

Lady Hibernian Herald

Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians - Irish · Catholic · American

February 2026

President's Message

My dear LAOH Sisters and all readers, I hope it was a wonderful Christmas for you and your families. I am writing this article on the 503rd day of being LAOH National President. During that time, I have been most fortunate to represent the National Board at some State Conventions and so many other wonderful events!

October and November came and went in a flash. A huge thank you to Keith Carney for the 250th Birthday of the United States Navy/Commodore Barry Reception held on October 3, on board the Battleship New Jersey. It was such a fantastic event for all who were able to attend. Special thanks to the LAOH and AOH of New Jersey and Pennsylvania who assisted with the planning and the event.

November 7 was the SOAR, Support Our Aging Religious Awards Gala at the Italian Embassy in Washington, DC. Catholic Action Officer Brianna Curran could not attend; Marilyn Madigan attended with me. It was such an honor to accept the St. Katharine Drexel Award for all my LAOH Sisters across the country.

On December 9, both Sean Pender and I attended the Christmas celebration at Ambassador Geraldine

Byrne Nason's Residence in Washington. The Ambassador is always a very gracious hostess. It was a wonderful Christmas event and well attended!

On Sunday, December 28, the Feast of the Holy Family, our National Chaplain and Bishop of the Diocese of Allentown, Alfred A. Schlert, will be doing the Closing Celebration of the Jubilee Year of Hope at St. Catharine of Siena Cathedral. I am honored to be carrying my parish banner and to be wearing my LAOH Sash. You will be remembered in my prayers.

Happy New Year to all! I am exploring different ways to celebrate the Feast of St. Brigid for 2026. More details to follow. St. Patrick's Day will follow soon behind that. Before we know it, we will be heading to Omaha for our 2026 National Convention! My wish for you is that 2026 is your very best year yet!

On a sad note, December 28 is also the Feast of the Holy Innocents, one of our holy days.

The Story of the Holy Innocents (From Franciscan Media)

Herod "the Great," king of Judea, was unpopular with his people because of his connections with the Romans and his religious indifference. Hence he

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President's Message continued

was insecure and fearful of any threat to his throne. He was a master politician and a tyrant capable of extreme brutality. He killed his wife, his brother, and his sister's two husbands, to name only a few.

Matthew 2:1-18 tells this story: Herod was "greatly troubled" when astrologers from the east came asking the whereabouts of "the newborn king of the Jews," whose star they had seen. They were told that the Jewish Scriptures named Bethlehem as the place where the Messiah would be born. Herod cunningly told them to report back to him so that he could also "do him homage." They found Jesus, offered him their gifts, and warned by an angel, avoided Herod on their way home. Jesus escaped to Egypt.

Herod became furious and "ordered the massacre of all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity two years old and under." The horror of the massacre and the devastation of the mothers and fathers led Matthew to quote Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in Ramah, sobbing and loud lamentation; Rachel weeping for her children..." (Matthew 2:18). Rachel was the wife of Jacob (Israel).



LAOH/AOH NATIONAL CONVENTION

After this harsh winter, it is even more reason to look forward to the LAOH Constitution Convention and National Convention to be held in Omaha, Nebraska. Due to unforeseen circumstances at the Omaha Hilton, the LAOH Constitution Convention will be held at the Omaha Marriott Downtown at the Capital District on Tuesday and Wednesday, July 13 and 14, 2026. This hotel will have plenty of rooms and is located approximately one block away from the Omaha Hilton. Further information regarding the Constitution Convention will be addressed by Chairperson, Karen Keane.

The National Convention will be held at the Omaha Hilton from July 15-19, 2026. All LAOH meetings will take place at the Omaha Hilton except for the Constitution Convention. The Degrees will also be exemplified by the Traveling Degree team under the direction of Cathy Turck at the Omaha Hilton. All events including the opening and closing Mass, Icebreaker, Irish Night, Banquet and the AOH meetings will be held at the Convention Center. The Convention Center is located directly across the street from the Omaha Hilton via a sky bridge. The Omaha Hilton hotel daily rate including tax is \$165.97. As of this date, the package price has yet to be determined. You can access the Convention website: <https://aoh.com/2026AOHLAOHconvention>.

The Eppley airport is 3.4 miles away. The Omaha Hilton has a complimentary shuttle that runs to the 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. For a full range of mobility solutions, please contact Kohl's Rx at 402-342-6548 or book on the Convention website.

The AOH and LAOH are very excited to welcome you all to Omaha. They have worked very hard to make your visit a memorable one. Please keep in mind that Omaha, Nebraska is the birthplace of The

Story continued on next page

Convention continued

Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians! It is also the home of the Columban Fathers and Boystown. So much to see and do!

You will be kept apprised of all new developments as they arise.

In motto,

Kathie Linton
LAOH National Chair

**Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc.
2026 Constitution Convention Steering
Committee**

January 2026 Statement The members of the 2026 Constitution Steering Committee are issuing this statement to ensure all delegates are informed about the upcoming Constitution Convention commencing Tuesday, July 14, 2026 at 9:00 am. Since October of 2024, yes 2024, every member has been advised of her right to send changes to the Constitution to her State Representative. It was noted that there was no requirement to receive approval from the Division, County or State. Your suggestions and changes were, for the first time, able to be sent straight to our representative. Monthly meetings began in October of 2024 and all minutes and draft documents were placed on the National Website. The Committee members were available for all members of their state to question or discuss your issues. The initial draft documents were sent to all State Presidents on December 31, 2025 and forwarded to members. Directions indicated that each member was to send their questions or concerns to their State Representatives by March 15, 2026. This allows for yet another time to submit your changes. The Constitution Convention is your time to vote on the final draft. Your loudest voice is your vote. It is not the time to initially raise your ideas, concerns, or suggestions. All changes and questions should have already been sent to your representative. Your representative will let you know the outcome of your

concerns. Time at the Constitution Convention is very limited and there will be no reading of each word. As you are investing your time and money in attending, please be prepared, well versed on the documents, and when your concerns were raised to your representative. Your time to raise concerns and questions is now. Please exercise your rights now.

Committee Members:

- Nan Alonso – CO Amanda Bacque – TX
- Maureen Benz – RI Stacy Blair – MI
- Kathryn Brady – RI Maureen Caffrey – NY
- Stella Carrigan – DE Mary Conlon – SC
- Susan Cooke – NC Rosemary Corrigan – MT
- Ann Crowley-Hash – SC Chris Del Carlo – CA
- Debbie Demars – FL Molly Dobson – KY
- Liz Elias – IN Mary Feeney-Wilfer - IA
- Patti Flaus – PA Maread Gallagher – NJ
- Katherin Goodwin – NC Kay Grillot – IL
- MaryJo Gurry – OH Anne Marie Herlehy – IL
- Ellen Marie Hess – VA Tricia Howard – GA
- Maria Humphries – DC Susan Igel – GA
- Jennifer King – TX Marilyn Madigan – NB
- Patricia Martin – MI Deborah McDonough – DC
- Clare McManus – PA Rose McNelis – IN
- Ellen McShane - CT Sue Messina – NY
- Rosann Michel – NJ Kathleen Norris – MD
- Sarah O’ Brien – OH Pam O’Reilly – MT
- Natalie Peterinelli – KY Andrea Reilly – CA
- Jane Reilly – DE Kathy Rupp – IA
- Louise Sullivan – FL Trish Taylor – VA
- Mary Therrell – CT Sheila Thunboe – CO
- Theresa Trainor – MA Cathy Turck – NB
- Deirdre Walsh – MA Cathy White - MO

National Secretary

Hello ladies. I hope you are finding ways to stay warm this winter as the entire country has experienced very cold weather. Many States have installed new officers, and I would like to thank all of you who have stepped up to volunteer and serve the Order by taking on the responsibility of becoming Officers at the Divisions, County, and State Board levels. Your leadership is needed to keep our Order growing. A quick reminder, there is a form under the secretary tab on our website (Ladiesaoh.com) to complete when you install new State Officers. Please complete and send this form to me as soon as possible so I can update our Master list. I share this Master list with other members of the National Board, who then use it in their emails to the States. Please continue to update me if you receive an email and you no longer hold that office.

Thank you to all who submitted their Membership Reports within the allotted time frame.

I hope you all have a wonderful St. Patrick's Day!

Cathy Turck

National Historian

Thank you for your continued dedication to preserving and promoting Irish history within our organization.

I would like to extend a sincere **thank you to everyone who helped promote the Irish History Contest** this year. The Judges are excited to review the submitted essays and looks forward to announcing the winner in March. The enthusiasm and participation surrounding this contest truly reflect the importance of sharing our history with future generations.

I also offer my appreciation to all Divisions/County/ and States who completed and submitted their Annual History Reports. Your time, effort, and commitment ensure that our collective work is properly documented and recognized at the national level. As we look ahead, I am asking members to begin

thinking about potential topics for the Irish History Contest for 2027 and 2028. Proposed topics will be discussed and voted on during the History Convention Committee meeting, and I welcome ideas that will continue to inspire meaningful research and engagement.

Any topic suggestions may be sent directly to me in advance of the meeting. Your input is valued and plays an important role in shaping future contests. Thank you again for all you do to promote Irish history and the LAOH.

Kathleen Diulus

National Missions and Charities

Hello Sisters,

I hope you all had a beautiful St Brigid's Day! We had a lovely day in Florida. A quick reminder to please submit your Appeals for Aid donations ASAP. I will be closing the National Missions & Charities books on June 30th, 2026. That day will be here before you know it so please submit your donations right away.

If you have any questions at all please reach out to me. I am always available. Thank you in advance for your donations and all that you do.

In Our Motto,
Mary McNamee

National Fundraiser

Thank you to the many divisions, county boards, state boards and National Board members that have participated in the 2025-2026 annual raffle.

Tickets were given out in September and many of you have requested extra tickets. However, many tickets mailed out have not been returned. Ladies, please check your LAOH bags – many of us (including me) put items in our carry bags and forget that those items are in there.

Story continued on next page

Fundraiser continued

So, if you have any tickets out there, please fill out and get back to me. There are still some additional tickets on hand if you have misplaced them.

We still have the following drawings to happen in 2026.

As of 2/1/2026,

- We have 22 weekly drawings of \$25 each
- We have a SPECIAL St. Patrick’s Day drawing - \$100
- GRAND PRIZE - \$1000 at the National Convention

Here is a list of our winners to date:

- Early Bird Thanksgiving Winner: Anne E Walsh
- Early Bird Christmas Winner: LAOH Division #1 Bristol PA

Weekly \$25 winners (so far)

- Karen Keane
- Carole Rourke
- LAOH Holyoke #2 Division

If you have any questions, please feel free to email me at:

nationallaohrafflechair@gmail.com

The LAOH was honored at the annual SOAR awards gala.



From left is Lucas Swanepoel, SOAR! Board Member and Gala Co-Chairperson; Dennis J. Dee, Executive Director, Father McKenna Center; Cardinal Robert W. McElroy, Archbishop of Washington; Mary Ann Lubinsky, National President, Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians; Sister Kathleen Lunsmann, IHM, president of SOAR!; and Kathleen A. Curran, SOAR! Board Chairperson.

State News

Maryland

The Cecil County, Maryland, St. Attracta Division of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians has been meeting at Immaculate Conception Church in Elkton since receiving its charter in 2016. Our division continues to grow, and when we learned that the parish was creating a beautiful new space to commemorate its 175th Anniversary, we were delighted to contribute to the project.

At the heart of this space stands a striking statue of Our Lady of Lourdes, rising above a cross formed by dedicated bricks. Among those honored is our founding president, Janet White, as well as our division and many individual members.

In addition, through the generosity of our division and from individual members Paula Amberg, Jo Anne Bierly, Anne Fazio (in memory of Sr. Alma Regina, former ICC principal), Mary Anne Loftus-Smith, Joanne Morris, and Christine Hild, we are proud to

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**2026 AOH-LAOH
National Convention**

**Omaha, Nebraska
July 15-18, 2026**



**Come Explore Omaha
You'll be Surprised!**

TO REGISTER & MORE INFO:
OmahaIrish2026.com

ROOM BLOCK AT \$142/NIGHT IS NOW OPEN! FREE AIRPORT SHUTTLE!

Wanna feed a Giraffe or walk under the Ocean? Can you find our Speakeasys? Ready for a good time in our Irish Pubs?

Within a short walk from your hotel room:

- ♣ Enjoy a stroll across the Missouri River or along scenic riverside walkways
- ♣ Play and learn with fun interactive science exhibits
- ♣ Enjoy great food and drink at the Old Market and nearby sports bars

Plan your visit: VisitOmaha.com

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State News continued– Maryland

have purchased a granite bench. This gift will forever memorialize the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians as part of the parish’s history and legacy.



Top: Members of the Cecil County, MD St. Attracta Division
Bottom Left: Immaculate Conception Church, Elkton MD
Bottom Right: Granite bench dedicated to the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians

Kentucky

On December 13th, despite the snowy conditions, the Boone County Division #1 Annual Christmas Party took place at the Ft Mitchell Country Club. The lovely luncheon was organized by chair Rebecca Abel-Kennedy, with entertainment provided by the Emerald Creek Trio. Gifts were exchanged, and carols were sung. In honor of the giving season, a toy collection for the Notre Dame Urban Education Center was held.



Missions & Charities Officer Rebecca Abel-Kennedy, delivering the donations to the NDECU with a volunteer, Maria Scheppert, took a selfie with some of the gifts.



Division Members and their guests caroling. L to R: Jen Thortan with her mother and daughter, and Amy Walsh- Kn and Nancy Walsh-Henderson



Division Members enjoying some dessert and sporting their Christmas cracker crowns. LtoR Nancy Murphy, Pat Hahn, Maureen Toner, Kathy Gessner, and Barbara Brown

State news continued on next

State new continued– Kentucky

On January 20th, 2026, the Jefferson County Division #1, Mother Catherine McAuley, Officers were sworn in by Kentucky State President, Natalie Peterinelli. The officers for the term of 2026 -2028 are as follows; President: Megan Bennett, Vice President: Patsy Bourke, Recording Secretary: Gracie Spalding, Financial Secretary: Mary Ann Fages, Treasurer: Clara Fulkerson, Irish Historian: Beth Favier, Missions and Charities: Chris Corrigan, Catholic Action: Sarah Brennan, Mistress at Arms: Mary Lee Arnold, and Sentinel: Stevie Molter.



Kentucky State President, Natalie Peterinelli administering the oath of office to Jefferson Division#1, President Megan Bennett.



Newly sworn in officers with Kentucky State President. L to R. Chris Corrigan, Mary Ann Fages, Sarah Brennan, Beth Favier, Natalie Peterinelli (in the foreground), Megan Bennett, Mary Lee Arnold, Clara Fulkerson (in the rear), Gracie Spalding, and Patsy Bourke.

Members of the Mother Catherine McAuley Division and the Jefferson County Junior Division hosted their Annual Irish Holiday Tea on November 16, 2025, to raise funds for local charities. Vendors, Junior Division members, and volunteers helped serve over 70 attendees at this wonderful holiday tradition. The event raised more than \$2,200, which was donated to two local charities: Golden Arrow, which supports expecting and new mothers in need, and Hildegard House, a local nonprofit that provides care for unhoused individuals and companionship for those who are alone, including end-of-life care.



Pictured guests and volunteers exploring the vendor tables.

Junior Division Member and volunteers set up the tea service.



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Division Officer, Mary Lee Arnold, presented check of funds raised at the Irish Tea to Golden Arrow.

Florida

On December 17, 2025, LAOH, Division 1, Brevard, had their Christmas luncheon/meeting at Squid Lips restaurant in Melbourne. It was nicely attended with Acting President Eileen Chandler, Secretary Alina C. Selva, Treasurer Kate Midden, Financial Secretary Peggie Kaluskak being in attendance. Other officers and members were unable to attend due to illness or out-of-state travel. The division Chaplain Father Martin Fitzgerald was also present and offered the blessing. Music and songs were offered by Ashley Breaux, singer and cantor at Ascension Church. Ashley sang some Irish songs, Christmas songs and was accompanied by Father Martin and the group in several songs. Great duets by Ashley and Father Martin too! The food was excellent as usual and they shared friendship, union and fellowship. It was a wonderful time. Many blessings to all in 2026!



Massachusetts

The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians Division 2 Holyoke, Ma came together to sing at Monastery Heights in West Springfield. We were able to share music, present the residents with a Christmas blanket throw, and spend time hearing their stories. Talking with them about where they came from and the lives they've lived was truly heartwarming. It was a lovely, emotional evening that reminded us of the power of community and kindness during this Christmas season.

Members of Div 10 and 36 attended a concert by Derek Warfield and the Young Wolftones. When they are touring in the US, the son of one of the Div 36 members tours with the band.

The Mass State Board is mourning the loss of a member of our family who lost her battle with cancer. Please keep her family in your prayers. The



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Board is also mourning the loss of an AOH brother who was a strong supporter who passed unexpectedly.

All divisions across the state are gearing up for St. Patrick Day activities.



members, we ensured the family received gifts, necessities, and special wishes to make their Christmas season bright. An annual wrapping party was held, bringing members together in the true spirit of charity and fellowship as we prepared the gifts with care and love. This meaningful event continues to be a reminder of the impact we can make when we come together to support families in need during the holidays.

From celebrating culture to serving those in need, these events beautifully embody the Irish values of faith, charity, and community that lie at the heart of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians



Katie at the Cultural Holiday Festival

Nebraska

Our division was proud to participate in the Holiday Cultural Festival held on Friday, December 5, 2025, at the Durham Western Heritage Museum in Omaha, Nebraska. This festive community event celebrated cultural traditions and holiday spirit from around the world. Representing the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians were members Amber Ripa, Katie Drelicharz, Natalie Olsen, and Donna McGuigan, who volunteered their time to engage with attendees and share in the celebration. Their presence reflected our organization's commitment to community involvement, cultural heritage, and service. It was a wonderful opportunity to connect with the public and spread holiday cheer in a meaningful way.

One of the most cherished traditions of our division is our Annual Christmas Adopt-A-Family program. This year, we were honored to adopt a family with seven children from Sacred Heart Elementary School. Through the generosity and dedication of our



Katie and Natalie at the Holiday Cultural Festival



Christmas adopt a family wrapping party

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Michigan



Mrs Britton's 3rd Grade at All Saints Catholic School, Canton, MI

Our Lady of Knock Division in Adrian makes green, white and orange plastic rosaries and gives them to school children making their first Holy Communion. Most of the rosaries are sent to children Ireland that one of our members, Mick Blunt has connections with from her Gaelic Language classes. We have made over 800 of these rosaries in the past year. The picture above is of a local class that received the rosaries.

The Rose Kennedy Division held its Annual Christmas Bazaar on November 22 & 23rd. Many vendors including potters and Irish stores along with sister divisions sold a variety of items. The buyers took advantage of purchasing food from our kitchen and bake sale table and enjoying Irish coffee as they did some holiday shopping. Nora Fix, a Rose Kennedy member of many years made 24 jars of her famous Three Berry jam...needless to say they immediately sold out! The division had a December dinner and meeting with chicken and side dishes including many delicious desserts brought in by their members. The November charity was for the Lennon Pregnancy Center. Diapers, wipes, crib sheets and winter clothes sizes 2-5 were collected. In January our ladies brought items in for a Group Home for adult women. This included hand soap and laundry soap, bath towels and washcloths, shower curtains, disinfectant wipes and sprays. In addition to saying the rosary before each meeting, a paper is passed around for prayer requests. This in turn is printed in our minutes which all member received via email a week or so later. One of our member suggested that our President read off the petitions at closing prayers

so we can all lift them up to the Lord. We all quickly agreed praying together is an excellent idea.

In Ireland Little Christmas falls on January 6th the Feast of the Epiphany traditionally marking the end of the Christmas season. It is special day for women to rest after weeks of cleaning, cooking and decorating in reparation for Christmas. Historically the men took over household duties, cleaning house, cooking and childcare, giving women a break after the Christmas rush. This gave women the opportunity to enjoy themselves, often with brunches or dinners with other women family members and friends.

In 2018 the Rose Kennedy Division, under her suggestion and subsequent leadership, MaryJo Hodge decided to have a Little Christmas luncheon. Thirty ladies attended. This has become an annual tradition. Ladies from LAOH Divisions gather together with mothers, sisters, aunts, daughters, granddaughters and friends to celebrate friendship, relax and enjoy a good meal they didn't prepare! Attendance has grown to approximately 100 ladies. This year's luncheon was held at Monaghan's Knights of Columbus on January 4th. Tickers were given out and prizes drawn. Each of the tables acted out one of the days from the song "The 12 Days of Christmas." Since there were 14 tables, two tables had the same number. There was much laughter and fun as the ladies pantomimed the different items "my true love gave to me." In addition to the brunch and singing they always recognize the Epiphany as being a special day when the Magi visited baby Jesus and acknowledged Him as our Savior. This lovely affair closed with everyone singing "We Three Kings."



MaryJo Hodge, Chairperson of every Ladies Little Christmas Luncheon receives a well-deserved gift basket

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This table acts out one of the Twelve Days of Christmas



Members of the Sr. Annette Marie Byrne Division at their Christmas luncheon.



Attendees of every age enjoyed the festivities



The **Sr. Annette Marie Byrne Division 1** of Kent County started the holidays with a festive gathering at the Rio Grande Restaurant in NE Grand Rapids on December 7th. A grand time with delicious food and conversation was had by all the attendees. They are looking forward to some new projects in 2026 and the St. Patrick's parade on March 14th in downtown Grand Rapids.

The Catherine McAuley Division had a very busy Fall and Christmas season. We hit the ground running with a fund raiser “Bingo Night”. The event was chaired by Bridget Hanson. At the November United Irish Societies meeting our sister Kitty Heinzman’s son John Heinzman was chosen as the Grand Marshal of the 2026 Detroit St. Patrick’s Day Parade. Kitty was Grand Marshal in 2018. This marks the first time a mother and son will have served as Grand Marshals. Our Division sponsored the “Classics Band” along with the Rose Kennedy Division at the Dec. 5th AOH Fish Fry. Many from our Division were in attendance. In 2026 we are planning several events to aid us in supporting the National LAOH charities, as well as our local charities including The Pallottine Fathers, Deo Gratius, Guiding Harbor, Corktown Blessings, Guadalupe Center, Mary’s Mantle, Lennon Pregnancy Center and the Mercy Education Project. We look forward to a very productive and busy 2026.



At the AOH Walsh Division Charity Ball, McAuley sister, Margaret Wright was named Hibernian Woman of the Year. She is seated among some of her Division sisters. They all enjoyed dinner and dancing to the music of the “Classics Band”.

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McAuley sisters: Denise Burke, Sharon Derrig & Diane Koneman their division table at the LAOH Christmas Bazaar. They sold a lovely assortment of Christmas items and stocking stuffers along with a raffle basket.



The McAuley Division sisters on January 4th celebrating “Ladies Little Christmas” sponsored by the Rose Kennedy Division.



McAuley Division sisters, Kitty Heinzman and Maureen Moriarty-Root were inducted into the Michigan Irish American Hall of Fame. This picture was taken at the MIAHOF Fundraiser



Doyle's Irish Pub at St John's Resort in Plymouth was where the McAuley Division held their Christmas dinner and meeting. A wonderful evening was enjoyed by all.

Missouri



The Irish Pallottine Father's Dinner Dance took place on Nov. 7th. McAuley sister, Peggy Gray was honored by being named “Pallottine Woman of the Year. In addition, McAuley sister Anne Doulette's husband, Paul Doulette was named the “Pallottine Man of the Year.

On December 5th, 2025, the **St. Louis Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians (LAOH), St. Brendan the Navigator Division IV**, along with LAOH National Vice President **Sandra Riley Swift**, proudly installed its very first Junior Division. We are delighted to welcome these wonderful young ladies into the sisterhood of the LAOH.

These Juniors are legacies of both the LAOH and the AOH, and it fills us with pride to see them carry forward the traditions, values, and enthusiasm that mean so much to all of us. Their involvement is a beautiful testament to the strength of our heritage and the promise of our future.

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State News Continued– Missouri



Back Row: Sandi Swift, National Vice President, Vivian S, Grace O, Naomi B

Front Row: Ruth B, Abigail S and Margret (*Maggie*) G



Mom, Stephanie Shaw StL AOH Div IV, Grandma Maryanne Garavagliana StL LAOH Div IV Vivian S and little sister Abigail S



Naomi B, Dad Andy Bartley Member of StL AOH Div II and Ruth B



Great Grandfather, Jim Sheerin StL AOH Div I, Mom, Jessica Griffin StL LAOH Div IV, Grandma, Sheila M StL LAOH Div IV and Margret (*Maggie*) G



Grace O with Mom, Nichole Yakstis O'Donnell StL LAOH Div IV, Dad, James J O'Donnell StL AOH Div II and Sister, Madison O StL LAOH Div IV

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State News continued

Ohio

Members of the Annie Moore Summit County#2 LAOH met to disperse loving donations for Valentine’s Day! The division supported a local shelter for teen mothers, a glove and hand-warmer drive, a Catholic school scholarship fund, a school backpack filled with food project, a parish food pantry, and a school of Irish dance. These were in addition to our Thanksgiving/Christmas gifts to SOAR, Columban Sisters, LAOH Humanitarian Fund, FFAI and Project Saint Patrick. You can see how happy we were to donate the funds we raised with the 30th Riverfront Irish Festival in June with AOH St. Brendan Division #3.



Pictured: in front, Division President Cindee Case; standing from left: Jennifer Case Namsick, Rebecca Davey- Vivalo, Kathleen Sullivan, Lisa Schillinger and Rena Large.

The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Golden Rose Queen of Ireland Division 6 (Mahoning County, OH) celebrated a joyful December with our 5th Annual Toy Drive for St. Vincent de Paul. Thanks to the incredible kindness of our members and community, we gathered over **20 bicycles** and **hundreds of toys**—bringing smiles, laughter, and holiday magic to children in need. What a wonderful way to share the spirit of the season!



On December 20, 2025, the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Golden Rose Queen of Ireland Division 6 (Mahoning County, OH) bundled up and braved the chilly weather for several kettle shifts, ringing the bell for the Salvation Army outside Giant Eagle in Austintown. Every dollar collected helps provide essential services and support to local families and individuals throughout the year. Thank you to everyone who gave and volunteered—you make a difference!



L-R Michelle Neal, Maureen Caughlin, Tina DeVito, Karolyn Kopical, Erin Lonesway

2025 was a celebratory year for the Ohio LAOH State Board as we elected and installed our new officers, pictured, and we recognized our 130th Anniversary of the Montgomery County (Dayton area) installed as the first division in Ohio.



Seated from the left: Judy Leddy (Secretary), Marie Rizzo (Vice President), Cindee Case (President), Lynette McMullen (Treasurer); Standing: Michelle Neal (Mission & Charities), Colleen Griffin (Historian), Lisa O’Connell-Paccioteti (Catholic Action), and Nicole Parks-Norris (IPP/Organizer).

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President Cindee Case with our anniversary cake

On December 20th for the 26th year, over 50 LAOH and AOH members of the Philadelphia County came together to assemble over 200 turkey holiday meals and assist two food banks. Congratulations to Jeanne Hermley for all your work to keep this amazing gift continuing year after year!



Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania Proud! Our very own State President, Carolyn Killion was inducted into the Delaware Valley Irish Hall of Fame.

In November, Past State President Maria Gallagher and current President Carolyn Killion had the honor of presenting Sister Lisa Breslin with the Anna Malia Ruddy Award from our 2025 Convention. The presentation was a special event held at Division 87's Clubhouse, which included a Bucket Drop Fundraiser to support local charities, making it a wonderful way to celebrate Sister Lisa! Rumor has it that Sister Lisa even stepped behind the bar! Congratulations to a Grand Lady!



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In November, State Chaplin Sister Kathleen Smith hosted a retreat with our Allegheny County Junior Division 11 Ladies and a few extra Lady Helpers.



Division #25 ~ Thomas J. Lally ~ Philadelphia County distributed pastries and candies to over one hundred veterans at the Southampton VA Home for a Trunk and Treat Event in October.

The Divisions across our Commonwealth take pride in adhering to our motto of Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity. We are immensely proud of all the good works and enjoyable activities that highlight their LAOH spirit!

Kathy Kelly from Division Three ~ Marie Drumm ~ Montgomery County has begun creating mats from plastic bags for homeless individuals; she has completed one mat so far. Mary Marshall from Division One ~ Tir na Nóg ~ Lehigh Valley has made an impressive total of over 100 mats, which she has donated to shelters throughout the Lehigh Valley.



Division #1 ~ St. John Neumann ~ Wilkes-Barre donated \$1,000 to the Weinberg Food Bank

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gifts as part of Catholic Charities Family Christmas program. Gifts were distributed to 500 children.



Our Christmas project partnered us with the Luzerne County Department of Children, Youth and Families to provide Christmas gifts to ten children in foster care. Each child received toys, books and clothing. In November, Division 11 ~ Allegheny County celebrated their annual memorial Mass at the beautiful St. Stanislaus Kostka Church.

Division #32 ~ Allegheny County focused on the Corporal works of mercy, visiting the sick and making sandwiches for those in need.



In December, Division #5 ~ Bucks County volunteered alongside the AOH to provide a holiday lunch and spread holiday cheer to the residents of Delaware Valley Veterans Home, as well as laid Wreaths with their local Wreaths Across America.



Division #21 ~ Allegheny County donated 138 pairs of socks to their local homeless shelter, as well as, helped organize Christmas

Division #1 ~ Maryellen Everett ~ Bristol generously donated to three children in need for the holidays

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Celebrating Christmas together!



Division #1 ~Lehigh Valley spent the fall with many community projects including hosting a pizza and paint party at the Cay Galgon Life House.



Division 4 ~ Delaware County



Division #2 ~ St. Columille ~ Berks County

Additionally, they served as an Honor Guard for the Carmelites Shower of Roses and laid wreaths at their local Wreaths Across America.



Division # 3~ Maire Drumm ~ Montgomery County



"Every woman's success should be an inspiration to another. We're strongest when we cheer each other on" ~Sheryl Sandberg

Story continued on next page



Division #2 ~ JFK ~ Pottsville



Division #1 ~ Lehigh Valley



Division #11 ~ Allegheny County

And Division # 1~ Bristol ~ Bucks County not only had a great Christmas Celebration, they had a blast marching in their local holiday parade!



Division #5 ~ Bucks County

New York

Schenectady- JFK Division 1

The ladies of Schenectady volunteered for the Annual Breakfast with Santa event at the Hibernian Hall. Some assisted in the kitchen with cooking breakfast while others served as elves with Santa to hand out goody bags for all the kids in attendance. Music was provided by the BWC Jazz Band.

The ladies were able to then bring all remaining goody bags and a car full of other donations to Street Soldiers of Schenectady after the event.



Division #4 ~ Scranton ~ Lackawanna County

Story continued on next page



The Schenectady LAOH and AOH members attended a mass at St. Luke's Church for the Feast of St. Brigid and then shared a lunch back at the Hibernian Hall.



Soon the ladies will be turning their attention to the celebration of St. Patrick's Day and their upcoming 125th Anniversary as a Division with a Dinner Gala on April 18, 2026.



Kim DePeaux Division President

LAOH PHILADELPHIA COUNTY TARA DEGREE TEAM
Registration for Degree Exemplification



Greetings Sisters! The Philadelphia Tara Degree Team will be conferring the Major Degrees of the LAOH on Sunday, April 26, 2026

Roman Catholic High School
301 N. Broad Street
Phila., PA 19107

We offer free off-street parking and elevators in the building.

The registration table will be open at 12:00PM and the Ceremony will begin at 1:00PM. Be Our Guests! Light refreshments will be offered after the ceremony. As Sisters, it will be lovely to spend few hours on a Sunday afternoon together.

The fee is \$25.00 for candidates and \$10.00 for observers. To be an observer you must have already received your Degree. Pre-registration is required, please register ASAP! **Deadline for registration is Friday, April 19th. Our policy is that there will be NO WALK INS accepted at the door.** Also, please note on this form if you have any special needs. (e.g. difficulty standing/walking).

If you have any questions pertaining to the Degree or to registration you can also contact Maureen Dougherty Brown hmaureen51@gmail.com /215-495-3015. Thank you.

There are a few ways that you can register and pay for the Degree Exemplification.

Scan registration form to Maureen Dougherty Browns hmaureen51@gmail.com or
Mail your registration form
Maureen Dougherty Brown
412 Rollings Gate Apt. B2
Bensalem, PA 19020
Payment can be sent as well with your registration.
(Please make checks payable to "LAOH Philadelphia County Tara Degree Team")
or
Venmo @TaraDegreeTeam (Alice Murray)

Convention Update



*Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc.
2026 Constitution Convention Steering Committee*

When the National Board became aware of the lack of rooms available for delegates attending the Constitution Convention and those wishing to arrive on Sunday July 12th, it took immediate action to correct the situation.

As a result, the Constitution Convention was moved to the Omaha Marriott Downtown at the Capital District located at 222 North 10 Street, Omaha. This hotel is one block from the Hilton where our general meetings and degrees will be from Thursday to Saturday. The Marriott is also located across the street from the Convention Center where all dinners and Masses will take place.

Below is the secure link to reserve rooms at the Marriott. The room rate is \$156.00 plus tax which includes basic WiFi in the guest room and \$10.00 off self parking. The block begins on Sunday, July 12th through Sunday, July 19th with a checkout on Monday, July 20th. There is a free shuttle to and from the local airport, as well as a three mile radius, with airport runs given a priority. Those needing scooters are to use the same company arranged by the local committee. At this time, the LAOH has not been advised of the package price or menus for the dinners.

Please use this link to make your reservation: <https://book.passkey.com/e/51201005>

All rooms must be booked NO LATER than June 15th, however, please do not wait until the last minute to make your reservations!

We hope you are able to reserve your room at the Marriott to ensure the LAOH makes their room requirement for the week.

If you have any concerns, please email the Constitution Convention Chair, Karen Keane, at 2026laohconstitution@gmail.com