

REPORT OF THE 2024-2026 NATIONAL PRESIDENT, MARY ANN LUBINSKY

It has truly been an honor and a privilege to be your president for these past two years. I thank every single one of my LAOH Sisters across this country who have become my friends. Your hospitality and friendship whenever I met you on my travels was extraordinary.

I have been so very fortunate to go places I had never been before especially to Ireland on the 2025 Freedom for All Ireland trip. It was exciting to deliver the checks to many worthy organizations and individuals who were so grateful. There were also many amazing highlights: visiting the Shrine of St. Oliver Plunkett and attending Mass at St. Peter's Cathedral; visiting the National Shrine of St. Brigid and ringing the bell; visiting Glasnevin and so many other places there.

Being your President afforded me many opportunities to represent the LAOH at events the last two years including the White House on St. Patrick's Day 2025. This was followed by a private reception at the Blair House held by the Taoiseach.

It was truly an honor for me to accept the Support Our Aging Religious St. Katherine Drexel Award for each and every one of my LAOH Sisters last November 8 at the Italian Embassy in Washington, DC. We had very good LAOH representation that evening.

On St. Patrick's Day 2026 I represented the LAOH at the National Observatory residence of United States Vice President Vance for breakfast. Imagine my surprise when the Vice President introduced Sean Pender and me as special guests! Even more of a surprise was being seated with the Second Lady, the Taoiseach's wife, and the wife of Edward Walsh, the US Ambassador to Ireland!

A most memorable event was the 2026 Presidents' Day starting with placing a wreath on the grave of President John F. Kennedy at Arlington National Cemetery then Mass at St. Matthew the Evangelist Cathedral where I did one of the readings. This was followed with a lovely reception.

One of the most fantastic special events was the 125th Anniversary of the Schenectady LAOH. The Schenectady Ladies were the Hostesses of the Year! Congratulations to all of you, again! While I am on the subject of Schenectady, congratulations to our own Kim DePeaux for being chosen our 2026 St. Brigid of Ireland Humanitarian Award recipient.

I was invited to several State Conventions but was not able to attend all. It was an honor for me to attend the ones that I could and to install the State Officers. I have really enjoyed chatting with you on the phone, your lovely emails, meeting so many of you in person and the State Presidents' Zoom Meetings. Thank you so much for your friendship.

Ambassador Geraldine Byrne Nason invited me to attend the Global Irish Forum in late April in Dublin. When I received the invitation months before I was still not feeling up to par so I asked Sandi Swift to take my place. I was very disappointed that I had to decline but I did not want to wait until the last minute to cancel.

I was at several events at the Ambassador's Residence including a special Christmas get together, St. Patrick's Day, and Bloomsday. In May I was invited to and attended a roundtable discussion with Minister of State Neale Richmond at the new Embassy of Ireland in Washington DC. As you can see, there were quite a few invitations. My goal was to ensure we had LAOH representation at every one of these events.

I would like to thank my entire National Board; it has been my pleasure to work with you for these two years. How about that great Interim Board Meeting back in September 2025 and the fantastic Logistics Committee? What a great meeting, Mass with our Chaplain Bishop Alfred A. Schlert, and wonderful dinner. Thank you to everyone for all of the beautiful gifts I received and especially the wonderful congratulatory messages. I have kept every single one of them.

A special thank you to Marilyn Madigan for taking on the 250th Celebration.

In closing, I hope you have a wonderful time at our 2026 National Convention. I am looking forward to seeing those of you that I know and meeting those of you I do not yet know.

Always in Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,

Mary Ann Lubinsky
2024-2026 National President
Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc.