



New York State St. Brigid Connection

Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians

June 2017



President Message *Karen Keane*

Dear Sisters,

We are getting fired up for the State Convention and I know I'm excited. At the Convention, we set our agenda for the next two years; elect our State Officers to fulfill their duties and guide us for the next two years; and, most importantly, spend time together to renew our friendship and sisterhood.

Each delegate at the convention can have her voice heard and share her ideas and thoughts. The committees are the time to express those ideas on the area of our work you are responsible for, or interested in. The committee chairs are the best of the best in their area of responsibility. They are here to mentor and guide you to bring that issue back to your Division or County to establish or encourage the work of Our Order.

I hope to see everyone at Buffalo. I know the local committee has worked very hard over the last two years to make this the best convention to date. Please give them your best words of encouragement and thanks.

Remember to pack your dues card, your smile, and documents you may need like the State Bylaws, National Constitution, or last term's proceedings. The documents are all available on the State website for you to download or print out. See you in Buffalo

Karen Keane, President

Vice-President- *Jacqueline Gilroy Clute*

Sisters

At the convention, I will have the honor of presenting two awards to two very worthy recipients, the Mother Teresa Award and the Junior Hibernian of the Year. The panel of judges for the Mother Teresa Award included:

- Father Dominic Isopo, pastor at St Luke's and St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Churches in Schenectady,
- Margaret Anderton MDiv, DMin, Pastoral associate for Urban ministry
- Mary Jane Smith, Chairlady for the St. Luke's food pantry

The judges for the Junior Hibernian of the year were:

- Kathleen Hutton, trainer for altar servers, Chairlady for children's ministry at St. Luke's Church
- Ellen Brown, President of the Rotterdam Challenger League for handicapped children
- Margaret Anderton MDiv, DMin, Pastoral associate for Urban ministry and Chairlady of the evangelization committee at St. Luke's Church

The committees were very impressed with the good works and qualifications of the candidates for both awards, stating it was a difficult decision. Congratulations go out to all the very worthy nominees.

If you have not taken your Major Degrees, please do so at the State Convention. The Capital District Trinity Degree Team Degree Team will be exemplifying the Degree. If you have already taken your Degree but have not observed it, please jump on this chance. So much of the ceremony takes place without the candidates and you should see the whole thing to appreciate the grandness of the ceremony. Also, it is a great way to renew your vows to the Order.

So, let's all pack up and head to Convention. It should be a great time. I know we all love sitting in the meetings all day and later suffer through visiting the hospitality suites; but I know we are up for the challenge.

Please feel free to email any questions you may have: banbha1021@gmail.com

Jackie

Secretary-Mary Beth Durkee

Sisters,

In this busy season of graduations, weddings, family gatherings, vacation planning I am keeping busy with preparations for the State convention. I cannot believe how fast time is flying by. I have sent an email to all County/Division Presidents asking for the name for each delegate, alternate and observer going to the convention. I will also

need to know which committee meeting each delegate wants to attend.

There will be no Delegate cards mailed, all delegate cards will be ready to be picked up at the Convention by the County Presidents or the appointed person for that county starting on Tuesday evening.

All information needed for the Convention is available on the Convention website at www.nyaoh/laoh2017.com

If you have any questions you can reach me at mbdurk7@gmail.com or by phone at (518) 274-8448.

Please remind all delegates to bring their up-to-date Travel/Dues cards, you will not be allowed into meeting without it. It must show that your 2017 dues have been paid.

Until July, take care and I'll see you soon.

Mary Beth

Treasurer-Agnes O'Leary

Oh my!

Busy, Busy, busy!

Thank you all for sending hotel payments in a timely manner!

See you in Buffalo! Safe trip!

Aggie

Irish Historian - Regina Begley

Dear Sisters,

It was wonderful seeing everyone in East Durham for the LAOH NYS Board meeting. Our business meeting was successful and I enjoyed the Carnival for Karen and the Kentucky Derby gathering.

With the History Essay contest and the annual reports behind us, this article will be brief.

A quick reminder that there will be a Ladies scrapbook contest at the 2017 Biennial Convention in Buffalo, July 12th – 15th. I hope that every County will be submitting a scrapbook. Scrapbooks are a wonderful way to preserve the history of your Divisions/Counties. The guidelines for the scrapbooks can be found on the National website under the Misc Forms section.
www.ladiesaoh.com

Also, for those Division and County Historians who are on Facebook, there is an LAOH Historian page. This page was established at the recommendation of the Irish History committee meeting last July at the National convention. As new Historians are elected, outgoing Historians should be sure to remind the new officers to join the page. This page is dedicated to stories and articles about Irish history and can be used as a platform to discuss LAOH History related issues. Division and County Officers can get some good ideas from this page for their meetings.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for the privilege of serving as your NYS Irish Historian Officer for the past 2 years. I look forward to the opportunities before me to continue to serve the NYS Board. I thank you all for your support.

That's it for now, Sisters. I hope to see all of you in Buffalo for our Biennial State Convention. Have a wonderful and safe summer and don't forget the sunscreen!! God Bless.

Yours in Friendship, Unity & Christian Charity,

Regina

Email: laohregina@optonline.net

Mobile: 516-712-4177 Home: 516-431-2852

Addendum to the Irish Historian report.

I found the following article in a publication that I receive monthly from
www.decdeofcenturies.com.

7 June marks the centenary of the battle of Messines, on the Western Front. This was a preliminary engagement intended to prepare the way for a much wider Allied offensive in and around the Belgian city of Ypres (Ieper) in the summer of 1917; the objective was to capture a strategically important ridge in the vicinity of Messines and Wytschaete. The successful week-long engagement was notable for two things: one of the largest uses of conventional explosives in history; and the fact that the 16th (Irish) and 36th (Ulster) Divisions, largely composed of, respectively, members of the diametrically opposing Irish National Volunteers and Ulster Volunteers, ended up fighting alongside one another in one of the British Army corps that took part in the offensive.

The Commonwealth War Grave Commission blog contains an overview of the battle, the centenary of which will be marked by a joint Irish-British ceremony, along with New Zealand and Australian commemorations. There are numerous events scheduled to mark the centenary both in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland along with a new exhibition in the National Museum of Ireland.

There are a number of resources available with which to learn more about the Battle of Messines. The Irish Times 'Century' supplements explore the Irish experience of the Western Front in the summer of 1917. The Irish dimension to Messines itself is explored in a video by Ronan McGreevy, who also contributed a short report on Major Willie Redmond (the most famous Irish casualty of Messines) to the RTÉ Radio One *History Show*. Finally, the experience of the 16th and 36th Division's fighting alongside each other is dealt

with by Tom Burke in an article from ***History Ireland***.

To read more about the ceremonies, articles and videos referenced above go to:

www.decadeofcentenaries.com

www.irishtimes.com/culture/heritage/century/western-front

www.rte.ie/centuryireland/index.php/listen/rte-history-show-ronan-mcgreevy-on-willie-redmond

Regina

*Missions and Charities Officer
Organizer Hudson Valley-
Terri Meyer*

Dear Sisters,

Happy spring! It was so great to see so many of you in May at East Durham at our State meeting and better yet there were so many new members there!

Thanks to the generosity of those of you who took out ads in the Journal for Karen's wonderful carnival an additional \$5000 was raised for the Patricia Doyle Memorial Fund. Just amazing! As discussed at our state meeting these funds will be distributed by the committee at our convention after review of the qualified fund applications that were received. If anyone would like to still contribute to this fund the form is on our state website and donations need to be sent to me no later than June 18, 2017.

Just as a reminder regarding our day of service at the NYS state convention for those of you who will be volunteering on Wednesday July 12th. Of course you can always become a sponsor, form is attached- The information is included here and

can also be found on our NYS LAOH Facebook page and website.

Spirit of St. Brigid Day Of Caring 7/12/17

We have 2 sites we are volunteering at for the Spirit of St. Brigid – hours are 9am-11am as we have meetings in the afternoon and that is the hours they asked for volunteers.

******* I need to know in advance if you will be able to volunteer. Please contact me at tmmeier4@gmail.com no later than by June 16, 2017**

If there are individual members or divisions that are unable to volunteer and would wish to participate in this worthy project, you may be a sponsor for \$20 of a volunteer and will be entitled to a Tee shirt also. Volunteer /Tee Shirt or as a Tee Shirt Sponsor/Donation form is attached deadline is June 16, 2017 for shirt orders.

Volunteer sites are with Catholic Charities Buffalo Diocese Pro-Life Office.

- St. Gianna Molla pregnancy outreach center
Helping inside with cleaning up and may have some outdoor cleaning- can only take a few volunteers

- Mother Teresa Home
A ten-minute car ride from hotel- home for pregnant or 1st time Mothers-- Helps them with a place to stay, pre-natal & parental classes, getting back on their feet for going to work etc.
Welcomes whoever can volunteer: help with cleaning inside & outside/planters, and sorting with clothing donations

Disposable gloves will be available that day

We will also be collecting Peanut Butter & Jelly Drive: "Spread the Love!"

This is a movement that wants to keep their mission simple- mission and goal is to feed as many children and struggling families as possible throughout Western New York, by providing local food pantries in Niagara, Erie and Orleans Counties jars of **Peanut butter, Jelly and Fluff** that are collected during the drive. This movement was founded by Pete Robinson when he learned that peanut butter, a protein staple, wasn't often donated to food pantries- and jelly was considered a luxury. The importance of our role in the community of helping our neighbors, classmates, co-workers, friends, family, as well as the people and children that are unknown to us is our responsibility as caring individuals contributing to society. The mission is simple and goal is achievable- to collect new jars of PB&J and Fluff. Then redistribute to over 30 food pantries and organizations to help aid in the fight against hunger. Boxes will be setup in hotel for any donations-details & locations to follow.

I know many of the counties are having elections and I wish all the new county board officers the best of success. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns regarding anything with the Missions & Charities information and as the Hudson Valley Organizer. I have enjoyed meeting all of you and your members. Please remember I am available for you to attend county/division meetings or if someone is looking to start a new division, I am here to help. Hope you all have a beautiful Summer & I am looking forward to see many of you in Buffalo!

Yours in our motto,

Terry

Terry Meyer, Tmmeyer4@gmail.com

Cell 914-443-0362

Catholic Action- JoAnn Gunderson

Dear Sisters,

I would like to begin by thanking everyone who attended the LAOH NYS Spring Meeting on Saturday, May 6, 2017 at Gavin's in East Durham, NY, and also the Lady of Knock Pilgrimage Mass on Sunday, May 7, 2017. Next year's Spring meeting will be held on Saturday, May 5, 2018 also in East Durham, NY. Make your reservations early, the rooms fill up very fast.

On Saturday, May 13, 2017, I attended a Requiem Mass at The Basilica of St. Patrick's Old Cathedral in NYC, for John Curry, the youngest witness to the apparition at Knock on August 21, 1879. Mr. Curry emigrated to America, and lived in New York. He spent the last years of his life living in a home for the elderly run by the Little Sisters of the Poor and upon his death was buried in the communal plot owned by the Sisters, in the Cemetery of the Resurrection on Long Island. Following the Mass, Mr. Curry's remains were reburied on the historic grounds of the Basilica of St. Patrick's Old Cathedral in the adjacent cemetery. Even though it rained throughout the day, it was nice to see fellow NYS LAOH Sisters at the Mass.

In closing, I would like to thank everyone for allowing me to be your LAOH NYS Catholic Action Officer. I learned a lot about this position over the past two years. I accepted the challenge in 2015 and I hope everyone is pleased with the work I have done. I am looking forward to meeting everyone on Wednesday, July 12, 2017 in Buffalo, NY at our LAOH NYS Convention.

I wish everyone an enjoyable summer, and as a gentle reminder, please continue to send in your Project Saint Patrick (PSP) and Support Our Aging

Religious (SOAR) donations to Coleen Bowers,
LAOH National Catholic Action Officer.

Yours in Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,
JoAnn Gunderson

718.219.4378, jgunde2000@gmail.com

Immediate Past President and Organizer – Carol McTigue

Sisters,

Although it was rainy and windy on Memorial Day we still had the parade and ceremonies honoring the men and women who paid the ultimate sacrifice so that we may live in the land of the free and the home of the brave. Once such warrior was Patrick Gallagher a young marine who perished 50 years ago in Viet Nam. Patrick was named our Honorary Grand Marshal for this year's Lynbrook Parade and we were happy to have members of his family travel from Ireland to New York, be here with us for this Memorial Day.

Patrick Gallagher was born in County Mayo, Ireland and emigrated to America with hopes of becoming a lawyer. He settled in Lynbrook, New York and after a time, was drafted into the service to fight for his country. This proud marine was awarded the Navy Cross for his heroic deeds saving the lives of his comrades. After taking part in many other conflicts in Viet Nam, he too paid the ultimate sacrifice.

It's that time again where New York City is the Annual Host for Fleet Week. The ships are in with thousands of sailors, marines, and coast guard visiting our fair city and seeing the sights. We welcome all these men and women of the military and hope they enjoy their visit. God Bless them all and keep them safe. We thank all of them for their service.

Carol McTigue

Past President – Denise Sobus

Hello Ladies,

Summer is fast approaching as well as the NYS convention. It should be a great time in Buffalo, and best of luck for all running for NYS Board seats. Please remember to contact me if you have any questions on new members or wanting to start a new division. I am here to help with any LAOH questions. Hope to see you all this summers at Festivals and of course the convention. Please keep all LAOH/AOH sick members in your prayers, In Our Motto, Denise Sobus

Publicity Chair-Cathy Turck

Sisters, it was great to see so many of you in East Durham. Unfortunately, our golf tournament was rained out which left us all with an extra day. So what was this goof Hibernian to do? Organize an afternoon of comradery with her sisters What better way to do this than an afternoon of Yahtzee! So, as sisters gathered in the "big house" at The Shamrock House, alliances slowly formed. The Auburn ladies, led by Aunt Anne, Denise, and Maureen, claimed that they had not played Yahtzee in 20 Years, then proceeded to win the next several rounds. I have never seen so many Yahtzees rolled in a row. Magic dice? Luck of the Irish? A little hanky panky slip of the hands on their part? We will never know. ☺

I want to thank everyone who continues to send in articles for the newsletter. It's amazing to see all of the wonderful community service projects that our ladies and juniors participate in throughout the state. You are truly living our motto.

The next NYS St. Brigid Connection newsletter will be out on September 15th (to allow a little extra time for everyone to be back from their summer vacations). I will be taking a little break from the newsletter and a new Public Relations Officer will be taking over in July. Please be patient as she eases in to this new role.

I hope to see you all in Buffalo for the NY State Convention

In our motto, Cathy

Immigration and Legislation- Teresa Kearns

Hello Sisters! It was so good seeing so many of you at our Spring Meeting in East Durham. As I look back over the last two years it has been my honor to represent you and my WNY area. It has been a long time since a representative from WNY was on our State board and I am humbled to have updated that statement.

As I now look forward to many of you coming to our side of the State this July, I wanted to remind you to still reach out and assist anyone who has come to our great country to try and make a better life for themselves and their families.

Please inquire at your local immigration centers and see if they are in need of volunteers. Consider sitting in on my break-out session on Thursday, July 13 at our State Convention.

To those of you that I will not see in Buffalo, have a safe and fun summer!

As always in our motto,

Teresa B. Kearns
LAOH NYS Immigration & Legislation
Irishsmiles17@Verizon.net

Freedom For All Ireland - Dolores Desch

Greetings Sisters! Well the recent election in the UK has certainly gotten worldwide attention.

Why Prime Minister Theresa May would have called for an election when her Conservative Tory party was in the majority and the next scheduled election was three years away is not clear. What is clear is that the move backfired, and her party lost the majority, winning only 318 of the 326 seats needed to rule Parliament. This lack of a clear majority party resulted in a 'hung' Parliament. Until there is a guaranteed majority, the Tories will continue to run the government, however they cannot pass any laws. They can try to establish a majority through gaining support from other parties which is what they are attempting to do. So what could go wrong?

Well, the bombshell announcement that the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) from the North of Ireland (who won 10 seats) has been contacted by Theresa May in a bid to form a coalition and establish the majority has caused concern for many, including the Nationalist community in the North. The DUP - remember them? They are the Orange Order, former UVF paramilitaries, marching through Catholic communities, setting bonfires the size of three story houses every July 12th. What could go wrong?

The reputation of the DUP as being comprised of former paramilitary terrorists as well as being homophobic, racist and anti-immigrant has caused protests at 10 Downing Street following the announcement. Of course, the impact on the Nationalist Community in the North will no doubt be of concern, yet the election news is not all bad. Sinn Fein gained 3 more seats from the SDLP this election and are now at 7, giving them a boost as well. The only other party to win a seat was the Independent Party with 1.

How this will impact the establishment of the ministerial Executive at Stormont is yet to be seen, however those talks could begin as soon as Monday June 12th. The Stormont government collapsed on January 11 when Martin McGuinness resigned as Deputy First Minister. His decision to resign followed several events that McGuinness cited including DUP 'arrogance' over the investigation of financial dealings involving the renewable heating scheme which was established under First Minister Arlene Foster. Re-establishing the government in the North will not be easy. Michelle O'Neill will be representing Sinn Fein in these talks. June 29th is the deadline set for establishment of the ministerial Executive. So stay tuned....

I look forward to seeing all of you at the NYS Convention. We have invited a representative of Sinn Fein to address our General Session on Friday. I hope you can make the Freedom for All Ireland Committee Meeting on Thursday at 3:30. In addition, another exciting event at convention was set up by our brothers in the AOH. On Friday afternoon there will be a screening of 'How to Diffuse a Bomb: The Project Children Story'. Denis Mulcahy, founder of Project Children will be in attendance to talk about the film and the program. I was fortunate enough to have seen this at our hall last month and Denis was there as well. I can honestly say this was one of the most incredible films I have ever seen, and meeting Denis was a great honor. He is the epitome of a hero - selfless, humble, caring and unstoppable. The work that he and his volunteers did changed the lives of over 22,000 Irish children and many more American host families. Those of you attending convention – don't miss it. Those who can't make it, you can download the film off the web.

Take care and I hope to see you next month!

Dolores Desch

Webmaster- Colleen O'Reilly

Greetings,

During the Spring Board Meeting in East Durham I spoke about the continuing growth of our online presence. Both our website and social media accounts have experienced an increase in visitors and followers. This means they are being recognized as a valuable resource for information and that news of the good works of our members is getting more recognition as are the charities we support and our cultural heritage.

If you haven't already please subscribe to the website and connect with us on Facebook and Twitter (@laohnys).

Our [Events](#) page is bursting with convention information. Most recently we've added the Call to Convention, Day of Service details and volunteer t-shirt order form, Basket Fundraiser info and details on how to submit Convention Hotel Room Checks. The LAOH Meeting Schedule has been updated, the Major Degrees Registration form is available and there are links to the [official Convention website](#).

Check out the Events Calendar for LAOH happenings across the state and the home page to see if you are a weekly winner of the fundraising raffle benefiting the Patricia Doyle Memorial Grant which will be awarded during convention. Tickets are still available, contact rafflechairlaoh@gmail.com.

Sadly we've had a few more additions to the [In Memoriam](#) page. Please take a moment to visit and say a prayer for our deceased members.

In Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,
Colleen O'Reilly

Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc.

NYS Information Technology

www.laohnys.com

Albany County

Hello from Albany! We just finished our 3rd Annual Walk for Hospice on Saturday at Siena College. Along with our men we donated over \$500.00 to this very worthy cause and had fun doing it. Our Lady Hibernian of the year, Kathleen Stevens was honored at our Ladies Anniversary Dinner Mother's Day weekend. We are eagerly looking forward to our own Jimmy Kelly's play, The Long Road Home to be performed at the Palace theatre on July 17th. All of the actors are from Ireland, we can't wait to meet them and give them a proper Hibernian welcome. See you in Buffalo God Bless.



The following ladies are the newly elected Albany County Officers:

President -Jeri Hess
Vice President - Kim Clancy
Secretary - Karen Keane
Treasurer - Chris O'Reilly
Irish Historian - Shelia Mehling
Mission & Charities - Beth Coffman
Catholic Action- Nancy Holland
Mistress at Arms - Colleen O'Reilly
Sentinel - Maura McSweeney
Grievance Officers - MaryBeth Turkey & Cathy Quinlan

Broome County

The Ladies of Division 1 and Division 2 had a busy Spring and are looking forward to fun times in the Summer.

Thank you to the Ladies and Men of Greene County for their hospitality during the NYS AOH/LAOH State Board Meeting, we had a wonderful time and always look forward to seeing our sister and brother Hibernians from around the state.

On **Sunday, April 30th** a pancake breakfast sponsored by the LAOH County Board was held, thank you for working and supporting the breakfast. **Sunday, May 14th** was the 2nd Annual Mother's Day Brunch hosted by Division 2, what a wonderful variety of brunch menu, so nice to honor our mothers, aunts, and those no longer with us. On **Wednesday, May 17th**, we were host to the men and women of our divisions for the annual Golden Age Luncheon. It was great to see the members turn out for this, thanks to all who helped prepare the meal and brought desserts. On **Thursday, May 18th** during the day, the AOH Hall was a stopping point for the graduating seniors of Binghamton University. Many of the students see the Irish flag on the building and come in and want to hear stories and tell us what county their families are from. Hotdogs and snacks were donated, thanks to the members who came in to visit and worked. In the evening on **May 18th** we hosted another successful Martinis and Manicures with the proceeds going to Soldier and Saddles Riding Program at Stable Movements. The ladies were a big help on **Saturday, May 20th** at the Mens Major Degree Ceremony, they baked, cooked and served lunch. The USO Show at the Oxford Veterans Home was another success on **Sunday, May 21st**, we have a lot of talent in our divisions and it is greatly appreciated by the men and women. The ladies and men marched in the Binghamton Memorial

Day Parade on **Monday, May 29th**. Division 1 hosted a Buried Treasure party on the evening of **Wednesday, May 31st** with some of the left over items donated to the Division 2 Rummage Sale on **June 2/3**, thanks to the members who helped set up, sorted and worked and to all who donated both events. Also **Wednesday, May 31st**, was the deadline for Division 2's Mary Curry Memorial Scholarship (first president of the Broome County LAOH Board). The committee is reviewing the applicants and we'll soon find out who was awarded the \$500 scholarship. On **Sunday, June 11th**, Division 1 will hold their annual Woman of the Year brunch at Traditions. On **Sunday, July 23rd** at Ross Park, AOH and LAOH members and their families will be enjoying the annual picnic. The men will provide and cook hot dogs, hamburgers and sausage, please bring a dish to pass and a beverage and leave the rain behind! On **Thursday, August 10th** we will be going to Irish Heritage Night at the Binghamton Rumble Ponies (Mets) vs. the Erie SeaWolves (Tigers), game time is 6:35pm, call 607.727.2262 for tickets or sign up at the hall. We're headed to Saratoga Race Track on **Sunday, August 13th**, signup sheets will soon be at the AOH Hall. On **Sunday, August 20th**, Our Lady of Knock mass will be held at Our Lady of Lourdes Chapel in Binghamton at 10:30am. A luncheon will follow at the AOH Hall, thank you to Kate Hull of Division 2 for making the arrangements.

Our Junior Division has been busy as well. The **April** meeting was a paint party, the girls had fun and we have some artists in the group. **Before** their meeting on **Saturday, May 20th**, the girls worked in the Hibernian Garden weeding and then planting flowers. **Saturday, June 3rd** the girls helped building a wheelchair ramp for a local family through Broome County Ramp It Up program. There are still some Junior Cookbooks available for \$10, contact 607.321.8071 if you are interested in purchasing one.

Have a safe and happy summer, we look forward to seeing all of our sister and brother Hibernians at the AOH/LAOH State Convention in Buffalo in July...



LAOH Division 1 and 2 at the Oxford Veterans Home

Greene County

Life in the Great Northern Catskills is anything but dull, especially weather-wise.

In the past 3 months we've had a 3 foot snowstorm here in East Durham 3 days before St. Patrick's Day, beautiful spring days, a 96 degree day scorcher quickly followed by 40's again, so when everyone was here for the NY State Board Meeting we were fortunate to have a somewhat sunny Saturday, followed by a dreary, chilly Sunday. It did not deter any of the State Officers from marching down Route 145 from the Weldon House to the Shrine of Our Lady of Knock, where our Division 32, as well as Mass Rock AOH Division 2 were once again honored and proud to serve as Honor Guards. Photos are Mass Rock Division 2 with their new banner, and NYS Officers at the memorial to the three unborn babies.





Our new Irish Historian, Maureen Kelderhouse, was installed at our May meeting, and did a fine job of giving her first report on on John Curry, the youngest person (5 years old at the time) to witness the vision of Our Lady at the gable wall in Knock, Ireland, and who was reinterred at Old St. Patrick's Cathedral in China Town, New York City. Thank you to those who were at the Mass for the wonderful photos on Facebook.

On June 10th, Msgr. Charles Coen will celebrate the Annual Mass at the Mass Rock. We now have a Memorial Stone in place on the same site, honoring those who donated \$100 or more. There is still room for a few more names to be added. If you are interested, please contact our Immediate Past President, Mass Rock Chairlady, Patricia Steinhauer at 518-622-8219.

We are looking forward to an eventful summer starting with the Durham Independence Parade in which a few of our Hibernians will take part, then our Annual Tea Party, followed on August 21st, by the Mayo Society's Annual Mass at the Shrine of Our Lady of Knock, before and after which we once again gladly offer Hibernian hospitality/refreshments at St. Mary's Community Center, to those coming from near and far. All are welcome!

May God Bless us all with a beautiful and peaceful summer wherever we may be at home or abroad.

Kings County

Division 6, Greenpoint, Brooklyn was honored to support our Veterans and Remember All those that died in service to our country. Division 6 ladies marched in the 17th Annual Greenpoint Veterans Memorial Parade. The Parade marched through the neighborhood to St Anthony's Church for Mass; Mass was celebrated by Bishop Masa. Afterwards paraded marched back to the American Legion Post where a solemn ceremony was held. The American Legion Post then hosted all the military and marches to lunch.



PHOTO: Members of LAOH Div. 6, Greenpoint with LAOH members from Staten Island and Celtic Cross Pipes and Drums. Aileen Cahill, Gina Sheehan, Irene 'Murphy', Mary Hogan, Yvonne Sheehan, Kathleen Travers, Kathy Ferguson.

Monroe County

We were quite happy to have representatives from the Mary Cariolla Center come and speak to us about their mission and the current capital campaign at our April meeting. We presented the Center with a check to help them continue their good works and dedication to so many children and families. The Mary Cariolla Center is an organization that we have supported for years by donating dozens and dozens of cookies for their annual June graduations. We will be participating again this year by dropping cookies off for their special day.

Our annual tea was held on April 29th at the Rabbit Room in Honeoye Falls. As always there was delicious food, raffles and a silent auction. The charity chosen to receive a contribution from the tea this year was St. Pius the Tenth Church building fund. St Pius the Tenth experienced a devastating fire and as a result has had to completely rebuild. We were happy to help them

Several members attended the state board meeting in East Durham in May. These meetings are always a good way to gather information and network with our sisters throughout the state.

A Mass honoring Saint Brigid and requested by our division was held on Sunday June 4th at 8am at the Carmelite Monastery in Henrietta, NY. The Monastery is beautiful for its simplicity and a place for reflection.

Our summer picnic will be held on June 27th at the home of longtime member Anne Brennan. We are hoping for good weather but always have a nice big tent loaned to us by Deirdre Hickey just in case.

We are busy planning for the state convention in western NY this July. This is another great opportunity to keep up-to-date on the NY LAOH as well as socialize with our sisters from across New York.

Niagara



The ladies of Niagara Falls, Division 1 welcomed Sister Nora Sweeney of the Daughters of Charity

to its May Meeting. Sr. Nora spoke about her work at Mount St. Mary's Neighborhood Clinic, where she works as a social worker, serving the poor and homeless of Niagara Falls. Following Sr. Nora's talk, the members were so moved by her descriptions of the people she helps that a motion to donate \$1000.00 to the Clinic was made and unanimously passed.



The Deceased Members of the Niagara Falls LAOH were remembered at a Mass on Sunday May 21 at St. Bernard's Church in Youngstown, celebrated by the Pastor, Rev. Msgr. David LiPuma. Msgr. David joined us for a picture following the Mass.



It was a Grand day in Lewiston on Saturday June 3, 2017 as the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Niagara Falls Division 1 along with their sisters from Lockport Division 2 took time to celebrate their favorite Irish Pirate ~ Grace O'Malley! While no citizens of Lewiston were harmed during our pillage and plunder, a few of the ladies did make some purchases along the way and many people wanted pictures with the "Irish Pirate Ladies". It's always a great time getting together with our "sisters" some Irish heritage and welcome in the summer months, usually for some relaxation. But this year there was a lot of conversation

regarding our participation in the WNY AOH/LAOH State Convention. Both divisions have actively help to coordinate the convention; so a little relaxation is a good thing for the super busy ladies.

Orange County

Orange County has been very busy. The County had a Mass for the Deceased Members of the LAOH and their families on April 23, 2017. The mass was at Sacred Heart Church in Monroe. There was a luncheon at the Lakeside Restaurant after the mass.

In May, Division 2 held their Annual Yard Sale and Division 5 had a Pocketbook Bingo. Both events were very successful. Division 6 will be having an Irish Tea.

The Orange County Juniors have been busy too. They held a Mother's Day Brunch in May and will be hosting a Trivia Challenge in June.



Schenectady County

The Schenectady Ladies have been busy fundraising to join all of our sisters in Buffalo for the 60th Annual LAOH/AOH Convention. We held a Western BBQ night complete with line dancing

lessons and a smoked pig. The money raised will help offset the costs of sending our delegates. We also held a paint and sip to benefit Jacqueline Clute who is running for NYS President, and Marybeth Durkee who is running for NYS Vice-President. This fundraiser will help offset the cost of Jackie and Marybeth's giveaways and share of the hospitality room.

On June 25th, we will be holding a pancake breakfast with our Trinity Degree Team Sisters from Albany and Watervliet to help defray the costs of the team making the trip to exemplify the major degrees in Buffalo. We hope to have many of our sisters come out to support the LAOH and our Capital District Trinity Degree Team. It doesn't matter how many times you sit through degrees, there is always a moment of clarity reminding us why we are here today.

Hope to see you all very soon. Safe travels.

Suffolk County

On May 21st, a new Suffolk County Board was elected and inducted at the Suffolk County Convention.

The new board members are: President - Patricia Cremmins, Vice President – Alice Faughnan, Recording Secretary – Sue O'Neill, Treasurer – Pat Moynihan, Irish Historian – Karen Valenzisi, Missions & Charities – Pat Pells, Catholic Action – Cindy Haugland, Mistress At Arms – Carol Aspinall, Sentinel – Elizabeth Allen, Immigration & Legislation – Eileen Farrell, Immediate Past President – Pat Rattigan, Calender – Karilyn O'Brien, Grievance Committee: Della Weissenberger, Cathy Conway, Betty Kramer, Vicky Ring, Karilyn O'Brien.



Front row L to R: Alice Faughnan, Pat Cremmins, Sue O'Neill, Carol Aspinall, Back row L to R: Karen Valenzisi, Pat Pells, Cindy Haugland, Elizabeth Allen, Pat Moynihan

On April 21, 2017, the Suffolk County AOH/LAOH Ball was held at the Bellport Country Club, Bellport, NY. The honorees were Nellie O'Neill, Smithtown Hibernians-Division 3 and Jack Ryan County President (Huntington Division 4 member). The Ron Murphy Honor Guard and Siol na h'Eireann pipe band led the Ball Committee and honorees into the hall. The Twenty-six & Six band provided great music for the evening. Pat Rattigan, LAOH President presented Nellie with her award, proclamations, and flowers. Jerry Belmont, AOH Vice President, presented Jack with his award, proclamations and gavel. Kateri Lucarelli was the winner of the top raffle prize...for the second time in two years! A great evening was had by all! Congratulations, Nellie, on your well-deserved honor!



Erin Fitzgerald, member of Suffolk County Division 7 Junior Girls won the Irish History Writing Contest for High School entrants at the County Level. Erin's essay was on "The Role of the Irish In World War I". Pictured (below) presenting Erin with her award on Feb. 8, 2017 is Suffolk County LAOH President Pat Rattigan, Victoria Ring, Division 7 President, Erin, Sue O'Neill, Suffolk County Irish Historian, and Madonna Nolt, Division 7 Vice President.



L to R: NYS Treasurer Aggie O'Leary, Suffolk County Irish Historian Sue O'Neill, Nation History Writing Contest Winner, Erin Fitzgerald, Division Seven Irish Historian, Denise Fischer, Division 7 VP and Jr. Girls Coordinator, Madonna Nolt, Suffolk County VP, Pat Cremmins, Division Seven Ladies President Vicky Ring



Della Weissenberger, LAOH Lifetime Member of Kevin Barry Division 3, Smithtown, was awarded a Lifetime Member Certificate by the Celtic Degree Team. Pictured is Kateri Lucarelli, President Division 3 presenting the Certificate to Della Weissenberger.

Our Lady of Knock, Division 7, East Islip, NY lives our motto. We actively do charity work. We continue to build friendships and become united among our fellowship and within our community.

Monthly we prepare a full meatloaf meal for a local soup kitchen, Peanut Butter Jelly Gang. We feed 210-250 people. We also as a division (LAOH, AOH, and Juniors) worked at the soup kitchen on February 4th. We made peanut butter sandwiches that are delivered to shelters from Manhattan to Montauk every week which feed

thousands of New Yorkers. It was such a humbling experience!



On Friday, May 19th Our Lady of Knock Div. 7 helped our Sister, Tricia Clark-Cellan, who was in need of our help. Her husband, Randy, has advanced Lyme disease, and is confined to a wheelchair. Medical expenses became overwhelming and Randy's declining health over the last year caused them to sell their home and move to a handicap accessible apartment. We called the event "Be a Beacon of Hope". Through donations, attendance, raffles and a 50/50 we raised over \$7,200 in three hours! Our committee and volunteers worked tirelessly to make this event a success.



On May 6th, the Kings Park LAOH Division 3 held a fundraiser in conjunction with the Commack, NY Big Brothers/Big Sisters Savers Donation Center. Savers Donation Centers re-sell gently used items with the profit going to the Big Brothers/Big Sisters organization. LAOH members collected over 1,150 pounds of clothing, plus

household goods and books. Coordinator Mary Herbert and her crew brought it all to Savers to be weighed and purchased by Savers at a pre-arranged drop off time, and raised \$286.56 for Division 3.



This just in.....

On April 19, 2017 LAOH Natl Organizer Mary Hogan installed a new division in Iowa; LAOH Div. 1, Dubuque County, Iowa. The new division is currently the only LAOH division in Iowa; they have chosen the name St. Brigid in honor of the LAOH Patron Saint. The Division was officially opened and 40 Ladies were installed as new Hibernian sisters. Officers were elected and installed; the new Division 1 President is Vickie Leonard; VP-Ann Meloy; Rec Secy-Mary English; Treas-Lauren Torres, Fin Secy-Karen McClain, I Hist-Sarah Fitting, Miss & Char-Mary King, Cath Act-Cindy Breen, Mist Arms-Jayne Schuster, Sentinel-Janet Feeney. Pres. Leonard made the following Appointments- Co-Chaplains-Sr. Mary Pat Conlon and Sr. Marlene McDonnell; PR-Joan Frommelt. The new division may be contacted at laohdiv1iowa@gmail.com. Congratulations Sisters and Welcome!



Knock Witness John Curry Reinterred at Basilica of St. Patrick's Old Cathedral

A Solemn Requiem Mass for the soul of John Curry, the youngest witness to the Our Lady of Knock vision was offered on Saturday May 13, 2017 after which he was reburied on the historic grounds of the Basilica of St. Patrick's Old Cathedral in the adjacent cemetery. Timothy Cardinal Dolan Archbishop of New York was the Celebrant; *"John Curry who would come here to New York as a young man, an immigrant, who only distinguished himself by his simplicity, humility, kindness and his piety, spending his final seven years with our beloved Little Sisters of the Poor in the Sacred Heart Home on 70th Street where he repeated his simple testimony when asked officially in 1937 and where he quietly dies in 1943, then to be buried in donated, unmarked grave until this day when his proud and grateful, spiritual and natural heirs gather to give him the prominence and esteem he deserves."* Cardinal Dolan

John Curry was born in 1874 in Lecarrow, Knock, County Mayo, Ireland. He was the eldest of the four children and when he was about one-year-old John went to live with his maternal grandparents, the Byrnes, in the village of Knock. On the evening of 21 August 1879 he and three others from the Byrne house went to see the apparition of the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Joseph and St. John the Evangelist on the gable end of

the parish church nearby. Then aged 5 years, he was the youngest of the 15 official witnesses who gave testimony to members of the Commission of Enquiry established shortly after the apparition by Archbishop of Tuam.

In 1897 John Curry, arrived in America where he spent about two years before going to England. In 1911 he returned to America from England. In the 1920s John moved to New York. His last-known occupation was as an attendant in the City Hospital on Welfare Island (Roosevelt Island) in the East River.

In 1932, due to ill health, he entered a home for the elderly run by the Little Sisters of the Poor on East 70th Street, where he remained until his death on 27 May 1943 at the age of 69. He was buried in a communal plot owned by the Little Sisters of the Poor in the Cemetery of the Resurrection on Long Island.

A number of John Curry's relatives were in attendance, including his namesake and grand-nephew who was the author of a detailed book on his life. Also in attendance was the pilgrimage group from Knock Parish, led by Fr Richard Gibbons the Director of OL Knock Shrine in Ireland. Many members of the LAOH, AOH, County Mayo Society, UIC were honored to be in attendance.

Towards the end of the ceremony Fr Richard Gibbons presented Monsignor Donald Sakano, Pastor of St. Patrick's Old Cathedral with an original piece of clay from the gable wall at Knock Shrine. Fr Richard said *"We are delighted and honored to be here for this historic occasion and to lead the Parish of Knock on our first pilgrimage to this sacred place. I would like to express my warm and sincere gratitude to both Cardinal Dolan and Monsignor Donald Sakano for inviting us here and for making all of this possible. We are extremely grateful to everyone for providing us*

with such a warm welcome, for making the Mass so special and an experience that will be cherished for many years."

The final blessings of John Curry's remains were followed by an emotional singing of Our Lady of Knock song by everyone in the church. A headstone has been erected to give him full recognition as a native of Knock and a witness to the Apparition.



In front of piece of the original gable wall from Knock Shrine in Ireland; Delia Weissenberg, Cathy Miceli, Regina Begley, Lillian Murphy, Joann Gundersen, Mary Hogan, Claire Hulton,