Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc.



Official National Constitution

Revised 2026

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LADIES ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS, INC.
OFFICIAL CONSTITUTION

PREAMBLE

It is hereby declared and decreed that the purpose of the LADIES ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS, INC. is:

1. To promote FRIENDSHIP, UNITY AND CHRISTIAN CHARITY.
2. To foster and sustain loyalty to the Roman Catholic Church and foster and sustain loyalty to the United States of America among its members.
3. To aid and advance by all legitimate means the aspirations and endeavors of the Irish people for complete reunification of Ireland.
4. To foster the ideals and promote the history, traditions, and culture of the Irish people.

The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc. (LAOH) shall have exclusive jurisdiction over its own affairs. We will continue to work with our brothers of the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America, Inc. (AOH) in the spirit of Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity. All State Boards, County Boards, and Division Boards of this Order shall adopt the foregoing Preamble and this Constitution.

ARTICLE I
NAME

The name of this organization shall be "Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc." (LAOH).

ARTICLE II
MISSION STATEMENT

While practicing Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity, we will work to strengthen our Roman Catholic faith, our country, and our communities; and perpetuate the religion, history, culture, and traditions of our Irish heritage.

ARTICLE III
ORGANIZATION

Section 1. The LAOH shall be organized by Divisions throughout the states under the provision of this Constitution. All parts of the Constitution relating to state officers and affairs shall apply to the District of Columbia.

Section 2. The Order shall be organized by a National Board, State Board, County Board, if applicable, and Divisions.

Section 3. The Standard Operating Policy and Procedure (SOPP) of the LAOH proceduralizes this Constitution. Each document is of equal authority and must be adhered to by each member and officer.

Section 4. Each State Board shall determine if it chooses to establish a County Board structure in those counties where more than one (1) Division is established. This determination must be recorded in each state's bylaws.

Section 5. The chain of command is as follows: National Convention, National Officers, State Convention, State Officers, County Convention, County Officers, Division Officers, Members. Each is subject to the superior tribunal of officers. Each division shall have control over its local affairs. Each authority shall adhere to this Constitution within its jurisdiction and accept the superior authority.

Section 6. Each State, County and Division shall have the power to adopt bylaws for governing which do not conflict with this Constitution and the SOPP.

Section 7. State Board bylaws shall be approved at the State Convention by the Delegates and Alternates and shall be approved by the National President within 45 days of receipt of any changes from the State Board.

Section 8. County Board bylaws shall be approved at the County Board Convention by the Delegates and Alternates and approved by the State President within 45 days of receipt of any changes from the County Board.

Section 9. Division Board bylaws shall be approved or amended by a majority vote of the membership present at a meeting held for that purpose, and then shall be approved by the County President, if a County Board exists, within 45 calendar days of receipt.

Section 10. In states without County Boards, Division bylaws shall be approved by the State President within 45 calendar days of receipt of any changes from the Division.

Section 11. In all State Board, County Board, if applicable, and Division meetings, the Ritual adopted by the National Convention of this Order and approved by the National President of the LAOH shall be used and obeyed in the work of the Order.

Section 12. The Ritual shall govern procedures to be adhered to at meetings, installations, and the exemplification of the Degrees of the Order. Protocol shall be followed at all times, especially at meetings and in public places.

ARTICLE IV
MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP
The following are the requirements for membership:

1. Any woman who is eighteen (18) years of age or older.
2. Practicing Roman Catholic.
3. Irish or of Irish descent through either parent, or must be legally adopted by such. If not Irish by descent,
    A. The mother of a member of the LAOH, or AOH, including Junior Divisions.
    B. Wife of a member of the AOH.
    C. An adult daughter, stepdaughter, or granddaughter of a LAOH or AOH member.
    D. A non-Irish member of the LAOH, in good standing, whose eligibility for membership rests on her husband's Irish ancestry and membership in the AOH, shall retain her LAOH membership should her husband predecease her or the dissolution of marriage.
    E. A member of a Catholic religious order.

Section 2. APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP
Applications must be on the form provided by the National Board or on the website. Applications shall be read by the Recording Secretary at a regular or duly organized meeting of the Division. Members present will then vote by written ballot or voice vote. The applicant will be declared accepted unless one-third (1/3) of the membership who vote cast ballots against her. The proposer shall certify that the applicant is a practicing Roman Catholic and worthy of membership.

Section 3. REGULAR MEMBERSHIP
Divisions may accept as members, applicants who meet the qualifications for membership as stated in Section 1 and Section 2, and upon payment of the required dues. The Recording Secretary shall notify the applicant in writing, as soon as possible, of the acceptance or rejection, advising the date and location of initiation, and any dues and initiation fees applicable. Members shall be entitled to hold all offices in the Order and to vote on all matters in accordance with this Constitution and applicable bylaws.

Section 4: AT-LARGE MEMBERSHIP
A woman who meets the requirements of Section 1, but resides outside a reasonable distance (60 minutes) to a local established division of the LAOH, may apply for At-Large Membership.

Section 5. At-Large Membership applications would, in states where there are Divisions, be processed by the State's Immediate Past President. It will be her responsibility to check that all requirements for membership are met. Once the application is processed and per-capita taxes/dues are paid, the applicant can be initiated into the order. The State Immediate Past President can have virtual meetings with the At-Large Members. There is also the opportunity if available to link At-Large Members to established divisions in the state that offer participation through an electronic communications platform at their meetings. Immediate Past President will arrange for said members to be included on National and State email lists, and will be provide the At-Large member with passwords to National and State websites' members' only page.

Section 6. At-Large Member applications from states with no established divisions shall be processed by the Immediate Past National President. The Immediate Past National President will work with the prospective applicant to ensure LAOH requirements are met. Once the application is complete and the per capita dues are paid, the Immediate Past National President will initiate the At-Large Member virtually. The Immediate Past National President will ensure the At-Large Member's inclusion on National email list and supply her with the member's password for the National website. The Immediate Past National President shall preside over meetings with At-Large Members while adhering to all protocols, rituals, SOPP, constitution, bylaws as divisions must follow.

Section 7. National At-Large Members shall have the opportunity to participate in State and National Conventions with vote and voice. At-Large Members will be counted to determine the overall delegate count.

Section 8. SUSPENDED MEMBER

A member shall be suspended for failure to pay her dues or assessments in accordance with the Constitution. If within ninety (90) calendar days of the suspension, a member pays her division any outstanding dues or assessments, she may be reinstated. If dues are not paid by December 31, the member will be dropped from the membership list. If the member is dropped for non-payment of dues and wants to be reinstated, the division leadership will determine the process for the reinstatement or if new membership is required.

Section 9. RESIGNATIONS

Members are required to give careful consideration to the weight of their actions in resigning from the Order (Division). A member in good standing must give written notice to her Division of intent to resign from the Order and shall be permitted to do so. At the time of her resignation from the Order, she forfeits any office or title at the Division, County, State, or National level of the LAOH that she currently holds or has held in the past. Further, based on her action of resigning from the Order, she forfeits all years of membership accrued, her degrees taken, and any and all privileges afforded members of the Order. If the member who has resigned from the Order chooses to reapply to the Order for membership, she must be treated as a new member, with no prior years of membership, without the privilege of being a Degreed member, and without any of the privileges afforded members who have transferred between divisions.

Section 10. TRANSFERS

A member in good standing (i.e., having paid all past dues and assessments, is a practicing Catholic, not under suspension and currently not involved in a grievance or a pre-grievance mediation), wishing to transfer from one division to another, must apply in writing to her division at least five (5) calendar days prior to her division's meeting. To be considered a member in good standing for the purpose of transferring to another Division, the member must not owe her division any monies or properties (i.e., books from an office held or items belonging to the Division). Upon completion of the proper transfer notice signed by the Division President and Division Financial Secretary shall entitle her to admission in the Division she wishes to join, provided she is accepted by that Division by majority vote one (1) month after her initial request. Any request for transfer shall be null and void unless this established procedure is followed.

Section 11. A member of an existing Division wishing to become an officer in a newly organized Division may do so and will surrender her membership in the prior Division upon installation.

Section 12. In the case of a member or group of members transferring due to the disbandment of their current Division and the proper transfer notice is signed by the disbanding Division President and Financial Secretary, shall be entitled to join the Division she/they wish, provided she/they are accepted by the Division, by a majority vote at the accepting Division's next regularly scheduled meeting.

Section 13. DEGREES
The Degrees of our Order are an essential part of being a member of the LAOH. Each member, when receiving the Degrees, is shown the grand history of the Irish people and Catholic faith, the importance of women in that history, and is sworn to a solemn obligation that is taken as Degreed Members. Every member wishing to advance in the leadership of this Order, as well as every member wishing for a deeper understanding of the Order, is encouraged to take the Degrees as soon as possible after initiation, or as soon as made available. The importance of the Degrees cannot be put into words and must be experienced by each member to be fully understood.

Section 14. NATIONAL LIFE MEMBERSHIP
A citation of Life Membership may be conferred on a member of the Order who has performed **outstanding and distinguished** service to the LAOH for at least twenty-five (25) consecutive years.

Section 15. JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP
To form a Junior Division, a Sponsoring Division of the LAOH must have a minimum of five (5) female young ladies between the ages of 5 and 18, practicing Roman Catholics of Irish ancestry, adopted or under the custodial care and/or legal guardianship of an LAOH or AOH member.

Section 16. The sponsoring division shall contact the State Vice President or the next level for further information regarding organizing a Junior Division.

Section 17. The Junior Members shall obey the laws of the LAOH and be proud of their Irish heritage and faith.

Section 18. Every Junior Division shall function under the direct guidance and authority of the Vice President of the sponsoring division. The Vice President of every organized State, County or Division having a Junior Division within its authority shall be obligated to comply with all regulations governing the Division Vice Presidents where Junior Divisions are formed.

Section 19. Vice Presidents having responsibility for Junior Divisions may enlist the assistance of adult members of the LAOH to act as Junior Coordinators. The Junior Coordinators shall be required to follow all the rules and regulations that govern Vice Presidents. Under no circumstance shall any Vice President of the LAOH abdicate her authority or responsibility for overseeing her Junior Division.

Section 20. The Vice President shall organize, advise, and facilitate all meetings and activities of the Junior Division.

Section 21. PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN
The members of the LAOH actively seek to protect our Junior Members, as well as all children with whom we may come into contact.

Section 22. In an effort to promote the protection of children, LAOH requires all members who work with children, in any capacity, to complete a training program specifically designed to address issues of protecting children and recognizing symptoms of child abuse as required by the Safe Environment Program of the member's diocese. Completion of the program is required prior to any members and parents being permitted to work with children.

ARTICLE V
DIVISIONS

Section 1. A minimum of fifteen (15) women eligible for membership shall apply to the State Board, of the LAOH for the organization of a division and the application must be responded to within sixty (60) calendar days.

Section 2. In states not organized, the organization shall be done under the direction of the National President of the LAOH or the Immediate Past National President. The Immediate Past National President will act as the National Organizer. Expenses shall be borne by the National Board.

ARTICLE VI
DIVISION OFFICERS, DIVISION APPOINTEES, AND DIVISION MEETINGS

Section 1. The elected Division Officers shall be: President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Irish Historian, Missions and Charities Officer, Catholic Action Officer, Mistress-at-Arms, and Sentinel with the Immediate Past President considered an officer. Division appointees shall be determined by the Division President or as stated in the Division bylaws.

Section 2. It is necessary to have a quorum to hold a meeting. The presence of a sufficient number of members to fill all officers' chairs shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, unless otherwise provided by State, County (if applicable), or Division bylaws.

Section 3. In the event of a vacancy in the office of Division President due to death, resignation, or removal from office, the Division Vice President shall fill the vacancy.

Section 4. In the event of a vacancy of any other office of due to death, resignation, or removal from office, the vacancy shall be filled by the majority vote of the Division. Any Division member including the current officers may seek nomination to fill the vacancy.

Section 5. Any Division member in good standing has voice and vote at a division meeting.

ARTICLE VII
COUNTY BOARD OFFICERS, COUNTY BOARD APPOINTEES, AND COUNTY BOARD MEETINGS

Section 1. The elected County Officers shall be: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Irish Historian, Missions and Charities Officer, Catholic Action Officer, Mistress-at-Arms, and Sentinel, with the Immediate Past President considered an officer of the County Board. County appointees shall be determined by the County President or as stated in the County Bylaws.

Section 2. The County Board shall consist of the County Officers, the ten (10) elected officers of each Division, all Past County Presidents, all past and present National and State Presidents, and present National Officers who are members in good standing of the County, or according to the County Bylaws.

Section 3. A County Board shall be organized in a state within six (6) months after a third division is instituted within the County, if the State supports the County Board structure. If a state has the County Board structure and a County existed as of July 2018, with only two divisions, those counties with only two divisions may be grandfathered to either maintain the County Board or disband the County Board until a third division is organized in that county. The County Board will decide whether to maintain the County Board or disband the County Board until a third division is organized in that county.

Section 4. In the event of a vacancy in the office of County President due to death, resignation, or removal from office, the County Vice President shall fill the vacancy.

Section 5. In the event of a vacancy in any other office at the County level due to death, resignation, or removal from office, the vacancy shall be filled by a majority vote of the County Board. Any member, including current officers, may seek nomination to fill the vacancy.

Section 6. The County Bylaws shall determine whether the County appointees have a voice and a vote at County Board meetings.

ARTICLE VIII
STATE BOARD OFFICERS, STATE BOARD APPOINTEES, AND STATE BOARD MEETINGS

Section 1. The elected State Officers shall be President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Irish Historian, Missions and Charities Officer, and Catholic Action Officer, with the Immediate Past President considered an officer of the State Board. The State President shall appoint a Freedom for All Ireland Chairman and all other committee appointments required.

Section 2. No State Officer shall hold the same office for more than two (2) consecutive terms or four (4) consecutive years unless determined otherwise in the State Bylaws.

Section 3. Four (4) State Board meetings per year is advisable, but a minimum of two (2) State Board meetings per year is required.

Section 4. A state shall have the option of forming a State Board once a second division is opened within a state.

Section 5. The State Board shall cease to exist 90 days after one (1) Division votes to disband in a state with only two (2) Divisions.

Section 6. In the event of a vacancy in the office of State President due to death, resignation, or removal from office, the State Vice President shall fil the vacancy.

Section 7. In the event of a vacancy in any other office at the State level due to death, resignation, or removal from office, the vacancy shall be filled by a majority vote of the State Board. Any member, including current officers, may seek nomination to fill the vacancy.

Section 8. The State Bylaws shall determine whether the State appointees have a voice and a vote at State Board meetings.

ARTICLE IX
NATIONAL OFFICERS, NATIONAL APPOINTEES AND NATIONAL BOARD MEETINGS

Section 1. There shall be elected biennially by the National Convention of the LAOH seven (7) officers to be known as National President, National Vice President, National Secretary, National Treasurer, National Irish Historian, National Missions and Charities Officer, and National Catholic Action Officer, with the Immediate Past National President considered an officer of the National Board.

Section 2. The National Board shall consist of the National President, National Vice President, National Secretary, National Treasurer, National Irish Historian, National Missions and Charities Officer, National Catholic Action Officer, Immediate Past National President, all Past National Presidents, and the National Appointees.

Section 3. To be eligible to hold National Office, the candidate must be a member in good standing and have received the Degrees of the Order prior to her installation as a National Officer. The candidate for National Office is expected to be in attendance at the National Convention unless prevented by extenuating circumstances as determined by the Presiding National President.

Section 4. The tenure of office for a National Officer shall be one (1) term of two (2) years, or until her successor has been elected. No elected officer shall be eligible to succeed herself or repeat any office to which she had been previously elected. An officer, who by appointment has succeeded a resigned, suspended, or deceased officer, shall not be prohibited from being elected for a full two-year term at the next National Convention.

Section 5. In the event of a vacancy in the office of National President due to death, resignation, or removal from office, the National Vice President shall fil the vacancy.

Section 6. In the event of a vacancy in any other office at the National level due to death, resignation, or removal from office, the vacancy shall be filled by a majority vote of the National Board. Any member, including current officers, may seek nomination to fill the vacancy.

NATIONAL INTERIM BOARD MEETING

Section 7. The National Board shall hold one (1) Interim National Board Meeting during the odd year of the National President's term of office.

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD

Section 8. A special meeting may be called by the National President or upon the written request of five (5) members, providing that the special meeting meets the quorum requirements and all board members have been notified, including State Presidents. The only business which can be discussed at a special meeting shall be that for which the meeting was called.

Section 9. A Special Call Meeting may be held at a site determined by the National President or the National President may authorize that the Special Meeting may be held utilizing an electronic communication platform.

Section 10. All members of the National Board shall have a voice and a vote at a Special Call Meeting.

ALL OTHER NATIONAL BOARD MEETINGS

Section 11. The National President may call meetings of the National Officers, National Appointees, and Past National Presidents as she determines to be required to complete the work of the Order during the term of office. The meetings should be held via teleconferencing.

Section 12. The business of the Order will be discussed and may be voted on during the meeting. The National Elected Officers and the Immediate Past National President shall have a voice and a vote on all issues. The Past National Presidents shall have a voice and no vote, as they are considered mentors and have completed their terms of office. The National Appointees shall have a voice and no vote as they are performing the work of the Order and responsible to report to the membership but were not elected by the delegates at the last convention.

ARTICLE X
CHAPLAINS

Section 1. There shall be a Chaplain at the National level and on each State Board, County Board, if applicable, and on the Division level. Ideally, the National Chaplain shall be a member of the Clergy. At all other levels, the Chaplain shall be a member of the clergy, a member of a Catholic religious order or lay minister. The Chaplain shall be consulted before determining anything relative to morality or religion. The National, State, County and Division Presidents shall have the power of choosing their respective Chaplains.

Section 2. The Chaplain shall address any practice by the Order that is contrary to the laws of the Roman Catholic Church. In any matter of doubt or ambiguity, he/she shall consult the Chaplain at a higher level of the Order.

Section 3. The duties of the Chaplains shall be to exercise spiritual supervision over their respective jurisdiction and for this purpose they shall be admitted to all meetings.

ARTICLE XI
GENERAL DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS OF THE ORDER

Section 1. PRESIDENTS shall:

A. Be the Executive Officer of the Order.
B. Call and preside at all conventions, meetings, regular and special, of the Order in their respective jurisdictions.
C. Rule on questions of law under this Constitution.
D. Appoint all committees, including the Audit Committee, for the good and welfare of the Order.
E. Enforce the laws of the Order in their respective jurisdictions.
F. Coordinate meetings and activities of the Order.
G. Hold the officers within their jurisdiction responsible for the duties and activities entrusted to them.
H. Immediately process and sign all official documents and papers of the Order.
I. Confirm the transfer of all properties of all other Officers and Appointees within the time limits as specified for that individual office.
J. Perform such other duties as are usually attached to the office of the President.
K. Notify all State, County and Division Presidents of the amendments to the Constitution and Resolutions that were passed at convention within thirty (30) calendar days.
L. Assure the transfer of all monies and properties of the Order within thirty (30) calendar days after elections at the end of her term of office.

Section 2. VICE PRESIDENTS shall:

A. Have all the powers and perform all the duties of the President in her absence or disability.
B. Organize Junior Divisions and promote their growth and ensure adherence to the provisions of this Constitution regarding the Protection of God's Children.
C. Receive, review, and secure all Junior Division Annual Membership and Annual Financial Reports.
D. Be responsible for promoting and advancing the Degree work of the Order.
E. Receive, review and secure all Degree Team Annual Membership and Annual Financial Reports.
F. Promote the availability of the Trinity College Scholarship and the Notre Dame Scholarship at all levels**.**
G. Give reports and recommendations to the membership at conventions and meetings.
H. Ensure the transfer of all properties of the Order within thirty (30) calendar days after elections at the end of her term of office.

Section 3. SECRETARIES shall:

A. Record, prepare, read, maintain, and issue all proceedings of their respective Board or Division.
B. Attend all conventions and meetings, regular and special, of their respective Board or Division.
C. Write and issue the correspondence of the Order.
D. Notify the membership of conventions and board meetings.
E. Receive, distribute, and file Membership Reports at their Level. Each Secretary must confirm all information provided on all reports is correct prior to filing such reports with the next level.
F. Maintain a current membership roster at all levels showing name, address, city, state, zip code, phone number, and email address. This roster should also indicate the date initiated into the order, if a member has received the Degrees of the Order, and the date that the Degree was received.
G. Prepare relevant required reports for conventions and meetings. Furnish supplemental reports within thirty (30) calendar days of convention adjournment.
H. Sign all necessary documents pertaining to the office.
I. Forward all correspondence received from higher Boards to all Boards under your jurisdiction and/or members if directed by the President
J. Ensure the transfer of all properties of the Order within thirty (30) calendar days after elections at the end of her term of office.

Section 4. TREASURERS shall:

A. Be responsible for all monies of the Order and deposit in a reliable financial institution immediately upon receipt.
B. Keep a record of all monies received and disbursed.
C. Checks are to be signed by the Treasurer and countersigned by an elected Officer who is an authorized signer on file with the financial institution.
D. Present a financial report of the respective jurisdiction at all meetings and when ordered to do so by the respective President.
E. Close books no later than thirty (30) calendar days preceding the end of her term of Office. Furnish supplemental reports within thirty (30) calendar days at the end of her term of office.
F. Ensure the transfer of all properties of the Order within thirty (30) calendar days after elections at the end of her term of office.
G. Annual Financial Reports received from the National Treasurer shall be sent to all County Presidents, County Treasurers, Division Presidents, and Treasurers.
H. Complete State Financial Reports received from National Treasurer by March 31.
I. Review all Annual Financial Reports (Division and County Board) from your State. Send completed and correct Annual Financial Reports from Divisions, County Board and the State to the National Treasurer by March 31.
J. If there is only one Division in the State, the Annual Financial Report is due to the National Treasurer by January 31.

Section 5. FINANCIAL SECRETARIES of the Division shall:

A. Keep an accurate record of the membership, designating date proposed, date initiated, and the date Degrees were conferred.
B. Collect, record, and report all dues, fees, assessments, and fines to the Treasurer before the close of the meeting. Pay these monies to the Treasurer before the close of each meeting.
C. Keep attendance records of all meetings.
D. Record and report receipts at each meeting.
E. Sign all transfer notices and dues cards.

F. Notify members who are three (3) months in arrears in payment of dues, notify members who are under suspension, and notify members who are dropped from the membership roster.
G. Submit annual itemized accounts showing receipts and monies forwarded to Treasurer.
H. Close books no more than thirty (30) calendar days preceding the biennial convention.
I. Ensure the transfer of all properties of the Order within thirty (30) calendar days after elections at the end of her term of office.
J. Complete the Annual Membership Report correctly and send to the County Secretary by January 31. If there is no County Board, send to the State Secretary by January 31.

Section 6. IRISH HISTORIANS shall:

A. Promote proper recognition of the study of Irish history in Catholic, public and private schools, home schools, colleges and all other educational institutions.
B. Publicize the annual Irish History Writing Contest through Boards, Divisions, and local press.
C. Recommend Irish History Writing Contest subjects to the National Irish Historian.
D. Select qualified judges with expertise in history and education to evaluate the students' submissions in the Irish History Contest at the Division, County, and State levels.
E. Recommend to State/County and Division Historians suggested topics and material for study of Irish History.
F. Report at conventions and meetings.
G. Ensure the transfer of all properties of the Order within thirty (30) calendar days after elections at the end of her term of office.

Section 7. MISSIONS AND CHARITIES OFFICER shall:

A. Make an annual appeal to encourage greater participation in the missionary work of the Church. The Columban Fathers, as the designated charity of the LAOH as we pledged to Bishop Galvin in 1935, and to the Columban Sisters in 2006, as well as other needs of the Universal Church.
B. At the State, County, and Division levels, the membership will determine the proportion of funds collected for distribution to the Columban Fathers, Columban Sisters and Appeals for Aid fund.
C. Receipt of all Missions and Charities funds from Division, Count, and State must be immediately directed to the National Missions and Charities Officer. The National Missions and Charities Officer shall immediately deposit all designated monies into an approved account at a reliable financial institution.
D. Prepare reports for conventions and meetings.
E. Appeals for Aid are intended to provide limited aid to charities at the National Convention. All appeals for aid requests submitted to the National Missions and Charities Officer sixty (60) calendar days prior to the Convention. The Missions and Charities and Appeals for Aid Committees shall bring these recommendations to the National Convention delegates for approval.
F. Ensure the transfer of all properties of the Order within thirty (30) calendar days after elections at the end of her term of office.

Section 8. CATHOLIC ACTION OFFICER shall:

A. Encourage and participate in all forms of Christian Charity in the name of the LAOH at each respective level.
B. Ensure all correspondence pertaining to the office is sent to all respective levels.
C. Report annually the Catholic Action activities at each respective level.
D. Provide reports for conventions and meetings.
E. Promote and solicit donations to Support Our Aging Religious (SOAR), and provide the link for electronic SOAR newsletters, and promote Project St. Patrick to the membership to raise the funds needed for grants to support all religious furthering their studies.
F. Receipt of all Catholic Action funds from Divisions, Counties, and States must be immediately directed

to the National Catholic Action Officer.

G. Ensure the transfer of all properties of the Order within thirty (30) calendar days after elections at the end of her term of office.

Section 9. MISTRESS-AT-ARMS OF THE COUNTY BOARD AND DIVISION shall:

A. Assist the President in preserving order, escort new members to be initiated, and perform duties as assigned by the President.
B. Be responsible for the St. Brigid statue, flags, charter and other properties as designated by the President.
C. Ensure the transfer of all properties of the Order within thirty (30) calendar days after elections at the end of her term of office.

Section 10. SENTINELS OF THE COUNTY BOARD AND DIVISION shall:

A. Guard the entrance to the meeting room, verify traveling dues cards, and admit no one but members of the Order and clergy during the meeting.
B. Prevent members from leaving the room during the meeting without the consent of the presiding officer, and admit no one during the opening or closing ceremonies, or during the reading of the minutes, or election of officers.
C. Ensure the transfer of all properties of the Order within thirty (30) calendar days after elections at the end of her term of office.

Section 11. IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT shall be the organizer at each level and shall promote the growth of the Order, and be considered an officer at each level.

ARTICLE XII
AUDITS

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Section 1. The President at each level shall appoint the Chair of the Audit Committee.

Section 2. The Audit Committee shall consist of three (3) persons appointed by the Presidents. The officers or committee chair whose books are being audited shall be available in person during the audit meeting.

Section 3. The Audit Committee shall meet annually, at least thirty (30) calendar days prior to the preparation of the annual reports, to examine and audit the books and reports of all officers and committees that have received or disbursed monies. The Committee shall submit a written report of its findings at the next regular Convention or National, County, State, or Division meeting.

ARTICLE XIII
PER CAPITA TAX, FEES, AND DUES

Section 1. Each State, County, and Division shall have power to determine its own fees and dues. A member who allows her dues, fines, and assessments to remain unpaid by December 31 shall be dropped from the membership roster and no longer considered a member in good standing.

Section 2. A member dropped from the roster shall not be reinstated unless she makes application within ninety (90) calendar days and pays all dues, fines, and assessments owed to the Division.

Section 3. If a member fails to pay all dues, fines, and assessments owed to the Division, she shall be dropped from the roster of members in good standing and is no longer considered eligible for membership in the Order.

Section 4. A member suspended under the foregoing section, who fails to apply for reinstatement within the prescribed time, shall not be admitted to membership in another Division until she pays dues, fines, and assessments owed to the Division from which she was suspended.

Section 5. Failure to pay the dues, fines, and assessments to the former Division will result in the member being treated as a new member in any other Division to which she applies for membership, with no prior years of membership, without the privilege of being a Degreed member, and without any of the privileges afforded members who have transferred between Divisions.

Section 6.

a. Religious members are exempt from all per capita tax and all assessments.
b. All religious members should be included in the division total member count.

Section 7. No per capita tax or assessments shall be required of National Life Members.

ARTICLE XIV
NATIONAL CONVENTIONS

The National Board shall call for and hold a Biennial National Convention.

ARTICLE XV
GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE, REMOVALS, SUSPENSIONS, AND APPEALS

INFORMAL RESOLUTION

Section 1. Prior to the filing of any formal grievance, it is required that the parties try to resolve their differences with a neutral third party, such as the Chaplain. All members are expected to live and act according to the motto of Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity. A grievance shall not be filed lightly.

STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS

Section 2. The statute of limitations for filing a grievance shall be three (3) months from the time of the alleged grievance. All grievances must be signed and presented in writing to the presiding officer of the respective level to which the grievance has occurred. If the presiding officer is involved in the grievance, then the grievance must be presented to the next officer, in descending order, who is not involved in the grievance.

ARTICLE XVI
FREEDOM FOR ALL IRELAND PROGRAM

MISSION STATEMENT

Section 1. Through the Freedom For All Ireland Program (FFAI), the FFAI will provide financial aid to charities and agencies that encourage cross-community cooperation, economic development, social change, cross-border collaborations, Irish history and language education, nationalist infrastructure maintenance and construction efforts, and Irish unification initiatives based on peace and justice for all throughout Ireland.

APPOINTMENTS

Section 2. The FFAI Chairman appointed by the LAOH National President shall work to promote the mission statement of the FFAI Program throughout the Organization.

Section 3. The LAOH National Board Appointee will be responsible for the following:

A. Building the annual calendar for the FFAI Program which indicates the timeline for giving, offering

applications, evaluating applications, and recommending the disbursement of funds.

B. Creating and disseminating applications to potential eligible groups and/or agencies.
C. Evaluating potential recipients who meet specified eligibility criteria.
D. Recommending eligible charities or agencies for a financial grant.
E. Participating with the National President in determining the allocation of funds to qualified applicants.
F. Sharing in creating and disseminating marketing materials to be used within the organization to encourage membership giving.

Section 4. A FFAI Appointee shall be appointed by the respective President of each level within the LAOH organization.

SUPPORT GUIDELINES

Section 5. The FFAI Program shall endeavor to support groups that:

A. Support ex-prisoner groups to improve their social and economic welfare.
B. Support groups, programs, and initiatives that strive for truth, justice, and closure for victims and surviving families of violence and murder.
C. Support programs and groups that help build bridges between communities that have been separated for decades.
D. Support local community groups in seeking donations to further assist in meeting their needs within their community.
E. Support programming to provide the opportunity to learn and maintain the Irish language.
F. Support and sustain the history of the Irish Republic.
G. Support the full implementation of all parameters of the Good Friday Agreement.

ARTICLE XVII
CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Section 1. If a member of the National, State, County, or Division has a personal and/or financial interest in a matter brought before the National, State, County or Division boards, the member shall fully disclose her interest, withdraw from the discussion, and abstain from any vote on the matter.

Section 2. The action recommended on business matters brought forward after a conflict of interest has been expressed shall only be considered by the remaining members of the National, State, County, or Division boards.

Section 3. The minutes of the meeting shall state the disclosure, the vote, abstentions, and rationale for the action taken.

ARTICLE XVIII
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

Section 1. This National Constitution may be amended at a National Constitution Convention by a two-thirds (2/3) standing vote of the delegates present and in session. All approved amendments shall become part of the National Constitution at the time the National President affixes her signature.

Section 2. This National Constitution may be amended at a National Convention, if no duly convened National Constitution Convention has been scheduled, by a two-thirds (2/3) standing vote of the delegates in session at a duly convened National Convention. All approved amendments shall become part of the National Constitution at the time the National President affixes her signature.

Section 3. Changes to the National Constitution as approved at the most recent National Constitutional Convention or National Convention shall be updated within thirty (30) days following that convention and shall be made available on the National LAOH Website.

ARTICLE XIX
CONSTITUTION AND PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

Section 1. This Constitution shall serve as the document that defines the organization and governance of LAOH.

Section 2. Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the method of parliamentary procedure in the absence of National Constitution provisions.

Section 3. In the event of a conflict between the National Constitution and Robert's Rule of Order Newly Revised, the National Constitution shall prevail.

Section 4. All National, State, County, and Division Bylaws shall be in harmony with this Constitution.

ARTICLE XX
DISSOLUTION AND INDEMNIFICATION

The LAOH is a not-for-profit corporation under New York State Law. As a result, the LAOH is required to follow the NYS guidelines on the issues of dissolution and indemnification.

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SIGNATURE PAGE

This National Constitution of the LAOH was amended at the duly convened National Constitution Convention held on July 14 through 15, 2026 in Omaha, NE by a two-thirds (2/3) standing vote of the delegates at that session.

All approved amendments shall become part of the National Constitution at the time the National President affixes her signature.

In accordance with ARTICLE XVIII, I, LAOH National President Mary Ann Lubinsky, affix my signature to this amended National Constitution.

Sincerely in Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity

MaryAnn Lubinsky

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

Dated: September 13, 2026

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