

2025 Interim Board Meeting- 9/13/25- Vice President Report

I would like to thank my Sisters for their continued trust in me to facilitate the office of Vice President to the level our members are entitled to receive. I take great pride in being a member of this wonderful organization and feel it is a privilege to do so.

I had the pleasure to participate in a site visit to Omaha, Nebraska for our 2026 National Convention. I believe this is going to be a wonderful event. The area for the convention was so clean and you could walk to many places. I also had the privilege of attending the Ohio State Convention and the New York State Convention. Both conventions were very good, and I came home with many notes and ideas for my own State.

Juniors

I have enjoyed working with the Junior Coordinators. We have worked through all the forms and documents, as well as creating a primer on how to start a Junior Division, with much thanks to Deborah Burke, Broome County LAOH 2. Please join me in supporting all Junior Divisions and please check out our website and talk with your divisions on setting up a Junior Division. Our current number of Junior Divisions is eleven (11). We had one Junior division disband in 2024 and one new Junior division. Here are the membership counts of the Juniors as so December 31, 2024, and for the newly installed Divisions:

Kentucky, Louisville, Division 1	11	
Massachusetts, Essex County, Division 8	8	
New York, Albany County Division 1	13	
New York, Broome County	12	
New York, Nassau County	19	
New York Orange	22	
New York, Suffolk Division 2	29	
New York, Suffolk Division 4	13	New Division 8/10/2024
New York, Suffolk Division 7	14	
Ohio, Summit County	13	
Pennsylvania, Allegheny County	13	
Total Juniors	167	

Degree Teams

Currently, we have seven (7) active Degree Teams in four (4) States, one (1) tri-state and we enacted a traveling team for the 2024 National Convention. At this time, we will again be calling for a traveling team for the 2026 National Convention in Omaha. We need more degree teams. If your State, County, or Division wishes to investigate starting a Degree Team, please do not hesitate to contact me. A total of 206 members received their Degree in 2024. We are working to try and certify another Degree Team. Here is a list of the current Active Degree Teams:

Michigan State – St. Brigid
New York, Capital District – Trinity
New York, Long Island – Celtic
Ohio State Degree Team
Pennsylvania, Allegheny County-Claddagh
Pennsylvania, Philadelphia- Tara
Tri State Degree Team-Shamrock

Notre Dame

Scholarship-At the time of this report, the Hibernian Lecture and visit to the University of Notre Dame has not occurred. I reached out to Notre Dame for an accounting. As of June 30, 2025 (the close of the fiscal year at the University) the market value of the endowed scholarship was \$1,984,600. The University uses a only portion of the earnings each year to support students, the remainder of the earnings is reinvested to continue to grow the principal in the fund. During the 2025 fiscal year, the distributed earnings were \$77,538. All of that was used to provide scholarship support to four recipients during the 2024-25 academic year:

- Margaret Clark, Class of 2025, accountancy major from North Ridgeville, OH
- James McHugh, Class of 2026, economics major from Verona, NJ
- Christian Maynard, Class of 2028, mechanical engineering major from Rockledge, FL
- Maeve Ryan, Class of 2028, finance major from Bronx, NY

For the 2025-26 (current) academic year, James, Christian and Maeve will continue to receive the Ancient Order of Hibernians and the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians Scholarship.

A few of the National Board will be meeting with the Finance office while we are visiting to attend the Hibernian Lecture and talk with student recipients.

Cushwa Center-The date for the Hibernian Lecture is Thursday, Sept. 18th, with the topic being “How the Irish Taught the Jews to Become American,” by Hasia Diner with New York University, at the Cushwa Center for the Study of American Catholicism. The Hibernian Lecture will be recorded and available to watch via youtube.com/CushwaCenter, probably a few weeks after the event itself for the 2025-26 (current) academic year, and I will share it on our Facebook page and website. Your per-capita taxes help contribute to the cost of the lecture.

Lillian Fee Scholarship at Trinity Washington University

I had emailed Trinity Washington University for an update and did not receive a reply. I followed up by contacting the University and spoke with Barbara Goliday. Our previous contact, Karen, has left the University after 10 years to help care for her mother in St. Louis. Our unspent earnings, of this report, for the Lillian E. Fay LAOH Endowed Scholarship is \$95,026.45. We had one scholarship recipient, Raven Ford, who graduated this past May. She was also one of two recipients during the 2023-2024 academic year.

Constance Markievicz Award

We had five (5) Nominees for the Constance Markievicz award, and the voting was close. Of the eligible State Presidents and National Board members, we received twenty-nine (29) out of thirty-seven (37) eligible voters. I am happy to announce that the 2nd recipient of our 2025 Constance Markievicz award is Dolores Desch, from Division #1, Albany, New York. Dolores will receive her award at this Interim Board meeting. Congratulations to Dolores.

Closing

In early 2026, each State President will be receiving, via-email, the information on the St. Brigid of Ireland Humanitarian Award, National Junior Hibernian of the Year Award. The information will also be available on the website and Facebook Page. Please send this information out to your Division Presidents and ask them to read it and consider a nomination.

If you have any questions, comments, or thoughts, please feel free to reach me at laohnationalvicepresident@gmail.com, or by telephone Monday to Saturday 10:00 am to 7:00 pm Central Time (314)750-6907. Please note that I share my time between the US and Ireland, therefore, I might not answer right away. I promise I will not call you at 10:00 am Ireland time.

I want to thank all my Sisters for your trust in me as the National Vice President and I especially want to thank you for all the love and support I have recently been blessed with. There is so much happening in our world today and being able to have the support of those whom we share our values of Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity makes any struggle easier to bear. I commend the National Board for taking a stand and issuing statements on many issues affecting human dignity. With this being the 250th anniversary of the United States, we need to be more united than ever.

Thank you for everything you do for Our Noble Order.
Sandi Swift, LAOH National Vice President