

# Lady Hibernian Herald

Ancient Order of Hibernians - Irish · Catholic · American

August 2021

## President's letter

### Contradictions in Our Daily Life

Over the past two articles, I wrote about the meaning of what the Catholic Pro-Life position includes (gun control, mental health, elder care, abortion, capital punishment, immigration, etc.) and have met with many in agreement with educating all our members of the true meaning of Catholic Pro-Life. Others remain steadfast that Pro-Life is 99.99% anti-abortion and that inclusive of these other issues is misleading or watering down Our Church's position. To those I say, please educate yourself and become a full Pro Life Catholic.

Also, through these "discussions" I have learned that some people consider getting the vaccine to be against Our Church's teaching. Some believe that the vaccine, being possibly made from science including the use of aborted fetuses, is against Our Church's teaches. Sorry to let you know that in January, the Church clearly stated that the vaccine was acceptable to receive as Catholics. Getting the Vaccine can save your life, as well as others in your community. Aren't those lives worth saving?

The other big contradiction I am personally struggling with is the people saying, "I'm an American, No one can make me wear a mask!" I guess for them being American comes first, then being a Catholic is second. That was not what the nuns taught me. Catholic First-American Second was their line. People are calling for the right to own assault rifles because it is their right as an American citizen but fighting to take rights away from others because they do not agree with their choice. I am confident I will be misquoted here but fighting to take away a woman's right to choose, does not seem to cross many minds. If a woman cannot have the right to health decisions including her own body because she may decide to kill her child; why aren't we fighting to have the right to own assault weapons taken away. Please understand that I have never had an abortion; that I have helped others make the decision to keep their child; that I cared for and supported such child for 10 years after his birth; and genuinely believe that it is one of the biggest sins of this country. It is the contradiction that I struggle with. How can we proclaim that we are Catholics, and fight for only part of the Church's teaching? It is very hard to be

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an American Catholic or should I say a Catholic in America.

Just some food for thought. Life is truly a struggle and hopefully through prayer I will find an answer.

Karen Keane  
National President  
Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc.



## New LAOH Membership Application

Ladies, we now have a new LAOH Membership Application ready for immediate use. The Membership Committee has been working very hard to update our membership application to make it more enticing and welcoming for new members. This application highlights our membership requirements and outlines several of our most important initiatives and charities that we support. You can find the application on our website: ladiesaoh.com under the "Forms" tab and also under the "Membership" tab. I can also email you a copy

directly, by sending a request to my email [laohnationalmissions@gmail.com](mailto:laohnationalmissions@gmail.com)

I would like to thank the members of the Committee for all their hard work over the past several months: Jennifer Goodman -New Jersey, Marilyn Madigan -Ohio, Carol Sheyer - Ohio, Kathleen Diulus – Pennsylvania, Amanda Bacque -Texas.

The committee is now developing a guidance document for Maintaining and Growing the membership. This document will soon be available to all Divisions.

Stay well,  
Cathy Turck, Membership Committee Chair



Ladies– Please watch for a survey in your email and respond timely, it will be confidential and only take a few minutes. This will help us understand our membership so we can work on growing our order.

## National Convention 2022 update

**NATIONAL CONVENTION CHAIR-  
Kathie Linton**

The 2022 National Convention of the AOH and LAOH will take place in Pittsburgh's Downtown Wyndham Grand Hotel from Tuesday, July 12 through Sunday, July 17, 2022. The Wyndham Grand is located right in the heart of downtown Pittsburgh and is within walking distance of PNC Park, Heinz Field, the Cultural District, numerous restaurants, bars, shopping, casino and other entertainment venues. The hotel has 712 guest rooms, 24 hour fitness center, indoor swimming pool and jacuzzi.

The room rate is \$129.00 plus tax. Check in is at 4:00 p.m. and checkout is noon. This room rate is good for three days prior to the Convention and three days after the Convention. Valet parking is \$35.00 per day. There is a parking lot near the hotel and parking is \$25.00 per day. The Pittsburgh airport is located 17 miles from the hotel. A package price has not yet been established. The

package will include the Icebreaker on Wednesday, July 13, Irish Night on Friday, July 15, and the closing banquet on Saturday, July 16.

Due to the National Convention being virtual in 2020, the Constitution Committee did not meet. As such, it will be necessary for the Constitution Committee to meet for two days prior to the opening of the Convention. This is due to the anticipated number of proposed changes. Please make note that this is NOT a Constitution Convention. This committee is tentatively scheduled to meet at noon on July 12 and 13.

The local committee, under the direction of Denny Maher and Eileen O'Malley, has been working diligently to make your stay in the "Steel City" memorable. A fun fact is that Pittsburgh is also known as the "City of Bridges" with 466 bridges. Pittsburgh has more bridges than any other city in the world! More details to follow. Looking forward to seeing "yinze" in Pittsburgh for the 2022 National Convention!

**Office of the National Irish Historian  
Mary T. Leathem**

Recently, I had the opportunity to participate in National History Day, virtually. The LAOH and AOH have a special prize under the category title of Irish and Irish America. I was fortunate to be the first LAOH Historian to attend this wonderful program in College Park, Maryland at the University of Maryland many years, ago.

Students from across our great nation from every state participate in local and State judging before ever reaching presentation at National History Day. The students are provided with the contest theme and encouraged to use their creativity to bring the theme to life. This year's theme was "Communication in History: The key to understanding.

Michael McCormack has been a main stay in keeping the AOH and the LAOH involved in this wonderful program. The judges from each of organizations work together judging those submitted projects that apply to our award. Working on this project creates a real sense of comradery with all those involved even with many diverse opinions. The judges this year in addition to Mike were Dan Taylor, AOH Irish Historian, Mary Hogan, PNP, Marilyn Madigan, National Vice President, Gail Dapolito, National Political Education appointee, and myself.

The First Place Award of \$2000.00 was presented to the project entitled, **The Rambling House, How Irish Storytellers communicated to Preserve and Understand Culture.** Student performers were Callie McCall, Katherine Grady, Katy Sue Malt, Landon Pierron and Lillian Riddle. The Second Place Award of \$1500.00 was a group website on **John Boyle O'Reilly: Virtuoso of Communicator of Justice** by Evan McCrackin, Justin Yang, and Shoaib Jamil. These students had been through the local and state levels to reach National History Day participation. Their work ethic as well as enthusiasm was very evident.

## **LAOH National Political Education Committee**

Sisters,

The mission of the LAOH National Political Education Committee (PEC) is to educate LAOH members on social justice issues. The PEC shares information on our Facebook page from many

The National History Day theme for 2022 is Debate & Diplomacy in History: Successes, Failures, Consequences.

Please remember the theme for our History Contest 2021-2022 is **The 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Hunger Strike 1981: What was the impact on Irish History.** We will accept entries about any person, event or structure that has to do with the topic. Our Grades 6 through 8 may be encouraged to do a study on one of the hunger strikers due to the intensity of the topic.

**Office of the National Secretary  
Mary Ann Lubinsky**

We are finally coming out of our COVID shells and starting to mix and mingle again. It has been a long and tough sixteen months and we may not be 100% in the clear; but hopefully we are well on our way to normalcy. I recently had the fantastic opportunity to attend the Ohio State Convention in Cleveland and the New York State Convention in Syracuse. Thank you to the LAOH of both states for their wonderful hospitality!

The 2020 Membership Reports are finally finished! Thank you to the Secretaries and Financial Secretaries who sent in their complete and correct reports on time! I would also like to thank those who participated in my five Zoom meetings for Secretaries. I will have another one in early August. Before you know it, the 2021 reports will be out, so get ready!

**Like and follow us on Facebook 'National President LAOH', Instagram 'laohnational' and on YouTube 'LAOH National'**

Catholic social justice organizations on issues related to environmental justice, disability rights, racism, and many other social justice concerns. We hope you are following the PEC Facebook page.

**Story continued on next page**

## PEC continued

The PEC recently developed its first position statement on several social justice concerns. This position statement can be found on our web page <https://ladiesaoh.com/political-education/> and on the LAOH National web page <https://ladiesaoh.com>

The Position Statement addresses the PEC views on Environmental Justice, Disability Rights, Gun Control and Racism. The PEC positions are based on Catholic social teaching and government laws. The PEC and the position statements are new endeavors for the LAOH. One goal of the Position Statement is to encourage interest among LAOH members in domestic social justice issues that should concern us as Catholic women. This may seem a vastly different direction for many of our members who are used to viewing the LAOH as strictly concerned with supporting Irish causes and promoting our Irish American heritage. The LAOH under our Motto, “Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,” can do both. We can use our considerable experience, compassion, and strength to promote what is right and just, not only in Ireland but also here in our country.

The PEC is continuing to develop other positions, including on maternal and child health, and homelessness, which we will post to our web page when final. There might be many LAOH members who have expertise with, and are passionate about, a particular social justice concern. The Committee would be interested in hearing from you. Please contact Gail Dapolito, [laohnationalpoliticaledu@gmail.com](mailto:laohnationalpoliticaledu@gmail.com)

## Freedom For All Ireland

**Dolores Desch**

**Christmas Appeal:** The 2020-2021 Christmas Appeal funds will be distributed soon. We are working on setting up a webinar to meet the recipients virtually and disburse the funds. I will send out the details once I have them. I was notified that there are some Christmas Appeal groups who have either not

reapplied or requested that the funds be given to other groups. The LAOH FFAI Committee has met to determine the redistribution of funds in these cases. As a reminder, we collect funds all year round; all funds collected since April 30 of this year will be applied to the 2021-2022 Christmas Appeal. Send your donations directly to me at: 20 Arlene Ave. Albany, NY 12203. Please include the check payable to: LAOH, Inc., the full name of your State, County, Division making the donation and a contact name with email address.

**LAOH Webinar:** In June, I had the honor of hosting the LAOH webinar: *A Conversation with Geraldine Finucane*. As many of you know, Geraldine’s husband Pat was a solicitor in Belfast and was murdered in 1989 in his home in front of Geraldine and their three children. Their daughter Katherine Finucane and Andree Murphy from Relatives for Justice were also on the panel. Although multiple investigations and reports commissioned by the British government have documented evidence of State collusion, Brandon Lewis announced last November that he would not order a full public inquiry. The family continue their fight for truth and justice for Pat. You can watch the Webinar here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c5uTpdXYs3w&t=332s>

**News from the North of Ireland:** The recent announcement by NI Secretary of State Brandon Lewis to deny inquests, inquiries and prosecution of those responsible for conflict related murderers has been met with protest. Hundreds of families on both sides who have been working for decades to uncover the truth behind the killings of their loved ones during the conflict have responded overwhelmingly against this proposal. This is the latest of many attempts by the British government to hide the truth which as we have seen in many cases, most recently the Ballymurphy verdict, exposes the brutality of state agents and the fact that they have operated under the cloak of impunity for decades. SOS Lewis is also proposing granting amnesty to those responsible for conflict related murders. This comes a week after the PPS announced that they would not proceed with prosecution of “Soldier F”, the only soldier charged with two of the murders on Bloody Sunday.

On July 17, I attended the Hibernian Webinar which addressed the Legacy Justice issue. Jacqueline Butler,

## FFAI Continued

daughter of Paddy Butler, a Springhill/Westrock Massacre victim, Steven Travers a survivor of the Miami Showband Massacre, and Martin Mallon, whose aunt Roseann Mallon was one of 17 collusion murder victims killed with the same weapons were the guest speakers. They all told their personal and painful story, the lack of investigation by the police and subsequent investigative teams and the evidence of collusion and coverup by British state agents. Also attending were members of the Irish and Irish American Community as well as political Leaders from America, Ireland and the UK. The families still seeking justice and truth are looking for our help to stop British moves to shut down legacy truth. You can watch the Webinar here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UHK7ARh9o4U>

**Please make sure your Division has an FFAI appointee** who will receive and relay the latest information on the news, issues and programs affecting those living in the north of Ireland. FFAI information is readily available on our national website page and Facebook Page. I am also happy to assist if you need any help. Please like, follow and share our FFAI Page <https://ladiesaoh.com/freedom-for-all-ireland/> which contains updated information as well as FFAI news. **If you are not receiving my emails, please send me your email address.** As always, if you have any questions or would like more information please contact me at [laohnationalffai@gmail.com](mailto:laohnationalffai@gmail.com). Thank you for all of your support for Freedom For All Ireland.

Go raibh maith agat.



Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc.  
National Board

Established 1894

Maire Liffel, Fundraising

[nationallaohrafflechair@gmail.com](mailto:nationallaohrafflechair@gmail.com)

### 2020-2021 WINNERS:

Thanksgiving	457	Irish Missionaries	Medina, OH
Christmas	114	Sharon Karrass	Meriden, CT
Jan 4 <sup>th</sup> , 2021	679	Trish Conley	Bethel Park, PA
Jan 11 <sup>th</sup> , 2021	358	LAOH Div. 1	Niagara Falls, NY
Jan 18 <sup>th</sup> , 2021	372	LAOH Div. 5	Orange, NY
Jan 25 <sup>th</sup> , 2021	633	Rick Guyre	Florence, NJ
Feb 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2021	303	LAOH Div. 4	Union, NJ
Feb 8 <sup>th</sup> , 2021	675	Helen Rafferty	Pittsburgh, PA
Feb 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2021	159	Frances K. Farragher	Peoria Hts., IL
Feb 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 2021	622	Jim Kilbane	Rocky River, OH
March 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2021	91	Fr. Ryan Duns	No. Olmsted, OH
March 8 <sup>th</sup> , 2021	492	Maribeth Hanna Long	Lock Haven, PA
March 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2021	55	Maggie Bizon	Cleveland, OH
St. Patrick's Day	31	Diane Suhay	No. Ridgeville, OH
March 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 2021	251	MO. State Board	St. Charles, MO
March 29 <sup>th</sup> , 2021	112	Holly Oaks	Ocean Grove, NJ
April 5 <sup>th</sup> , 2021	757	Nora Hayes	Wallingford, CT
April 12 <sup>th</sup> , 2021	343	Maureen Caffrey	Massapequa Park, NY
April 19 <sup>th</sup> , 2021	296	Denise McInerney	Bayville, NJ
April 26 <sup>th</sup> , 2021	565	Kathleen Bacque	Austin, TX
May 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2021	410	LAOH Div. 2	Babylon, NY
May 10 <sup>th</sup> , 2021	616	Patricia O'Malley	Olmsted Falls, OH
May 17 <sup>th</sup> , 2021	195	Patricia Zaccari	Phoenix, MD
May 24 <sup>th</sup> , 2021	773	Nicole Skubal	Pittsburgh, PA
May 31 <sup>st</sup> , 2021	219	Joyce Burgess	Lowell, MA
June 7 <sup>th</sup> , 2021	647	Pat Fitzgerald	Omaha, NE
June 14 <sup>th</sup> , 2021	296	Denise McInerney	Bayville, NJ
June 21 <sup>st</sup> , 2021	392	LAOH Div. 2	Staten Island, NY
June 28 <sup>th</sup> , 2021	726	LAOH Div. 1	Melbourne, FL
4 <sup>th</sup> of July, 2021 Grand Prize	141	Ann Irwin	Clearwater, FL

**Tickets for the 2021-2022 are here, mailings will be going out in early August. Please support this campaign and Good Luck!**



Gabriel Ramirez, Simi Valley California.

Winner of the Irish History Essay Contest 2021 at the High school level.

## State News

### Montana

The Anaconda LAOH Division 1 in Anaconda, Montana, annually raffles an Irish quilt on St. Patrick's Day, with the proceeds going to a local charity. This year was the 24<sup>th</sup> consecutive year for the raffle, since Eileen Shea, a member of the division, first suggested it for the purpose of raising funds for our charitable giving. Every year a substantial amount of money is raised.

Project Care, the local food bank was the recipient of \$3,876 this year which was presented to Phil Masters by Rosemarie McLean. She and Kathy Conlon were co-chairs for the fund raiser.

The winner of the quilt, titled, "Love Thy Neighbor," was Cristy Valla, an LAOH sister from Hamilton, Montana.



Rosemarie McLean presenting the check to Phil Masters



### Memorial Day: Remembering Those Who Served

Both the AOH and LAOH of Anaconda Division 1 joined the local Anaconda veterans' organizations in laying wreaths at the newly erected Vietnam Memorial in Kennedy Common. The AOH wreath bearer was Hendrix Fehrer, and his sister, Drew Fehrer. Their mother is Amanda Fehrer and their grandmother is Judy Blaz, both members of the Anaconda LAOH Division.



### Pennsylvania

National Secretary Mary Ann Lubinsky is Administrative Assistant at St. Clare of Assisi Parish in Saint Clair, PA. In April they had a visit from two previous Diocese of Allentown Summer Seminarians. While they were there, Mary Ann realized that they had both been recipients of recent Project St. Patrick grants. Left is 2020 Summer Seminarian James Ngô Hy and right is 2019 Summer Seminarian Keaton Eidle. There were three other seminarians from the Diocese of Allentown who received awards, Chuan Trinh, Aaron R. Scheidel, and Miguel Ramirez. All these young men are very appreciative of the grants that they received from Project St. Patrick.

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Shown left to right James Ngô Hy, Maryann Lubinsky and Keaton Eidle.

Members of the Pennsylvania LAOH State Board and members of Berks, Lackawanna, Luzerne, and Schuylkill Counties attended the Funeral Mass of Claire Karpowich on June 5 in Freeland, PA. Claire was a member of Luzerne Division #1, a Past PA State President, and had also been Publicity Chairperson for the National Board 2006-2008.

## Illinois

The St. Clair County Division 1 members celebrated 65-year member Betty Louise Martz at the annual Summer Social. Betty, who is a National Life Member, is pictured with her the National Proclamation honoring her 65 years of service and dedication to our organization. Also pictured with Betty are Hibernian members of her family, Marcia Gehlhausen, Sr. John Baricevic and Ann Barnum.



In other news, the Illinois State convention will be held in late September at The National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows in Belleville, Illinois. An in-person convention is planned.

## MICHIGAN

It is with a heavy heart that we mourn the loss of our Hibernian sister, Mary O'Connell. Mary was born in Detroit, the daughter of Patrick and Catherine Boland, both Irish immigrants. She was married to the late Daniel O'Connell and dedicated mother to Daniel and Catherine. Mary was proud of her Irish heritage and was known throughout the Irish Community. When she marched in the St. Patrick's Day Parade, spectators would call a greeting to her as she walked by.

She was a lifetime member of the LAOH, a charter member of the Rose Kennedy Division, which started in 1968, in Wayne County, and a charter member of the St. Brigid Degree Team.

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From left: Kathy Varady, Berks #2, State Freedom for All Ireland; Mary Ellen Dooley, Luzerne #1; JoAnne Recke, Berks #2; Maureen Lavelle, Luzerne #1, Past State President; Kate Angerson, Luzerne #1, Past State President; Alice Henry, Schuylkill #2, Past State President; Bonnie Collins, Berks #1, Past State President; Mary Ann Amesbury, Luzerne #1, State President; Carole Cooney-Syzdek, Schuylkill #2, State Catholic Action; Sister Kathleen Smith, RSM, Lackawanna #3, State Chaplain; Sue Cosgrove, Luzerne #1; Dot Crowley, Lackawanna #3, County president; Mary Ann Lubinsky, Schuylkill #2, National Secretary, Past State President.

## State News continued

Mary was the Hibernian Women of the Year in 2011. She was her Division President and held every office in her Division, as well as being State President and other State Board positions; some more than once. She also served as an LAOH National Appointee. For many years Mary was on the Building Corporation of the AOH Hall in Redford, MI. She was also a member of the Daughters of Erin.

Mary was always willing to help on any committee and at every event, whether in the kitchen, setting up, cleaning up or wherever needed. She rarely missed a meeting, or a social event. She attending every State Convention and numerous National Conventions in her 53 years as a Hibernian. Mary greeted everyone; always taking an interest in you and making you feel welcome.

Mary was a registered nurse from 1956 until 1997, taking time off to raise her son and daughter. When she “retired” in 1997, she volunteered at the St. Frances Cabrini Clinic at Most Holy Trinity Church in Corktown, Detroit until the time of her death. There she served the poor with the same gracious manner she showed everyone.

Saying the rosary at the Rose Kennedy meeting without her was difficult and sad. Mary truly was one of a kind, and will be deeply missed. May her soul rest in peace. Amen.



Pictured are some of the members of the Rose Kennedy Division, Wayne County Michigan following the May Crowning at their monthly meeting.



Following the business meeting members of the Rose Kennedy Division made fleece blankets for a Christian Service Project called “Fleece and Thank You.” This program not only provides a colorful fleece blanket for a seriously ill child, but the person/people making the blanket create a video message with words of encouragement on their phone. The blanket has a “patch” attached which carries the video message with an option for the child or parent to respond to the blanket maker.

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## State News continued

### California

The National membership of the LAOH donated \$1000.00 to the La Habra Life center in

La Habra California. This is a Pro-Life center that helps families in need. With the donation several homemade blankets were donated by the local LAOH division. We truly live up to our Motto when we help those in need.



L to R Shannon from La Habra Life center, accepting the check, Peggy Cornish, (National Catholic Action) and Gail Anderson from the Local LAOH Division 1 in Orange County California.

door for a little shopping. Then off to the Bishop Museum of Science and Nature in Bradenton, FL (a short 10-minute drive). A wonderful facility that offers an All-Digital Planetarium (with shows throughout the day) and the Parker Manatee Rehabilitation Habitat. The museum is full of life like exhibits and offers educational programs. After the museum we drove (2 minutes) to O’Bricks Irish Pub & Martini Bar for some more great food. It was a wonderful day and we even got home before the downpour!



### Maryland

On May 5, Cecil County LAOH Division #1 held its baby shower at the Cecil Pregnancy Center in Elkton, Maryland. 13 members attended and donated hundreds of diapers, cases of baby wipes, and so much more. Some members crocheted beautiful blankets. Division Members were treated to a grand tour of the center and enjoyed refreshments, learned about the services provided, and the women who received these services. They have a newly certified ultrasound technician and a translator on hand. God is truly at work here. Our LAOH sister, Bette Green, is the founder of the center.



### Florida

Some of the Hillsborough Div 1, St Ita ladies enjoyed a fun filled day eating, laughing, fellowship and learning. We started out having breakfast at D’s Breakfast & Burgers in Palmetto, FL. It was a wonderful little restaurant with great food and service. We went to a little boutique that was next-



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## State News continued

### New York

The Kitty Geissler Div. 11, Tarrytown, NY was able to secure a grant for The Mission of the Transfiguration Parish St. Vincent de Paul Society to assist the needy. This is a parish-based ministry that is part of a Catholic lay organization. Through the efforts of Pres. Alice Geissler Koraca and Secretary Alice Droogan the division was awarded a grant from the Patricia Doyle Memorial fund.

The Society relies on monthly donations of food, financial contributions and gifts, however, this year due to the pandemic the resources have been minimal. Because of this generous award the St. Vincent de Paul Society is able to continue its mission to serve the many families in need.

Division 11 and Society coordinator, Dan Nyarady are deeply grateful to The New York State Board and the Patricia Doyle Memorial Grant Committee for considering them for this grant.



From left, Br. Marlon Beharry, Kathleen Cross, Pat Nyarady, Gloria Hofgartner, Dan Nyarady, Alice Geissler Koraca, Fr. Emiel Abalahin, George Hofgartner, Kathleen T. Casey, Joan Lyons Ceconi, Peggy Kraft, Fr. Stephen Hay Tran., Eileen Carey missing.

Allegheny County Division 11 Chaplin Sister Louise Grundish celebrated her 70<sup>th</sup> jubilee with her fellow jubilarians.



L-R Sister Louise Grundish, Sister Kathleen Delaney, Sister Patricia Mary Wilson, Sister Mary Jean Petrarca

Vic Vogel (NYS Past-President) introduced the Suffolk County Division 7 Junior Girls to the new Irish Heritage Room at the East Islip Public Library. Vic explained that with the help of Kathleen Ring and a newly formed committee of Division 7 members, it grew to become the Irish Heritage Room. The room includes: a collection of historical Irish fiction and non-fiction, Irish China, Waterford Crystal, Irish artifacts, pictures of Ireland's countryside, comfortable seating, Irish music CD's as well as past and current Irish newspapers. The Irish Cultural Collection is the only such collection in the New York State Public Library System and is maintained by donations. The room is open to the public and all books can be borrowed by those with library cards.



Standing (Vic Vogel) Sitting (Hailey, Norah, Anna)

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## State News continued

NYS Suffolk County AOH-LAOH Division 7 congratulates their very own, Kerri Davis (Junior Girls Past-President) as the **2021 Junior Hibernian of the Year**. Kerri is the daughter of members Margaret (who has held many officer positions over many years) and Tom (a long time member of our Division who served in all chairs before serving as AOH President.)

Kerri continues to demonstrate strong leadership skills and serves as a mentor and role model to our Jr. Girls. She visits the girls as often as she can, as she just completed her first year of college. And, being the over-achiever that Kerri is, she made the Dean's List both semesters, earning a 4.0 this past semester.

Kerri is an exemplary example of a Junior Hibernian. She led the juniors in fundraising efforts which raised \$3000 for the Make-A-Wish Foundation in the last three years. Kerri's list of accomplishments goes on and on. She is absolutely very deserving of this award. Division 7 AOH, LAOH and our Junior Girls are extremely proud of Kerri and would like to thank the NYS LAOH Board for this incredible acknowledgement and continued support of our junior members.



Pictured are: Suffolk County President Sue O'Neill, Suffolk County Immediate Past-President Alice Faughnan, Division 7 President Cathie Norton Doherty, Division & Junior Girl Kerri Davis, Division 7 Vice-President Patty Fitzpatrick, Division 7 Immediate Past-President and Suffolk County Treasurer Madonna Noltz and Division 7 member Margaret Davis (aka proud mom)!



At our recent NYS LAOH Convention, Suffolk County Division 7 was awarded generous donations from the LAOH NYS Appeals for Aid - Patricia Doyle Memorial Grant in the amount of \$1,450 each for three very deserving charities: The Branches Long Island, the L.I.A.M. Foundation, and Hospitality Too Soup Kitchen out of St. Anne's. We are beyond grateful to have the opportunity to support such worthy organizations in this way.



Division 7 President Cathie Norton Doherty and Vice-President Patty Fitzpatrick presented the check to Branches Center Manager Katie Dunphy. Pictured are: Division 7 Vice-President Patty Fitzpatrick, Branches Manager Katie Dunphy and Division 7 President Cathie Norton Doherty.



Division 7 Missions and Charities Officer Chris Brogan presented the check to the L.I.A.M. Foundation. Pictured are: Chris Brogan Division 7 Missions and Charities Officer, Patrick Fawcett- President L.I.A.M. Foundation, Bob Petterson -Vice President L.I.A.M. Foundation, Patrice Virgilio - LAOH Division 7 Member & L.I.A.M. Foundation supporter, along with some L.I.A.M. Mentors.

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## State News continued

The Schenectady LAOH JFK Division 1 received a check for their charity *Street Soldiers Schenectady* at the NYS Convention. These funds help support those in dire need in the city. Meals and pantry items are available for those in need each week. Many of the people who are supported each week are homeless or living far below the poverty line. Since this is a grassroots organization, they receive no funding other than donations. This will go a long way to help support our community.



Left to right; Kim DePeaux, Division president, Maura Furey, founder of Street Soldiers, Schenectady and Cathy Turck, National Missions and Charity Officer

The LAOH Kitty Geissler Div. 11, Tarrytown has submitted an application for a Pat Doyle Grant for the benefit of the Transfiguration St. Vincent DePaul Society. The mission of the Society is to assist those in need regardless of religious affiliation. This is a parish-based ministry that is part of a Catholic lay organization of men and women who, in confidentiality, through person to person contact care for the spiritual health and physical needs of their neighbors.

Div. 11 also participated in the “Transfiguration Raise the Roof” fundraiser by hosting a bake sale and Irish goods basket raffle which provided a generous donation towards a much needed new roof.

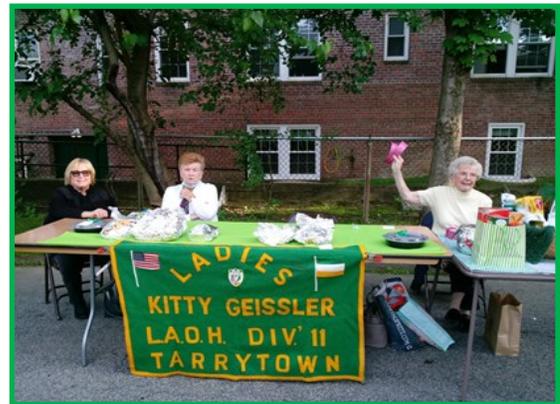
On June 14<sup>th</sup> President Alice Koraca was able to hold the first in-person meeting of the year. The meeting, followed by a picnic lunch, was held at Pierson Park overlooking the scenic Hudson River in Tarrytown.

The annual Marion R. Smith award was presented to a graduate of Transfiguration School who through hard work and consistency has worked to his or her potential. The nominee must perform community

service, be involved in sports and be an academic achiever but not necessarily the best student academically. The annual Kitty Geissler award went to a graduate who best represents our motto of Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity.

Two of our members are looking forward to attending the 62<sup>nd</sup> LAOH New York State Biennial Convention in Syracuse, an incredible testament that speaks to the strength of this Order and of the commitment of Hibernians all across New York State to preserving our Irish history and serving our communities, both at home and in Ireland.

In our motto, Alice Geissler Koraca President, Division 11, Tarrytown, NY, Westchester County



Left to right Mary Geissler Brady, Eileen Carey, Joan Lyons Ceconi



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## State News continued

LAOH Division 15, Nassau County, Long Island, New York prefaced their May meeting with their second annual crowning of the Blessed Mother. Penny Steigler (center) was accompanied by Elaine Galbo (left) and Laurieann DeFilippo as she crowned Our Mother. Members in attendance at the meeting also participated by singing traditional hymns devoted to the Blessed Virgin.



LAOH JFK Division 1 Albany division and junior members and some of the many items donated to Community Maternity Services

### LAOH NYS Marie English Award

It is with great pleasure to bring you news of the winner of the Marie English Award. With a 26% increase in membership, between January 2019 and December 2020, Oswego County - Division 3 - Dean Michael Barry, is the recipient of the NYS Marie English Award. Congratulations ladies on making sure our traditions are carried on.

On Saturday, May 15, 2021, LAOH JFK Division 1 Albany, New York, and its junior division (the Daughters of JFK Division 1 Albany, NY), held a baby shower to benefit Community Maternity Services (CMS). This was the eighth annual baby shower the Albany LAOH hosted to benefit CMS, which is an agency of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Albany.

Organized by the division's Missions and Charities office and with the help of its junior division, the Albany LAOH donated hundreds of clothes, blankets, boxes of diapers, bottles, pacifiers and other baby items to CMS. The division also collected monetary donations and gift cards for CMS.

Community Maternity Services provides a continuum of services for children, families and pregnant and parenting adolescents throughout the Diocese of Albany including care for mothers and their families; group residence and family care for children; prevention services and supports for families at risk; and daycare services, adoption services, foster care services and respite services.

The New York State LAOH /AOH Convention was held in Syracuse July 7-10<sup>th</sup>. All though everyone was unsure we would be able to have an in-person convention, planning meetings were held and the state board worked tirelessly to keep everything moving forward in the hopes that we could have a well-planned in-person convention. Rules of order were established and delegates were assigned to committees. It was a wonderful convention bringing Hibernian Brothers and Sisters together to do the works of our order and to install the newly elected state officers.

The General Session was held Thursday morning followed by Committee Meetings and Casino Night at the hotel. General Sessions were held on Friday followed by the Irish Awards Banquet. Elections were held on Friday during the General Session and there were no challenges

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for any office so the current officers moved up in chairs. The newly slated officers are President Agness O’Leary, Vice President Regina Begly, Secretary Therese Meyer, Treasurer Joann Gunderson, Irish Historian Cathie Norton-Doherty, Missions and Charities Teresa Karens, Catholic Action Mary “Sissy” Durkee and Past President Mary Beth Durkee.

During the General Session on Friday, the Junior Scrapbook and County Scrapbook winners were announced. The winning Junior Scrapbook was awarded to Broome County Junior Girls and the Adult Scrapbook was awarded to Suffolk County Ladies. Congratulations to all!

During Friday evening’s Irish Award Banquet, the Junior Hibernian of the Year was given to Kerri Davis of Division 7 in Suffolk County. Kerri has been a Junior Girl at Division 7 for fourteen of her eighteen years and has set the example to all of our Junior Girls of our Motto of Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity. Kerri is now one of our Ladies and is on the Dean’s List her first year at college. Congratulations Kerri!

The Irish Award Banquet also awarded Cathy Turck with the Mother Theresa Award. Cathy lives our Motto of Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity by living her life by the guiding principles of Our Order. She works tirelessly helping in fundraisers, holding offices in her division, is on the local degree team as well as being a National Board officer. Our sister Cathy is active in her community, helping to make sure that the underprivileged, homeless and senior citizens are taken care of in any way she is able. This is a well-deserved honor and was awarded to a very deserving recipient. Congratulations Cathy!



Left, Cathy Turck with JFK Div 1 President, Kim DePeaux

### Charles Carroll

As Catholics we have two dates to remember when we celebrate the Independence in these Great United States of ours. One day is of course July 4<sup>TH</sup> and the second is August 2<sup>ND</sup>. The reason for this is one signature. The signature that should be of great interest to us is that of Charles Carroll, the only Catholic to sign the Declaration of Independence.

Charles Carroll was born in 1737 in Maryland. While the colony was originally founded as a haven for Catholics, by Carroll’s time Catholics were not allowed to hold office or even vote. (A 1704 statute in Maryland placed these prohibitions into law to “prevent the growth of Popery in this Province.”) He was the richest man in the Colonies which allowed him some freedom that others did not have. He was elected to the Continental Congress on July 4, 1776. The copy of the document with which we are familiar was written in calligraphy and signed by the delegates on August 2, 1776. His signature read “Charles Carroll of Carrollton”. He was a member of the Second Continental Congress, a member of the Maryland State Senate, and the first United States Senator from Maryland. All this after at one time not even being able to vote! He was the last surviving signer of the Declaration of Independence. He died in 1832 at age 95. He was the grandson of an Irish immigrant.

*Congratulations!*