
Protecting Your Website

The LAOH is a fluid organization. Boards and board members change with regular frequency. Additionally, ladies may leave their positions or the organization unexpectedly. During the transition information can be lost. This is especially troublesome when it's information related to websites, email accounts and social media accounts. Passwords are purposely difficult to reset so accounts don't get stolen or hacked by unauthorized users. I have firsthand experience trying to gain access to a website I was authorized to but didn't have the information needed to prove this to the web host. As a result, the website was lost and had to be recreated from scratch.

Controlling Access

To help assure a smooth transition, authorize two (2) users. My suggestion is the webmaster and the president. If it is offered, they should have their own log-ins and passwords. If it's not, as with email, the password should be shared by both persons. In the event the webmaster is unavailable, the division will still have access through the president who can make content updates or authorize someone new to the task. It is important to remember, these accounts belong to your division not the individual you've trusted with creating or maintaining them. They should not have to be started over with every board change. Continuity adds credibility and reliability to our Order.

Resources

You don't have to learn how to code to build a website but learning some basics will help you better understand your website and its potential.

Throughout this process I have utilized low-cost/no-cost resources such as the local library, Alison.com Online Learning, Pinterest, LinkedIn and of course, the Internet at large.



Creating a Website

Creating and maintaining a web presence to communicate, educate, strengthen and grow our Order.



Ladies Ancients Order of
Hibernians, Inc.
New York State

www.laohnys.com

Connect with us on Facebook and Twitter

Getting Started.

The idea of creating a website can be intimidating. There are many design and hosting options available. Which is overwhelming but also good in that there is a web host for every skill level and budget. In my research I found low-end hosting fees \$5-8/month and domain registration fees \$15-20/year.

LAOHNYS.com was created using the web host Weebly. They offer free hosting and have a lot of templates with drag and drop features to help design your site. **No coding necessary.** If you have worked with PowerPoint presentations, it's a similar feel. So far the experience has been positive and we've been able to keep our costs to \$33.90, which covers the domain registration for the next two years.

I have been learning html coding and used it to add some nonstandard features to laohnys.com but learning it was not necessary for creating the site.

My suggestion is to have a draft of the information and features (blog, calendar, etc) you want on your site. Then research web hosts who can fit your needs and budget. Be aware some web host reviews may actually be advertisements.

I prefer email but feel free to contact me by phone as well if you have questions.

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Domain Name

Your website's domain is the actual name of your site. For example, "LAOHNYS.com". A domain name can be registered independently or through a web host. Other extensions include .org, .edu, .gov.

Web Host

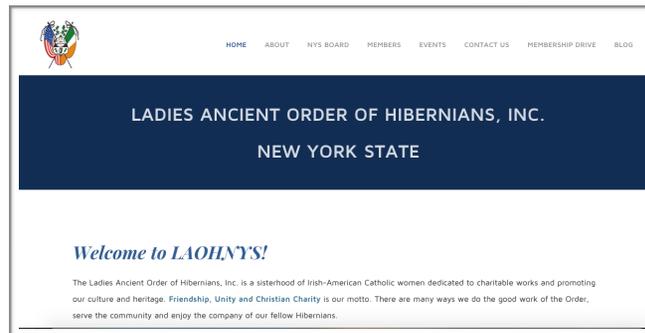
A website is a collection of files. A web host stores those files on its servers. When people type in your web address or click a link to it, the web host finds and opens your website for them in seconds.

HTML Code

Hyper Text Markup Language (HTML) is the coding language used to write websites. There are additional coding languages, like Javascript and CSS, for adding more advanced features and styling.

Mobile Web

Websites are viewed on screens of all sizes. From cell phones to computers, tablets to televisions. Responsive web design allows web pages to display consistently on varying screen sizes.



Designing Your Site

There is no LAOH template for creating a website. As far as styling, be as creative as you like but keep it professional. The content of your site, at a minimum, should include information about the LAOH, your division information and links to the state and national websites. After you've covered the basics show off your local culture. How do you participate in your community? What local charities do you support?

Your division website is an opportunity to connect with members, potential members and the public at large. Show them what it means to live our motto of Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity.

Website vs. Social Media

Facebook and other social media accounts are good additions to a website but do not take the place of one. Websites offer a more permanent home on the web where people can visit and find out about your division. If you're only on social media and their site isn't working or they go out of business, no one including you will be able to access your information.

Keep your website and any social media accounts fresh by posting content on a regular schedule. Give people a reason to drop by. Out-dated and stale websites don't receive a lot of visitors. Please be mindful of our nonprofit status when posting or commenting in the name of the LAOH.