

Lady Hibernian Herald

Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc.- Irish · Catholic · American

August 2025

Dear Sisters,

I hope you are enjoying your summer so far. It has been a hot and sometimes rainy one where I live in PA. I cannot believe that on August 10 it will be one year since I was installed as your National President. Where did that year go???

Because it is one year, I am required to have an Interim Board Meeting which is scheduled for Saturday, September 13, 2025, at Penn Harris Hotel in Camp Hill, PA. By now, you should have received information from your State President through your Division President regarding the meeting, Mass and dinner. If you have not, please let me know ASAP. I am looking forward to seeing my Sisters there!

I was very fortunate to have been able to attend some 2025 State Conventions: New Jersey, Massachusetts, Ohio, and my very own Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The LAOH and AOH in all locations were so cordial, generous, and treated me like royalty! Thank you! Hibernian Spirit and Love are the best!

Thank you, also, to the other states where I could not attend. I thank LAOH National Vice President Sandi Swift for covering New York. It was the same


weekend as Pennsylvania, and I was not able to do both. I thank LAOH National Secretary Cathy Turk for covering Virginia.

I remain Yours In Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,

Mary Ann Lubinsky, LAOH National President

LADIES ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS
NATIONAL PRESIDENT – MARY ANN LUBINSKY
INTERIM BOARD MEETING /
PRESIDENTIAL DINNER – SEPTEMBER 13, 2025

PENN HARRIS HOTEL
1150 CAMP HILL BYPASS, CAMP HILL, PA, 17011
ROOMS – \$134 + TAX PER NIGHT - 2 DOUBLE BEDS
TO RESERVE A ROOM: (RATE GOOD TILL AUGUST 22ND)
CLICK THE LINK: [2025 INTERIM HOTEL](#)
CALL: 1-717-763-7117 OPTION 1
PROVIDE GROUP NAME: LAOH NATIONAL INTERIM BOARD MEETING



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:
MEETING : 9:00AM–12:00PM
MASS : 5:00PM
DOORS OPEN AT : 6:30PM
DINNER : 7:00PM - \$80 PER PERSON – CASH BAR
CHOICE OF : CHICKEN BREAST, PORK LOIN, QUINOA



TO REGISTER CLINK:
[2025 INTERIM MEETING / DINNER REGISTRATION](#)
CONSTANCE MARKIEWICZ AWARD, GUEST SPEAKER, ENTERTAINMENT.

TO PURCHASE A COMMEMORATIVE AD CLICK : [2025 AD](#)
QUESTIONS? CONTACT : CATHY TURCK
NATLSECRETARYLAOH@GMAIL.COM

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Vice President Sandi Swift

It has been a busy 2025 for my office. After completing the States Juniors and Degree teams reports, it was time to go to work with meetings.

I am very excited about our **Juniors**. The Coordinators and State Officers and I have had several zoom meetings. We have corrected and updated the brochure, and all the forms related to the Juniors, to be in line with the 2024 National Constitution. Additionally, we have created an *Application to Form a Junior Division* and a *National Primer on Organizing a Junior Division of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc.* All of these have been placed on the Juniors section of the Vice President's webpage on the LAOH website.

As I met with our **State Vice Presidents**, I verified that they received a copy of the letter and the nomination form for the **Countess Markievicz Award** and requested them to share this information with their divisions. The nominations are due to me by June 30, 2025, and the award will be presented at the LAOH National Interim Board meeting on September 13, 2025. I personally encourage all divisions to look at their membership for nominations. I also encouraged the Vice Presidents to look at the information on Junior divisions and which State divisions might be able to look at starting a Junior Division. These young ladies will be our future, and it is another way to increase their membership.

I met with our **Degree Teams**. I have asked them to notify me of any upcoming degree ceremonies in order for them to be placed on the Degree section of the Vice President's page on our national website. Eligible candidates are welcome to register at any ceremony to make their degree, please see the website on the Vice-President's page for Degree Registration information. Teams who might be interested in conferring degrees at the Omaha convention will let me know by July 1st. Committing this early will allow them to fundraise. If we do not have any teams interested, we will again look at the

Traveling Degree team.

I was asked, by President Lubinsky, to put together the logistics (transportation/hotels and itinerary) for the 2025 FFAI trip with the help of Rita O'Hara the Co-Chair of the FFAI committee and National Organizer Marilyn Madigan. As we are a Catholic organization we did include a few extra stops. We stopped in for Mass at the St. Patrick's Cathedral in Drogheda. This Cathedral has the head of St. Oliver Plunkett; this year is the 400th anniversary of his birth. We made a brief stop in Faughart at the National Shrine of St. Brigid. The LAOH donated to the restoration of the Shrine in 1997, to honor our Patroness, St. Brigid. We visited the AOH Hall in Newry, while presenting a check, and onto Belfast and Derry for meeting with recipients of the FFAI grants and hearing their stories. There were numerous wonderful speakers and presentations. There was a day in Inishowen where we had the opportunity to visit an amazing Republican repository full of collections. The beatification cause of Sister Clare Crockett, an inspirational young Irish religious sister who died in 2016 at the age of 33, formally opened in Madrid, Spain. Sister Clare is from Derry, and we took the opportunity to visit her grave and place flowers. Her story is a wonderful one and you can see it on YouTube, it is called "*All or Nothing*." We toured the National Famine Museum in Strokestown, and in celebration of the end of St. Brigid's 1500th we visited Kildare and had a mini retreat at the Solas Bhríde Center and St. Brigid's well. On our last day, LAOH National Organizer Marilyn Madigan, FFAI Co-Chair Rita O'Hara and myself met with AOH President Sean Pender and Martin Galvin, as well as a few others, at the Department of Foreign Affairs for the US in Dublin. I am attaching only a few photos as not to conflict with the FFAI Chair's report.

After returning from Ireland in April, I was home for 4 days and then headed to South Bend, IN for **Notre Dame's Cushwa Center's** 50th anniversary conference and was there for an additional 4 days. While in Notre Dame, besides attending seminars

Story continued on next page

Vice President continued

during the day, National Organizer Marilyn Madigan and I met with the GAA co-ed team, who brought home 1st place from the tournament in Denver, CO. The LAOH was one of their sponsors. We also met with a student who is attending Notre Dame on our scholarship and signed her up for the LAOH with a division in NY. We met with a PA LAOH member who attends St. Mary's and introduced her to the new recruited member from Notre Dame. At the banquet for the 50th anniversary the LAOH received three different shoutouts, by various individuals speaking, for our support and for attending the conference and banquet. It was a very special week. Save the date for the **Hibernian Lecture** which will be Thursday, September 18, 2025.

I have had a wonderful time working with the different areas of my office and am looking forward to the rest of the year.

In Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity

Sandi Swift
National Vice-President



Fr Gary



Grave of St Clare Crockett



Graves of St Columcille, St Patrick and St Brigid

Story continued on next page

Vice President continued



Ireland dept of public affairs



St Brigid's Well

Secretary Cathy Turck

Ladies,

I hope everyone is having a relaxing and enjoyable summer. It seems to be flying by and before you know, Labor Day will be here followed by the National Interim Board meeting on September 13, 2025. I hope you consider attending the meeting and the President's Dinner later that evening. All State Presidents have voice and vote at the Interim Board Meeting and may send someone in their place if they are unable to

attend. All other members in good standing are welcomed and encouraged to attend this meeting as observers.

During the Interim Board meeting we will be awarding National Life Memberships. I was pleased to receive 12 very worthy nominations from all over the country. In compliance with our National Constitution, up to 5 LAOH members can receive this special designation, and each must receive 51% of the votes to be awarded this honor. As you read this, the ballots have been sent out and are due back mid- August. The Constance Markievicz award will also be given out at the Interim Board meeting to one member who stands out and above in all of her endeavors, either professionally or in volunteer work.

On a separate note, I was pleased to be able to attend and represent the National Board at a reception for Consul General Helena Nolan in Saratoga Springs, NY on July 10, 2025. Consul General Nolan is finishing up her term as Ireland Consul General, NY and in August she will be moving on to an assignment in Morocco. How exciting! The reception was a celebration of appreciation for the Consul General's outstanding service and outreach during her term. Both AOH and LAOH members were present to wish Consul General Nolan well.



LAOH National Secretary Cathy Turck, Consul General Helena Nolan, LAOH NY State Missions and Charities Officer, Maura McSweeney (L to R) in Saratoga Springs, NY at the reception and send off for the Consul General.

Missions & Charities Mary B McNamee

Dear Sisters,

We are looking to hold a round table webinar to discuss the Columban Fathers and Sisters missions and how we can better assist them. I hope all of you will participate. It is important to work together to ensure the money we donate is supporting these worthy missions the way they need and the way we want.

There is still time to donate and honor the Columban Sisters 100th anniversary. Please mail your check in to me as soon as possible and include the 100th anniversary on the memo line made payable to the LAOH. Thank you in advance for the special donation and thank you for all you do daily to support our order.

I hope you and your loved ones all continue to have a safe and enjoyable summer.

In Our Motto, Mary B McNamee

Organizer's Activities

In April, I attended the 50th Anniversary of the Cushwa Center at the University of Notre Dame with National Vice President Sandi Swift. While at the Notre Dame Campus, we met with some of the Hibernian Scholarship Recipients. We were hoping that we could start an LAOH Division at Notre Dame, a place where Catholic faith, heritage, and service flourish. Unfortunately, after speaking with the students having a LAOH Division is not possible. All organizations at the University need to have a Faculty Moderator and be COED.

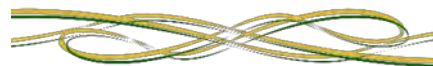
We have not given up on a presence in the area near Notre Dame. An ad was taken out in the Diocese of Fort Wayne South Bend Publication seeking out women interested in the LAOH. While at Notre Dame, we also connected 2 young women that already have a relationship to the LAOH and now each other. While at the Hibernian Lecture, our plan is to connect again with these students and asked them to bring friends that may be interested in joining our Sisterhood as Members at Large. We are looking for students from

Notre Dame, St. Mary's and Holy Cross. If you know of any students at these campuses, please encourage them to attend the Hibernian Lecture on Thursday September 18 at 4:30pm and meet members of the National Board. For more information, please contact me at laohnationalorganizer@gmail.com The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians (LAOH) is proud of our relationship with the United States Gaelic Athletic Association (USGAA). Our first collaboration was the successful Book Tour in February and March. The USGAA have invited the LAOH to have an article in their recent newsletters as well a booth at the USGAA Finals in Philadelphia on August 15-17. An event like the USGAA Finals bring together those individuals who are proud bearers of Irish identity, spirit, and solidarity As the GAA promotes the strength, skill, and teamwork of Irish sports, the LAOH complements that mission by offering a Sisterhood rooted in Catholic faith, heritage, and service. Together, we represent two pillars of Irish -American life—athletic excellence and cultural legacy.

To the young women competing, cheering, and celebrating with us at the USGAA Finals in Philadelphia: we will invite them to take the next step in honoring their Irish roots. Joining the LAOH is more than becoming part of an organization—it's becoming part of a Sisterhood that supports one another, uplifts our communities, and advocates for a united and peaceful Ireland.

If you are in the Philadelphia area on August 15-17, come out and support over 80 Teams from across the United States who are promoting our Sporting heritage of Gaelic Football, Hurling and Camogie at Line Road Sports Complex 137 Line Road Malvern PA.

Come meet us at our table, see how the GAA and LAOH are a living legacy that stretches from the hills of Ireland to the heart of every American city where the Irish spirit thrives.



LAOH GAA Liaison Marilyn Madigan

The National Board of the LAOH is honored to participate in a strategic partnership with the Ancient Order of Hibernians and the United States Gaelic Athletic Association. As stated in the Press Release: “This collaboration brings together influential organizations dedicated to educating, fostering community, preserving traditions, and building a strong foundation for future generations.

USGAA Chairperson Paul Keane said *"We are thrilled to join forces. This partnership highlights our shared commitment to community life across the United States and creating meaningful opportunities for people to connect through sports and culture."* AOH President Sean Pender echoed these sentiments: *"Our partnership with USGAA is an opportunity to align our collective goal of growing our membership and Irish America."* LAOH President Mary Ann Lubinsky shared her support for the collaboration saying: *"The LAOH is honored to partner with the USGAA to promote our rich Irish traditions. Together, we can provide inspiration through our shared heritage and strengthen the bonds within our communities."*

All of our organizations preserve and promote our shared Irish American Heritage and look towards the future of Irish America. “Through the partnership, the USGAA, the AOH and LAOH aim to Promote Irish Sports and Culture: Organize community events, workshops, and tournaments to introduce Gaelic games to new audiences and provide opportunities for individuals of all ages to learn more about and engage with Irish traditions. Support Youth Development: Collaborate on youth programs that combine sports, education, and cultural activities to inspire the next generation to embrace their heritage. Empower Communities: Enhance local initiatives that foster unity, cultural appreciation, and the spirit of volunteerism within Irish American communities nationwide.

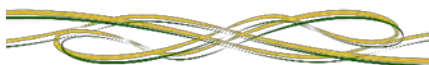
One of our first activities was the sponsorship and promotion of the Lost Gaels Book Tour that visited the

following locations: Watertown MA, Albany NY, Glastonbury CT, Rockland County NY, NYC, Middletown NJ, Philadelphia PA, Baltimore MD, Pittsburgh PA, Cleveland OH, and Chicago IL. This tour would not have been possible without the dedication of AOH President Sean Pender who reached out to the local AOH, LAOH divisions and GAA Clubs. President Pender provided each location with promotional flyers. In his follow up with me, it was shared that we had 584 attendees and sold 580 Books. What a great job to all the local committees. I would like to express my gratitude and appreciation to all the local LAOH Reps: Dee Dee Walsh MA, Dolores Desch, Joan Moore and Regina Begley NY, Ellen McShane CT, Mary Ellen O'Halloran NJ, Liz Kerr and Kathleen Duilus PA, Kathleen Norris MD, Rita O'Hara and myself OH, Anne Marie Herlehy III. I would also like to thank all LAOH members that attended and volunteered to make the events successful. For those unable to attend the Lost Gael Book Tour in person, Peadar Thomson's Presentation was filmed at the Cleveland location. To view please use this link: <https://youtu.be/EmSP4TBzI9s> The LAOH also supported the Gaelic Games on the Collegiate level with a Donation to assist the University of Notre Dame GAA travel to the College games in Denver over St. Patrick's Day. Vice President Sandi Swift and I had the pleasure of meeting some of the ND Players when recently visiting the Campus. Jimmy McHugh thanked us personally for the LAOH donation and informed us that they were again the CHAMPIONS.





GAA continued



National LAOH FFAI Chair Kathleen Varady

A brief letter to let you all know that our FFAI Appeal trip to Ireland was amazing. Fifteen ladies of the LAOH, including President Mary Ann Lubinsky, were able to give out \$50,100.00 to the recipients we sponsored in Ireland. This would not have been possible without the generosity of all your donations. I wish you all could experience the warmth and genuine appreciation from those we support and the vital work their groups do to keep history alive and work diligently for a Free and United Ireland.

We had thirteen \$1000.00 or more donors who received a limited edition plaque made by the Ex-Pows in Ireland. The awards are given to : Connecticut State Board, Lady of Knock Div 7 NY, JFK Div. 1 Albany NY, JFK Schenectady NY, New York State Board and St. Ita Div. 3 NY, Ohio State Board, Our Lady of the Rosary Div. 5&10 Ohio, PA State Board, Ellen Marie Hess, Mary Ryan Div. Virginia, Rhode Island Div. 12, Sheila Gray and Marilyn Madigan. The list of donation amounts from each of the 22 individual states will be made available in a future email. The recipients in this year's Appeal were the following:

Ballymurphy Massacre Committee
Belfast National Graves
Bloody Sunday Trust
Bogside Artists
Bridges Beyond Boxing
Ti Chulainn
Ealu
Irish Republican Museum
Greater New Lodge
Green Cross
Jim O'Neill and Robert Allsopp Memorial Flute Band
Passionist Peace and Reconciliation Office
Peace Players International Northern Ireland
Ardoyne Youth Club
Relatives for Justice
St. Patrick's Visitor Centre
Tyrone National Graves

FFAI Continued

The Witness Project

Ireland's Future

Martin McGuinness Peace Foundation

Survivors of Trauma

In addition to these groups we were also able to present Charlie Casey in Newry Ireland with a certificate showing him that a wild cherry tree was planted in his late daughter Catherine's memory. Charlie has been a good friend and very accommodating whenever the LAOH comes to Ireland. This was a personal gift from the 15 LAOH members who traveled to Ireland for this FFAI trip and did not come out of our donations. It was a great idea made by Dolores Desch and ordered by Rita O'Hara.

Each recipient expressed their gratitude for all the support they receive from the LAOH. Their work preserving and keeping history alive and bringing the youth together is vital to the unification of Ireland. For many of them it is about Justice for the Victims and their survivors. For others it's about dealing with those suffering from the emotional and mental scars that are present even to this day. Last but not least, it's about bringing the youth together in a common area with common goals.

I feel the future of Ireland is in the hands of the youth. These groups that are mentoring the youth from all over Northern Ireland create an environment that show them that they have more similarities than differences. If Ireland is to be United and Free there must justice for all victims and their survivors by upholding all aspects of the Good Friday Agreement and abolishing the Legacy Act. A new generation must be willing to work together in order for the Island to be as One.



“Heroes of Irish America Awards 2025”

The Irish Echo held their “Heroes of Irish America Awards 2025” in Buffalo, NY at the Buffalo Convention Center on Friday May 16, 2025. National LAOH Secretary, Cathy Turck, presented a certificate of accommodation from the National President to each of the four LAOH members who were among the honorees. Maureen Mohny- Cuyahoga County, OH Division 5/10, Denise Murphy- McGraw-Schenectady, NY Division 1, Eileen O'Malley- Allegheny County, PA- Division 21, and Dr. Elizabeth Stack- Albany County, NY – Division 1 were honored for their contributions to their communities and their steadfast dedication to their Irish heritage.

Irish Echo Awards continued



Left to Right- Eileen O'Malley, Maureen Mohny, Dr. Elizabeth Stack, Cathy Turck, National LAOH Secretary, Denise Murphy-McGraw.

National Irish Historian Kathleen Diulus

Irish History Contest – Final Stretch!

I hope everyone had a refreshing summer! For those who attended state conventions, I trust they were both enjoyable and energizing.

As a reminder, the Irish History Contest has been underway since April 1, in accordance with the timeline changes made at the 2024 National Convention. This year's theme, "The Irish and the American Revolution," aligns with the semi quincentennial of our nation and offers a powerful opportunity to explore the Irish contribution to America's founding.

As we approach the final months for Division submissions, I encourage members to seek out students who are passionate about history and eager to dive into this compelling topic.

Please refer to the LAOH website and visit the Irish History Contest page for all the rules and guidelines. There will also be a Historian Zoom call to review the deadlines and answer any question on August 27 at 7 pm. Any questions, please contact me via email and I will be happy to assist.

AOH/LAOH NATIONAL CONVENTION

Now that the State Conventions are winding down, it is time to look forward to the 2026 AOH/LAOH Biennial Convention. The Convention is scheduled to take place at the beautiful Hilton located in downtown Omaha, Nebraska from July 15-19, 2026. All events

and meetings will take place at the Omaha Hilton and the Convention Center that is located directly across the street from the Hilton via a sky bridge. The hotel recently underwent a \$13 million room renovation and a \$2 million renovation to the lobby. The hotel room rate is \$132.00 per night plus taxes effective July 11-19.

The Eppley airport is 3.4 miles away from the hotel. The Omaha Hilton has a complimentary shuttle service that runs to Eppley Airport every 30 minutes. This is a 24-hour service. There will be a 50% discount for overnight self-parking in the hotel's attached garage. Valet parking is also available. The hotel is in an excellent location with plenty of restaurant options, shopping, and entertainment within walking distance. There is a complimentary shuttle provided by the hotel for those that do not want to walk.

Please keep in mind that the LAOH will be holding a Constitution Convention prior to the opening of the National Convention. It is tentatively set for Wednesday, July 11, 2026. The Convention Committee is planning a visit to the Omaha Hilton soon. Further details will be forthcoming including the package price, Degrees, Constitution Convention, etc.

Omaha, Nebraska is the birthplace of The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians. The women were recognized as the "Daughters of Erin" at the AOH National Convention held in Omaha, Nebraska in 1894. The women sought their own identity, and it was at this Convention that the AOH relented and allowed the formation of the "Daughters of Erin." In 1906, their name was changed to the Ladies Auxiliary to the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America. In 1984, the ladies voted to change their name to the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians. The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians was incorporated in 2004. The LAOH has come a long way. More reason to attend this Convention and celebrate the LAOH at their birthplace!

State News

MICHIGAN NEWS

The **Catherine McAuley Division** reports their member, Anne Doulette did a fabulous job organizing the “Tea Room” at the St Pat’s Senior Center’s Spring Festival. McAuley members provided and served baked goods, tea and coffee to Festival attendees. They held a Baby Shower” for the Guadalupe Center which supports Mothers& Babies. Members brought in diapers, wipes and baby items for the center. They had a beautiful Baby Shower cake and decorations to honor those little ones. Patrick Cummings who is one of the directors of the center spoke to the ladies on how much these items are appreciated by the mothers. Their May Crowning was chaired by Mary Quinley and Peggy Gray. At the Motor City Irish Festival, the McCauley sisters were busy volunteering. Peggy Gray was the Director of the Children’s Tent. She staffs the tent and creates a wonderful atmosphere for the children to learn of the Irish heritage. Crafts, dance lessons, magicians are just a few of the activities provided. Anne Doulette hosted a Tea Room at the Festival. She staffed it with volunteers who serve tea and baked items. The McCauley Division is enjoying the summer with festivals and picnics.

Angela Mary Maguire, Past President and Founding member of **Our Lady of Knock** Division passed away last year in Colorado. Angela Walsh was born and lived in County Mayo, Ireland. At age 20 she pursued a nursing career in Galway graduating as an RN and midwife. Her nursing career took her to County Louth where she met her future husband, Patrick Maguire. They married in 1962 and immigrated to the US in 1964 settling in NJ. After two decades they relocated to Adrian MI where they lived for 35 years before moving to Colorado to be closer to family. Her faith, family and heritage were dearest to her heart. She participated in church committees and the Right to Life Movement. Angela was an active member of the LAOH in Rahway, NJ, holding the presidency for a four-year term. Later in Adrian she helped form the LAOH Our Lady of Knock Division, in 1987. Following her move to Colorado, she joined

the Denver Division.

Her funeral and burial took place last May in Centennial, Co. A Memorial Mass and luncheon was said on June 27 2025 at Holy Family Parish in Adrian Michigan. Margaret Noe, Our Lady of Knock sister, and close friend of Angela’s gave a lovely, funny and poignant remembrance on Angela’s life. At the luncheon her children regaled us with wonderful memories of their mother. As a testament to her strong faith, Angela had a reassuring refrain, “Don’t worry; you’re not supposed to. God will take care of everything”

Heaven surely gained an angel with the passing of Angela Mary Maguire. May she rest in peace.



Angela Mary Maguire

The **Rose Kennedy Division** continues with their monthly charities. In April they brought in socks for homeless men. In May they held a May Crowning and collected hats, scarves, toiletries and shoe boxes for the Appalachia Project.



In June members brought in around 85 boxes of cereal for Redford Interfaith which will provide them to children during the summer. Members enjoyed a chicken dinner and yummy side dishes the ladies prepared. Sisters are already purchasing school supplies for the September charity.

State News Michigan continued

The annual Motor City Irish Festival found **Rose Kennedy Division** members selling bottled water at two tents. Brigid Taylor once again ran the History Tent. She created amazing displays for this year's festival. Brigid was able to retain Greg Rappleye, the author of "Barley Child" a collection of poems he wrote for an Irish American Family. Mr. Rappleye was the winner of the 2025 Miller Williams Prize in Poetry. The display below is about a documentary made by the musical group, The Black Donnelly's called "Through A Storm." It explores the events of September 11, 2001.



LOUISIANA

The Louisiana AOH/LAOH State Convention was held on June 27-28, 2025, at the Doubletree By Hilton Hotel in Kenner, Louisiana.

The Convention was officially opened by AOH State President, Sean Kennedy at an Irish Night Cocktail Party on Friday evening, June 27.

The next morning it was down to business...We started with a full breakfast and then went into a Joint Session with AOH and LAOH members. The AOH and LAOH State Presidents each gave a brief report. We were honored to have AOH National Secretary Ray Lynch join us. The Keynote Speaker was Ireland Vice-Consul Dillon Hennessy, who travelled from his home base in Austin, Texas, to participate in our State Convention.

Members at the Joint Session were also privileged to view a presentation prepared by a member of the local AOH, Mike Fitzwilliam, who traced the origins of the AOH in Louisiana back to 1874 and the LAOH in Louisiana back to 1902. A lot of research was done to prepare this wonderful insight into both organizations.

Then we convened in a separate meeting room to conduct our business of the day. The main topic of discussion was ideas for Fundraising Events. Among the ideas presented was a Bingo & Lunch event or a day at the New Orleans Fair Grounds & Racetrack. Committees were appointed to look into the feasibility of doing these events.

The day concluded with a Buffet Lunch and Mass. God's blessings for another successful State Convention in Louisiana.



Illinois

The St. Clair County Division of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians is filled with joy and gratitude as we share the wonderful news that Deacon Levi James—whom we have faithfully supported over the last year and a half through prayers, encouragement, gifts, and community outreach—was ordained to the sacred priesthood for the Diocese of Belleville, Illinois.

State News– Illinois continued

On Saturday, June 7th, at the Cathedral of St. Peter in Belleville, Father Levi James received the sacrament of Holy Orders and answered God's call to serve His people as a priest. Surrounded by family, friends, clergy, and the faithful, it was a day of great joy and spiritual grace.

We give thanks to God for his vocation and for the privilege of accompanying him on his journey through our spiritual and personal support.

As Father Levi James begins his priestly ministry among the people of the Belleville Diocese, we pray that God may continue to bless, guide, and strengthen him. May his priesthood be filled with grace, joy, and faithful service to Christ and His Church.

We invite all of our sisters to continue lifting Father Levi in prayer as he embarks on this sacred mission.

Sláinte agus beannachtaí Dé!

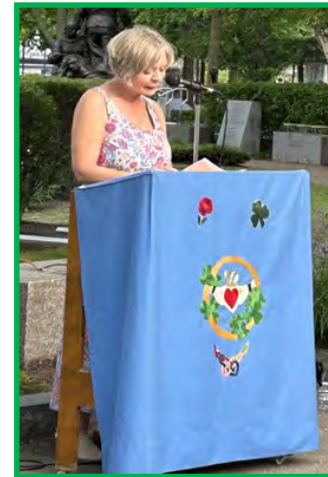


Rhode Island

On June 6, 2025, members of Division 12 Bessie Bradley, Providence, RI, gathered at the Rhode Island Famine Memorial to participate in the annual Hunger Strike Commemoration. This solemn tradition, now in its fourth decade, was pioneered by RI Northern Irish Aid and continues to honor the courage and sacrifice of the 1981 hunger strikers.



Division 12 was proud to welcome Kathleen Savage of Division 10, Lynn, Massachusetts, who joined us for the event. Division 12's own Tricia McIvor served as the emcee and keynote speaker, offering a heartfelt tribute that reflected the ongoing relevance of the struggle for justice and human rights.



Tricia McIvor delivering remarks at the memorial

As part of the ceremony, participants carried placards bearing the names and images of the hunger strikers. Ann McCarthy was pictured holding the poster of Francis Hughes, while Eileen Benz solemnly carried that of Thomas McElwee.



State News– Rhode Island continued



The following morning, members enjoyed a farewell breakfast with Kathleen Savage before her return to Massachusetts—closing out a meaningful and memorable weekend of remembrance and solidarity.

Texas

The Texas LAOH/AOH held their convention July 25th to July 27th.



Photos: Ann McCarthy with Francis Hughes; Eileen Benz with Thomas McElwee; Kathleen Savage with Joe McDonnell; Eileen and Sara Benz with the “Get Out of England” Banner

LAOH Past President of the Daughters of Erin and the Mary Doyle Divisions, current member of Golden Rose with Newly installed AOH State President Jason McGrew

Following the memorial, attendees reconvened at the Irish Ceilidhe Club in Cranston for music, fellowship, and reflection. During this time, State President Maureen Benz publicly recognized FFAI Chairperson Marie Magee for her outstanding coordination of the Division’s successful fundraiser breakfast last September. *(Photo: Maureen presents to Marie)* **The date for this year’s breakfast is October 25 at the Irish Ceilidhe Club in Cranston.**



Ann Soule, Robert Hull (Consul General) and Marie O’Shaughnessy

State News– Texas continued



National AOH Vice President and LAOH member Marie O'Shaughnessy

The ladies of the St. Patrick's Division 1 of the LAOH were given a generous donation of \$500 by the Michael Roarty Division of the AOH at the 2024 AOH Green Tie Dinner.



From Left to Right-Monty Hampton, Brenda Kimberlin, Donna Tevlin, Stacy Burton, Rocky Reitmeyer.

Missouri

Dia duit!

My name is Stacy Burton and I am the president of the Missouri-St. Patrick's Division 1 of the LAOH as well as the newly elected Irish Historian for the Missouri State Board of the LAOH.

During our 2025 AOH/LAOH State Convention, I gave a speech about my Irish heritage, the impact of my very proud Irish grandmother Agnes Helen Denny Willard on my life. I also shared some of my favorite Irish wit and wisdom with the group.

On June 14th 2025, Stacy Burton-President and Donna Tevlin-Treasurer, both for the St. Patrick's Division 1 of Cottleville, MO, joined forces with the St. Charles Michael J Roarty AOH division to raise money for our FFAI and SOAR charities. Our division also donated a raffle basket.



Stacy Burton-President of St. Patrick's Division 1-Missouri, Irish Historian-Missouri State Board



State News Continued

Florida

LAOH Indian River County, Division 2 along with AOH Indian River County Division 2 held their first annual Irish American Festival. It was a wonderful day celebrating our heritage with Irish music, Pipe & Drum Bands, Irish Step Dancers, and amazing Irish Food. We received a proclamation from our City Mayor Fred Jones proclaiming March Irish American Heritage Month.



Florida LAOH had a wonderful time marching with the St Augustine Division parade and the Brevard Division Parade.



State News– Florida continued



Indian River County held their 3rd annual Kentucky Derby Cocktail party at St Sebastian Church.



At the end of April FL State LAOH held their interim board meeting. Honoring not only our current president Louise Sullivan, but all the sisters across the state who have worked hard to advance our order. Pasco County celebrated 44 years, Brevard County 42 years, Mary Ingerson celebrated 69 years and Margot Neuendorf 40 years to name a few. We were honored to have the Florida Rose of Tralee, Molly Ronan play

the harp during our happy hour and our guest speaker, Consul General of Ireland, Miami, Sarah Kavanagh attend. It was a beautiful weekend celebrating the LAOH.





The first USF Gael Scoil is a wrap and what a great time was had by all that attended. It was an honor that not only the Florida LAOH helped sponsor the event but also participated by teaching how to bake Irish Soda Bread. The participants moved in groups to different activities such as learning how to play hurling, singing a song in Gaelic, then ending in a contest between two teams (the younger group won).

Irish history, Irish Step Dancing, baking Irish Soda Bread and an Irish language class taught via video by the Consulate General and Associate Consulate. We can't wait till next year's Gael Scoil!



State News– Florida continued

St Augustine LAOH working with the St Augustine AOH Held a fundraiser for the Alpha Omega Mircle Home. Gathering donations and gift cards for this truly amazing organization helping both young mothers and older women.



Indian River County LAOH with Indian River County AOH marched in the Sebastian Fourth of July Parade.



Virginia

Virginia LAOH/ AOH convention was held on Aug 1st and 2nd. There was wonderful music and food at the Irish Night welcome event. The evening was enjoyed by all with the Irish Ambassador Geraldine Byrne Nason sharing a few remarks and taking photos with members. On Saturday after meetings and degrees, Installation and Mass were held at St Michaels Church. A 50s style dinner was held with many people dressing for the occasion. National LAOH Secretary Cathy Turck and National AOH President Sean Pender were asked to speak to the members.



State News continued

Ohio

Ohio FFAI Appointee Rita O'Hara presented the 2023/24 and 2024/25 FFAI awards for raising over \$1,000 to Kathy McVey, Ohio's Margaret Judge Division President. O'Hara decided to give the awards to State of Ohio President Nicky Parks-Norris for her Akron Hibernian Hall. Unfortunately, President Parks-Norris was unable to attend due to unforeseen circumstances. Rita O'Hara, on the right, has consistently raised over \$1,000 since becoming Ohio's Freedom For All Ireland Appointee.



Our Lady of the Rosary Division 5 & 10 Cleveland, Ohio kicked the spring and summer with an Easter Egg Hunt at the Westside Irish American Club in Olmsted Falls, Ohio. The Weather was not the Greatest but a Good Time was had by all. A group of us volunteered at the St. Augustine Community Cupboard & Closet as part of our Lenten Resolutions. We had another successful Garage Sale and Savers Clothing Drive, raising over \$2,000. A number of Sisters attended the Ohio State Convention in Cuyahoga Falls where Maeve Lavelle the Grand Daughter of Pat Lavelle, Our Lady of the Rosary 5 & 10 Past President, was honored for being the 2024 State and Division (Our Lady of the Rosary) winner of the LAOH Irish History Writing Contest. At our June Meeting / Potluck we celebrated Fr. Tom Mahoney for his Jubilee Year of being a Priest. We welcomed 2

new members Colleen Patton & Joann Keating Sprinkle. To Perk Interest we shared a table with our AOH Brothers Boland Berry division at the Cleveland Irish Cultural Festival, the weekend of July 18, 19 & 20, 2025.





Pennsylvania

LAOH division #25 Philadelphia (aka Philly) , PA making a donation to The Friends of Fox Chase Cancer Center. The check was for \$2000.00. we raised this at one of our fundraisers for this cause.



State news– Pennsylvania continued

"Friends of Fox Chase Cancer Center helps patients who have cancer and are undergoing treatment with whatever they may need. The Friends of Fox Chase Cancer Center is made up entirely of staff and faculty from the Institution. Money raised by this dedicated group goes directly to fund patient comfort and complementary care items, scholarships, facility improvements, and more."

Division #39 ~ Philadelphia

At the Commodore Barry Irish Center, Clare Fulginitti was honored to accept, along with Men's President Shawn Anderson and several other members of Division 39, the Kathy M. Fanning Award from the Philadelphia St. Patrick's Day Observance Parade Association. We thank the Parade Board for selecting LAOH/AOH 39 to receive the 1st of this Award in memory of our Dear Sister Hibernian. Kathy was an amazing friend to us all, led by example, and guided with compassion for so many years through all our charitable endeavors as a Division. May we, Division 39, continue to honor Kathy's memory by following in her footsteps for years to come. We love you, Kathy!



Pennsylvania Proud!

Pennsylvania is Proud to announce the 2025-2027

Board and Appointees

Carolyn Killion ~ President

Patti Flaus ~ Vice President

Carole Cooney-Syzdek ~ Secretary Brianna

Curran ~ Treasurer

Colleen DiFilippo ~ Irish Historian Mary Figura ~

Missions and Charities

Nancy Dugan ~ Catholic Action Kathleen Diulus ~

Immediate Past President

Sister Kathleen Smith, RSM ~ Chaplin

Terry Welsh ~ Freedom for All Ireland Rae

DiSpaldo ~ Veterans Affairs

Maureen Cooper ~ Immigration & Education Maura

Roszyk ~ Publicity Kalyn Populo ~ Webmaster

Photo below: Top L-R: Kalyn Populo (Webmaster), Sister Kathleen Smith (Chaplin), Brianna Curran (Treasurer), Colleen DeFilippo (Irish Historian), Mary Figura (Missions & Charities), Nancy Dugan (Catholic Action), Maureen Cooper (Immigration & Legislation), Rae DiSpaldo (Veterans' Affairs)
Bottom L-R: Maura O'Donnell Roszyk (Publicity), Terry Welsh (Freedom For All Ireland) Patti Flaus (Vice President), Carolyn Killion (President), Carole Cooney-Syzdek (Secretary), Kathleen Diulus (Immediate Past-President),

State News Pennsylvania continued

During our 103rd Biannual State Convention this July, we raised over \$2,700 and collected carloads of household and pantry items to donate to the Scranton St. Francis of Assisi Kitchen!



Our Past President Colleen Bowers was awarded a proclamation recognizing humanitarian causes with Domestic Violence Awareness. Colleen is thrilled that our PA State AOH and many brother Hibernians continue to stand with her as she works to make a difference.



Eileen O'Malley of Division 21 was named one of 2025's Heroes of Irish America by the Irish Echo during a ceremony in Buffalo, NY on May 16.



Maureen Brown, Division 39, works with students at Roman Catholic High School. This year her group SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions) won \$10,000 for their service to veterans in the Philadelphia community, placing second in the Philly Service Award's Community Partners competition. The award recognized their year-long efforts with their program "Serving Those Who Served," enhancing veterans' lives in Philadelphia through meaningful acts of kindness.



Division One ~ Molly Maguires of Jim Thorpe held their annual Rope Mass at the Old Jail Museum to honor the men executed on June 21, 1877 in Mauch Chunk, (now Jim Thorpe) PA.

On that day in June, in the Carbon County prison, four men, Alec Campbell, John "Yellow Jack" Donahue, Michael Doyle and Edward Kelly were simultaneously hanged, prosecuted by the Coal Mine attorneys and convicted by the Coal Mine's Judge.

On that same day in 1877, another six men faced the same fate at Pottsville in Schuylkill County. They were James Boyle, James Carroll, Thomas Duffy, Hugh McGeehan, Thomas Munley, and James Roarity. All men emphatically and passionately claimed their innocence.

Afterwards, a Division member, generously opened her home for refreshments and fellowship.

State News -Pennsylvania continued



Division #23 ~Allegheny County

Over Memorial Day weekend, members paid a meaningful visit to The Wall That Heals. Among those who attended were President Gina Byrnes; Colleen DeFilippo and Nan Pischke, who volunteered their time at the wall; Patty and Lindsey Liebro, whose cousin is honored in the In Memory section of the exhibit; and Rosemary Wheeler, who found the name of her sister's fiancé inscribed on the wall .



During their visit, Mary Ellen Reiser and Colleen DeFilippo assisted a woman in a wheelchair with making name rubbings of five of her brother's friends—each commemorated on the wall.

That evening, Gina Byrnes, along with her husband Gary and Colleen, returned to the site to listen to the playing of Taps, adding a solemn close to an already poignant day. The experience was profoundly moving for all involved—a heartfelt reminder of the true meaning of Memorial Day.

Division #87 ~ Philadelphia County

In June, we cooked, served, and cleaned up dinner at HOPE LODGE.

Hope Lodge is located behind Fox Chase Cancer Center and houses patients and guests who stay there while getting treatments (a Ronald McDonald house for adults).

And, in May, we hosted a fabulously successful baby shower; we are always wowed by the generosity of our Ladies.



Division # 3~ Maire Drumm ~ Montgomery County

In June, we assisted at Fostering Hope. Our Division volunteers volunteer every 2nd and 3rd Wednesday of the month all year round and only break shortly over the summer.

Fostering Hope provides support and tangible needs for children in foster care.

Dignity Bags, Bags of Hope, Foster-Share Closet, and Fostering Phones are all provided through Fostering Hope at no charge to foster children.



State News Continued– Pennsylvania

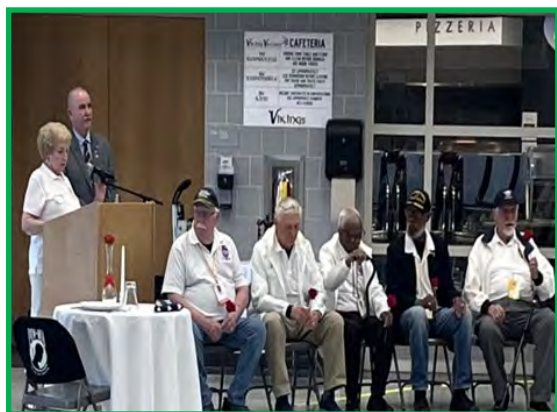
Division #61 ~ Philadelphia County

We have had a very busy 2025, but we are most proud of the fact that we could assist five, 8th graders who are excited to continue their Catholic education!

We wish them well in their next chapter.

Division #2 ~ Notre Dame ~ Montgomery County

Some of our Ladies participated in the Honor Flight activities at Upper Merion Middle School on May 17th . The day's work included helping with the Vets breakfast, making bagged lunches for the trip to DC and the Welcome Home committee.



Division #5 ~ St Brigid of Kildare ~Buck County

We proudly marched in honor of the heroes who gave their lives for our country !!!

Happy Memorial Day !!!



Please join us in congratulating the newly elected officers of the Lackawanna County Board, Scranton, PA. Dorothea Crowley held the office of President from 2012-2024. Alice M Gilbride-McDermott will serve as President from 2025-2027.



State News continued

New York

The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians Kitty Geissler Division 11, NY stays busy. They recently filed an Appeal for Aide application for the Gullotta House, a non profit that helps families in distress. Division 11 contributed to the LAOH NYS Stuff the Bus and Christmas in July projects. A beautiful blanket handmade by talented Sister Mary Keenan was donated to the LAOH NYS Convention basket. Sadly, we lost member, Sister Eileen Meade but we were able to attend her funeral and provide an honor guard.

Members attended the 90th birthday celebration for Mary Gorman, a loyal past Division president and past County president.

The division held a successful bake sale and raffle of an Irish goods gift basket. We owe a great deal of thanks to Kathleen Casey, our own Ina Garten. Kathleen baked more than thirty Irish soda breads that sold out in minutes. Thank you, Kathleen.

The Division presented the Marion Smith award and the Kitty Geissler awards to two outstanding athletic, community active students graduating from the Transfiguration CCD program.

Sisters from Division 11 also attended the AOH/ LAOH NYS Convention.



The Schenectady LAOH has been busy. We won 1st place in the NYS scrapbook contest. Honored member Denise Murphy McGraw with the Irish Echo Irish American Hero Award. Presented Maura Furey from Street Soldiers Schenectady with a check from the Patricia Doyle Fund. Street Soldiers is a favorite charity of the Schenectady LAOH and is run by a group of volunteers who hand out hot meals, pantry items and outdoor gear for the homeless and the underserved in Schenectady. We ere honored with a FFAI award for our \$1000 donation. All the while getting ready to celebrate our 125th anniversary in April at our gala.



National Secretary Cathy Turck (L) presenting Denise Murphy McGraw with a proclamation from the National Board



LAOH scrapbook committee members Brenda Adams (L), Chair Mary Sieder holding scrapbook and Peggy Osborne holding check.

State New continued– New York



NYS FFAI Chair Joan Moore in blue presenting awards to entities in NY that gave over \$1000 in 2024-2025.



Mary Gavin, Melanie Ward-Wesslock, Garath Hargadon, Geradine Maloney, Cathy Turck

The Greene County LAOH, Division 32, Our Lady of Knock, Sisters had a weekend of Irish heritage and Sisterhood. Stationed just inside of the entrance at this year's 48th annual East Durham Irish Festival, alongside the men's AOH Division 2, Mass Rock table. They shared the mission of Friendship, Unity & Christian Charity by telling attendees about the LAOH as well as the Greene County's mission to support local mothers in need.

It was a wonderful opportunity to meet potential new members and fundraise while doing it! Many local businesses like the Shamrock House, owned by another LAOH member, donated goods to be raffled.

The weekend was full of musical by talents like Tom Comerford & dancing by the Farrell School of Irish Dance. NYS Assemblyman Chris Tague (pictured here), always a supporter pf the LAOH & East Durham community, paid a visit. Another special guest, Garath Hargadon (pictured here), Deputy Consul General at the Consulate General of Ireland in NY said hello and supported the mission! Sunday Mass was celebrated by Fr Fragomeni from Chicago, his 40th ED Irish Festival Mass. It was a special day for all!

A yearly tradition for most attendees, and now a yearly tradition for Division 32, Our Lady of Knock. "The generosity of attendees & meeting LAOH/AOH members from all over the country was incredibly special for our Sisters. Looking forward to 2026!"



State News continued– New York



annual St. Brigid's Mass and Brunch with a great turnout from our AOH brothers, family, and friends.



Greene county members Melanie Ward-Wesslock, Carole Huppert, Mary Gavin

Albany LAOH President Karen Keane, Albany AOH President Joe Kennedy, and Albany Junior LAOH President Nina

Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity is alive and thriving in Albany, New York!

The Ladies of the Albany JFK Division 1 began 2025 with prayers for peace in this world. We held our

Our Missions and Charities Chair Ann Marie Calabrese was hard at work collecting receipts to support our local Blessed Sacrament Catholic School in a program led by a local mall. Due in part to our efforts, the school won the contest and was awarded \$8,000. Ann Marie also dropped off a donation check to the school to support the purchase of uniforms for students.

State News continued– New York



Blessed Sacrament receiving the award from the mall, pictured here with uniformed students

The Albany LAOH Junior Division are working hard and successfully participated in meaningful volunteer events so far this year. They participated in a community activity with the Women's Club of Albany, making Valentines Day cards for residents of Shaker Place Nursing Home and Damien House. Great job girls!



Albany LAOH Junior Division at Volunteer Event

On February 21, the Albany LAOH and AOH Divisions, along with the Albany AOH Rebels GAA Club, sponsored Belfast author Peadar Thompson's book tour stop for *Lost Gaels: Remembering the Members of the GAA Killed During the Conflict in Ireland* at the Irish American Heritage Museum in Albany. The well-attended event was a success and a testament to the enduring legacy of families untied through GAA during and after British conflicts.



Members and Friends join Belfast author Peadar Thompson at Albany's Irish Heritage History Museum

March was full of St. Patrick's Day celebrations in Albany. Our members kicked off our parade day with a morning mass, followed by a march down the Avenue and celebrations at our local hall.



Albany LAOH Junior Members Handing Out Programs at St. Patrick's Day Parade Mass

State News continued– New York



Members at St. Patrick's Day Parade Mass



Members at 2025 St. Patrick's Day Parade

On April 26th the Albany Division celebrated our 112th Anniversary with a Dinner Celebration. Our sister Cathy Davis was named Lady Hibernian of the Year (HOTY) and several Sisters were recognized for their years of membership and charitable service.



President Karen Keane and HOTY Cathy Davis



President Keane Presented 25 Year Membership pin and certificate award to Kathi Quinlan



HOTY Cathy Davis



President Keane and AOH Brother Bernard Harney, who visited our May Division meeting to drop off a check for our portion of the 2025 Friday Night Lenten Dinner fundraiser profits

State News continued– New York

In June, many members of our Division and Junior Division joined the Hibernians 4 Hospice team at the annual Hospice Walk and Fundraiser.



On June 21, friends from near and far joined in to support a State Board fundraiser for our Sister Maura McSweeney and AOH Brother Kevin O'Reilly at the Albany Hall.



Babylon Ladies Division 2–27 Locust Avenue, Babylon will be hosting a fall festival on September 14th 2025.



Thank you ladies for all of the great articles and photos for this edition. I hope to meet some of you at the Interim Board Meeting in September!

The next deadline will be Oct 31, 2025. Please send your article in a word document using Times New Roman– 12 pt. Please identify the people in the photos with a tag line.

Enjoy the rest of the summer, and this photo of a sunrise from my recent trip to Virginia Beach as a page filler, Kim

