November. We admired the Little Irish Cottage made by our state president Kathy Norris and her husband Jim. Emily Jester the "Irish Fairy Queen" entertained both children and adults. It was a great attraction and will be a prize winner in the St Patrick's Day Parade. There were at least 5 membership applications submitted at the festival. Let's hope these ladies decide to join us. We all need more members....



We loved the Bridgerton Afternoon Tea held by the Anne Arundel County division. The food and tea served on fine china made it even more special and the ladies decked out in their period attire make it a wonderful event. No one in our division won any of the great auction prizes but I did win one of the baskets of cheer! We missed the State Christmas lunch however our division did enjoy a Christmas lunch at Spirits West.

Now that the new year has begun, we're looking forward to the St Ita Mass and the St. Brigid Mass along with the parade fundraisers leading up to the parade.

"Like the warmth of the sun, and the light of the day,  
May the luck of the Irish shine bright on your way."

***-Maureen Shettle, President-***

#### **Worcester County, Division 1**

In November, we had a memorial service for our dear sister, Marie Campbell. A candle was lit in her memory and several of the ladies spoke about Marie and told stories that happened during the years. She was a lifetime member and she will be missed.

We are still talking about our fund raiser for next year. Several suggestions were made but nothing was finalized.

December brought our Christmas luncheon at Sophia's in Ocean City, Maryland. Cathy Bocci led the group in prayer. A great lunch and time was had by all. We discussed the charities that we will be supporting in 2025. They will be announced at our next meeting.

Our January meeting will happen in a few weeks. Plans are being made by Joanne Kirby for the St. Brigid's mass. She did a great job last year and had our painting of St Brigid redone. It looks absolutely beautiful. Thank you for doing this for our sisterhood.

***- Ann Cottingham, President-***

#### **Howard County, Division 1**

The Fall rolled quickly into the holiday season and before we knew it, 2024 became history! We are hopeful that our new meeting day and time – the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday, 6:30 pm, at St. John the Evangelist – will increase attendance and allow us to promote membership.

In addition to meetings, members volunteered at and attended the Maryland Irish Festival. Some of us were able to join our Sisters at the Holiday Luncheon at Blue Stone. Although our Division didn't hold the winning ticket for the State Fundraiser, we are proud to have added to the success of the effort.

We hope that our year-end donations to St. Vincent de Paul, World Central Kitchen, the Little Sisters of the Poor, Grassroots and the Irish Railroad Worker's Museum help them meet their on-going missions of meeting the needs of others and spreading knowledge of our Irish heritage.

As we begin 2025, we are looking forward to the St. Brigid Mass, the St. Patrick's Day Parade and the 2025 AOH/LAOH Convention. We pray for all who have been impacted by natural disasters, severe weather, wildfires, illness and loss. We also pray for first responders and all who serve and support our communities. There is tremendous need; may we share our time, talents and treasures with others in 2025!

***-Sharon Strobel, President-***



### Carroll County , Division 1

Athbhliain Faoi Mhaise Dhuit (Happy New Year to You)!!!  
Wishing all our sister Hibernians and their families a Happy and Blessed New Year...

Members of our Division worked the 50<sup>th</sup> Maryland Irish Festival in November. What a fantastic turn out at the Festival! It was crowded and everyone had a blast. Our own Deacon Jonah helped Fr. Leo with the Festival Mass. Two of our members who served on the Board of Directors for Irish Charities of Maryland, Kelly Parks and Mary Beth Connolly, retired after this Festival. They are ready to pass the torch. December was a busy month. Many of our members attended the State Board Christmas Brunch and enjoyed the festivities. Some of our members helped at Arlington National Cemetery for *Wreaths Across Family Day* and *Wreaths In Day*.

We sponsored a family at Christmas through St. Bartholomew's Church. We had our Christmas Luncheon at a restaurant. It was nice to just relax and have some fellowship. We would like to congratulate Teresa Parks-Carpenter for receiving her Nurse's Pin. Teresa will begin her Nursing Career at Mercy Hospital in the Oncology Department. We wish her the best of luck.

Our January meeting was held at Mary O'Brien's house. We are planning our future fundraisers. We hope to attend as many Parade Fundraisers as possible in support of our Division Sister, Carole Iafate, one of the LAOH Deputy Marshals for the 2025 Parade.

Enjoy the Snow!!

**-Mary Beth Connolly, President**

### Anne Arundel County, Division 1

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a blessed and wonderful Christmas season.



The biggest news out of Anne Arundel County is the smashing success of our Bridgerton Tea in November. Sisters from ours and other state divisions arrived in full Regency regalia and took our fundraiser to a new level! With donations of

countless hours of time and talent, we raised over \$5000 for our charities.

As we head into 2025, I hope and pray for health and happiness for all our members and look forward to continuing the mission of Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity.

In our motto,

**-Dee McCarthy, President-**



### Cecil County, Division 1

In November, our division ended the year with two membership drives and "Scratch Off" raffle baskets to benefit our parishes Christmas bazaars. We met on December 4<sup>th</sup> for our annual Christmas Party at Schaeffer's Canal House in Chesapeake City, Maryland. Twenty-five ladies enjoyed greetings from President Christine Hild and from event chair Liz Orr. We enjoyed Irish-born Marian Whitlock's personal reminisces and the Christmas ornament swap. Cards and gifts were exchanged, and two new members were welcomed.

Fourteen participated in the division's first Christmas Decorating Project, transforming a non-descript rectangular cardboard box into a beautiful Chapel of Contemplation, inspired by some writings of William B. Yeats. Each of the final projects was a work of art! JoAnne Bierly won the contest!



Many members and families gathered on December 11 at Pier One Restaurant in North East, Maryland for our "Dine In" fundraiser that earning \$343 for our division. Thank you to Cheryl Nickle for initiating this easy money maker.



To start off the New Year, our group met in Immaculate Conception Church in Elkton, Maryland on Wednesday, January 8, 2025, for the initiation of four new members: Barbara Ruhmann, Joanne Morris, Tina Notarangelo, and Mary Ellen Raymond. The group then moved over to our new meeting room in the Youth Room of the parish center. There it was reported that our Boscov's coupon fundraiser earned \$2041 in October and decisions were made regarding our contributions to our local charities.



**-JoAnne Bierly, Reporter**

### **Harford County, Division 2**

The main event for our division in October was our Rosary Night. Six members of our division attended Harford County Division 1's Bingo where we had great food and a lot of fun. President Mary Asaki also traveled to Ocean City to attend their luncheon and card party.

In November some of us attended the Memorial Mass at the St. John's 10<sup>th</sup> Ward/Emerald Isle Club where our past President Thelma Graziano was honored. This was repeated at the Irish Festival where the mass was the LAOH/AOH Memorial Mass and Thelma was again honored as were members Patty Brown, Kitty Rutkowski, and Joan McHoul.

At our November meeting we sorted items donated at our events for our soldiers abroad, the VA in Perryville, and the families of the Gabriel Project at St. Mark's.

In December we, in conjunction with the Catholic War Veterans Auxiliary, decorated doors at the Loch Raven VA. Mary Asaki attended the Holiday Brass Concert at the Cathedral on Charles Street, the State Board Party, and the St. John's 10<sup>th</sup> Ward party at St. Elizabeth School.

Mary was also honored to be selected as a Deputy Marshall for the 2025 St. Patrick's Day Parade.

In January our division will be having our St. Ita Mass and Crab Cake/Lasagna Dinner at St. Mark Church on Sunday January 19 at 2PM. This event will be permanently dedicated to Thelma Graziano who originally planned it.

Respectfully submitted,

**-Gleela Kolakowski-Reporter**

## **In Memorium-**

**Marie Campbell-Worcester County**  
**Judith A. Mastrogianis-Worcester County**



### ***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.*