

2026 National Convention Report of National Vice President Sandi Swift

I would like to thank my Sisters for their continued trust and confidence in me as I serve in the office of National Vice President. I am committed to fulfilling the responsibilities of this position to the high standard our members deserve. I take great pride in being a member of this wonderful organization and consider it a true privilege to represent you.

I had the pleasure of participating in two site visits to Omaha, Nebraska for this Convention. The committee has put in a great effort, and I believe it will pay off.

Besides attending a few State Conventions, I attended several key events in the fall of 2025, including the Hibernian Lecture at Notre Dame, the Interim banquet for AOH National President Sean Pender, and the commemoration of Commander John Barry.

It was an honor to visit with recipients of donations from FFAI in the North of Ireland these past two years, and this year attending the Global Irish Forum on the Diaspora in Dublin, Ireland.

Juniors

I have enjoyed working with the Junior Coordinators and appreciate all that I have learned from that experience. I made it a goal to recruit for more Junior divisions. We have worked through all the forms and documents, as well as creating a primer on how to start a Junior division, with much thanks to Deborah Burke, Broome County LAOH 2. Please join me in supporting all Junior divisions, check out our website and talk with your divisions on setting up a Junior division.

Since the Interim Board meeting, we added a new Junior Division in Missouri in December. New Jersey is currently working on setting up a new Junior Division. Our current number of Junior Divisions is twelve (12). Here are the membership counts of the Juniors as of June 12, 2026:

Kentucky, Louisville, Division 1	11
Massachusetts, Essex County, Division 8	7
Missouri, St. Louis, Division 4	9 New December, 2025
New York, Albany County Division 1	14
New York, Broome County	13
New York, Nassau County	17
New York Orange	14
New York, Suffolk Division 2	30
New York, Suffolk Division 4	13
New York, Suffolk Division 7	10
Ohio, Summit County	9
Pennsylvania, Allegheny County	10
Total Juniors	157

Junior Hibernian of the Year

I received Four (4) nominations for the Junior Hibernian of the year, which were sent to 3 State Presidents in States with no Junior Division. Our Junior Hibernian of the Year for 2026 is Isabella Incorvia with the Margaret Judge Junior Division, Summit, Ohio.

Degree Teams

Currently, we have seven (7) Degree Teams in four (4) States, one (1) Tri-state team. We had to call for a traveling team for the 2026 National Convention in Omaha. Our Order needs more degree teams, who will work outside of their division and or State. If your State, County, or Division wishes to investigate starting a Degree Team, please do not hesitate to contact the newly elected National Vice President. A total of 243 members received their Degree in 2025 by 5 of the 7 Degree Teams. Here is a list of the current Active Degree Teams and how many Degree ceremonies they held in 2025:

Michigan State – St. Brigid, 0
New York, Capital District – Trinity, 3
New York, Long Island – Celtic, 3

Ohio State Degree Team, 1
Pennsylvania, Allegheny County-Claddagh, 0
Pennsylvania, Philadelphia- Tara, 1
Tri State Degree Team-Shamrock, 1

Notre Dame

Scholarship- Since the Interim Board meeting the numbers have not been pulled for the 2026 school year. As of June 30, 2025 (the close of the fiscal year at the University) the market value of the endowed scholarship was \$1,984,600. The University uses a only portion of the earnings each year to support students, the remainder of the earnings is reinvested to continue to grow the principal in the fund. During the 2025 fiscal year, the distributed earnings were \$77,538. All of that was used to provide scholarship support to four recipients during the 2024-25 academic year:

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

For the 2025-26 (current) academic year, James, Christian and Maeve continued to receive the Ancient Order of Hibernians and the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians Inc. scholarship.

Members of the National Board will be meeting with the Finance office this coming fall while they are there to attend the Hibernian Lecture and talk with student recipients of the Hibernian Scholarship. I enjoyed my time getting to know some of the Staff, and students, at Notre Dame and all the events I attended.

Cushwa Center-The date for the Hibernian Lecture is year is Thursday, Sept. 3rd, with the topic being “*The New York City Draft Riots and the Remaking of Irish America*” presented by Ian Delahanty, Springfield College. Delahanty’s lecture aims to reframe the historical narrative of Irish Americans during the American Civil War. While the 1863 New York City Draft Riots are typically characterized as a period of violent Irish-American resistance, the talk will explore the lesser-known evidence of Irish-American support for the Union war effort and emancipation. Your per-capita taxes help contribute to the cost of the lecture. I benefited greatly from attending numerous lectures and suggest our members consider attending the lecture.

Lillian Fee Scholarship at Trinity Washington University

As of the Interim Board meeting, our unspent earnings, the Lillian E. Fay LAOH Endowed Scholarship was \$95,026.45. This past year there was one scholarship for \$5,200 awarded. As of this report, I was still waiting for information on the recipient of the award.

Constance Markievicz Award

We had five (5) Nominees for the Constance Markievicz award for 2025. Of the eligible State Presidents and National Board members, we received twenty-nine (29) out of thirty-seven (37) eligible voters. Our 2nd recipient of the 2025 Constance Markievicz award was Dolores Desch, from Division #1, Albany, New York.

St. Brigid Humanitarian Award

On February 2nd, St. Brigid’s day, each State President received, via-email, the information on the St. Brigid of Ireland Humanitarian Award. The information was also available on the website and Facebook Page. I received 10 candidates for nomination. The voting was completed and out of 30 states (and a district) there were 11 cast votes. Out of 8 National Officers there were 6 votes casted, and there were 3 Past National President votes counted as well. I am happy to announce that Kimberly Depeaux of JFK Division #1, Schenectady, New York is our 2026 St. Brigid Humanitarian Award Recipient. She will receive her award at the convention on Irish Night, July 17.

Closing

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to all my Sisters for the trust you have placed in me as National Vice President. I am especially thankful for the love, prayers, and support that I have been so blessed to receive in recent months. Your kindness and encouragement have meant more to me than words can adequately express.

We are living in a time when so much is happening in our world, and the challenges we face can often seem overwhelming. Having the support of those who share our cherished values of Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity makes every burden lighter and every struggle easier to bear. Together, we find strength, hope, and purpose.

I also commend the National Board for its leadership in taking principled stands and issuing statements on important issues that affect human dignity and the common good. Such efforts reflect our commitment to living our values and serving as faithful witnesses in our communities.

As we commemorate the 250th anniversary of the United States, this is a time to reflect on our shared history and renew our commitment to one another. Now more than ever, we must strive for unity, understanding, and mutual respect. By standing together in faith and friendship, we can help build a stronger future for our nation and for generations to come.

Thank you again for your trust, your support, and your unwavering dedication to our mission. It is an honor and a privilege to serve alongside each of you.

Thank you for everything you do for Our Noble Order.

Sandi Swift, LAOH National Vice President