



LADIES ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS, INC.
NEW YORK STATE BOARD
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
KAREN KEANE
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July 23, 2015

Sisters,

I am sending this letter to you as you are a County or Division President and therefore a leader of Our Order within the great State of New York.

As most of you are aware, we had our 59th biennial convention from July 8-11, 2015 in Uniondale, NY. At the convention, the new State Board was elected and installed and many changes were approved and discussed. This correspondence is to update you on some of the changes.

New State Board

First, as new State President, it is my pleasure to serve you and assist your Division and County grow and become more energized. Attached you will find an updated List of Officers and Appointees. You will see that we have many new jobs listed, but the actual number of people on the Board is reduced. I have made only four voting appointments in order to reduce our expenses, while insuring that all our responsibilities are covered. Please share the attached listing with your officers and Divisions so that each officer knows her counterpart on the State Board. Shortly, you will receive email introductory letters from each of the members, which will include their contact information, goals, and ideas for the next two years.

Meeting Dates and Other Events

The schedule for State Board Meetings and Conventions are as follows:

- Fall Board Meeting: **Saturday, November 7, 2015 at 9:00 am.** The meeting will start in the morning to allow for workshops to be held in the afternoon. The meeting will take place at the Best Western Sovereign at 1228 Western Avenue (Route 20) Albany NY. A special reduced room rate was secured for \$85.00 per night. This includes free parking and breakfast. Workshops should be over by 3:00. A Freedom for All Ireland (FFAI) event will take place that Saturday evening for anyone interested in attending. It is sponsored by the local LAOH and AOH Divisions.
- **Saturday, April 23, 2016-** Special 100th Anniversary of the Easter Rising Celebration in St Patrick Cathedral in New York City. **More details to follow.** This is a unique time for all Irish Americans and is especially the time for us to show everyone the Role of Woman in the Easter Rising.
- **Saturday, April 30, 2016 Spring Board Meeting in East Durham, New York at 9:00 am. Please note that this is a time change.** The meeting will be in the morning to allow for workshops in the afternoon which should be over by 3:00p.m.
- **Monday, July 11-Friday, July, 14, 2016** - National LAOH Convention in Atlantic City, NJ. More details to follow
- **Saturday, November 5, 2016-** Fall Board Meeting tentative
- **Saturday, May 8, 2017** at 9:00 am East Durham New York, Spring Board Meeting
- **New York State Convention (60th Biennial) July 12-16, 2017 (tentative)** in Buffalo, NY

Your attendance at these meetings is strongly recommended. This is the time you can see your Sisters across the State, give your ideas and questions to the Board, and participate in the workshops.

Annual Dues

At the State Convention, the delegation unanimously agreed to increase the State Per-Captia Taxes to \$5.00 from the prior \$3.50. This was done in order to insure the continuing function of the State Board. Also, with this increase, Bylaws were passed that eliminated the proceedings assessment of \$100.00 to County Board and \$25.00 per Division, as the proceedings will be made available to all members on the State

Board's website. As soon as the website is secured, each of you will receive a password from me or the webmaster for you to give to every member in good standing. Further, a copy of the State Bylaws will be available online.

Another action taken on this was the elimination of the Junior Per Captia Tax of \$0.25 per member.

Fundraising Efforts

In order to help prevent future dues increase, the State Board is sponsoring a raffle. This packet contains a flier regarding the raffle and tickets for your County Board or Division to sell. The number of tickets each Division received was based on your membership. Please help the State Board help you. The tickets cost \$20.00 each and give the purchaser 30 opportunities to win. The prizes are explained on the flier.

Half of all profits from the raffle will go to the new Missions and Charity fund New York voted to develop at the Convention. This money will be disbursed within New York State at our next State Convention in Buffalo. A committee was formed to lay out the foundation and guidelines for this fund. It is a great way to help our fellow New Yorkers.

Also, at the Fall Board meeting, will be modeling new New York LAOH fleece vests that can be purchased to wear at the National Convention and elsewhere.

Membership Drive

At convention, I set a challenge that was met with excitement; that we have Divisions in 80% percent of the Counties of New York State in 8 years. In order to meet that goal, I appointed State Board Members to also act as organizers. Please see the attached list for the Organizer in your area. We will be reaching out to our Brothers in the AOH and the local Diocese Offices to assist us in this endeavor. Please help us meet this goal by encouraging family members and friends in other counties of the State to join Our Noble Order. Also, we need to make strong the Divisions that may be struggling. If your Division needs assistance, please contact me or your area Organizer. While we want more Divisions and Members, we absolutely must retain the Divisions and Members who have made us strong. We are the largest Irish Catholic Women's Group in the World. Let's keep it that way!

Closing

In the next few weeks you will be receiving loads of information from the State Officers and Appointees. As President, I ask each of you to help facilitate the work of the Order by sharing all the information with the Officers and the members. Our website will be up and running very soon. Please watch out for the Webmaster's (Information Technology Specialist) announcement and requests to follow us on Facebook and Twitter. Please make sure that the State Board has all the up-to-date information on your officers so that we can confirm the free flow of information to the members.