

**LAOH NYS ‘General’ Meeting ---FINAL**  
Saturday, May 4, 2024  
Gavins Irish Country Inn  
118 Golden Hill Road, Cornwallville, NY 12418

President Regina Begley called the General Membership meeting to order at 10:00 AM in Ritualistic Form. The Pledge of Allegiance was said by all in attendance.

Welcome by President Begley who stated Delegates will be seated in a separate section of the meeting room; Observers will be seated separately and will not have a voice or vote.

Roll Call: by Secretary JoAnn Gundersen:

President Regina Begley

Vice President Therese Meyer

Secretary JoAnn Gundersen

Treasurer Mary Durkee

Irish Historian Teresa Kearns

Missions & Charities Maura McSweeney

Catholic Action Patricia Moynihan

Imm. Past President Agnes O’Leary

Chaplain Sr. Virginia Lake

Auditor Christina Parisi

Public Relations/Social Media Ann Pirock

Immigration and Education Maureen Caffrey

Freedom for All Ireland Joan Moore

*Roll Call (continued), May 4, 2024)*

Webmaster Kimberly Clancy

Scrapbook Chair Carolyn McGillicuddy

Fundraising Chair Sheila Zeineth

Military & Veterans Affairs Jeannine Mannarino (excused due to Military Event).

Past St. President Marybeth Durkee

Past St. President Jacqueline Clute

Past St. President Karen Keane

Past St. President Carol McTigue (excused)

Past St. President Denise Sobus

Past St. President Ann Marie Ferguson

Past St. President Margaret Redling (excused).

Past St. President Kathleen Conway (excused).

Past St. President Carol Ann Carley (excused).

Past St. President Rosalie Rairden (deceased 2023).

Past National President Mary Hogan

Past National President Margaret Hennessy

Past National President Mary T. Leathem

### Dignitaries

Immediate Past National President Karen Keane

National Treasurer Cathy Turck

National Freedom For All Ireland Dolores Desch

National Press & Publicity Kim DePeaux

*(LAOH NYS General Meeting, May 4, 2024, continued)*

\*Joan Moore (Rockland) made the MOTION to dispense with the reading of the previous minutes from November 4, 2023, meeting, seconded by Becci Enders (Suffolk) – Motion carried.

Correspondence: None

Presentation of Bills: Mary Durkee, Treasurer, stated the only bill is to pay for the Officers' Rooms for this weekend. Margaret Hennessey (Suffolk) made a MOTION to pay the bills; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Becci Enders (Suffolk). Motion carried.

### Officer & Appointee Reports and Updates

Reports: The Call to Fall State Board Meeting and blank attendance form was sent out April 3, 2024. Officer and Appointee Reports were posted on our website prior to this meeting.

Sr. Virginia Lake/Chaplain: Sr. Virginia thanked everyone for all the great work they have done; it is absolutely amazing. Her report didn't make it to the website; she will now give a short report.

Greetings from Brooklyn

My name is Sister Virginia Lake and I have been a member of the Sisters of St. Joseph, Brentwood, New York for 68 years. For most of those years, I taught math or held administrative roles in schools in the Brooklyn and Rockville Centre dioceses, including 48 years at Bishop Kearney High School. I met wonderful children and their parents. I was privileged to have been asked by Madam President Regina Begley to serve as her chaplain and am slowly learning what that entails. These past years have been a blessing, working with the women in my county and being a part of the work they are doing, to embrace our Catholic faith and spread God's love to all those they meet. Congratulations to JoAnn Gundersen and Father Reid for representing us in the New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade and to all the other members who represented us at their local parades. During this year, I have tried to remember to pray for all of you and your families. So, I donated to the Sisters of St. Joseph Honorary Fund in your names and sent notice of that to Madam President. You will be remembered every day in their prayers and masses this year and I will renew that annually. I also thought about the many times I say the Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory be to the Father at our meetings and don't really pay attention to what I am saying. So now, I am trying to pay attention, remembering all the people who have asked me to pray for them at the beginning prayers and all our deceased friends at the closing. I hope you will join me with this, when you go back to your divisions. Enjoy the meeting. God bless.

President Regina: Regina stated her Report is on the website: [www.laohnys.com](http://www.laohnys.com) . Regina also stated Tom O'Donnell, AOH NYS President and her, signed a contract for our 2025 NYS Convention and she will discuss everything later in this meeting. Regina stated how some divisions may have more members than their delegate count, so they can be shifted around to another division to be a delegate at the Convention.

*Officer & Appointee Reports and Updates (continued), May 4, 2024)*

Terry /Vice President: Terry stated her Report is on the website. Thank you to the Juniors and Degree Teams for getting their reports in, on time. Congratulations to Suffolk County, Division 4 who are in the process of starting a new Junior Division. All they have to do is finish the Protecting God's Children training and they will be up and running. Kings County will be holding a Degree on June 9, 2024. PNP Mary Hogan will speak on this event, later. Terry also stated she had previously notified the Junior Coordinators to submit a candidate for Junior of the Year Award for the LAOH National Convention in Florida. The deadline to submit a Junior's name is Thursday, May 23, 2024. If you cannot find the application for this Junior Award, contact Terry and she will send you another form. Thank you for all your cooperation and help.

JoAnn/Secretary:

JoAnn stated her Report is on the website. She thanked everyone for attending today's meeting. She asked everyone to use the microphone because she has to prepare the meeting minutes partly by listing to a voice recording. JoAnn thanked President Regina for purchasing this great audio system. She stated an email was previously sent out to LAOH NYS Presidents and Secretaries to start canvassing their members who are attending the LAOH National Convention, August 4-7, 2024, in Florida, and to email JoAnn the names of all members attending. At the end of this meeting, she will be distributing 25- and 50-year certificates. We have 6 members who will receive 50-year certificates (joined in 1976) and 72 members who will receive 25-year certificates (joined in 1999).

Mary (Sissy) Treasurer: Mary stated her Treasurer's Report is on the website. She thanked all the Counties and Divisions for submitting their 2023 Treasurer reports, and thanked Cathy Turck, LAOH National Treasurer for her patience and understanding. Mary also thanked everyone for all their donations to various charities for the year 2023.

MOTION: President Regina asked for a motion to donate \$100.00 to today's AOH Corn Hole Tournament (to support the Thomas McNabb Scholarship Fund). Motion made by Alice Koraca (Westchester); 2<sup>nd</sup> by Chris O'Reilly (Albany). Motion carried.

*Officer & Appointee Reports and Updates (continued), May 4, 2024)*

Teresa/Irish Historian: Teresa's Report is on the website. She thanked all the Counties and Divisions for completing their 2023 Irish History Reports. Catherine Ryan, Suffolk County, won 1<sup>st</sup> Place – Level II Irish History Contest, from the LAOH National Board. Teresa then presented a \$1,000.00 check and certificate to Patricia Moynihan, Suffolk County President and Patricia Pells, Suffolk County Irish Historian for Catherine Ryan.

Maura/Missions & Charities: Maura stated, “we did it ladies, we stuffed the bus.” If anyone has more donations, the bus is located in the parking lot of the Hardware Store on Rt. 145 opposite the Shamrock House. This donation event was a 50/50 complete collaboration with the AOH. On July 8, 2024, there will be a Golf Outing to support the Patricia Doyle Memorial Fund. Information is in her Report posted on the website. Monies collected for this fund are distributed at our NYS Convention in July 2025. Appeals for Aid money is distributed at the LAOH National Convention in August 2024. If you have extra money in your divisions, please support the Pat Doyle Fund.

Patricia/Catholic Action: Patricia stated her Report is on the website. She thanked everyone for their generosity in donating to Project Saint Patrick, Supporting Our Aging Religious (SOAR) and LAOH National Humanitarian Fund who donated to several different groups last year. LAOH NYS members donated \$14,350.27 to this fund. (The Mass will be at 10:00 AM on Sunday, May 5, 2024, at the Michael J. Quill Irish Centre (Mass Rock). County and Division Catholic Action Officers should be submitting their Reports to Patricia. Information can be found in Patricia's Report on our website, and also on the LAOH National website, under Catholic Action Officer. Patricia made a MOTION to donate \$100.00 to the M. J. Quill Irish Centre (2<sup>nd</sup> by Patricia Rattigan, Suffolk) and \$50.00 for Piper John Gallagher for tomorrow's Mass (2<sup>nd</sup> by Carol Clancy, Suffolk). Motion carried.

*Officer & Appointee Reports and Updates (continued), May 4, 2024)*

Agnes O'Leary/Immediate Past President: Aggie stated her Report is on the website. Chris Brogan will be holding a Golf Tournament in Suffolk County on July 8, 2024. You can play, donate, or attend the dinner. The LAOH NYS Past Presidents are responsible for raising funds for the Patricia Doyle Memorial Fund. There will also be a virtual 50/50. Tickets are \$20.00 each, with 13 prizes (10 - \$100.00; 2 - \$500.00; 1-\$1,000.00). Prizes will be given out once all tickets are sold. Becci Enders will be outside with a spreadsheet for this raffle. The monies collected go back to our local charities through the Patricia Doyle Memorial Fund.

Christina/Auditor: Christina stated her Report is on the website. Audit Report dates are October 1, 2023, to March 31, 2024. Treasury balance as of March 31, 2024, is \$37,061.98. No changes to the Fundraising Report.

\*\* A MOTION was made by Margaret Hennessy (Suffolk) to accept ALL the Reports, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kim DePeaux (Schenectady). Motion carried.

Joan Moore/Freedom For All Ireland (FFAI). Her report is on the website. Joan reported LAOH NYS Board members along with 22 Division donated \$12,030.00, over the past year to FFAI. LAOH National Board distributed these funds in April 2024. The people in Ireland who received these donations were very happy to have this extra money to support all their programs. These programs are listed on the website. Dolores Desch, LAOH National FFAI Chair presented to Deborah Burke, President, Broome County (on behalf of LAOH National President Marilyn Madigan and the FFAI Committee) an Award for Broome County Juniors, who raised over \$1,000.00 over the past two years for FFAI. They were the only NYS Junior Division to donate to FFAI.

Maureen Caffrey/Immigration and Education (I & E). Maureen stated her Report is on the website. She has reached out to Siobhan Dennehy, National I & E Chair, and will forward all information to our members, as soon as she receives any updates.

Jeannine/Military and Veteran Affairs. Jeannine was unable to attend the meeting. She is hosting a Military Event tomorrow (May 5, 2024) and is preparing today for this event. Information on this event is included in her report and is on our website.

*Officer & Appointee Reports and Updates (continued), May 4, 2024)*

Ann Pirock/Public Relations/Social Media. Ann stated her Report is on the website. She thanked all the Counties and Divisions for sending her information to be posted on our Facebook page.

Kim/Webmaster: Kim posted all the Officer and Appointee Reports on our website. Deadlines for the Saint Brigid Connection Newsletter are listed in her Report. Deadline to submit information for the LAOH National Hibernian Herald is June 30, 2024. Kim also stated our website had 300 new hits, and asked everyone to continue viewing our website.

Sheila/Fundraiser: Sheila stated her Report is on the website. There will be a 50/50 raffle after this meeting; \$20.00 per ticket. She is taking new orders for a Denim Shirt, Laptop Bag and Water Bottle, all with the LAOH Logo on it. Contact Sheila if you didn't receive an order form. The deadline for submitting orders is Friday, May 17, 2024.

Carolyn/Scrapbook: Carolyn's Report is on our website. The deadline for submitting pictures for our NYS Scrapbook is Thursday, July 25, 2024. She has to prepare a Scrapbook to bring to the LAOH National Convention. Carolyn asked for pictures to show all the hard work NYS members are doing in their counties and divisions.

Mary Beth Durkee/Past President NYS: LAOH NYS received (401) 2024 Calendars (in November 2023) from the Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH) . The deadline to submit payment to Mary Beth was January 15, 2024. As of May 4, 2024, 18 Calendars are still outstanding (Richmond, Niagara, Broome, Orange, Queens and Onieda). (Cathy Murphy, President, Richmond County, discussed their missing calendars). Mary Beth also stated Counties will be billed \$25.00 for each missing calendar. LAOH NYS received from AOH, \$3,069.79 check for part of the profit from sales of the 2023 calendars.

Jacqueline Clute/Past President NYS; Jackie stated it is nice to see everyone at this meeting. She also asked everyone to stop over at the Shamrock House, they have a lot of fun things to do.

Karen Keane/Past State President: Karen stated Past State President (PSP) is the best job. You only must get through the 4 hard jobs and then move up to PSP. She retired last year from NYS service. Karen also stated Madame President Regina B. is doing a great job.



Denise Sobus/Past State President: Denise said she is happy to be her at this meeting and wished everyone safe travels to everyone.

Anne Marie Ferguson/Past State President: Anne Marie said it is a pleasure to be here with everyone. She asked everyone to continue to support our motto of Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity; it is so important these days with the country in such a turmoil.

Mary T. Leathem/Past National President: Mary said she came to this meeting to have fellowship with everyone. She asks for everyone to stay healthy and continue to pray for our county, for our order, and for everyone who is facing any kind of health concerns.

Mary Hogan/Past National President: Mary said she hopes to see everyone at our LAOH National Convention, August 7-11, 2024, in Orlando, FL. There will be a Degree Ceremony in Brooklyn, NY on June 9, 2024, with the Bridge to Ireland Degree Team. We have already received Degree registration forms. You must pre-register, so Mary knows who is attending the Degree. The hall is limited to 100 people, so it will be on a first come, first serve basis.

Margaret Hennessy/Past National President: Margaret said she is happy to be at the meeting. President Regina is doing a great job. Thank you to the Board for all their hard work.

Cathy Turck, National Treasurer (NY): Cathy said hello to everyone at the meeting.

Unfinished Business

2025 LAOH NYS Convention: President Regina stated the LAOH NYS Convention will be held at the Woodcliff Hotel and Spa, Fairport, NY on July 17, 18, 19, 2025. Regina and Tom O'Donnell, NYS AOH President, recently signed the contract. Room rates: \$169.00 (Standard Room) and \$179.00 (Deluxe Room-Cliffside). 10 % off Spa. 15% off Golf Course Green Fees and Cart rental. Regina is trying to get a cash bar instead of an open bar; she will discuss further with Tom O'Donnell. \*We cannot bring any homemade dips into the resort\* Dinner price to be determined (TBD). Thursday-Ice Breaker, Friday-Free Day, Saturday-Installation Banquet. Hospitality Room-no rental fee. Free Shuttle Van up to 3 miles from the hotel. Regina will be sending out more information in the near future. Lillian Murphy (Rockland) will be Convention Chairperson, assisted by Kelly O'Brien, President, Division 1&4, Monroe County, NY.

2024 LAOH National Convention: We will be donating one gift basket at the National Convention in August 2024. *This was voted on at the Officer Zoom Meeting on April 30, 2024.* Regina asked for all Counties and Divisions to send Gift Cards to Sheila Zenith, NYS Fundraiser.

2024 LAOH National Convention (Proposed Constitution Changes): President Regina received (7) written responses to the proposed changes. Regina read the comments received: There was overwhelming opposition in changing the Pronouns, and also changing Practicing Catholic to Catholic; *keeping Practicing Catholic in the Constitution can ensure members are living by the moral code of the Catholic Church.* National Officers should have to make their Degree. We now have a Travelling Degree Team that can perform Degrees in States where there is no Degree Teams. Regina stated she also received opposition to the proposed change on the religious observance of the Feast of the Holy Innocents.

2024 LAOH National Convention (Proposed Constitution Changes – continued):

President Regina asked members if they had any questions regarding these Proposed Changes. A lengthy discussing ensued from the following members on the Proposed Changes (PNP Mary T. Leathem, Immediate PNP Karen Keane, PSP Agnes O’Leary, Peggy Brennan Flynn (Westchester), PSP Mary Beth Durkee, Gayle Shalvoy (Monroe), Cathy Turck (Schenectady-National Treasurer-NY), Sr. Virginia Lake. \*Cathy Turck stated ALL members going to the National Convention should attend the Convention Zoom Meetings (prior to Convention) to have a voice and vote on the Proposed Changes to the National Constitution\*. ^IPNP Karen Keane stated 51% of the Constitution Committee Members must approve or disapprove the changes for them to be brought to the National Convention ‘floor’ for a vote. 2/3 of the seating delegates at Convention must approve the Constitution changes. Request for Constitution changes cannot be modified at the National Convention. (PNP Mary T. Leathem stated members have the right to vote any report ‘down’; or the whole entire report down at Convention).

Memorial for the Nuns of the Battlefield Memorial – 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary: President Regina read a letter from National President Marilyn Madigan regarding the Memorial for the Nuns of the Battlefield – 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary scheduled for September 21, 2024. President Regina had previously forwarded this letter to all Presidents. More information will follow. PSP Agnes O’Leary made a MOTION to pay the expenses for President Regina Begley to attend the Memorial for the Nuns of the Battlefield and represent LAOH NYS; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kim Clancy (Albany). Motion carried. PNP Mary Hogan made a MOTION to cover the expenses of our LAOH NYS Chaplain, Sister Virginia Lake who is from the Order, to attend the Memorial Event with NYS President Regina Begley; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Becci Enders (Suffolk). Motion carried.

Project Children - Guest Speaker, Imm.Past President Noreen Ryan, Westchester Division 19:

Highlights of Noreen’s speech.

- Project Children is working with Aisling Irish Community Center to relocate archives to County Monahan, Ireland.

*Project Children (continued) May 4, 2024*

- Project Children started in 1975 and has benefited 23,000 children from this program by bringing Protestant and Catholic children to the United States for 6 weeks in the summer.
- October 2025 is Project Children's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and they are announcing the move of their Archives to a permanent home in County Monahan, at the Monahan Peace Campus.
- Project Children has asked Noreen Ryan to be one of the Ambassadors and to meet with the LAOH because they want us to have a seat at the table for Project Children.
- There will be a final picnic and 5-K at the Rockland GAA on October 20, 2024, 10:00 AM. LAOH is invited to attend this event.
- Project Children is asking for our financial support in the movement of the Archives.
- Thank you for the \$250.00 donation from the LAOH NYS Board.
- Dennis Mulcahy is the co-founder of Project Children.
  
- By-Law Committee: President Regina set up a committee to review and suggest changes, if needed, to our NYS By Laws. The committee will meet after the 2024 National Convention. PSP Mary Beth Durkee will Chair the committee. Members will also be > Patricia (Patti) Mahoney (Niagara), Maureen Caffrey (Nassau), Suzanne (Sue) Messina (Broome), and Jacqueline Clute (Schenectady).

Columban Sisters 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary:

Kathy McLuckie (Erie) stated Sister Corona, Columbian Sisters will be celebrating their 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on September 29, 2024. Sr. Corona will be attending the LAOH National Convention. The Columban Sisters live in old buildings, and they are supporting seniors in these buildings.

50 Year Anniversary Certificates:

President Regina announced the recipients of the 50 Year Anniversary Certificates: Ann Dent (Suffolk, Division 2); Dorothy Dunn (Suffolk, Division 8/9); Brigid Essl (Suffolk, Division 2); Frances Fesefeldt (Nassau, Division 15); Monica O'Connor (Nassau, Division 15); Marie Powers (Chemung, Division 1).

Change to National Constitution from Kings County: PNP Mary Hogan stated your sisters in Kings County voted on proposed amendment change to the Constitution. They are asking for our members' approval of this change. Article IV – National Life Membership Section D currently reads: The National Board by a 2/3 vote will award a maximum of (5) National Life Memberships per year. We would like it changed to: The National Board by a majority vote will award a maximum of (5) National Life Memberships per year. The reason is because we are getting more applications per year. Last year only (3) memberships were awarded because of the 2/3 vote by the National Board. (A discussion followed with PSP Agnes O'Leary, PNP Mary Hogan and Immediate PNP Karen Keane regarding this proposed Amendment). Proposed Amendment change was voted on and passed by the membership.

Good and Welfare:

Cathy Turck (National Treasurer (NY) stated New York and Pennsylvania will be sharing a Hospitality Room at the National Convention. AOH Tom Lambert for National Director; AOH Liam McNabb for National Vice President and LAOH Cathy Turck for National Treasurer. There is an ongoing virtual \$20.00 per ticket fundraiser for this event. The winner will receive \$5,000.00 based on the Florida Lotto 3-digit evening number on Friday, August 9, 2024. Information is posted on the Pennsylvania AOH website.

Rose of Tralee:

Anne Marie Mulholland, President, LAOH Orange County spoke of the Rose of Tralee event on June 7, 8, 9, 2024. They will be selecting a NY Rose of Tralee on these dates. The age group for Rose of Tralee contestants is 18-29 years of age. Anne Marie operates the NY Rose of Tralee Center. She is still accepting the application for Rose of Tralee.

*LAOH NYS General Membership Meeting, May 4, 2024 (continued)*

President Regina Begley requested a motion to close the meeting. Motion to adjourn by Pat Rattigan (Suffolk), 2<sup>nd</sup> by Carol Clancy (Suffolk). President Regina closed the meeting at 12:00 PM in Ritualistic Form.

*Respectfully submitted by JoAnn Gundersen, LAOH NYS Secretary (2023-2025).*