



Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc.
New York State
St. Brigid's Connection



Regina Begley - President

Dar Sisters,

I hope you all enjoyed a happy and blessed Christmas season and I extend my heartfelt good wishes for a joyous and healthy 2024.

First and foremost, I want to congratulate all the newly elected Division Officers across the State. My apologies to Oneida County for cancelling my visit to them to do their Installation. A winter cold got the better of me and I could barely get out of bed. Ladies, as I said in my introductory letter after being installed as President, please do not hesitate to invite me to your Installations, fundraisers, dinners etc. I will do my best to go, regardless of the distance. It would be nice to talk to all of you on a smaller scale as opposed to State Board meetings and Conventions. Thank you for the Invitations I received to attend your St. Brigid's celebrations. Unfortunately, I had to decline a few due to date conflicts. Looks like February 3rd and 4th are the popular dates this year! I look forward to the St. Brigid celebrations I did accept.

I would also like to extend my congratulations to the NYC St. Patrick's Day Aides to the Grand Marshal for 2024. JoAnn Gundersen (Kings County) Peggy Brennan (Orange County) and Bridget Hernandez (Queens County) will be representing their Counties up 5th Avenue on Saturday, March 16th. Kudos Ladies! A great honor. Let's all support these Ladies by coming to New York City and marching behind our State banner. Contact me if you are interested in marching. In addition, Fr. Henry has been named Aide to the Grand Marshal for Suffolk County.

Not to be outdone, I also extend my congratulations to those NY members who have been awarded the Irish Echo's '40 Under 40' award. This is the second year in a row the Ladies AOH has received recognition from the Irish Echo. The NYS LAOH is very proud of Kristen (Doherty) Martino from Suffolk County (Division 7) and Kiera McCourt, Suffolk County (Division 4). Congratulations, Ladies! I also offer my congratulations to other LAOH members around the country. Including Kristen and Kiera, the 2024 honorees include 6 LAOH members across the country.

The 2nd weekend of November, VP Terry Meyer, Catholic Action Officer Maura McSweeney, FFAI Officer Joan Moore and myself attended the National Interim Board meeting and the Testimonial Dinner for National President Marilyn Madigan. The dinner was delicious and quite enjoyable. Topics at the meeting included a paper written by National Legal Counsel proposing procedures and protocols, including proper appropriate dress recommendations. This was met with many disgruntled ladies in the room; the paper will be rewritten. One other highlight was the proposal of a dues increase, totaling \$10 over the next 5 years. We will discuss at our May board meeting.

The annual reports. Yes, I hear the collective groan across the State but these reports are important. I hope that everyone has taken advantage of the Zoom meetings both the National and/or State Officers have held.

JANUARY 19, 2024

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BOARD MEMBERS
CONTRACT
INFORMATION

NYSLAOHSTBRIGIDCONN@GMAIL.COM

DEADLINE DATES IN
WEBMASTER REPORT

It is my hope that we will get through the reporting process without incident. 'Past' officers, please do not abandon the Officer who stepped into your position. We should all be willing to help each other. I am available for anyone who needs help or guidance. My phone number and email address are at the bottom of this article. As in past years, late submission of the annual financial report and/or secretary report will incur a late service charge.

On March 1st, I will be attending the Irish Unity Summit at Cooper Union in Manhattan. Along with special guests, panels and music, the guest speaker will be Mary Lou McDonald, President of Sinn Fein. The journey to complete the Good Friday Agreement continues. While the agreement provides for a peaceful and democratic pathway to Unity in Ireland, what continues to be the challenges and what role does/will the U.S. play? The big question posed in the description that accompanied the invitation for the evening's events, is what does a new Ireland look like? All Division/County Presidents should have received the invitation from JoAnn to sign up around January 15th.

Lastly, our 2025 Convention. The Convention committee took a quick hiatus during November and December, but we are making plans for February to tour 3 hotels. We have received bids from Syracuse, Utica, and Rochester. On behalf of myself and AOH President Tom O'Donnell, we extend our appreciation to these 3 Counties for their interest in hosting the upcoming Convention. At a high level, the convention will begin on Thursday evening with Mass and the Ice Breaker. Meetings will take place on Friday. Meetings will continue Saturday if needed, along with Degree Ceremonies, Mass, the Installation of Officers, and Awards banquet on Saturday night. I know this is a very high-level view; it is very similar to the Ladies Convention this past July so it should be workable. We will have Zoom meetings in the weeks preceding the Convention. Tom has asked Syracuse, Utica, and Rochester to firm up dates, room rates and available facilities with their respective hotels. More to come after our site visits and when we determine how voting on the sites will happen.

That's all the news I have for you. If you have any questions or just want to chat, give me a call!

Yours in Our Motto,
Regina
516-712-4177
nyslaohpresident@gmail.com

Board

Terese "Terry" Meyer – Vice President

Dear Sisters,

I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and let us all welcome the New Year 2024 with open hearts and warm welcomes to fellow sisters throughout the state!

I know many of you are working on your year-end Junior and Degree reports. As a reminder, please be sure to send copies of your final report to me.

As I have said before, The Juniors are our future for the LAOH! Currently, we have 6 Junior divisions. LAOH Juniors are Irish. I am more than happy to help you and strongly encourage you to consider starting up a junior division within your county or divisions.

The Trinity Degree team from the Capital District and the Suffolk County Celtic Degree team are always willing to work with Divisions and Counties to have a degree in your area. Please remember Kings County's degree has been reorganized and will also be available soon. If you would like to join a degree team or learn to start one, please do not hesitate to ask me.

I know many have Masses and luncheons scheduled for St. Brigid's Day to celebrate the 1.500 anniversary of St. Brigid's passing. I wish you all many blessings on this day of hope and renewal.

Congratulations to our sisters who have been named aides to the NYC St. Patrick's Day parade and those who have been named Grand Marshalls and aides of local parades. March is always a grand month to be Irish, for sure, and you ladies are well deserving of this honor. Wishing you all the best and may the sunshine on you all.

My wish to all of you is:

May you have love that never ends,

Lots of money, and lots of friends.

Health be yours, whatever you do,

And may God send many blessings to you!

Yours in Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity,
Terry Therese (Terry) Meyer

Vice President nyslaohvicepresident@gmail.com
Cell: 914-443-0362

Mary “Sissy” Durkee – Treasurer

Sisters,

I hope everyone had a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year. My hope for all of you is that this coming year is filled with happiness and good health.

The Financial Reports were emailed to all Treasurers on December 6, 2023, and a Zoom meeting was held on January 8, 2024, to help answer any questions Treasurers may have had. If you still have questions about the reports, please feel free to reach out to me ASAP. All single division counties your reports are due to me by January 31, 2024. Divisions under a County Board your reports are due to your County Treasurer by January 31, 2024, as well. County Treasurers, your reports and those of the divisions within your county are due to me by February 29, 2024 (an extra day for leap year). That said, feel free to send them early if you have them completed. The State report is due to National by March 31, 2024; therefore, I must have everyone’s report collected and completed by then. Per Capita checks along with a copy of your tax bill can be sent to me at 312 4th Street Troy NY 12180.

I hope the rest of January is quiet for everyone as we gear up for St. Brigid’s Day and then on to St. Patrick’s Day. Congratulations to all our Grand Marshal and Aides to the Grand Marshals. May the sunshine brightly on all of us that day.

Mary “Sissy” Durkee
Nyslaohhtreasurer1@gmail.com
Cell: (518)258-7501

Maura McSweeney – Mission and Charities

Dear Sisters,

Happy New Year! I hope all my sisters across the state had a safe and happy Christmas season, and I wish you all the happiness and success as we issue in a new year. I’d like the thank you all again for your generous donations of gloves, hats, mittens, coats, boots, and scarves to our Winter Warm Wear drive at our Fall Board Meeting. We received a thank you from Catholic

Charities of Orange, Sullivan, and Ulster Counties for the items, and they were thrilled that they were able to help so many individuals in need, thanks to your generosity.

While there is no formal report due from each of the levels of the Office of Missions and Charities, I can report to you that nationally, the LAOH donated \$21,800 to the Columban Sisters, and NYS had a hand in a large part of that! We received a wonderful thank you note from Sister Corona that was forwarded to me by our National chair, Natalie Peterinelli.

You should all be proud that you are doing wonderful work in supporting not only the Columban Fathers and Columban Sisters, but your local charities as well. From volunteering at local food pantries, to holding diaper drives and baby showers and everything in between, your generosity in donating both your money and your time does not go unnoticed. The impact that our volunteerism has on helping our communities is enormous and greatly appreciated. Keep up the great work!

I’ll be working with the NYS AOH Chair of Missions and Charities, Tim Tobin, for the Missions and Charities project at the Spring Board Meeting in East Durham, and we are both looking forward to having our members come together again and work as one to support the neediest citizens of our communities. Stay tuned for information on how you can contribute to the goals of this office during our time in East Durham this year.

As we approach our high holy season of the months of both St. Brigid and St. Patrick, I look forward to hearing about how each Division and County celebrates the feast day of St. Brigid, as well as the parades and dinners and dances that mark St. Patrick’s Day. Please keep safe, keep warm, and keep doing the wonderful job of living in our Motto.

Yours in Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity,
Maura
Maura McSweeney
Office of Missions and Charities

Teresa Karens – Irish Historian

Hello Sister’s,

Happy New Year! I'd like to start by thanking those who participated and promoted the Irish History Essay Contest. It was a long and difficult topic and I applaud those who got their entries in by the deadline (January 15, 2024). My committee will be reviewing the submissions and choose the winners from our State. The winning essays will then be forwarded on to National.

The Year End Irish History Report forms have been sent out and are available on our state web page. Division reports are due to your County Historian by March 31, 2024. County reports are due to me by April 30, 2024.

March is Irish American Heritage month. This fact is often overlooked by many. It is important for our organization to support and share our heritage with others. It is our responsibility to remember our ancestors and the troubles they faced coming to a new country in search of a better life.

Some suggestions are to find an historic place in your community that remembers the Irish and consider placing a wreath. Ask your local library if you may place a display. Perhaps share an article with your local newspaper about our organization and the contributions of the Irish.

Remember, March is OUR MONTH and we should promote it as so.

As always in our motto,

Teresa

Teresa Kearns NYS LAOH Irish Historian

nyslaohhistorian@gmail.com

42 Alexander St. Lockport, NY 14094

716-531-1431

Patricia Moynihan – Catholic Action

Dear Sisters,

Thank God Ahead of Time!

Happy New Year! As we begin this new year, I have been reminded of the teachings of Blessed Solanus Casey, and my resolution is to try to follow his example of thanking God ahead of time and first promising some little sacrifice in thanksgiving.

God knows best, and, while we'll still hope for a favorable surprise, we can hardly do better than not only being resigned to whatever God permits but even beforehand to thank Him for His mercifully loving designs. —A letter written by Blessed Solanus Casey

Catholic Action Reports

As of January 12th, the state has not received the 2023 Catholic Action Report for completion. It will be sent out to all Presidents and Catholic Action officers as soon as it is received.

Project St. Patrick, SOAR and National Humanitarian Aid Fund

Thank you to all the divisions and counties who sent donations to these charities in 2023 and for sending a copy of your donation form to me. All donations go directly to our National Catholic Action Officer Kathleen Diulus, 117 Summit Drive, Sewickley PA 15143 with a copy of your form to this office or to your county CA officer who should be forwarding a copy to me.

March for Life

The 51st March for Life will be held on Friday, January 19, 2024 in Washington, DC, and this year's theme is "With Every Woman, For Every Child". You are encouraged to attend the DC March or an event held in your local area. All are invited to join the DC AOH for breakfast and Mass before the March: <https://www.facebook.com/aoh.in.america/posts/pfbid02Mw3kQLT4uiuKjM9zJFFY9FDzqYFBPhL2RMnHGMKssEoiLsduDot7jmShSD8t4vYal>

Feast of St. Brigid – February 1

Many of you have plans underway to celebrate St. Brigid, our patron saint, in the coming weeks with Masses and luncheons. Remember to take pictures of your celebrations for the next newsletter. I encourage you to follow the example of St. Brigid through our Motto as found in this prayer on our New York State website:

*We ask your guidance to inspire us to offer **Friendship**, as you did, to all whom cross our paths in life. We ask your Prayers to inspire us to offer the hand of **Unity** to all. We ask your Love to inspire us to give **Christian Charity** to all. We as members of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians seek to follow in your path of*

Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity. We ask that you bestow Your Blessings upon us through Christ our Lord. Amen.

St. Patrick's Day

While we all look forward to the parades and festivities surrounding St. Patrick's Day, please be mindful of any items disparaging our faith and our Irish Heritage which seem to abound each year at this time. Ask your CA officer to send a letter to any company/organization promoting/selling these items to draw their attention to the offensiveness of such items.

Best wishes and good luck to all the new officers! May you have much success during your term of office.

In Our Motto,
Pat Moynihan
Catholic Action Officer
nyslaohcatholicaction@gmail.com
631-848-4529

Appointee

Freedom For All Ireland – Joan Moore

I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season and wish you all a happy and healthy New Year. Since my last report the British government has signed into law the Legacy and Reconciliation Bill. This means that all inquests into any trouble-related cases will be halted as of May 1, 2024. Families that have been searching for answers in the death of their loved ones for over 50 years will be unable to learn the truth or seek any kind of justice. The AOH/LAOH have played a significant role in trying to stop this Bill but also our efforts to have the Irish Government file a complaint to the International European Courts have had a tremendous effect. On January 20 the Irish Government did file with the European Court on Human Rights. I will continue to share information with you as this goes to trial. Our FFAI Christmas Appeal is still ongoing. The deadline for the 2023 donations is March 1. The National FFAI Chair, Dolores Desch is planning a trip In April to present to the groups their checks. Your generosity is greatly appreciated by all those who are helped with these funds. Just a reminder that all checks get mailed to Dolores

Desch, 20 Arlene Avenue, Albany, NY 12203 and a copy is sent to me at to Joan Moore, 155 Hunt Ave. Pearl River, NY 10965 or email nyslaohfreedomforallireland@gmail.com If any of your divisions are having a FFAI event, please share with me at the above email. Congratulations to our own Kathleen Savage, FFAI Chair from Massachusetts who was the first to receive the Constance Markievicz Award at the National interim board meeting. It was a wonderful event and Kathleen was so gracious in accepting this well-deserved award.

The NYS FFAI fundraiser was a great success, and the drawing will be done soon. Unfortunately, my husband's brother became seriously ill and passed away this past Friday. I will draw it after the funeral. Sorry for the delay and hope you all understand.

Once again, I appreciate all your support and generosity to this great cause.

Joan Moore
NYS LAOH FFAI
nyslaohfreedomforallireland@gmail.com

Immigration and Education – Maureen Caffrey

According to Ireland's Department of Justice, Irish Citizenship was granted at four ceremonies in Ireland last year, 2023:

March - 1300 candidates became Irish citizens at the RDS Dublin

June - 4000 candidates became Irish citizens at the Killarney Convention Centre

October - 2700 candidates became Irish citizens at the Convention Centre Dublin

December - 6000 candidates became Irish citizens at the Convention Centre Dublin

The top nationalities/counties of the candidates are: India, Brazil, Philippines, United Kingdom, Nigeria, Poland, Romania, Pakistan, China (including Hong Kong) and United States of America.

The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service welcomed 878,500 new citizens in fiscal year 2023 during naturalization ceremonies held across the United States and around the world. Naturalizations in fiscal years

2022 and 2023 made up nearly a quarter (24%) of all naturalizations over the past decade.

On January 2, 1892, the Immigration Service opened the U.S.'s best known immigration station on Ellis Island in New York Harbor. The enormous station housed inspection facilities, hearing and detention rooms, hospitals, cafeterias, administrative offices, railroad ticket offices, and representatives of many immigrant aid societies.

The Roosevelt Hotel on 45th Street in Manhattan, a long-time host of many of NYC St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee meetings, closed its doors in December 2020. Today, it is the New York City Asylum Seeker Arrival Center. Migrants, mostly from the southern borders, line up around the hotel, in the hopes of receiving some kind of assistance for a new life here in the USA.

Prayers for Peace for the U.S., Ireland and the whole world.

Yours in our Motto,

Maureen Caffrey

Immigration and Education Chair

Public Relations / Social Media – Ann Pirock

Hello Sisters – Our NYS LAOH Facebook page has been very busy. Divisions, Counties and NYS LAOH have taken advantage to publicize their fundraisers. The National LAOH has also been able to share information with us. Our Catholic Charities have had very successful events for our communities. We have recognized our members that have been honored with awards. We are proud of our members that have been chosen as Grand Marshals and Aides to Grand Marshals for the 2024 St. Patrick's Day Parade Season. We congratulated the new Division Officers for 2024. There has been information shared about virtual events in our Irish Community. We celebrated Saints, Feast's Days, and National Holidays. We have learned about Irish traditions and customs. We also prayed and remembered our deceased members and their families.

If you have something you would like to include on Facebook, send me the information and pictures or flyers to nyslaohpublicity@gmail.com. It will give your Division exposure and will be seen by other States and

Divisions around the country that have "Liked" our page. Our Facebook page is LAOH NYS.

Yours in Our Motto,

Ann Pirock

NYS LAOH Public Relations/Social Media

845-699-5131

3396 State Route 52

Pine Bush, NY 12566

Scrapbook – Carolyn McGillicuddy

We, the New York State LAOH are very proud of the great work done by our dedicated and hard-working members. We support our local charities and our Irish Heritage. We attend religious and social events. We hold Initiations, Installations and Major Degree Ceremonies.

We attend board meetings and conventions, and much more. So please, each time you attend an LAOH event, remember to take pictures, save flyers and announcements. Forward these items to me and they will be great additions to our New York State Scrapbook.

Photos can be forwarded to me at 77 The Promenade, Glen Head, NY 11545. Digital photos can be forwarded to nyslaohscrapbook@gmail.com. Remember to include the event and the names of the Ladies in the pictures.

Please send your photos to me before the end of June. Thank you! I'm looking forward to putting together the New York State Scrapbook for the Orlando Convention this summer.

Carolyn McGillicuddy

NYS Scrapbook Chairperson

77 The Promenade

Glen Head, NY 11545

Webmaster / Publisher St. Brigid Connection – Kimbelry Clancy

The State's Website is (laohnys.com). I encourage you to send me information about upcoming events, articles, In Memoriam including a link to the Obituary (please get the families permission to post), and pictures. Everyone is eager to learn about your success as members of the Order. I can be reached by email at (laohnysweb@gmail.com).

The page (LAOH Documents) is password protected – the password is (sister1) all lower case. The documents you will find there are Officers Reports, Convention Proceedings, Board Meeting Minutes, National Constitution, NYS By-Laws, etc.

The St. Brigid’s Connection, our newsletter is published four times a year. The newsletter will be emailed and posted on our website on the “Members” page “Newsletters”. Please send your submission to (laohnyssaintbrigidconn@gmail.com).

All submission must be in a word document. No pictures with alcohol are allowed.

Deadline Date	Include Months	Publish
1/12/2024	*Oct, Nov, Dec 2023	January 2024
4/12/2024	Jan, Feb, Mar 2024	April 2024
7/12/2024	April, May, June 2024	July 2024
10/11/2024	July, Aug, Sept 2024	October 2024
1/10/2025	Oct, Nov, Dec 2024	January 2025

*For the first edition, from this Board, it is acceptable to include any items for January edition i.e.: convention, etc.

Please contact me if I can be of any assistance.
 In Our Motto,
 Kimberly A Clancy
 Webmaster/Publisher St. Brigid Connection 2023-2025

Albany County

Albany Division #1

The Albany JFK Division1 ladies have been busy as we finished out 2023 in our mission to promote sisterhood among our ranks and in our community.

On September 10th, the Albany ladies held a “Card Party” fundraiser to raise money for Blessed Sacrament School. The generous donations and enthusiastic bidders allowed for \$3,500 to be donated to Father Dan Quinn on behalf of the school. Special thanks to Immediate Past National President Karen Keane for her efforts to coordinate this very successful event!



Albany LAOH Division 1 presenting Father Dan Quinn with a \$3500 check to support the work and mission of Blessed Sacrament School in Albany, NY

Throughout October, the Albany Ladies division collected warm blankets and socks for the annual “Socktober” event. Through generous donations, many bags of blankets and socks were donated to the Sidewalk Warriors of Troy, NY, an agency that supports those experiencing poverty in the community through humanitarian assistance by providing necessities for daily living.

On Friday, November 17, the Albany AOH and LAOH honored LAOH National President Marilyn Madigan with the Fr. John Murphy Award during the annual Freedom for All Ireland event. Relatives for Justice CEO Mark Thompson provided the Keynote Address. The event was well attended and included representatives from local, county, state, national, and international Hibernian divisions.



Award presentation by Albany AOH Chairman John Levindosky and Albany LAOH Chairlady Dolores Desch

On December 2, the Albany LAOH and LAOH Juniors Division held an annual Installation Dinner where board members were sworn in for the next term. A celebratory mass was held before the event, where President Dolores Desch lit the first advent candle to start the holy season. The ladies were sworn in by State Board Treasurer Cathy Turk. At the event, division members with children in the military were honored with a “Blue Star Mothers” award.



Albany LAOH “Blue Star Mothers” Anne Kelly, Elissa O’Reilly, Kathleen Stevens, and Rosalyn Adair

On December 13, the Division collected money for the Columban Sisters at our annual Christmas Party. It was a wonderful evening filled with joy and merriment as we shared a meal and celebrated our sisterhood.



On December 10 the Albany Junior LAOH Division assisted in hosting a Children’s Christmas Party for all of the Albany AOH and LAOH families. The kids had a wonderful day and the Juniors kept everyone busy with crafts and activities. They even helped Santa and his Elf hand out gifts.





Albany Junior LAOH Members with Santa and his Elf

At the final division meeting of the year, the Albany Ladies voted to make monetary donations to several charitable organizations in the Capital Region who serve the poor, homeless, and local refugee populations in need. These agencies include Family Promise of the Capital Region, Refugee & Immigrant Support Services of Emmaus, Inc., and Sidewalk Warriors of Troy, Inc.

Watervliet Division #3



Newly Installed Officers: (Left to right) Trish Ellsworth, Kim Muller, Kathy McGrath, Melissa Carrow, Denise White, Deb Ryan McMahon, Rosemary "Babe" Scully, Michelle DeLeon and seated Mary "Sissy" Durkee and president-elect Trish Halligan.



Vice President Kathleen Stevens presenting a monetary donation check to Fr. Francis O'Connor in support of the work at Family Promise of the Capital Region.

Monroe County

Rochester Divisions # 1 & #4

Fall began on a sad note for us. Long time member and friend, Anne Kelly went to our Lord on October 24. She was 96. Anne was predeceased by her Husband of 50 years, Robert. She is survived by her children Sean, Patricia and Paul and granddaughter Olivia. She is also survived by many cousins, nieces, nephews and friends around the world. Her gentle voice (she never lost her brogue!), steady demeanor and wealth of knowledge will be sorely missed.

Anne and Husband Robert emigrated to the United States in 1949 from Roscommon and settled in Rochester, NY.

Anne was a 70 year (!) member of the Ladies Ancient of Hibernians where she held many offices throughout the years including President. Anne was a proud Gaelic speaker and owner of a Fainne. Anne's proud dedication to the Irish community was well known. She was co-

founder of The Irish American Institute and the Colonel Patrick O'Rorke Society.

Then in December we lost long time member Frances O'Brien. Frances passed on December 2nd at the age of 99. She was predeceased by her parents and siblings. She was one of eight children! She dedicated her life in the service of others as a Registered Nurse. Frances was a past Division President as well as a County Board Member when we had two divisions.

We once again assisted with the Mary Cariolla Center's Walking on Sunshine fundraiser. The weather cooperated beautifully and blessed us with a nice day despite weather forecasts to the contrary. This event is one of our favorites! Thank you, Pat Crowley, and Theresa Gangemi, for your coordination of our involvement in this annual event.

Our elections were held on November 28th. President-Kelly O'Brien, Vice President-Jeanne Leo, Recording Secretary-Jordan Fritz, Financial Secretary-Kathy Weinmann, treasurer-Theresa Gangemi, Irish Historian-Amy Maher, Missions and Charities-Patty Flanigan, Catholic Action-Colleen Reagan, Mistress At Arms-Sandy Foley, Sentinel-Pat Crowley. Congratulations to all!

November 29th was a busy day for our Division! We started the afternoon by making and serving dinner at Bethany House in the City of Rochester. Bethany House is A Catholic Worker House of Hospitality. Catholic Worker Houses were started by St Dorothy Day and Peter Maurin to help people live a Christlike life of justice and charity. The services at Bethany House are free. They provide temporary housing for woman and children who find themselves homeless due to domestic violence, poverty mental or physical health issues or addiction. Thank you, Kathy Weinmann, for setting this up for our group. Immediately following the dinner we held our annual Mass for Deceased Members jointly with our AOH brothers. Mass was celebrated at Our Lady of Lourdes Church followed by a reception in the hall there.

For many years now we have worked with Catholic Charities and their efforts to bring Christmas to local families who might not otherwise be able to do so. We again sponsored two families. Thank you, Debbie Rossi,

for coordinating our efforts by being the contact person with Catholic Charities, sending out the gifts lists and delivering our donations.

On December 23rd we attended Stand for Life at which we sponsored the coffee and doughnuts. Stand for Life participants peacefully gather at the local Planned Parenthood where they say the rosary, pray and, in this instance, sing Christmas Carols. The group meets, year-round, on the last Saturday of the month. Despite the cold and rainy weather, we had about 100 people attend.

Work has started for the annual Ambassador to Waterford essay competition. This scholarship opportunity has evolved over many years. Our local AOH will now be providing the scholarship money. The LAOH sends out information to local schools, gathers entries to review, interviews candidates and then selects the winner. It's a learning experience for all of us and a wonderful way to encourage high school students to appreciate their Irish heritage while furthering their education.

Our Installation Dinner and New Year's brunch are upcoming.

Rochester
Division 1 and 4
St Brigid
1911

Laohrochester.com
President@laohrochester.com





Orange County

Division #6

Division 6 hosted the LAOH State meeting on November 4 at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel in Middletown, NY.

Our member, Janice Reynolds, was honored for her selfless work as a police officer at Ground Zero September 2001 and as a nurse during the pandemic after leaving the police force.

Janice Reynolds of LAOH Division 6 was born in Queens, NY and started working as a Police Officer in 1989 for the New York Police Department where she served for 21 years before retiring as a Lieutenant. After retirement, she went to nursing school to become a Registered Nurse, was remarried to a wonderful man, gained 2 stepchildren, and together had a beautiful daughter. They relocated to Melbourne, FL in 2017. She proudly served with the Melbourne PD before going over the causeway to Indian Harbour Beach PD where she was a corporeal for 2 years, then the pandemic hit! Feeling guilty about not being in the medical field during the crisis and after reaching a pinnacle in her law enforcement career, she hung up her badge and went back to nursing and is currently working at Healthfirst Viera in the Ortho Joint Center as a medical surgical nurse.

Within her 21 years as a NY Police Officer, she was there when one of the most horrific events in the United States

happened, 09/11. At that time, she was a Sergeant in the 83rd Precinct in Brooklyn.

When she arrived at the 83rd Precinct everything was down, no phones and no radio contact. It was feared all their upper command staff were dead. They could see all the smoke, both towers were gone, they knew those working that morning were already dispatched to go there, but there was radio silence. Luckily, they were all at the scene and alive. Janice and other patrol officers made it to what we now refer to as “Ground Zero” later that evening. A designated ‘crime scene’, they were trying to keep as many people out as possible. Their job was to protect the perimeter. It started out as a rescue and recovery mission and then switched to just recovery. She admits though, those working the perimeter, it was hard to just stand there and not dig, so they dug!

Over the course of the next 2-1/2 months, she and her ex-husband were among those that went in on their days off. They would work the ‘bucket brigade’ for 13-14 hours a day, come home too exhausted to even shower, sleep a few hours and then go back. These bucket lines were set up as long assembly lines. Buckets traveled down the lines, and they were being filled up. It was a long tedious process that wasn’t taken lightly. During the next 2 months, Janice was appreciative of her in-laws and neighbors who helped care for her 4 dogs while she worked those long shifts both on duty and as a volunteer.

Janice is truly a real-life superhero and Division 6 is very proud to call her our sister.

We also welcomed two new members, Kerry Baird and Theresa Conlon, on October 7 and held our Christmas party and drew the winners of our holiday raffle on December 16.



Queens County

Breezy Point

At our November meeting, sisters brought in donations for

- 1) Local food Pantry - St Rose of Lima
- 2) Hats, gloves, socks, blankets for Veterans at The Brooklyn Veterans Hospital

Our Annual Christmas Brunch was held on Sunday, December 17th at Kennedy's Restaurant in Breezy Point. - A good time was had by all.



Richmond County

Division #4

Over the Summer, members attended the County Board fundraiser on June 24th, held at the Stone House Cafe, which raised money for breast cancer awareness and research.

We welcomed our members back from our summer break at our September meeting and reviewed upcoming events:

Our Division Fundraiser on October 27th is Left, Right, Center - a fun dice game of chance where the last one with chips is the winner! Members will meet at Joyce's Tavern in S.I.

The Annual Eden II Dinner Dance Fundraiser (November 18th) is back for its' 25th year, after a 3-year hiatus! Treasurer Ann Clark runs this event, with the help of many of our members. It supports Eden II, which "strives to provide the maximum help possible to the autism community through education, adult day programs, residential care, family support, respite, and a number of other services."

We also discussed restarting our 4+4 Fundraiser, which helps S.I. families with financial assistance to help support a child who suffers from a medical condition.

Members were encouraged to watch the PBS documentary, Once Upon a Time in Northern Ireland - The Troubles, to gain new insights on how it affected those who lived through it.



Rockland County

Pearl River

Hello and Happy New Year!
Division 3 has been busy!!

1. Our Juke Box Bingo fundraiser held on November 3rd was a rousing success! Everyone had a grand time!
2. Adopt a Grandparent was our Catholic Action Officer Tara Hooker idea. We collected socks, hand cream, candy canes and fleece blankets along Christmas cards, that were distributed to local seniors and veterans.
3. Our Annual Christmas Party was well attended by our members.





In closing, President Koraca congratulated the newly installed officers and thanked the membership for always stepping up so that Division 11 is able to continue promoting our Irishness and provide support and comfort to others.



Suffolk County

Division #7

[New folder\Division 7 Q4 SBC.pdf](#)

Westchester County

Tarrytown

On December 11th Division 11 of Tarrytown, NY held the installation of officers for 2024 at their annual Christmas party in the Transfiguration Church meeting room attended by Pastor Francis. Following the installation President Alice Geissler Koraca greeted the guests and gave a brief synopsis of the past year's activities and charities. Due to a very successful Spring fundraiser the Division was able to continue its support of the WFUV radio station, the Humanitarian Fundraisers for Hawaii and the Middle East, clothing for the Upstate Catholic Charities Organization, Columban Fathers, Columban Sisters, SOAR, FFAI, Project St. Patrick, Transfiguration Church and its twinning parish in Soyapango, South America. Awards in the name of Marion Smith and Kitty Geissler were presented at graduation to two outstanding graduates from the Church of the Transfiguration School.

In honor of Irish Heritage Month the Warner Library was host to a display in their lobby provided by Division 11. In November a mass was offered in memory of our deceased members.



SAVE THE DATE

**New York State LAOH/AOH
Spring Board Meeting
May 3 -5th, 2024
East Durham, NY**

More Details to Follow

National Convention



Website

https://orlandoirish2024.com/?fbclid=IwAR2vXf06tbg0K7512psSk20VXvG0djFeEAQojv8Y5USfLvHz-EYy_PstMDk

Registration / Package

[..\..\..\National Convention\2024 Orlando\Package Registration \(1\).pdf](..\..\..\National Convention\2024 Orlando\Package Registration (1).pdf)

Journal Ad

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