Sisters;

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity of becoming your New York State President of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians Inc., I consider it an honor and privilege to serve YOU as your leader over the next two years.

I have requested my officers (your sisters) on the Board, to send introductory letters to their counterparts on the County and Division levels. Each one telling a little about themselves and their hopes for the coming term in their new positions. In keeping with this may I say….

I have been a member of the LAOH for over 50 years (starting at the age of 19); I’ve served in almost every office from Sentinel to President on both Division and County levels; and fulfilled every State office except Irish Historian on the State Board.

On the personal side:

I’ve been married to my husband Peter (Past AOH State President) for 55 years, we’ve raised 4 sons and 3 daughters, and are Gram and Poppa to 13 grandchildren and have 1 great granddaughter, London. I retired from County government work but work part-time for Aramark for the past 29 years. I’ve been a lifelong member of St. Joseph’s Church in South Troy.

My point in mentioning all the above, is that I am just as human as any of you, I have the same “strings attached” to me. If you ever have a question or need someone to “hear you out”, I will be there! It may take until after dinner for me to be free to really listen, but listen I will, and will help to find a fair solution.

I have no “earth shaking’ plans for my administration, as I said at convention, “we need to treat our Hibernian sisters as we would treat our own blood sisters” with a little kindness and understanding. A little can go a long way.

I have requested Deacon Charles Wojton to be our new Chaplain, and he has accepted. We will be hearing from “Deacon Chuck” at Board meetings and he may also submit articles to our newsletter.

I have appointed Mary Hogan as our Public Relations officer and directed her to revitalize “the St. Brigid Connection” newsletter. Mary will be contacting each County and Division with instructions concerning the time frame for submitting articles and pictures, please get your division involved!

Joan Moore from Rockland County is our new appointee to FFAI, and Jeri Hess from Albany County will chair Immigration and Education. Both of these ladies will be keeping you informed on these important issues, please give them your cooperation!

Kim Clancy from Albany County has accepted the Webmaster position, and she will keep us in the “public eye” on “Facebook and Twitter”. Our members only page will still be password protected and the Presidents will receive the new password to distribute each time it changes.

Mary (Sissy) Durkee has accepted the fund raiser position and is working out plans for the next year events. She will be our co-chair on the annual Hibernian calendar endeavor (our biggest fund raiser) and you will be hearing from her in the near future.

Christina Parisi has agreed to stay on as our auditor and Terry Meyer, Denise Sobus, Regina Begley and Cathy Turck have agreed to act as my counterpart in the four regions of our State, should there be a need for a personal State visit.

On the subject of visit…. I’d love to visit and meet with our members, especially in those areas where we hear very little from the membership and officers (never attend conventions, state board meetings, participate in fund raising, calendar sales etc.). A problem cannot be fixed if I’m not aware there is a problem. Please keep an open mind, I’ll keep an open phone line (518) 274-8448, 9:A.M.—9:P.M. or email [mbdurk7@gmail.com](mailto:mbdurk7@gmail.com).

Our first State Board meeting will be held on Saturday, November 2, 2019 at the Hilton Hotel in Saratoga Springs, N.Y. The price of the hotel room will be $99.00 per night. All information concerning this meeting will be sent to you in the “Official Call” at a later date.

In closing, I would like to repeat Thank You for this opportunity, and if you ever have a question or even a remark, please feel free to contact me at the above number.

I remain sincerely in our motto,

Mary Beth Durkee

LAOH New York State President

*2019-2021*

*New York State Board*

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Deacon Charles Z. Wojton

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*Addresses and phone numbers are available on the website*

*laohnys.com*

*Members Resource Page*