



New York State St. Brigid Connection

Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians

December 1, 2015

President Message *Karen Keane*

Sisters,

I hope this newsletter finds everyone happy, healthy, and excited about the upcoming Christmas season. I know, as I reflect on the past year, that I have so much to be grateful for; each of you and everything you do for the Order, each other, and all of God's people in need. Thank you very much.

When you are preparing the end of the year reports, use that time to reflect on all of your accomplishments. As a State Board, your officers have been initiated to completely new positions and areas of responsibility. We have passed a budget, Financial Guidelines, and started a grant program in memory of Our Sister, Patricia Doyle. We are raising more funds than ever for Freedom for All Ireland; we have the new website and Facebook page to spread our accomplishments, ideas, and information to everyone online; and we have organizers throughout the State to help grow our membership and support all Divisions with whatever you need.

On December 10th, the State Board is co-sponsoring a lecture with the NYS AOH and GAA at the Irish Consulate General's Office (see flier). It is one of many events planned for the 100th Anniversary of the Easter Rising. Our State Board is planning events

and needs each Division and County to plan an event in your local area. This is a golden opportunity to spread the word about Our Order, the Women of the Rising, and an understanding of the importance of the Proclamation, its writing, and the events that followed. Remember that being a Hibernian is being an Irish-Catholic American 365 days a year (or 366 days in 2016) and not just on St. Patrick's Day.

April 23, 2016 is the date set by the National Boards for covering this country with events on the 100th Anniversary of the Proclamation. Your Division or County can hold a reading of the Proclamation that day if you are unable to join your Sisters in St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City that date. If every Division had a reading of the Proclamation that day and invited the local press, it would be an amazing day. Imagine people across the State coming together to remind all people of the importance of Freedom and Liberty and how the United States inspired our families in Ireland.

At our State Board meeting in Albany on November 7th, we gathered as a true Sisterhood to visit, exchange information, learn new skills, and leave empowered and informed. If you were unable to attend, please check out our website for all the reports and information on the presentations that were given in the workshops. Please try to attend the next meeting in East Durham, NY on April 30, 2016 at 9:00 am. We are looking for topics

for the workshops, so let me know what you think would be interesting and/or what you may be able to present. The Board is open to all kinds of topics that are within our exempt purpose, or just plain fun. Also, our Sports Chair is working on a few things to make our weekend more fun, so check out her report.

In closing, please keep love and peace in your hearts this Christmas Season. Let's remember the people that may need just a phone call or a visit to feel included and loved this Season. These are some of the hardest weeks for people suffering from depression or have financial difficulties. If you are in need of prayers, please let us know. If you are in a great place full of peace and joy, please spread it to others. Let your light shine. May God bless each of you and fill your hearts and soul with his Grace.

Love and peace,
Karen
NYS State President
laohkaren@llive.com

*Vice-President-
Jacqueline Gilroy Clute*

Sisters,
I hope that each of you has Blessed Advent and Christmas Seasons. This past week I prayed a Prayer of Thanksgiving for each of you and all the work you do for the good of Our Order. I also prayed for each of you as we head into the end-of-the-year reporting season. I think we all are going to need all the prayers we can get. Once again, I will cover a few topics in this article.

Juniors

Just a couple of things:

- I have been asked about "Protecting Gods Children" and the junior divisions and what effect it has on the divisions. To be able to operate or have a juniors' division you must have taken the Virtus training and have a certificate stating that you completed the course. The revised Constitution spells out the requirements which I am including in this article.

Section 1 - There shall be NO National per capita tax for Junior Divisions; effective with the 2015 yearend reports.

Section 2 - The Annual Junior secretary (membership) reports with updated membership list should be forwarded from the Division Vice President / Junior Division Coordinator to the next highest level of the LAOH, Inc. The State Vice President will forward annual secretary (membership) report to the National Vice President. The Annual Secretary Report will include a 'Protecting God's Children' Certification Log Sheet which must be signed by the Division President and Vice President.

Section 3 - The Annual Junior treasury report should be forwarded from the Division Vice President / Junior Division Coordinator to the Division Treasurer to be filed with the divisions yearend treasury report to the next highest level of the LAOH, Inc. The state treasurer shall forward the treasury report to the National Treasurer.

Please be aware that the National Vice-President has advised that **Without the Certificates, the Juniors cannot operate.** Please make sure that you have sent that information in and if not please make it a priority to do so. Also keep in mind that when you start a juniors' division you must

take the Virtus training to have your new division recognized by the National and State Boards.

We are working on a juniors' corner in our NY State newsletter and hopefully this will happen- it would be nice for everyone to see just what our junior girls do to further the good work of our noble order.

Degree Teams

Please make sure to let me know when your team will be exemplifying the Degrees of the Order so that I can help you get the word out.

Trinity College Scholarship- (Washington, DC)

LILLIAN E. FAY SCHOLARSHIP

As part of being the State Vice-President, I am charged with advertising the National Board's Lillian E. Fay Scholarship at Trinity College in Washington, DC. The National Board's website has the full information but here are some of the highlights about the scholarship's recipient qualifications:

1. A member of the LAOH who attends the College as a full-time student.
2. A member of the LAOH who attends the College as a part-time undergraduate student.
3. A member of the LAOH who attends the College as graduate student.
4. The daughter of an LAOH member. She may attend either full-time or part-time.
5. The granddaughter of an LAOH member. She may attend either full-time or part-time.
6. A practicing Catholic of Irish Decent within 4 generations.
7. A practicing Catholic – immigrant to the

USA.

8. A practicing Catholic – child of an immigrant to the USA.

9. A practicing Catholic – descendent of any immigrant to the USA.

All LAOH members involved in the process must be in good standing with the Order. The Scholarship will be awarded each year and Trinity College will be the sole arbitrator.

If you have any questions or need something, please feel free to contact me at 518-395-9964 before 9:00 p.m. or via e-mail at banbha1021@gmail.com

Jackie Clute

NYS Vice-President

*Secretary – MaryBeth
Durkee*

Dear Sisters,

It was great seeing so many of you at the November board meeting in Albany. I would like to congratulate President Keane on an efficient, well organized meeting. The workshops were very informative. I think everyone had a great learning experience.

I've been very busy since the meeting, with personal crisis within my family; transcribing the minutes; emailing the annual membership reports; and sending out the Hibernian calendars.

On the personal level, on November 11th my 93 year old mother fell and broke her hip, thankfully an orthopedic surgeon was able to pin it back together and she is doing well. Thank you for your prayers.

Every County or Division Secretary should have received the national membership report with instructions from me, if not, please contact me immediately (518) 274-8448 or email mbdurk7@gmail.com. Please read the instructions carefully and remember the deadlines.

The Hibernian calendars were distributed at the board meeting and mailed to all county presidents not in attendance. Please remember these calendars are a major fund raiser for both the AOH and LAOH. All payments and return of unsold calendars need to be complete by January 15, 2016, or your county will be billed for the calendar. Any questions, please contact me at the above address.

I want to wish everyone a very MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY and HEALTHY NEW YEAR to all of you from the Durkee family. Sincerely in our motto,

Mary Beth Durkee

Treasurer - Aggie O'Leary

Dear Sisters,
Merry Christmas!

Just a gentle reminder that all checks to our treasury must be spelled out to "Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians Inc."

If you need a tax exempt form please send me: what division it is for & county, and the name, address, phone #, Fax # (if they have one) of the vendor. Please send it a bit before you need it so I can get it to the vendor.

Reports are out please contact President Keane and me if you haven't received yours. Happy and Safe New Year to all.

God Bless
Aggie

Irish Historian - Regina Begley

Dear Sisters,

I hope that everyone enjoyed a very Happy Thanksgiving! I am so sorry that I missed, from all accounts, a wonderful weekend in Albany. While I was disappointed in missing our newly elected President's first board meeting, I was equally disappointed in missing the opportunity to see all of my LAOH NY Sisters. Thank you for all the notes and messages, I am on the mend and I am actually able to wear my big girl shoes again, if only for a few hours each day.

Our Annual History writing contest is well underway, the Division due date has passed and those essays should currently be with the judges. See schedule for remaining due dates.

Remaining Timeline for National Irish History Writing Contest

December 15, 2015 – 7 Winning essays, per level (4 copies of each) to be submitted to County Board Historians

January 15, 2016 – 7 winning essays, per level (4 copies of each) to be submitted to State Historian

February 15, 2016 – 7 winning essays, per level (4 copies of each) to be submitted to National Board Historian

March 31, 2016 – National Board Awards announced

I would also like to ask each Irish Historian to encourage their Divisions and Counties to put up displays at their local library and/or community centers and even their Division/County meeting venue highlighting the Centennial Year of the Easter Rising and

the role of women during this important part of Irish history. Our National website has several posters depicting the work and accomplishments of the Cumann na mBan. All are welcome to download them from the National website. www.ladiesaoh.com Please let me know if you need any help.

Our National Irish Historian continues to publish her newsletter and she has recently published her 5th newsletter and an article on the History of the LAOH. These would make a wonderful presentation at your Division and/or County meeting. They can be found on the National website. www.ladiesaoh.com

Easter Rising Commemorative Events:

Several events are being planned by, or sponsored by AOH/LAOH Divisions and Counties around the State. I have listed them below so that you can 'Save the Date' if it is an event you can easily travel to.

December 10th Irish Consulate's Historical Lecture Series 6:30pm – 8:30pm "*The Proclamation of the Irish Republic: The Rhetoric of 1916*" to be held at The Consulate General of Ireland 345 Park Ave, NYC between 51st & 52nd St. Space is limited RSVP required. Please contact me for more info.

March 28th – Nassau County - Ceremony at the Easter Rising Monument in Mineola followed by a gathering at the Irish American Center.

April 10th – Orange County – Luncheon & Irish Cultural Community Event to recognize & honor the brave women of 1916 - 1PM – 4PM

April 23rd – NYC – Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral 1:00pm followed by a Procession and Program at the Plaza of the Irish

Consulate.

April 24th – Niagara County – Mass to commemorate the 1916 Easter Rising and to remember those who gave their lives. 11:00 a.m. All Saints Parish/St. Patrick's Church, 76 Church St. Lockport. Mass will be followed by a brunch in the church hall.

April 24th – Rockland County – Mass 10:30am; Parade NOON, Ceremony 12:45pm. After the ceremony lunch will be served at the Pearl River Hilton. Rooms have also been reserved in the AOH name. 914-735-9000. There will also be a bus leaving from the Pearl River Hilton to Mass and the Ceremony.

Once all events are finalized, the details will be emailed and posted on the LAOH NYS website www.laohnys.com

In addition to Hibernian sponsored events, there are also many other activities that you can take advantage of. Although I listed them in my report for the November Board meeting, I will list them here again.

Glucksman Ireland House which is NYU's Center for Irish & Irish American Studies is running a series of programs which will shed light on the trans-Atlantic context of the Rising. It will examine the actions and motives of Irish cultural and political nationalists who were based in the US during 1916 and the Americans who served as their support network.

Decades of Centenaries

www.decadesofcenturies.com This is a website dedicated to commemorations relating to Irish Historical events from 1912 through 1922. Many great topics including the Easter Rising, the Irish Volunteers, Home Rule and Suffrage. Unfortunately the events take place at the Royal Irish Academy in Dublin but by clicking on some

of the events you can read about the particular topic. The website also contains an online exhibition on 1916 Rising Personalities & Perspectives. I was able to subscribe to their newsletter via the website.

If your County or Division is planning an activity in honor of the 100th anniversary of the Easter Rising, please send me the details and I will make every effort to attend and Colleen would be happy to post it on our State website!

Lastly, the time is upon us to complete the annual year end history report. Our National Historian has posted the 2015 forms and Letter of Instruction on the National website www.ladiesaoh.com. I have also sent the forms and letter to the County Presidents & Irish Historians. (Single Division Counties also were included). County Irish Historians from multi division Counties should forward the forms to their Division Irish Historians. Please note that the National Irish Historian has made a change to the last section of the report. She is requesting a history of your Division/County be included on the report. The due dates for the reports are as follows:

Division Reports to County Historian –

January 31st 2016

County Reports to State Historian –

February 28th 2016 (my address is below)

State Report to National Historian – **March 31st 2016**

If you are new to the role of Irish Historian, please touch base with your predecessor to familiarize yourself with the annual report. Please do not hesitate to call or email me with any questions you have or help you might need. My contact information is below. Wishing everyone a very Happy and

Blessed Christmas season. See you all soon!

Yours in Friendship, Unity & Christian Charity,

Regina

Email: lahoregina@optonline.net

Mobile: 516-712-4177

Home: 516-431-2852

Work: 914-846-5525

107 Parma Rd, Island Park, NY 11558

Missions and Charities – Therese Myer

Dear Sisters,

As we are now entering the Holiday Season I ask that you remember our LAOH Charities as you are deciding what charity or organizations you maybe donating to. I have received from many of you the records of your generous donations to the Columban Sisters and Fathers in the past few weeks, unfortunately some with checks in them or missing forms. I have corrected these and forwarded onto National. I would be remiss if I did not clarify the proper guidelines for submitting your Missions and Charities donations so you are credited properly. All donation forms can be downloaded from the National website <http://www.ladiesaoh.com>

- Mass card forms should be mailed directly to the Columban Fathers
- Missions & Charities Form should be made out indicating how & who you want checks applied
- A copy of the completed Missions & Charities form should be sent to the

County Missions & Charities if applicable and to the State Missions & Charities Officer.

- The original check and original donation form are to be sent to our National Missions & Charities Officer: Dee Ramp, 206 Bellwood Drive, Aiken, SC 29803
- If you decide to make a Yearend donation these are sent -directly to National with copies sent to the appropriate County and to the state officer of Missions and Charities (the same way as listed above)

I have had the pleasure of meeting many of you as I have been going around the different counties in the Hudson Valley as your Organizer. It is wonderful to see the good works you are doing! I look forward to meeting more of you in the coming New Year and helping us grow with increased membership and new divisions.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns, I will gladly help you! I wish you all a Happy, Healthy, Prosperous, and most of all a Blessed Christmas and New Year!

The light of the Christmas star to you,
The warmth of home and hearth to you,
The cheer and good will of friends to you,
The hope of a childlike heart to you,
The joy of a thousand angels to you,
The love of the Son, And God's peace to
you



God Bless You and Yours this Holiday Season

Yours in Our Motto,

Terry Meyer - NYS Missions and Charities Officer

Catholic Action - JoAnn Gundersen

Dear Sisters,

Since our last newsletter, I have been busy attending County Board meetings in Nassau, Kings and Richmond, promoting Project Saint Patrick/SOAR, March for Life, etc. The members were very receptive of the information I passed on, and I want to sincerely thank the County Presidents for allowing me to speak at their meetings. I enjoyed meeting sisters from the different counties and sharing with them NY State Catholic Action information. I plan to attend other County Board meetings in the near future.

As a gentle reminder, December has finally arrived and it is time for the Division and County Catholic Action Officers to start finalizing their Annual Reports (2015), and Project Saint Patrick/SOAR donations. The National Website www.ladiesaoh.com has all the information you need; you can also call or e-mail me if you need any further assistance. Also, the NY State website has a lot of great information also. The website is: www.laohnys.com. We are also on Facebook; just type in LAOH NYS. *Many thanks*

to Colleen O'Reilly, LAOH NYS Webmaster, for setting up our Website and Face book page, and getting the information out to our members.

In closing, I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas, Happy New Year (2016) and/or Seasons Greetings.

Yours in Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,

JoAnn Gundersen, NYS Catholic Action Officer, P.O. Box 290013, Brooklyn, NY 11229-0013, (Cell) 718.219.4378, (e-mail) jgunde2000@aol.com .

Immediate Past President Carol McTigue

Before summers end, a trip to Brooklyn and the Great Irish Fair was just the place for great Irish fellowship and the chance to meet and greet old and new friends. It was a beautiful day all together with all the joyous festivities and the opportunity to catch up with the Kings County Hibernians. Of course the AOH and the LAOH were well represented with everyone having a wonderful time.

The Kings County ladies of Division 22, along with the men celebrated a beautiful Mass and Communion Breakfast on November 22, 2015. I was happy to be there with them to enjoy the day. Both the Mass and the Communion Breakfast was well attended

Suffolk County Celtic Degree Team Exemplified the Major Degrees the evening of November 23, 2015 at the

Division 7 hall in East Islip, where thirty six ladies took the Degrees. It is always gratifying to be at the Ceremony and witness our sisters looking forward to become a Degree member of the LAOH. I noticed quite a number of Observers there as well. Refreshments were served and were enjoyed by all.

I hope everyone enjoyed the bountiful harvest of Thanksgiving with family and friends. Very shortly, we will enter into the Advent Season and prepare for the birth of Our Savior Jesus Christ on Christmas Day.

May your hearth be ever warm,
your table ever full,
your joys ever new,
your love ever growing,
and your memories everlasting.

Nollaig Shona Dhuit,

Carol McTigue

Publicity Chair-Cathy Turck

Hello ladies,

It was great to everyone in Albany for the State Board meeting. What a busy, productive weekend it was. We missed our State Historian, Regina, as she was unable to make the trip. Not to worry though, we assigned her lots of committee work for East Durham!! Aggie, we're still on for darts and golf right?

I would like to thank all of you who regularly send me information for the

newsletter. Without you, there would not be a newsletter. If you have been appointed Publicity Chair for your Division or County, please e-mail me your contact information at cathyturck33@gmail.com so I can add your e-mail to my distribution list.

May you be blessed with the spirit of the season, which is peace, the gladness of the season, which is hope, and the heart of the season, which is love.

Have a wonderful Christmas and a healthy and joyful New Year.

In Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity
Cathy

Freedom For All Ireland - Delores Desch

Sisters,

So far I have heard from a few of our divisions and counties regarding their FFAI Christmas Appeal donations. Last year we raised \$4,740.00, with only eight divisions participating. Our goal this year is to have EVERY division participate and raise at least \$100.00 each for a goal of \$6,000.00. As I said in my report, all checks need to be made payable to : LAOH, Inc and mailed to our National LAOH Freedom for All Ireland Chair - Peggy Cornish at 141 N Kinsella Ave., Covina Ca 91724. Please send a copy of your check and earmarked amounts to me at laohdolores@yahoo.com or mail the copies to me at: 20 Arlene Ave., Albany, NY 12203.

I have asked our Information Technology Chair, Colleen O'Reilly to post two items to the NYS Website. One is a letter that I received from Jarlath McNulty, program director for Cairde Republican Ex-Prisoner Group – Strabane. The other is the Powerpoint slideshow I presented at the State Board meeting in early November. Please read both and check out the You tube video at the end of the slideshow called “Unquiet Graves”. This is a clip from a new full-length documentary due out next June which focuses on British collusion with loyalist paramilitaries in targeting Catholics during the troubles.

Over the past year the political situation in Northern Ireland has been spiraling downward due to many issues including economic austerity programs and unfounded accusations against the Sinn Fein party, accusing them of involvement in two murders this summer. The accusations were found to be baseless, however in September, the unionist members of the Stormont Assembly staged a protest whereby they took turns resigning, only to be reinstated a week later. Adding to the issues, the Stormont House Agreement of 2014 was not being followed or enforced, thereby increasing the rift between nationalists and unionists. The Stormont House Agreement which was drafted in December of 2014 was supposed to address many of the key issues of Northern Ireland. Those issues included the Flags, Parades and other issues of the past, fiscal issues and welfare reform as well as the government’s commitment to recognizing

the Irish language. However, this year the loyalists were still allowed to parade through Catholic neighborhoods, taunting residents and causing damage to property as well as millions in policing. Social welfare programs have been cut and the British Government has refused to release documents from the troubles citing 'national security'. The complicated architecture of the power-sharing agreement lends itself to a 'two steps forward and one back' scenario when it comes to progress, which is no surprise to those who live there. There was nothing being accomplished and the government was for all intents and purposes shut down.

On November 17th, 'A Fresh Start – The Stormont House Agreement' was completed after ten weeks of negotiations. The parties involved included the Executive Parties of the Power Sharing NI government, the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland.

The Agreement provides for an increase in funding for infrastructure projects, social programs and tax credit programs and is seen as a boost for the working class and unemployed. The hope now is that the economic improvements will in some way lead to improved employment opportunities for our Catholic brothers and sisters in the North. There was no movement however in the area of dealing with the past. This was a huge blow for the victims' rights groups including the Pat Finucane Center and Relatives for Justice – hence the one step back. While there are

small steps forward, this is by no means the agreement that will end all agreements. This is a roadmap which will keep the progress from sliding backwards. This is something which many in Northern Ireland see as progress. And while there is still no agreement by the British government to open their files on the Troubles, the truth is still coming out. It is coming out ever so slowly and too late for some families who have been searching for the truth and justice their loved ones deserve. Please keep these families in your prayers.

In Our Motto, Dolores Desch

NYS FFAI

Immigration and Legislation *Teresa Kearns*

Nollraig shona dhaoibh Sisters!

My report is in memory of a great Irish-American, Maureen O'Hara, who passed away in October at the age of 95. The following is taken from her autobiography, "Tis Herself". I hope you enjoy it.

"Let's not forget the ground breaking moment when O'Hara became an American citizen (While maintaining her Irish citizenship) in 1946 and the fuss she put up about being referred to as a "British subject".

"There must have been a thousand questions on their standard questionnaire. After I completed it, I went and took the exam. I must have passed because I was then sent before women, an officer of the court, who instructed me to raise my right hand and forswear my allegiance to Great