

Lady Hibernian Herald

Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians - Irish · Catholic · American

April 2025

President's Message

Mary Ann Lubinsky

I am so excited to write that tomorrow I will be joining some of my LAOH sisters on the 2025 FFAI trip. This will be my first trip to Ireland!

I hope everyone had a wonderful St. Patrick's Week!

Last week, just prior to St. Patrick's Day, I was very fortunate to attend several events in Washington, DC including a reception for the Taoiseach at the Ambassador's Residence, the Washington Ireland Program Breakfast with the US Capitol Dome in the background on one side and the Washington Monument on the other! That evening, I attended the White House event for the Taoiseach with AOH President Sean Pender. Following that we had also been invited by the Taoiseach to attend a reception at the Blair House. On Thursday, March 13, it was the Northern Ireland Bureau Breakfast. Needless to say, it was a very busy few days!

On Saturday, March 15, I was honored to be the Grand Marshal of the 2025 Leo F. Haley St. Patrick's Day Parade in my hometown of Pottsville.

I got to share the spotlight with some Pottsville Firefighters who were recognized for their saving the life of a woman last year. I was certainly in special company.

In just a little more than three weeks, it will be Holy Week, a very solemn time to recall the Passion and Death of Our Lord Jesus Christ. I hope that you will attend as many services as you can and that you have a Blessed and Happy Easter.

In case you have not yet heard, the 2025 LAOH National Interim Board Meeting will be held September 13, 2025, in Camp Hill, Pennsylvania.

FFAI

As promised, this issue we will be highlighting Relatives For Justice. RFJ helps families who are coping with bereavement and injury through conflict-related violence and the following trauma. Some of the help they provide includes counseling, classes, casework support, and family support programs. Their counseling advocacy helps with investigations of conflict related harms. They also provide support to individuals seeking reparation

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FFAI News continued

such as those provided by Victims and Survivors Services as well as helping with appeals.

The following is from their website with a link to find out more.

Relatives for Justice Core Values

- An active commitment to universal human rights and social justice
- The promotion of equality and respect for the background, diversity and experience of all those bereaved and injured by the conflict
- The application and development of the highest standards of professional support programs for victims and survivors of the conflict
- The promotion of recognition and remedy for the specific gender harms and experiences of the bereaved and injured of the conflict

<https://www.relativesforjustice.com/>

I am happy to report we will be in Belfast at the end of March presenting Mark Thompson and Andrée Murphy from Relatives For Justice with a check from our annual Freedom For All Ireland Appeal. Thank you, sisters, for all your donations.

Until next time!

Rita O'Hara

LAOH Nat'l FFAI Deputy Chair

LAOH Committee on Irish Unity News

Dolores Desch

The LAOH National Irish Unity Committee was front and center volunteering at the Friends of Sinn Féin Commission on the Future of Ireland held in January in Washington DC and Rockland, NY. These events were hosted by the Executive Director of FOSF Greg O'Loughlin and Sinn Féin Representative to America Ciarán Quinn. Delaware LAOH President Kathi Twohig-Hamelin was the Washington DC local contact and volunteer

coordinator, and NYS FFAI Chair Joan Moore took on that role in Rockland. Kathi and Joan were instrumental in working with the hosting site in ensuring that there were enough volunteers and that check-in was seamless.

There was a great buzz around the room before during and after the event with attendees energized to learn about the latest efforts and progress towards Irish Unity. Attendees were from several different organizations or none. The cross section of the Irish diaspora led to interesting discussion.

The program included an address by John Finucane MP (Sinn Féin) where he provided the background for the latest efforts and why Irish Unity has become such a popular topic in the past few years. John pointed to Brexit as the catalyst. The Good Friday Agreement provides for a border poll if there appears to be a majority who would vote for Unity. The British Secretary of State would be the person who could set the date of a referendum. We talked about the need to plan for this so that when there is a referendum, voters will be informed, and a plan will be in place when it passes.

There was also a fireside chat featuring discussion and a Q & A component with John Finucane that was led by Kathy Twohig-Hamelin in Washington and Irish Unity Chair Dolores Desch in Rockland. John explained that this program is specifically designed to be held in smaller venues with people who are champions of Irish Unity and can help advance this cause in their own way. The group discussion at tables fostered not only discussion but sharing of ideas and information. The differences in personal experiences and organizational culture of those in attendance was refreshing and led to networking and a need for future discussions such as these.

The ask from Sinn Féin for all of us is to get involved and keep the discussion going. Whether you live here or in Ireland, continue to bring up the subject of Irish Unity. Follow the news on Irish Unity and get involved. The more it is discussed the bigger the movement becomes. There will be a follow up set of zoom meetings to continue the discussion.

If you are interested in updates regarding Irish Unity, please send an email to our Irish Unity Chairperson

Dolores Desch at laohirishunity@gmail.com.

Story continued on next page

Irish Unity continued

You can also “Like” and “Follow” the LAOH Irish Unity Facebook Page at: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61566379391970>



National Historian

Kathleen Diulus

Thank you to everyone who promoted and encouraged participation in the National History Contest. This year there were 38 entries between the two levels. It is more important than ever as an Organization that we continue to promote and encourage the youth of today to learn about Irish History.

Information on the next History Contest is up on the website and has been sent to the State Historians. Please familiarize yourself with the new deadlines that were voted on at the Orlando Convention. The topic is The Irish and the American Revolution--- how the Irish affected the outcome of the American Revolution. As we celebrate the semiquincentennial of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, our contest will have participants learning about the



Story continued on next page

Irish History Continued

impact our immigrant ancestors had in forming our country.

I hope that you were able to enjoy the special viewing made available to LAOH members for the film, *Rebel Wife*. I personally found the film highly informative, and I always enjoy learning about a strong Irish woman!

Happy Spring!

National History Contest Winners

Level 1

- 1 Gunner VA
- 2 Lena PA
- 3 Virginia NY

Level 2

- 1 Lilianna IL
- 2 Nathan CT
- 3 Michelle MA

Congratulations!



On February 1st along with the AOH Boland Barry men's division we celebrated our patron Saints Brigid and Patrick with a mass followed by a dinner dance where we honored the 2025 Parade honorees: The Hibernian of the Year - Francis McGarry (Blue Stone AOH Division), Grand Marshal - Shannon Corcoran (Our Lady of the Rosary division 5&10), Irish Mother - Mary Murphy Joyce (Deirfiur of Charity division 11) and Co Chairs Katie Schmitt and Michael Conkey (Blue Stone AOH Division).



State News

Ohio

Our Lady of the Rosary, Division 5&10, Cleveland. Ohio kicked off the Irish Season with a Visit to the Gerry Quinn Irish Radio Show to promote our upcoming St. Brigid & St. Patrick Celebration. A number of our Ladies attended a St. Brigid Concert at the Music Box Supper Club, where one of the Stars was our very own Sister Mary Agnes Kennedy.

February 22nd we volunteered at a Pre St. Patrick's Day Fundraising Event for MetroHealth Friends of Mother & Infants where we helped them raise over \$2,125.00. A number of us volunteered at the West Side Irish American Club for the Lost Gaels Book tour.

Our Sister Rita Lally hosted a Party celebrating 3 of our Sisters that were being honored this Season Shannon Corcoran - Parade Grand Marshal and Liz and Mary Bridget Lavelle - West Side Irish American Club Volunteers of the year.

Story continued on next page

State News Ohio continued

At our March Meeting we welcomed a New Member Kathy Kirk and we ended the Season with the St. Malachi Church Run, unfortunately the weather and illness kept most of our team from participating.

Pennsylvania

Members of the LAOH Division 21 gathered for a Christmas dinner on Dec. 10 in the DePalma Room of St. Paul of the Cross parish. It was a festive night, with the room decorated by division president Trish Conley, and good food, with a catered dinner and sweets prepared by the members. Members brought white socks to be donated to the local Red Door ministry for the homeless. They also took up a collection for the Jessie Games, an event benefiting children and families served by Catholic Charities and started by one of the division's members in honor of her daughter. After dinner, members played a fun pass-the-bag game, with everyone receiving a surprise grab bag with small gifts inside. As always, members gave thanks for their Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity.

On Feb. 2, nine members of Division 21 attended the St. Brigid Mass at Salvatore's Event Center. The beautiful mass and delicious brunch were organized by the LAOH Allegheny County Board and celebrated by Fr. Rege Ryan, who happened to be a childhood friend of Div. 21 member, Peggy Bond. Fr. Ryan spoke beautifully about being grandparents and parents, waiting with patience and hope, and being filled with trust and faith when we are tested by things happening around us. He also blessed throats after mass. A collection was taken for the Blessed Home Project, which helps veterans, older adults, caretakers and others during challenging times. Petitions were offered for those who suffered losses in recent tragedies, those afflicted by poverty, war or sickness and for the leaders of the nation that they would promote life, peace and justice and most importantly, work together for the common good.

Music was provided by Mike Gallagher and Noah Pepmeyer. Div. 21 donated a coffee basket, which was raffled off along with other baskets donated by various divisions, with proceeds benefiting the Allegheny County Board. Div. 21 member Mary Ann Raymer assisted with the basket raffle.



Story continued on next page

State News Pennsylvania continued



St Brigid Mass

The Lackawanna County Men's and Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians (LAOH & AOH) gathered to celebrate the Feast of Saint Brigid of Ireland. Father Richard Fox celebrated the Eucharistic Liturgy at Saint Patrick's Parish in West Side Scranton PA.



Pictured, front row left: John Michelle, Danielle Ketch, Doreen Gilbride, Kate Angerson, Lynn Walsh, Maureen Wallace, Reverend Richard Fox, Dorothea Crowley, Karen Savage, Michele McDade, Amanda Gavin, Mary Kay Sears, Judy Krell.

Back row, from left: Nancy Yavoroski, Conal McHugh, Patty Jones, Sister Kathleen Smith, Mary Claire Kingsley, Mary Kate Werner, Nancy Earyes, Mary Ellen Richard, Mary Fran Smith, Kathy Connor, Ann Brunori, Jeff Sears.

The AOH/LAOH Pennsylvania State Convention 2025 will be here before you know it. Believe it or not, July 17th is right around the corner.

It's still snowing here in Northeastern Pennsylvania but that has not slowed down the planning committee. To quote an Irish proverb; "Many hands make light work." They are working diligently and tirelessly toward their goal of making this convention a fun-filled event to remember.



Front row left to right: John Boland, Chuck Schneider, Doreen Gilbride, Anna McTavish, Danny King, Luke Walsh, Katie Hosie, Convention co-chairman, Lackawanna County LAOH President; Dorothea Crowley, Convention co-chairman, AOH State Vice-president Tom Gilbride.

Back row left to right: Mary Ann Boylan, Convention Secretary; Mike Dougherty, Patty Jones, Conal McHugh, Joe Hosie, Mike Hosie, Mike McTavish.

On March 2nd, 2025, the Lackawanna County Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians came out in full force to witness the raising of the Irish flag, at the Lackawanna County Courthouse. Frigid temperatures and high winds could not keep these Irish ladies away.



Pictured left to right front row; Mary Kay Sears, Danielle Ketch, Kate Schneider, Anna McTavish, Mary Ann Boylan, Alice Turner, Ellen Perry, Theresa Pelligrino, Gennette Rotherforth, Kathy McDonnell, Mary Kate Werner, Lynn Walsh, Kris Krowiak, Mary Anne McAndrew, Judy Krell.

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State News Pennsylvania continued

Left to right second row; County Board President Dot Crowley, Maggie Tucker, Alice McDermott, Karen Savage, Kate Kearney, Amanda Gavin, Chrissy Lavelle, Maureen Wallace, Jean Hannon, County Publicity Officer; Nancy McAndrew Yavoroski, who submitted this photo.



Lackawanna County Board President Dot Crowley had the honor of being up close and personal as the Irish flag was raised at the courthouse in Lackawanna County Scranton PA

The Ladies throughout the Commonwealth have been working in the Spirit of Brigid, assisting in their neighborhoods, across the state and nation, and in Ireland.

Many Divisions do charity work monthly and quarterly through donations and hands-on work.

Division 1, Molly Maguires donated various items to Friends of Animals, an animal shelter; Division 2 Pottsville donated blankets; Division 61 provides Catholic education scholarships and held a sock drive; Division 5 Bucks County volunteers often at the Delaware Valley Veterans Home, and Division 1 Lehigh continues with Fran's Purse Project and Mats for the Homeless.



In the proud Spirit of St. Brigid, Pennsylvania Divisions came together for the 2nd Annual

St Brigid Tea at the Commodore Barry Arts and Cultural Center in Philadelphia.

The tea, with the keynote speaker, Consul General Helena Nolan, honored St. Brigid's legacy of inspiring others, advocating for the vulnerable, assisting when needed, and encouraging all of us to do as Brigid would, "Be more Brigid"!



In both Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, Ladies gathered to listen and support author Peadar Thompson as he presented his new book, *Lost Gaels: Remembering the Members of the GAA Killed During the Conflict in Ireland*.

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Two Divisions honored Sisters who have recently passed as the marched in their St. Patrick's Day parades. Division 11 ~ Allegheny County honored past National and Allegheny County President Peggy Cooney and Division 39 ~ Philadelphia honored Kathy Fanning.



Irish gal's were 21 Strong! LAOH OF LACKAWANNA COUNTY Scranton PA line up to proudly march up the aisle of The Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton PA in honor of Saint Patrick on Parade Day 2025.



Picture from left to right; Alice Turner, Carolynn Wahl, Mauri Kelly, Mary Claire Hopkins, Patty Jones, Kate Schneider, Alice McDermott, Doreen Gilbride, Kate Kearney, Nancy Butler, County Board President; Dorothea Crowley, Janice Joyce, Mary Kate Werner, Kris Krowiak, Jean Hannon, Mary Fran Smith, Mary Anne McAndrew, Gennette Rotherforth, Ellen Perry, Kathy Connor, Nancy Yavoroski. 03/08/2025

Connecticut

Our LAOH President, Ellen McShane presenting a check to Scotty Fund at their Gala December 11, 2024



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Clare Smith delivering our donated meal kits to Catholic Charities December 18, 2024.



St. Brigid Mass February 8, 2025 at St Peter Church, Danbury CT with baked goods, soup, a talk about St Brigid and a craft (making St Brigid crosses) in the parish hall afterwards.



State news Connecticut continued



Hibernian Ball March 1, 2025, honoring our Hibernians of the Year: Eileen Cunningham and Patrick Fahey



Current LAOH/AOH Presidents: Ellen McShane and Mike Scalia



Previous LAOH Hibernians of the Year

State News– Connecticut continued



Nancy Demers

Florida

On Wednesday, February 19, 2025, LAOH, Division 1, Brevard County hosted sisters from the new St. Augustine Division and our Sebastian sisters, Indian River Division, for a luncheon/meeting in Melbourne, Florida. Florida State President Louise Sullivan was in attendance.

Acting President Eileen Chandler welcomed our guests and Father John Bosco Maison of Ascension Catholic Church offered the blessing before the meal. During dessert and coffee our Historian Nancy Demers shared a story about Ireland, the Blasket Islands, Christmas past and the importance of traditions over wealth.

It was an outstanding event exemplifying sisterhood and our Motto. Great fun and fellowship!



Brevard



Indian River



St. Augustine

Missouri

The Kansas City Missouri LAOH Padraic Pearse Division Annual Lenten Bake sale commenced on March 7, 2025, at Redemptorist Our Lady Of Perpetual Help in Midtown. Every year, our LAOH division is invited by the Men's AOH to participate in their Lenten Shrimp and Fish dinners. These events are significant fundraisers for 13 charities in the local Kansas City area. Many of our members bake every week in Lent and provide beautiful desserts. This year the turnout has been fabulous!



Nebraska

In January 2025, we initiated 10 new members and installed our new board.



Board members

Front row (L-R) - Kelly Hajek (past president), Nancy Casey (Vice President), Kerry Knight (President), Jamie McCarty (Secretary), Mary Zagozda (Mistress at Arms)

Back row (L-R) - Katie Drelicharz (FFAI), Natalie Olson (Catholic Action), Colleen Adams (Fin. Secretary), Molly McGuire (Treasurer), Shannon Miller (Historian), Donna McGuigan, Amber Ripa (Sentinel)



New members

Front row (L-R) - Suzy Landreth, Jamie McCarty, Mary Kate Drelicharz, Mary Zagozda

Back row (L-R) - Pat Malcolm, Peg Saal, Amber Ripa, Sandy O'Neill, Ann Berger, Kelly Rodgers

Then on February 1, 2025, the Nebraska LAOH celebrated St. Brigid's Feast Day mass at the Columban Fathers church in Bellevue, NE.



St. Brigid Mass

On February 15, 2025, the Nebraska AOH & LAOH held their annual Awards Banquet where the LAOH presented three awards. Awards winners are pictured (L-R).

Outstanding Service Award - Kelly Hajek

Outstanding New Member - Amber Ripa

Lady Hibernian of the Year - Kerry Knight & Nancy Casey



Lastly, we were able to get a picture of our membership that was able to attend the awards banquet on 02/15.



The Nebraska LAOH participated in the St. Patrick's Day parade on Saturday, March 8th in downtown Omaha.



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Rhode Island

February 27, 2025, Division 12 and LAOH Unity Committee member Marie Magee, meets with Congressman Seth Magaziner. Marie encouraged him to sign on to the letter to President Trump to appoint a US Special Envoy to Northern Ireland. The Providence Parade Grand Marshall Dinner took place at Rhodes on Pawtuxet in Cranston, RI.



Sara Benz Division 12 Historian and state treasurer also holds the position of Reference Librarian at the North Providence Library. One of her responsibilities is decorating the monthly theme bulletin board. This month Irish Mysteries. Here she is standing in front of the display.



March 8, 2025, The Division marched in the Providence Saint Patrick's Day parade. We were honored to have two of Ellen Ryan Jolly's great granddaughters carry our banner.



Vanessa and Jacqueline



Vanessa, Sara, Jacqueline, Denise, Rose, Tricia, Maureen & Eileen



Ted Grouke marching for Unity

Providence Division 12

Maureen Benz, State President, attended the Newport division on February 10, 2025, to recognize members with twenty-five years of membership in their division.



Left to right Terrie Champion Welford, Kiki Finn, Sharon Sullivan, Kimberly (Kim) Behan, Stephanie O'Hanley and Elizabeth (Liz) Buckley



State president Maureen Benz and former President Mary Moniz.

Michigan

The Elizabeth Fagan Division celebrated their 20th anniversary as a division with a look back at their scrapbooks, photos and memorabilia as well as yummy snacks and a cake commemorating the special occasion. Attendance was a bit low due to bone chilling cold weather in southeast Michigan, but a good time was had by all.



Pictured are L-R: Mary Marx, Pat Burba, Patty Petretta, Barb Weir, Val Evers Bernacki, Gwen Miller, Kit Belvitch and Helen Pardo.

The Elizabeth Fagan Division also celebrated Christmas by attending Mass together before their annual luncheon at Doyle's Tavern who gives 20% of their profits to local charities.



The MI LAOH State Board hosted the St. Brigid Mass on Saturday, February 1st at the Stephen Walsh AOH Hall in Redford. Fr. Sean Bonner was the celebrant. Several divisions were represented. Dinner and fellowship followed.

State news Michigan continued

It was the luck of the Irish for the Ladies of the Annette M. Byrne Division /#1 of Kent County. They were blessed with great weather for the 46th Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 16th in downtown Grand Rapids, Michigan. One of the main sponsors was the local AOH group. The morning started with several members meeting for breakfast at the Tupelo Honey and 30 people represented the LAOH at the parade. Division member, Judy Doyle rode in the parade as "The Spirit of Ireland" honoree. She gave a speech at the end of the parade, along with the Grand Marshall. Judy invited the Irish Catholic women to join our wonderful LAOH division and had applications on hand. She explained the motto of our group and put in a plug for a fundraiser starting the following week at the local Russ' restaurants that give 20% of their proceeds to our division, which in turn gives all of the money to the St. Gianna's baby pantry. Several of our members participated in the fundraiser that week by gathering at Russ' for lunch or taking friends and family to dinner. Judy's speech ended with advertising the annual Blackthorn concert, their Division's major fundraiser with proceeds going to HELP Pregnancy in Grand Rapids. The concert is scheduled for October 25, 2025. Judy said she felt honored to be chosen and we thought it was a fitting choice, because she embodies the "Spirit of Ireland for our LAOH Division too! Congratulations Judy Doyle!



The Rose Kennedy Division hosted the band, the Bold O'Donoghues who played at the AOH Fish Fry on January 24th. Nineteen division members attended for delicious food and lively entertainment.



Joan O'Halloran, a member of The Rose Kennedy Division was Grand Marshall of the Detroit St. Patrick's Day Parade. This inspired division members Jennifer Nagrant and Denise Bastien to build a division float for the parade. The float was made with the support of the Catherine McAuley division's counties of Ireland panels and the efforts of the float committee, including Sharon Gallagher, Denise's husband, Jennifer's father and Dan Murphy. Four sisters were on the float and others marching. At the grandstand, Joan O'Halloran came down and gave each sister a heartfelt "kiss o'the Irish." The Rose Kennedy Division always has their annual basket raffle in March with the drawing held on St. Patrick's evening. There was a Family basket, Irish basket, Spirits basket and a gift card tree. Proceeds from the raffle go to the Columban Fathers and sisters.

State news Michigan continued



Pictured is the happy winner of the family Basket.

Winter has found the Catherine McAuley Division very busy with activities that always encompass the LAOH motto of Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity. Their Christmas dinner was held on Wednesday, Dec. 18th. Members had a wonderful time sharing Christmas cheer at the Hip Cat Restaurant. In January they hosted a “Resin Pour Workshop” where members and guests created lovely items out of pour resin. Thanks to Maggie Cytacki and her committee for organizing this fun event which resulted in many resin shamrocks! In February members attended the Michigan State Board “St Brigid’s Mass. The Mass was organized by their Division member, Peggy Gray, who serves as State Catholic Action. On March 16th their Division proudly marched in the 67th Detroit St. Patrick’s Parade. The theme this year was “Detroit Irish – A Charitable Legacy of Friendship, Loyalty and Love.” On St. Patrick’s Day members gathered for Mass at the AOH Hall, followed by a day, long celebration of St. Patrick. Their “Paint & Pizza” party, an annual event where attendees become “artists” is a sold out event. The division will again be staffing a “Tea Room” at the St. Patrick’s Senior Center Spring Festival. This center supports needy senior citizens residing in the inner city of Detroit.

To celebrate Irish Heritage for the month of March, the Ethel Kennedy Division put a display of Irish items in the St. Clare Shore Library. Included in the display were: Waterford crystal., Belleek China, an Irish Dance costume, Arran sweater and scarf, books and videos and a bust of Fr. Solanus Casey. The division did this display in the Roseville library for many years until covid. Now they are up and running again. They also displayed information on LAOH for anyone interested in becoming a member. Many visitors to the library stopped to admire the lovely items. They also received phone calls of congratulations on the grand display. In April they will be collecting food items to be donated to St. Anne’s in Clarkston in the name of their beloved member Doris McCarville who passed away on New Year’s Day 2025. The items will be used to fill Easter Baskets for needy families.

State news Michigan continued



Pictured are L-R Mary Ochab, Agnes Gowdy, Nora Cassidy & Cindy Lloyd



MA State FFAI Chair Kathleen Savage with Paedar Thompson, author of Lost Gaels at the beginning of his US tour

Massachusetts

Congratulations to our members who were selected as Irishwoman of the Year in their respective divisions: Cheryl DuPont, Holyoke; Katie Pacheco, Lawrence; Kathy Kidney Alukonis, Lynn; Anne Quinlivan, Worcester; and Sheila Carney, Lowell.

Membership across the state has been busy. All divisions held masses in honor of St. Brigid. LAOH sisters also attended flag raising ceremonies in their respective cities. Many also attended Dinner dances where their respective Irishwomen were honored.

LAOH Watertown, along with their AOH brothers, hosted the initial stop on Paedar Thompson's book tour of Lost Gaels, a history of the GAA. They also volunteered at their local Katie's Closet

LAOH Holyoke participated in the Wreaths Across America Program, distributed flags in local cemeteries for deceased members or members of their families,

LAOH Lawrence and Worcester, along with their AOH brothers worked successful Irish festivals attended by many of their division members along with members from other divisions throughout the state.

LAOH Division 10, Lynn volunteered at the Hibernian 5K Road Race, the first in a 4-race series in the city which is held throughout the year. They were able to increase their membership by 11 members since the last submission. The division held a successful "pound party" where members wrapped items weighing a pound were auctioned off.

LAOH Division 14 has been conducting various fundraising activities to help defray upcoming costs for our state convention.



State President (left) Barbara Twohig and State Vice President Noranne Duquette (right) present Division 2 Holyoke President Paula Paoli with a citation for her long years of service to the division as she leaves office.

State news Massachusetts continued



Holyoke Div. 2 newly installed officers



Virginia

Virginia State Chaplain, Fr. Joseph Farrell, was honored as the Grand Marshal of the Manassas St. Patrick Parade on March 8. Daughters of Erin Division President Linda Fay, Fr. Joseph Farrell, and Daughters of Erin Chartered President Margie McCarthy.

New York

The ladies of the Babylon LAOH Division 2 are getting ready to lead the Village of Babylon Saint Patrick's Day Parade.



State news– New York continued

The Mise Eire Dancers-future members of The LAOH—getting ready to dance the day away.



NYC parade down Fifth Avenue.

The AOH Division 2 Pipe Major.



Babylon LAOH Division 2 celebrating Saint Patrick's Day.



In November Division 6, Orange county held 2 successful football pools where we raised funds for victims of Hurricane Helene in NC and other charitable works. December was a busy month. We held a Christmas luncheon at El Sombrero, Rock Hill, NY and exchanged gifts by participating in a Christmas grab bag.

State News– New York continued

We took part in the Wreaths Across America by placing wreaths on the graves of our brave veterans at the Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Goshen, NY.



Our Junior Girls & Boys worked together to honor our division Veterans in their annual celebration!



We counted our “Change for Charity” to send to the Columban Sisters to support their works. Change for Charity is the brainchild of our member who is a talented ceramic artist and who made our piggy banks.

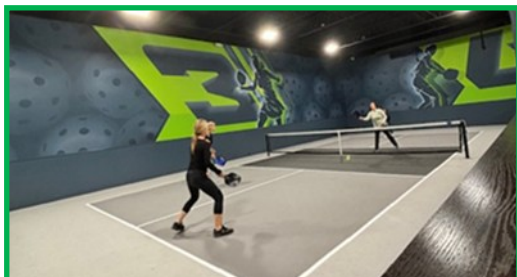


In December, we were thrilled to celebrate our 60th Anniversary! We received a proclamation from National President Mary Ann Lubinsky to commemorate our Anniversary.



Our Lady of Knock, East Islip, NY

The end of our golf season brought us to our next adventure- pickleball! Most of us started with no knowledge, and now we can actually get some good volleys in!



We also found out that our Division 7 sister, Emily Baron, was selected to the 2025 class of the Irish Echo's 40 Under 40! Emily is a NYPD Officer on the Ceremonial Unit.



Emily Baron

Division 14 had the installation of new officers on January 11, 2025. The ceremony was conducted by the NYS President Regina Begley and Nassau County President Sheila Zenith.



Seated at the table (left to right) is President Linda Dascher, Vice President Mary Bridget Burke, secretary for division 14 and Nassau County Angela Donovan and treasurer Mary Dignam.

Westchester County Yonkers #19

We had a very successful annual luncheon at Dunwoodie Golf Club in October under the leadership of Jen McSpedon. At the luncheon we recognized our 25 year members Carol Daly, Jen Lorio-Yedowitz, Mary Keaveny, Ann O'Connor & Tara Travers.

We are so proud of our President Denise O'Flynn-Donaghy & her husband John as being named American Irish Association (AIA) Hibernians of the Year at the annual dinner.



Schenectady LAOH celebrated St Patrick's Day by receiving a proclamation from the Schenectady City Council and raising funds for our charities with our raffle baskets.



As always The Kitty Geissler, Division 11 , Tarrytown, NY has been busy. They have again put up an Irish display in the Warner Library in Tarrytown for the month of March in honor of the NY Diocese patron saint, St. Patrick.

Many of the members of Division 11 are active with the Sleepy Hollow St. Patrick's Parade Committee and hosted a reception in Transfiguration Hall following the 10:00 Mass on parade day, March 16 th . The mass was in memory of Grand Marshal Sister Susan Gardella who passed away unexpectedly on January 14 th .

The President, Alice Geissler Koraca and several officers attended the Westchester County ceremony to raise the Irish flag celebrating the strong Irish influence in building this outstanding, progressive municipality which serves as a model for other counties around the country.

President Alice also marched with the State Board in the NYC parade. The division is planning and looking forward to having a bake sale in May where Kathleen Casey's delicious Irish soda breads are certain to be scooped up before they reach the parking lot.



Nassau County LAOH had a vibrant start to 2025, celebrating Irish heritage and community service.

February 2 - St. Brigid Celebration Nassau County members attended Mass followed by a brunch at Hibernian Hall in Massapequa Park.



State News New York continued

February - Division 15 Woman of the Year
Congratulations to Laurieann DeFilippo, honored as Division 15 Woman of the Year and a Nassau County Officer.



March 23 - Glen Cove St. Patrick's Day Parade The Glen Cove, NY (Long Island) St. Patrick's Day Parade honored Irene Abrams, Aide to the Grand Marshal, for her outstanding contributions to education and community service. Irene is a proud member of the St. Dymphna Division 8 Glen Cove LAOH.

March 2 - Mineola Parade We proudly marched in the Irish American Society Parade alongside AOH members and honored Grand Marshal Eileen Cronin and Aides.

March 17 - NYC St. Patrick's Day Parade Marching in the 264th NYC St. Patrick's Day Parade was an unforgettable experience. We congratulate Grand Marshal Michael A. Benn and our own LAOH Sister, Marian Cronin, who was honored as an Aide. Marian serves as Division 17 President and Nassau County LAOH Treasurer. Her dedication and service have earned her numerous accolades, including "Woman of the Year."



Next Herald deadline is July 30, 2025.

To subscribe to this and other National Board news, reach out to me at laohnationalnews@gmail.com

In our motto, KIM

