

LAOH NYS General Meeting
Saturday November 6th 2021

10AM

General Meeting

The Meeting opened at 10:08AM with the Ritual led by President Aggie O’Leary	President Aggie O’Leary
OPENING PRAYERS	President Aggie O’Leary
Act of Consecration	Vice President Regina Begley
Prayer for the Unborn	Secretary Terry Meyer
Prayer to St. Michael	Treasurer JoAnn Gundersen
Pledge of Allegiance	Historian Cathie Doherty and all assembled.
Call to Order/Welcome	President Aggie O’Leary

Roll Call conducted by Secretary Terry Meyer (see attached)

Reading of the Minutes – Secretary Terry Meyer

As the minutes of the Convention were distributed by email by the Convention Secretary, Maureen Caffrey, a motion was made and passed to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the 2021 Convention.

Presentation of Bills - Treasurer JoAnn Gundersen

- Bill for computers presented to Terry Meyer which was three separate invoices. One was paid the other two were being sent by Becci to Terry and JoAnn to receive the rest of the payments. This was approved at the convention. Bill for \$270.09 for mailing of the 453 calendars.

Motion made by Mary Durkee to pay the bills. Seconded by Joan Moore. Motion passes and so ordered.

Reading of Correspondence – Secretary Terry Meyer

No written correspondence has been received.

President O’Leary covering additional topics

- Freedom for All Ireland event in Albany for Delores Desch; email has been sent out.
 - She is receiving the 2021 Father Murphy award, doors open at 6pm and event starts at 7pm.
 - Dinner, raffle, and prizes are being held at the Albany Hibernian Hall.
- AOH hosting an event on Friday night—a mass at 530 and then a live band at 7pm which is \$20 per person.
- All Officer Reports are all posted on the NYS AOH website.
- Observers will be allowed to speak at today’s meeting but will not have a vote.
- Karen Keane will be the convention liaison.

OFFICER REPORTS

Vice President

Regina Begley

- Regina thanked everyone for all the calls, texts, messages, emails, gifts she received while she was convalescing. It was quite overwhelming and she is very appreciative of all the prayers and cards she received from both the Ladies and the Men.
- There was one degree held in Suffolk County (Celtic) where 38 candidates received their degree which was a terrific turnout.

Secretary

Terry Meyer

- Please make sure to update emails to send them to the proper email and to lessen the issues with the current email problems. If you have not received certain emails, please notify me and I will try again.

Treasurer

JoAnn Gundersen

Report is on the web.

- One outstanding check for the scrapbook award for the junior's division seven which was \$100 check 1554.
- Balances:
 - Checking \$35834.58 including the outstanding check. True balance was \$34934.58.
- The hotel for Monroe is \$179 +taxes
- Sandy Swift is having a treasury meeting 11/14 at 7pm and would like to invite the county and division treasurers.
 - Sandy sent a report that is going to the county and single divisions and the end of the year report. Deadlines will be reiterated.

Irish Historian

Cathie Doherty

- Report is online and went out by email.

Missions and Charities

Teresa Kearns

- Report is posted.
- National missions and charities sent her the third quarter report.
 - Columbine Sisters \$238
 - Columbine Fathers \$239
 - Mass cards \$285
 - Appeals for Aid \$188
 - National level checks went out 7/2020 to 7/2021 covering the whole county.
 - Totals for the whole United States/National
 - \$11500 Columbine Sisters
 - \$11800 Columbine Fathers
 - Mass Stipends \$9730

Catholic Action

Sissy Durkee

- Report is online and I have the following updates.
In terms of donations, for Q3 we have sent in \$1503.50 for Project St Patrick and also \$50 to SOAR. For the YTD totals ending Sept 30th NY has donated \$3200.50 to Project St. Patrick and \$1150 to SOAR for a total of \$4303.50. For the country, Project St Patrick totals \$8351.50, so that is almost half of the donations coming from NYS. For SOAR the country total is \$3150; again we have \$1150 donated. The country has a total of \$11501.50 and NY's donation is \$4350.50 so again we're kicking it. I Thank you guys for all your donations. My email and home address are on the web and I have some Project St Patrick cards in my possession; thanks to Cathy Turck. I also have some coming from National and I can send them out if you need them. National also has some project St Patrick pins available to celebrate the 25 years of Hibernians support for the vocation, They are a \$10 donation.

Immediate Past President

Mary Beth Durkee

We had a great convention. I have put out my report, The four organizers Aggie appointed, if you need any help those are the people you contact. If you know a division of ladies that want to get started let me know. As for the Bronx, I am not sure; we'd like to get them started, other than that. Have a great day.

Web Master- Saint Brigid's Connection/ Information Technology

Becci Enders

The first thing I want to talk about is emails. Be sure to go in and save the officers as a contact. In two years the same email address will be passed down to the person coming in the office. Until you have everyone as a contact, emails from them may go into spam. If they are added as a contact emails from them should go to your email box and not to spam. They are on the web site, they are in the St. Brigid's connection and the officer reports. I'm a phone call away if you need one.

The St. Brigid's connection - I had a lot of fun doing the newsletter. Everything that was sent to me I made room for it; just send in your articles and pictures. We want to brag about our Sisters, send them to me flood me with it. If I have to make a 50 page newsletter, I will do it. The next one will come out January 15th the deadline is 1/5; that will give me plenty of time to get it done. If you send me a picture, please tell me who is in it and what is going on in the picture. I don't know a lot of you and I want to make sure that it is included. For the website and Facebook, if you want something added please send them to me or fb message me so I can include it. I'll get it posted on there and will get it out as fast as I can. I have a quick turnaround.

Fundraiser

Chris Brogan

My report is on the web and we have 3 boxes left for the Freedom for all fundraiser. We also have scratch offs available from the convention which is worth \$225 and are \$5 per ticket. And we will pick the winners from that. We will pick a winner for the freedom for all today and we also have shirts that we are going to be doing and we will be wearing these shirts to support our sister going to national office. I have some extra shirts today because we just ordered for the board. I will need a contact form county and the county

will give me orders for your division and you can send it in to me. Hold that though. I will have them drop shipped to you. They are men's and ladies sizes. We also have denim shirts. \$40 (shirts) and \$45 (denim) to support Cathy if you have any questions, please let me know.

Audit

Christina Parisi

The fundraising account was opened this year so the opening balance was \$0 and that came with a loan from Chris Rogen of \$250 so the ending balance was \$250. The treasury balance was 7/1 64889.54 closing 9/30 income there is interest of .26 cents. the basket raffles from convention \$3360 Margret Hennessy reimbursed part of her for her room which was \$39 the aoh reimbursed a double payment \$250 from registration for a total income balance of 3649.26. expenses: scrapbook winners 600 hotel state convention 6643.50 postage 26.35 jr Hibernians of year 344.50 uncashed check 2361.92 journal ads 100 pat Doyle donation 8700 website renewal 33.9 new computers for officers 2322.11 reimbursements for officers 6095.05 closing bal 9/30 44311.98 outstanding checks 3000.51 true balance is 41311.47

Karen Keane: I make a motion to accept the auditor's report.

Denise Sobus: I second.

All in favor. Motion passed and so ordered.

Joanne: I just wanted to let everyone know that all the checks cleared so I will be starting with a clean slate

Freedom for all Ireland

Joan Moore

My report is on the web. I attended the 9/11 Mass and march through the 9/11 memorial site. A week or so later there was another Mass at St Patrick's for all that have died from Covid. We had an Irish Mass at St. Barnabas Church in the Bronx; in Gaelic; they have a booklet translating it in English and Irish. It's a nice way to start to learn the language. Dolores Desch is being honored in Albany for her work with Freedom for all Ireland. Sshe has done a marvelous job getting all the information and to educate you all and I encourage you all to attend. I sent the flyers out and I can re-send you another flyer if you need. Andre Murphy from Relatives for Justice will be speaking at the event and she is a lawyer that is helping with the unjust killings that happened during the Troubles so she's very knowledgeable. The Christmas appeal deadline is 1/15. There is a group going to Ireland at the end of January to visit the different organizations so we have to have all your monies in for the 2021 appeal.

Immigration and Education

Speaker: Kathleen Stevens

My report is on the website. I will add that the annual diversity green card lottery is open right now and closes on 11/9. If you know of any one who needs assistance this is the only time they will have access. The Emerald Isle Community Center is available to help. Their website is www.Eiic.org

Convention Secretary

Maureen Caffrey

My report is online. I am looking into doing a fundraiser at Gavin's. Please let us know if you have any ideas.

I was tasked with preparing the Convention proceedings for the State Secretary. They are on the NYS website. it is 115 pages. Thank you to Kim Clancy for your guidance and all others for your support.

New York State Scrapbook

Becci Enders

speaking on behalf of Madonna Nolty: Be sure to send in your stuff to Madonna to include in our scrapbook when we go to convention next year. It will be the last 2 years of stuff. Her email is on the website

Military and Veteran's Affairs

Jeanine Marinino

Thank you for all you do. This is something I am passionate about. NY County Division 29 have donated a \$50 gift card to go into the box to go to Kuwait. We have a donation box out of Schenectady and I have donations from Pennsylvania and we will be reaching out to other states. The box will be going out on Tuesday and I am meeting with Kim DePeaux ((Schenectady); she has more stuff. I am the area Chair, responsible for 8 states which is the whole north east. I am honored. Next weekend we are having a meeting and banquet event in Saratoga. Cathy Turck and Kim are coming and I am going to introduce them so we can spread the good word of what the LAOH does.

President O'Leary

Financial Budget

: I have asked Jackie Clute to do the financial budget but she is excused today. They will be posted on the website.

i also want to advise you the one change we had was that the mileage was changed from .30 to .50 a mile. There has been a change in repairs and gas. Please keep in mind that the budget is based on the budget of the last two to three years expenses but we did have expenses but not the normal expenses due to Covid. This is a fluid document so it is not set in stone.

Past President – Denise Sobus

Happy to see everyone.

Did work with Ann Marie (Ferguson) on the convention and it went well. Thank you for your help.

Convention Reimbursement

Past President Mary Beth Durkee:

The Men sent us a check for \$790 they are calling a room fee which we never heard of. And another for \$3136.89 for our share of convention profit. Karen has volunteered to address that since she is going out to look at the hotel for the next convention and see what is going on. I talked to Past President Tom Lambert and he had never gotten a report either. Apparently the reports were sent out to the current Presidents not the ones in charge of the convention. Tom said there is no such thing as a room fee and we are supposed to get a registration fee for the number of ladies that attended. Ann Marie had that figured out which should be about \$4000 and we might get it straightened out. After the Albany convention we did get two checks. 166 ladies' registered so that is \$1660 from that convention and \$1716 which 20% on that convention. Karen will speak up for us.

The checks are from the convention committee. The AOH is working with the convention committee. We don't have a bank account big enough to host our own convention so we always get the job done to us every time and get a percentage.

***President O'Leary asked for a motion to accept the Officer reports.
Chris O'Reilly made the motion. Second by Maura McSweeney
All in favor. Motion carried and so ordered.***

National President

Karen Keane

We (the National Board) are the strongest board that we've had in decades. The idea was to have the officers establish a connection directly with the members. So, they feel like they're a part of the board. Once you go past Michigan and Ohio, they don't have a connection to the board so we decided to establish one. I have been out to Montana through the State Presidents zoom calls. Mary Beth and Aggie are meeting the other Presidents from the State so that is developing their sisterhood. I think we're strong and I think we're going to have a good show up to Pittsburgh.

Mary Lathem is going to chair the Constitution committee that is going to meet Tuesday and Wednesday since we have 4 years of changes to do. And then Wednesday morning is my testimonial and it will be a roast and I can respond. It will be a \$50 donation for 3 minutes to roast me and that will go to charity.

The convention is starting with an opening Mass and ice breaker. It will be pricey and the hotel is pricey. It is in downtown Pittsburgh; book early and the parking will be a minimum of \$25 a night in a public lot and \$35 a day valet. There is no place to eat in the hotel and they have a small restaurant in the hotel. The hotel said that I would have to cater a lunch and would cost us \$37 a person. I was trying to get them to make sandwiches and sell them but it doesn't look like that is going to happen. I want you to think about it but also be prepared.

I asked the men to invite me to the hotel viewing in Kansas City to see the hotel for the next National convention in 4/5 years. I told them that I will get up in front of my Ladies and tell them that I cannot recommend the hotel because I did not go see it.

I asked about the LAOH sign—I brought up the parking it says that it is 25 a day and there wasn't a lot of parking and the men blew us off. Kim asked them about the room rate and if it included the \$5 kicks back for the AOH and they said yes it does. That it doesn't get written in the report.

There is no room service and no luggage carts.

We should be getting told the package prices. I am presiding at the convention and I need my Sisters there. I want to be honest with you.

The Men go along with all of the things the President says about abortion/prolife, gun control, capital punishment and gender equality. Until they get out of the mentality of us being subservient to them, I don't see a merger happening. This is all the reasons why we have to be there; that they deserve their brotherhood and we deserve our sisterhood.

I will fight for us to have all the votes counted so we can be counted in the convention location. Not the 2-point 3.2 point that is data manipulation. And the lack of transparency. So, I want you to come but I wanted to be honest with you.

Ann: were there any woman on the site committee?

Karen: I can tell you that, Carol, Pat and I weren't.

Mary Hogan: I was asked but it was 3 days before it took place and we did send someone but there was no information.

Karen: a lot of the meetings will be held prior to the actual Convention; some will be virtual; we found that more people prefer that. We are going to try to have four sessions of finalization committee meetings because we can't accept reports prior to committee meetings except rules of order and constitution. A lot of the appointees are going to be holding meetings virtually and then when we come to convention, we only have to finalize the report. In order to be listed as a delegate present you have to be at the virtual and physical meeting. But really when you come to the committee meeting you will be making sure the people's names are right, the report is right so that you can go through and accept it.

National Irish Historian Mary T. Lathem is excused.

National Missions and Charities:

Cathy Turck

Just one thing, we are going to have a Zoom for the State officers in November. Feel free to invite incoming Mission & Charities Officers. It is going to be the end of November and I will send an email when I get home to the State Officers so they can filter it down. I hear by rumor that the National Missions & Charities officer that there will be a February zoom where I will be interviewing Father Burger and Sister Corona from the Columban Fathers and Sisters so we can hear about what they do and see what the mission is about .

Past National President-

Mary Hogan

it's nice seeing everyone. Everyone is looking healthy. On a personal note, I wanted to thank a lot of people who sent mass cards for one of my sisters died. If anyone needs anything, I am here. Have a good thanksgiving and Christmas.

Past National President

Margret Hennessy

I wanted to thank the board and for such a good job especially with this meeting. I'm available if anyone needs any help. Pertaining to any jobs if you need help, I am available.

Past President

Mary Beth Durkee – Patricia Doyle Grants

Something will be coming out on the lines that Karen had started at the state board meeting years ago where we do the drawing every week, we will get that in the mail at the beginning of the year. We have big boots to fill with the \$8700 Karen did last year. If any County wants to take on and do a little event on your own for Pat Doyle fund that would certainly help a lot. Enjoy the holidays, you'll be hearing from me.

Saint Patrick's Parade

President O'Leary announced that Regina Bagley, Terry Meyer and Carolyn O'Brien are going to represent the State on the NYC Parade committee.

Terry Meyer

There is going to be a St. Patrick's Day parade in the city. The meeting last week ended quickly due to Hiliary Bierne losing internet connection due to very bad weather. All we did find out is that there is definitely a parade, they are still honoring the First Responders that they were originally doing in 2021. They are doing virtual parade journals like they did before; a lot of stuff is going to come out in December. They are going to charge the affiliation fee this year; \$200, so I guess we have to decide if we are going to pay the affiliation fee. Each affiliated organization has the option of keeping their Aide that did not march the past 2 years or they may select a new one. Paperwork must be submitted by December 15th. They are allowing foreign groups to come in and march and we may have to wear masks; they don't have the final ruling from NYC. The event at Anton's in February but more info to follow in December.

Someone: Why are we paying an affiliation fee when we paid it in 2020 and haven't had a parade since?

Terry: Well, that question was asked and they turned around and said they had expenses the last two years. What those expenses are I don't know. But they are making everyone pay an affiliation fee.

Aggie: I think some of those expenses is because they do maintain offices and they do maintain staff and electric bills, correspondence that they have to send out. Not to make excuses for the money but that's what it is.

***Aggie : As the president I make a motion to pay the \$200 and keep the Aide of the LAOH the same
Regina Begley –Affiliated Divisions and Counties, in conjunction with their AOH counterparts, each select their own Aide. It is their decision who should represent their Division/County not ours.***

Motion amended to pay the \$200 affiliation fee.

Aggie: do we have a second?

Second by Cathy O'Brien

All in favor. Motion carried and so ordered.

National Constitution Meeting

President O'Leary: As Karen said there will be a constitution meeting at the National Convention. I have asked Suzanne Messina to be the coordinator for us here in the State so if your Division or County has any suggestions please send to Sue and she will put them all in order and we will make a presentation throughout the Counties to vote on what we are going to endorse.

Division and Counties will be notified to send their recommended changes to Sue. She will then put them all together and send them out for discussion at our May State Board meeting.

Report of the 2023 Convention Chair

Karen: I have nothing to report.

New Business

President O'Leary informed us that there is a new division in Breezy Point.

Unfortunately, we lost a division in Richmond County; Division 1. I think their charter was being brought up in this meeting. Cathy Murphy reported that the Charter was already handed over to National President Keane last month.

President O'Leary advised that if you have any members that you want to enter for Life Membership you have to submit the paperwork to her with a copy to Secretary Terry Meyer between February 1st and April 15th. Don't send it to us late because we will send it back to you.

National President Keane: While I don't have the constitution in my head, you have to have the constitution changes at least 30 days prior to the National convention. The National has to get it 2 weeks before.

Good and Welfare

Kim Clancy

Albany County is selling raffle tickets \$5 a piece for a \$500 Amazon gift card and there are only 300 tickets to be sold. Albany county is the charity. Super bowl Sunday.

Chris O'Reilly

our sister Delores Desch lost her mom so keep her in your prayers.

Cathy Murphy

Kathy: our division (Richmond County) is running a raffle. We have not decided on our charity yet and we also have a raffle to support the Staten Island St Patrick's day parade.

President O'Leary

Calendars- we make about \$5000 on the calendar. We have some here for any one interested. To all Counties/Divisions, please sell those calendars. I know a lot of people feel that this is not an LAOH calendar. I apologize. I had nothing to do with the creation of this calendar; our name is not on the calendar, it never has been. We do this as a joint effort with the Men. I want to keep this together to keep our friendship. It is \$25 for 365 days to win some money.

Why was the history taken out?

It is not a ladies calendar. The reason it was changed was because some people complained they couldn't write anything and it was repeated year after year. When I realized how much it would cost, I don't think we should do our own.

Terry McGeever (Rockland)

Joan Moore and I are running juke box bingo on Friday night 11/12 in our AOH hall. 'I have a few flyers.

Ann Pirock (Orange County):

Division 6 is doing an Avon fundraiser online that is going to a local charity. It will run to end of November and all your items will be sent directly to your home and a portion of the sales will come to us. Christmas is coming so it would be a good time to shop and support.

Ann Marie Mulholland: (Orange County)

I would like to ask for prayers for one of our members sisters and another member sister-in-law that are gravely ill and has been battling cancer that has moved on to her brain. Her name is Terry Sullivan. Also, I wanted to let everyone know we will be sending out the Orange County fundraiser and the drawing will be on St. Patrick's day. I haven't received information but I will be sending that out soon.

Mary Hogan: (Kings County),

Joan Parisa is being honored by the Hibernians in Brooklyn. She has been a President in one of our divisions and she is very active and that will take place as a Christmas luncheon in December.

Karen: She does the baskets a lot and will be doing them at the convention and helps out a lot behind the scenes.

Cathie Doherty:

National Vice President Marilyn Madigan started a web series for *Embracing our Irish Heritage*. Tomorrow at 1PM there will be a call that honors our LAOH veterans and there will be a history on the *Nuns of the Battlefield*. Also, National has put out a nice *Honor our Veterans* that lists every single member that has served in the Armed Forces.

Karen: we have limited web space so you will have to go to our YouTube to see that.

President O'Leary When we adjourn, we are going to let the fundraisers time to set up. Have a good holiday and stay safe.

President O'Leary made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Joan Moore. All in Favor.

The meeting closed with prayers