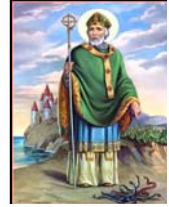




New York State St. Brigid Connection

Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians

March-April 2017



President Message *Karen Keane*

Sisters,

As of April 1, 2017, I'll have only 107 days left as State President; but who's counting.

This past St. Patrick's Day season was a success. We are now gearing up for our Spring Board Meeting in East Durham. I encourage everyone to attend. It is a fun weekend full of events for everyone. Starting with the golf tournament on Friday, May 5th we are planning to meet, discuss, explore, and enjoy. Please consider doing as much as you can.

Also, all County Presidents will be able to confirm their delegate count for the State Convention. We will have an almost final schedule for the Convention. Remember that Rules of Order, Audit, and By-Laws will meet on Wednesday, July 12th. Opening Mass is Wednesday evening, followed by the Ice Breaker. Thursday morning, we are off and running with meetings beginning early; nominations at 11:00 am; committee meetings in the afternoon; and an open night to enjoy local fare. Friday morning's meeting will continue with the remaining officers' reports; committee reports; possible guest speaker; and ends with the Awards Dinner. If we need to vote, that will occur on Saturday morning; the Major Degree will start promptly thereafter; and then our adjourning session. Saturday afternoon will be the Installation at the Cathedral; followed by a spectacular dinner.

The officers will be addressing their major areas of concern. Please pay close attention to the deadlines and action items they are listing.

I would also like to thank Oneida, Schenectady, and Broome Counties for their invitations to install their officers this year. It was my pleasure and I really enjoy seeing my Sisters. Congratulations to the Ladies you stepped up and answered the call to serve.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to ask. laohkaren@live.com or 518-369-8783.

Vice-President- *Jacqueline Gilroy Clute*

Sisters,

Easter will soon be here and so will Spring!! It has been an interesting winter and just when I think it is time to put the patio furniture out, the weather people are saying a chance of snow this weekend- have to love the great northeast!

Junior Divisions

I have received junior reports from all junior divisions. I can report that we have six junior divisions

Broome, Division 2 - 22 junior members
Chemung, Division 1- 15 junior members
Nassau, Division 17- 9 junior members
Orange, Division 5- 24 junior members
Suffolk, Division 2- 24 junior members
Suffolk, Division 7- 27 junior members

The New York State Junior Hibernian Award will be presented at this NYS Convention in Buffalo. Each Junior Division can submit one nomination for the award; the application was included in the November NYS newsletter and is included in this newsletter as well. The deadline has been extended until April 30th. Please send all applications to me at banbha1021@gmail.com

NYS Mother Teresa Award

Our State's Award will be presented at the State Convention in July of 2017. In preparation for the judging of the award, attached please find an Application for the NYS Mother Teresa Award. Please start thinking now about your Sister who would be worthy of this award. All applications must be filed by April 30, 2017. Please follow the instructions on the cover sheet very carefully. The nomination letter must not contain any identifying words about the candidate (i.e., name, division, county, county of residence, employer, etc.). The President of the Division/County will be notified by June 1st if their candidate was the winner. The announcement of the winner is strictly confidential and cannot be disclosed before the Awards Night at the State Convention, so please use the information only to attempt to have the winner in attendance.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to e-mail me at banbha1021@gmail.com or telephone me before 9:00 p.m. at 518-395-9964

Thank you for all you do for the Order and each other.....Jackie Clute, NYS LAOH Vice-President

Secretary- MaryBeth Durkee

Sisters,

I would first like to thank all of my sisters from across New York State for their sympathy cards and Mass enrollments in remembrance of my

mother who passed away at the end of February. May God bless all of you.

I hope everyone had a wonderful Saint Patrick's Day.

I am currently knee deep in End of Year Membership Reports and State Tax Bills. Thank you to all the Counties that submitted their reports on time. It makes my life a little easier when deadlines set by the National Board are met. Just one note about the reports, a number of reports did not include email addresses. Email has become the preferred mode of communication it seems with our organization and society, if your report did not include emails for your officers I ask that you take a moment and send me a list so we can all "stay connected" as they say.

With a toddler grandson "under foot" everyday I'm hoping the recent warm weather continues so we can get more to stretch our legs. I want to wish everyone a happy and blessed Easter.

Looking forward to seeing everyone in East Durham.

MaryBeth Durkee, Secretary

Treasurer-Agnes O'Leary

Hello Sisters and Hopefully welcome spring! I would like to thank you all for helping to get the Annual Reports Completed and State and National Taxes paid. This has been a particularly difficult tax period, as we had to wait a bit longer for reports to come from National. All reports have been received and almost all taxes have been paid. I once again thank you for your patience with this process.

If you have not sent me a copy of your IRS Tax Exempt Letter please do so and forward a copy to National Treasurer Marilyn Madigan at memadigan@gmail.com.

I look forward to seeing you all in East Durham at our Spring State Board Meeting.

Yours in Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,
Aggie

Irish Historian - Regina Begley

Dear Sisters,

Happy Spring! I hope that everyone enjoyed a very Happy St. Patrick's Season!

I am happy to announce that I received 29 essays for the Irish History Writing contest. 19 Level 1 essays and 10 Level 2 essays. I will announce the winners at the East Durham NYS Board meeting on April 30th. I have forwarded 12 winning selections (6 at each level) to Dee Wallace, National Irish Historian. She is planning to announce the National winners in April. Below are the NYS winners.

Level 1 - Elementary School:

1st Place: Maeve Sheehan - Richmond County - \$200.00

2nd Place: Alex Tocci - Albany County - \$100.00

3rd Place: Emma Ferchland - Queens County - \$50.00

Honorable Mention: Alana Parag - Queens County (Certificate Only)

Honorable Mention: Aicha Barry - Queens County (Certificate Only)

Honorable Mention: Tyler Castler - Albany County (Certificate Only)

Level 2 - High School

1st Place: Gabriel Whitney - Broome County - \$300.00

2nd Place: Karina Costello - New York County - \$200.00

3rd Place: Matthew Otey - Broome County - \$100.00

Honorable Mention: Shea Gormley - Orange County (Certificate Only)

Honorable Mention: Sarah Wagaman - Broome

County (Certificate Only)

Honorable Mention: Erin Fitzgerald - Suffolk County

I have submitted the NYS Irish History report along with all the County and Division reports I received. This year's report was reformatted and I hope that everyone found the report easier to deal with. What I noticed about the reports I received is that many divisions were unable to provide the requested charter information. Many of the older divisions reported that the ink has faded and couldn't be read; certainly understandable and maybe there is possibility of having them reprinted if the needed information can be found. For the other divisions, I would encourage making every effort to find your charter. The charter is a big part of our History and we should be diligent in preserving it.

Speaking of preserving History of the Order, please don't forget to send division and county documents, photos or anything of historical significance to the library at Boston College. Contact me for additional information.

A big part of our history of course are photos. Don't forget that there will be a scrapbook contest at the NYS Convention. Hope to see lots of County entries!! Scrapbook should cover events from the 2015 State convention in Nassau County through June 2017.

One last item that many may have already heard about. Governor Cuomo recently announced a \$2 million award for the new Irish Arts Center in NYC. The center will serve as a national home for Irish and Irish American arts and heritage, offering educational, cultural, and community programming and providing a global platform for new and established artists to showcase their work. In the article (link below), Governor Cuomo acknowledges the contributions of the Irish throughout history to the state of New York. He

sees the new center as a way for all to appreciate the rich legacy of the Irish in America, learn more about a people and culture that have changed the course of a country. Once completed, plans for the center include classes in Irish language, history, music, and dance. The center is located at 726 11th Avenue (Between 51st & 52nd St).

<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-announces-2-million-award-new-irish-arts-center>

Please do not hesitate to call or email me with any questions you have or help you might need. My contact information is below. Wishing everyone a very Happy and Blessed Easter and hope to see everyone in East Durham! Yours in Friendship, Unity & Christian Charity,

Regina

Email: laohregina@optonline.net Mobile: 516-712-4177 Home: 516-431-2852 ,107 Parma Rd, Island Park, NY 11558

Missions and Charities-Terry Meyer

Dear Sisters,

Hello and Happy Spring! Hope all had a wonderful St. Patrick's Day and survived the blizzard. I just wanted to remind everyone that the deadline for applications for the Patricia Doyle Memorial Grant is fast approaching. All applications **must** be postmarked no later than April 15; no applications will be accepted or considered after that date.

The grant is intended to provide limited aid to charities within New York State LAOH. The purpose of this grant is to provide limited aid to **either** 501c3 or non 501c3 charities or causes. For example, grant funds may be awarded to a Catholic Diocese, Parish or Church, a Christian Based entity, a County or Division entity or a Non-

Denominational group. Funds may be granted to help battered women, unwed mothers, homeless shelters or food pantries. The money could also be used to help the LAOH Juniors or to replace a statue in a Catholic Church or school. The grants will be awarded at the State convention in July. Information was sent out to all Presidents the beginning of February.

If you wish to make a donation please be sure to make checks made payable to NYS Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc. and send to me at my home address at 159 Mud Mills Rd., Middletown, NY 10940. All information, application, and donation forms regarding this can be found on our State website and feel free to contact me directly with any questions.

Unfortunately we are still having issues regarding donations and Mass card donations being sent directly to the Columban Fathers. Also some of our members are ordering and paying for Mass Cards on the Columban Fathers Website. Please do not send any monies to the good Fathers as it should be sent directly to National Missions and Charities Officer Mary Ann Lubinsky along with the donation form and send a copy of your donation form sent to me. If you do not send the checks to her with a Report Form, they are not counted as LAOH. The form can easily be found on our State or the National websites and of course I can send it to you and answer any further questions you may have. Once I get the final donations totals and breakdown for donations in 2016 I will send it onto you.

Lastly thank you for the many thoughts and well wishes as I heal from breaking my leg and surgery right before Christmas. They brought a smile to my face and I truly appreciated it! I am slowly getting there but will be good soon. I look forward to see you all at our State meeting in May.



Have a Blessed Easter!

Yours in our motto, Terry Meyer

NYS Missions & Charities & NYS Hudson Valley
Organizer

*Catholic Action- JoAnne
Gundersen*

Dear Sisters,

On Thursday, January 26, 2017, I attended the March for Life Conference at the Renaissance Washington DC Downtown Hotel. The guest speaker was Ryan Scott Bomberger from The Radiance Foundation. At the time of Ryan's birth, his mom could not take care of him and made a choice to give him up for adoption. He grew up in a loving, multi-racial Christian family of 15. Ryan is now married and has 4 children, 2 whom are adopted. I had the pleasure to take a picture with Ryan and meet his wife and children.



On Friday, January 27, 2017, I marched in the 'March for Life' up Constitution Avenue. I was very surprised by the number of young high school and college kids that marched also. It was so nice seeing them at this event. ((Further news,

on Saturday, May 6, 2017, we will be having our LAOH NYS Spring Board Meeting at Gavin's Country Inn, East Durham, NY. Doors open at 9 am, meeting will start at 9:30 am 'sharp'. In addition, our pilgrimage to Our Lady of Knock Shrine will begin at the Weldon House on Route 145 at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, May 7th, and conclude with the celebration of Mass at 10:30 a.m. at the Shrine of Our Lady of Knock. Members are invited to assemble with us at the Weldon House. Please wear your Sashes. Each member is encouraged to attend and observe the State Board Meeting and also celebrate Mass together in Unity.

In our motto,

JoAnn Gundersen, Catholic Action Officer

Past President - Carol McTigue

We're still in the "celebratory mode" of St. Patrick's Day and it has been really great! The parades, the parties, the Dinners and the Celebratory Masses have taken some of winters sting away. Spring has come (if only for a few nice days) and we see some colorful crocus and daffodils poking through the snow reminding us of new life. At this time we are working on our Lenten obligations and happily looking forward to Easter Sunday and the Memorial of Easter Monday. Coming together with our Brothers and Sisters in the cause of these events, whether they be festive or not, bring us to the assurance of Unity.

In my position of Organizer of the Metro area, I have been in contact with some of the ladies in the Counties of The Bronx, New York County as well as Nassau County with the purpose of starting new divisions. Although we are only in the talking stages, the ladies seem excited at the prospect of a division in their area. I will get back to my contacts sometime in April so we can possibly make some progress.

I am so looking forward to our Spring Board Meeting in East Durham and seeing all my sisters again and to catch up on the "news".
A very Blessed and Happy Easter to everyone.

Carol A. Mc Tigie, Immediate Past President/Organizer

Past President- Denise Sobus

Hello Ladies,
I do not have anything to report on the Western Tier as far as organizing any new divisions. Please remember every now and then to put a short article in Church bulletins or display our membership info at any Church functions, this does help to recruit new members.
East Durham is fast approaching; I hope to see everyone there for our spring Board meeting. It should be a great weekend.
My congratulations to our NYS Board on a job well done thus far. I hope all had a grand St. Patrick's Day, Facebook was full of great pictures of LAOH/AOH members marching in their local parades. Please everyone stay healthy and safe and a Blessed Easter to all.
Denise Sobus Past NYS President

Publicity Chair-Cathy Turck

Sisters,

Happy Spring, I think. The calendar indicates its Spring but as I look out my window, Mother Nature is flexing her muscles. By the looks of all the wonderful pictures and posts on line, it seems everyone had a grand St. Patrick's Day.

Many Counties and Divisions have installed new Officers for 2017. Please send me the email address for the new President and Publicity chair so that I may update my distribution list.

cathyturck33@gmail.com

It is vital that each Division President have email or designate someone in the Division to receive information electronically from the State Board. So much information is shared through email that those Divisions that do not provide emails on the end of year report miss out on so much. Many articles and pictures came in for this newsletter and I did my best to include all of them. Some editing was required.

Looking forward to seeing everyone in East Durham!Cathy

Immigration and Legislation- Teresa Kearns

The St. Patrick's Day season is always filled with memories and activities. I myself marched on Friday in the Lockport parade, attended the Youngstown parade on Saturday to support our Sisters from Niagara Falls and again marched on Sunday in the Buffalo St. Patrick's day parade. Whew!

Now that the St. Patrick's day events have come to an end for another year it's time to catch our breath and get back to work. I hope you have been following my updates on immigration over the past few months on our Web site and Facebook page. So much is happening daily, I have tried to highlight some of the key points.

This report, I'd like to enlighten you on the immigration scams that are taking place. Criminals are posing as agents for the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). The other evening I listened in on a live event at the NY Irish Center sponsored by the Emerald Isle Immigration center. This discussion involved preparing yourself and your family in case you are taken into custody and how to avoid the scams.

Due to language barriers, in some cases, public notaries are being conceived as lawyers, stating that they can perform "special" legal services. Where in fact only an attorney or an accredited representative working for the department of justice can represent a person before the Department of Homeland Security or Executive office for Immigration review. Those posing as lawyers or counselors promise to cut through the government red tape at a price, only to take the money and run.

Phone calls from people posing as ICE agents. Threatening to deport unless they pay a fee or give personal financial information such as bank account numbers or credit cards has been happening. You will never be asked to pay fees to a person on the phone or by email. This fear of deportation is costing thousands of dollars to people.

The Visa Lottery will never email about being selected in the Diversity Immigration Visa program. There are false websites claiming to be affiliated with USCIS offering step-by-step guidance on filing applications. Be sure all affiliated sites include .gov you will never be asked to pay to download any forms, they are free. Beware of fraudulent phone calls seeming to be from legitimate government phones. These callers are stating that you have improperly filled out some immigration forms and need to pay a fine immediately.

To report complaints regarding immigration services contact the Fraud Unit Hotline at (866)-390-2992 or email Civil.Rights@ag.ny.gov

In closing, I'd like to remember Martin McGuinness. May he rest in Peace.
Teresa

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

Webmaster- Colleen O'Reilly

The call to the Spring Board Meeting and weekend [Event details](#) (golf, Carnival for Karen, Mass) have been posted to www.laohnys.com. Officers' reports and the minutes of the Fall Board Meeting are available on the [Members page](#). Effective April 1st the new password for documents can be obtained from your Division President.

We've added links to the website created for the upcoming [2017 NYS AOH/LAOH Biennial Convention](#) in Buffalo. Here you can find package details, Thursday night event options, and hotel and shuttle information. The LAOH convention schedule is available on the [Events page](#).

[LAOH News](#) has been updated to include links to news articles about the LAOH in NYS. I've set up a Google alert to catch articles but If you come across one for your area please send us a link. In addition to articles we can also share your event details and flyers. Be sure to include your division or county information (ex. LAOH Suffolk County Board, LAOH Albany Division 1) and the LAOH logo on your flyers so people know who/where you are.

Our presence on Facebook and Twitter continues to grow. If you haven't already please connect with us (@laohnys). We utilize social media to share information, post reminders and engage with the public. If your division or county has social media accounts remember that being active is more than just posting to your own page. Engage with your followers and other like organizations by liking and commenting on their content as appropriate.

Also, social media accounts are not an alternative to websites but should direct people to your division or county website where they can find more in depth information. For more tips on

websites and social media accounts check out our [Resources page](#). In Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity, Colleen O'Reilly
LAOH NYS Information Technology

laohnysweb@gmail.com

Freedom For All Ireland- Dolores Desch

Greetings Ladies! Thank you to all the Division and County Boards that have contributed to the 2016-17 FFAI Christmas Appeal. I wanted to remind everyone that the deadline for submission of funds to Mary T. Leathem, National FFAI Chairperson is March 31. If you missed that deadline please email me and we can see what we can do. Otherwise your funds can be saved for the 2017-2018 Christmas Appeal. I am working with the NYS AOH FFAI Chair, Ciaran Geraghty to finalize the joint meeting that we will host for FFAI at the NYS Convention. This will be in addition to our respective committee meetings and I encourage all of you to attend. Due to the other events planned for East Durham we will not host the Darts Tournament this year. However, I am hearing that our Brothers in the AOH will host the "Horse Race" featuring our State Board members which was very popular last year and raised over \$400.00 for FFAI.

On January 28, 2017 Albany LAOH JFK Division 1 and AOH Father Tansey Division 5 hosted a FFAI Night at the Albany Hibernian Hall. The Committee presented the Father Murphy award to Fr. Gary Donegan from Ardoyne, Belfast, NI. The Father Murphy award is presented annually to someone who has made a significant impact on supporting the people, programs and community of the people of Northern Ireland. The committee not only raised a significant amount of funds for the FFAI Christmas Appeal, they raised awareness for this vital LAOH/AOH National Program and they brought to the forefront the issues currently

faced by the Catholic communities in Northern Ireland.

Fr. Donegan has worked in Holy Cross parish for over 15 years and endured many contentious and dangerous situations. He worked to diffuse violence from antagonistic Orange parades which marched regularly through the nationalist Ardoyne neighborhood. He visited and comforted families affected by violence. He was attacked verbally and physically resulting in countless injuries, yet never gave up. Over the years he has had many death threats from both sides, but he also was embraced by the majority of people in the community looking for a better neighborhood, a better life. In a collaborative way, using the leaders in the community he turned around the negativity and focused on bringing positive change to the residents. He encouraged cross-community efforts including educational and training programs for teens from both sides of the community in de-escalating violence. There are many facets to the work Fr Gary does, some that he does behind the scenes. Rather than sit in an office, he prefers to patrol the streets every night to ensure the safety of the community. While visiting in Albany he received several calls from the PSNI (Police Service of Northern Ireland) who have him on "speed dial" to assist with community issues. In this case they needed his advice on talking a young Catholic off a bridge. This type of trust between some in the PSNI and Fr. Gary has been developed over many years due to his work on the streets of Ardoyne. He has endured criticism from both sides, yet he has led the community to move beyond the past, beyond the hatred and toward a better future. He has become one of the most revered contributors for social change in Northern Ireland.

Fr. Gary saw a need for a community center in Ardoyne, open to all that wanted to make a positive change in their lives. He spearheaded the build of the Houben Center on the grounds of

Holy Cross Church using funds raised through the Holy Cross Trust. At the Albany FFAI Night, Fr. Gary made it very clear that without us – without the Hibernians, without the FFAI Christmas appeal, The Houben Center would not be a reality. The impact of that building has been tremendous. There are regular meetings focusing on multiple community issues including peace and reconciliation. There is an internet café, a daycare center and meeting rooms. It is a safe place, a haven for the community which has brought pride and hope for a brighter future.



Photo Credit -

<http://www.northernbuilder.co.uk/projects/major-renovation-project-at-the-houben-centre/>

Although Fr. Gary has been recently reassigned to other duties, he keeps an office at the Houben Center and visits often. I encourage all of you to visit Holy Cross if you are ever in Ireland to see for yourself the contribution that the LAOH and AOH have made to stand up the walls of The Houben Center and provide the Ardoyne community with the support that they need to continue on the path of peace, reconciliation and progress. The Houben Center is a constant reminder to the

people of Ardoyne that we support their community and are part of their future. The work that **we** do through the FFAI Christmas appeal has been a contributor for sustaining peace in that community. I hope to see you all in East Durham. Go raibh maith agat (Thank you). Dolores Desch, FFAI Chair

Sports chair- Dolores Desch

It is that time of year again when we exchange our snow boots for sneakers and get outside into the fresh air! Upcoming sports events include the AOH NYS Hibernian Bowling Tournament on April 8, 2017 at :

Saratoga Strike Zone
32 Ballston Ave
Saratoga Springs, NY 12566



Cost is \$25.00 per bowler, 5 person team format. Single bowlers and LAOH teams are welcome. RSVP by March 31. To register contact Dave Cummings cummindm@aol.com 518-366-4762 For more information <http://www.nyaoh.com/event/2017-nyaoh-bowling-tournament/>

Once again while at our Spring Board weekend in East Durham, the **James F. Hayes Annual Golf Outing** will take place this at The Sunny Hill Resort and Golf Course. The date of the event is **Friday May 5, 2017.**



If you would like to play and do not have a foursome please send me your name as I will be putting teams together. Last year we had two LAOH teams, this

year we are looking to have three. So come out Ladies and enjoy the beautiful Catskills and some great laughs out on the course! For more information please visit the AOH Website at: <http://www.nyaoh.com/2017/03/01/james-f-hayes-annual-golf-outing/>

Mike Byrne, the AOH Sports chair is in charge of this event. If you have a foursome please register directly with Mike. The application can be found on the AOH NYS website at: <http://www.nyaoh.com/andie/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/HayesGolf2017.pdf>

If you need any additional information feel free to email me at : laohdolores@yahoo.com or email Mike Byrne at: mikenyahsports@gmail.com . Mike's phone number is 516-782-4762. I hope to see you at Bowling or out on the course.

Albany County

Happy Spring from Albany! We started Parade Day with Mass at Blessed Sacrament then marched in Albany's annual St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 11th. Being hardy Nor'Easterners we laughed at the 13 degree temperature with 35 mile per hour winds. The weather certainly brought roses to our cheeks! After we defrosted we joined our Brothers and friends for corned beef, camaraderie and bit of malarkey.



We were fortunate to have several excellent submissions to the History contest. Three students from St. Thomas School were awarded prizes and we treated the whole class to an ice cream party! As I was writing this, I was notified that one of our students, Alex Tocci won second place in the State contest as well as Tyler Castler coming in with honorable mention. Their essays are now on the way to National. We are beyond proud! (See picture below)



On April 23rd we will host our annual baby shower benefiting Community Maternity Services. Our Ladies outdo themselves in showering those who choose life and need a hand to clothe their little ones. We are also again teaming up with our Brothers to Walk for Hospice. We proudly wear our Hibernians for Hospice shirts as we walk around Siena College's beautiful campus on June 10th.

I hope to see many of you at our State Board meeting in East Durham. I will be making my golf debut on Friday at the James F. Hayes Golf Classic (consider yourselves warned). On Saturday after our meeting we are hosting a Carnival for Karen, from 2-4 at Gavin's. All are invited. Please go to our website or the state's for more information about the carnival and journal. All proceeds are going to the Patricia Doyle Memorial Grant. Stay warm, see you soon. God Bless,
Chris O'Reilly, President, Division 1

Broome County

We were honored to have Karen Keane and Jacqueline Clute join us for the installation of officers of the Broome County Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernian County Board. Karen Keane, President NYS LAOH, installed the Officers on January 8th.



Broome County LAOH Board Installation from left to right. Meryl Deemie, Past President, Jacqueline Clute, NYS LAOH VP, Deborah Burke LAOH Div 2 Pres. & BC Board - VP, NYS President Karen Keane, Suzanne Messina, BC LAOH Board President, Maureen Kadlecik LAOH Div 1 President.

The bitter cold and snow did not prevent members of the AOH, LAOH Division 2 and Junior LAOH from joining LAOH Division 1 to celebrate the annual St. Brigid Mass on February 12th hosted by the Division 1 ladies. Following a beautiful service, members enjoyed lunch at the hall.



St. Brigid's Mass from left to right BC LAOH President,

Suzanne Messina, Division 1 President, Maureen Kadlecik, Division 2 President, Deborah Burke, LAOH Junior President, Anna Gilroy, Grand Marshal Roy Mulcahy, AOH President Robert Wylie with Father Buckley behind



LAOH Junior Division marching in the 50th St. Patrick's Day-parade.

The annual Hibernian Dinner Dance was held on February 18th at Traditions at the Glen. The parade officials for the 50th St. Patrick's Day parade in Binghamton were announced and past Grand Marshals were recognized. This year's Grand Marshal is Roy Mulcahy. Roy's membership in the AOH includes three terms as president, bartending and participating in events. He has served the church as lector and Eucharistic Minister as well as supporting the Knights of Columbus, Adoration Society, Right to Life marches, American Legion and Korean War veterans. Our Maid of Erin is Anna Gilroy. Anna is a junior at BHS and is the first President of the Broome County Junior Division, newly formed in June of 2016. She is involved in chorus, theatre productions, Irish dance as well as teaching religious education. This year's Official Starter is Captain Becky Sutliff. Captain Sutliff is a 24-year veteran of the Binghamton Police Department. She is the first woman promoted through the ranks to Captain and also the first woman Official Starter of the parade.



Grand Marshal, Roy Mulcahy, Main of Erin, Anna Gilroy and Official Parade Starter, Captain Becky Sutliff

Division 1 and Division 2 of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians hosted Boscov's Irish Days on February 25th. We celebrated with the community our Irish heritage with a day of Irish music, dancing, vendors, food and drink. The Maloney Memorial Pipe Band, BallyClare Irish dancers, Johnson School of Irish Dance and The Shambles provided entertainment throughout the day.

The Broome County LAOH Juniors worked hard building bird cottages, making magnets, and baked goods to sell at Boscov's Irish Days. The Junior LAOH cookbook containing recipes from AOH, LAOH, Junior members as well as family and friends went on sale. The young ladies took turns during the day to volunteer at the table.



LAOH Juniors craft table at Boscov's Irish Days.



Maloney Memorial Pipe Band entertained at Boscov's Irish Days. Right front drummer is Amber Youngs, LAOH Junior-Coordinator.

On March 4th, Binghamton celebrated the 50th anniversary of the St. Patrick's Day parade. The day began with a beautiful mass at St. Mary's Church to honor St. Patrick and our deceased members. On one of the coldest days this year, members and the community braved the cold to march or view the parade. The celebration continued at Seton Catholic High with musical entertainment by Pipe and Mummer bands and Old Friends. The day came to a close at the AOH with music by Pat Kane.

The theme of this year's parade was "50 years of Irish pride", a reminder of our many Irish blessings. Some of our LAOH Juniors braved the cold and carried their banner for the very first time. (see picture below)



On St. Patrick's Day, our officers and members attended the flag raisings in Johnson City and Binghamton. Members also attended mass and a party at St. Patrick's Church. Our AOH hall opened its doors to celebrate and enjoyed music by The Shambles in the evening.



St. Patrick's Day celebration at the AOH Hall with the Shambles.

On March 11th the ladies of LAOH Division I volunteered their time working at St. Mary's Soup kitchen in Binghamton. We began with a blessing for all and then served a very well balanced meal to approximately sixty individuals and families. Andrea, director of the soup kitchen, mentioned that attendance was down due to the weather. Those who participated enjoyed the lunch and conversation. They were invited to take home another meal or partake of a second serving. Afterwards we cleaned up and enjoyed a lunch with our "sisters" and the soup kitchen team. Division 1 also collected and delivered several bags of personal care items for their pantry.

Our two LAOH divisions worked hard and gave generously in 2016. We donated over \$3,000.00 to various local charities as part of each division's individual annual fundraising efforts and charitable contributions. Looking forward to doing it all again this year.

Greene County

Our Lady of Knock, LAOH Div. 32/Greene County

Just when we thought spring was almost here, then March packed quite a wallop here in Greene County, with a 27-30" snowstorm on March 14-15, cancelling our March meeting and coming just in time for St. Patrick's Day. Snow plows were kept busy and many like myself were not fully plowed out until Sunday. All that didn't deter local Hibernians and residents from the annual festivities. There were corned beef/cabbage dinners at the Shamrock House and Gavin's on St. Patrick's Day, as well as a Mass at St. John's followed by a party at the American Legion Hall in Greenville. Next day brought the Greenville Irish-American Club Parade with several of our Division 32 members participating, followed by refreshments, etc. in St. John's Church Hall.

On Sunday many of our members attended the Knight's of Columbus afternoon dance here in East Durham, enjoying the music of Fintan Stanley and a few tunes on tin whistle by our Chaplain, Msgr. Charlie Coen. It was a very busy weekend here in East Durham "the Emerald Isle of the Catskills".

The photo is our Div. 32 Financial Officer, Anna Fallon, who is also a member of the Greenville I-A and was honored by them in the parade as their Grand Marshall this year. Anna is a very active member of both organizations, as well as the K of C Auxiliary, and the honor was very well deserved.



Spring is here, and soon the huge mounds of snow will be just a memory. We're looking

forward to seeing many of you at the Annual Meeting in East Durham, and serving as the Honor Guard on Sunday for the Annual Pilgrimage of the State Officers to the Shrine of Our Lady of Knock. Hoping the weather will cooperate this year and we'll have a lovely spring day. Go mbeannai Dia duit (May God Bless You)

Kings County

LAOH Division 22 marching in the Bay Ridge St Patrick's Day Parade March 26, 2017



LAOH Kings County stepping off in the Brooklyn Irish American Parade 3/19/17 in Park Slope, Brooklyn NY



Kathryn Keane accepting the St. Brigid Award from Kings County.
February 11, 2017



Monroe County

On October 1st several of our sisters assisted the Irish Children's Program (ICP) with their first annual golf tournament. Since 1982 the ICP has brought an equal number of Protestant and Catholic Children from Northern Ireland to stay with sponsor families in Rochester for 4-6 weeks. The ICP hopes "To foster our guiding principle of peace through understanding". Money raised from the event will be used for airfare. We were happy to help.

Member Pat Crowley arranged a tour of the Mary Cariola Center for several of our members. Founded in 1949, it evolved from a daycare to a nationally renowned agency that serves children with multiple disabilities who cannot be accommodated in private or public schools. Each June we provide cookies for their graduation ceremony reception so this gives the ladies a firsthand look at the Center and its good works.

We held a social event at Barry's Irish Pub in Webster on Sunday, November 6. Barry's put together a stellar brunch buffet that was the envy of other patrons in the pub! The brunch was highlighted with homemade hash, scones and cream cakes. Events like this allow us to relax and enjoy each other's company outside the busyness of a regular meeting.

The annual Mass to honor our deceased members was held at Our Lady of Victory Church in downtown Rochester on November 12.

In the spirit of the holiday season we participated in several charitable events. We collected household goods for Saints Place at Saint Louis Church in Pittsford NY. Saints Place is an outreach program of that church that helps to settle immigrants new to our country. We provided a gift card to a veteran and his family through the American Legion. We also have an on-going collection of yarn that is given to the cousin of a member who knits scarves and mittens for the homeless.

Our annual Christmas brunch was again at Joey B's on January 8th. It was a delicious brunch served on a cold, blustery day. Our joint Installation Dinner and Christmas party with our AOH brothers was on January 7th 2017. A very nice Italian buffet was served.



March is always a busy time of year for us and this March has been no exception. Here in Monroe County March is designated Irish American Month.

We again participated in Irish Night at the Rochester Americans hockey game on March 10th. Besides watching a hockey game and enjoying the Party Deck we held a fundraiser. Each year we sell stars for the Star. The stars are thrown in the center of the ice at half time for prizes.

The Rochester St Patrick's Day Parade will go down in history for us for many reasons. The excitement began when we found out that our President, Gayle Shalvoy, was named Citizen of the Year by the parade committee. We couldn't be prouder that her active participation in many community activities and events and Irish spirit were recognized and celebrated. As if that weren't enough long time member Eileen Fee received recognition in honor of her late husband Patrick. The Fees are outstanding examples of community service and Irish pride for the whole Rochester community.



Chris, Gayle and Raymond Shalvoy



Parade Press conference honoring Gayle Shalvoy and Eileen Fee

Parade day, March 11, began with Mass at St. Mary's downtown. We were especially honored that our Bishop, Salvatore Matano, was celebrant. Our members participated in the Mass as Cross Bearer and Eucharistic Ministers. Eileen Fee sang and Anne Kelly recited the Our Father in Gaelic. After Mass many of the ladies joined the AOH at a

breakfast at ONE, a downtown restaurant, before heading to the parade route.

The parade itself will be a memorable one as well. On March 8th Rochester and surrounding areas were hit with a tremendous wind storm that packed hurricane force gales of 80 miles per hour with sustained winds of 50-60 miles per hour. As a result 130,000 people were without power for many days (some for up to a week!). Even if people did have power there was damage all over caused by falling trees, limbs and wires. The winds preceded a cold front that had air temperatures in the teens and wind chills in the zero to negative degree range. Many called for the postponement or cancellation of the parade. But the parade committee felt that we were prepared and that the event should go on. And it did.



A cold parade day 2017

Despite the cold and wind and continuing problems, the Irish community came out in force and showed their pride. We marched on the original route (we had been on an alternate for a few years due to construction) and the LAOH won first place for Best Non-Commercial Unit! Thanks to Deb Rossi for handling the carnation sale for the LAOH. It is a fundraiser for The Irish Children's Program. Special thanks to Deirdre Hickey for coordinating the float for many years for us. Truly a great day for the Irish!

Our upcoming tea is scheduled for April. We are all looking forward to this annual spring event.

Niagara

Division 1, Niagara Falls

March - What a great month we had...We were as busy as can be and boy oh boy are we tired! The month started off by celebrating our heritage on the 5th. This year we highlighted famous Irish Women, honoring these groundbreaking women with a splendid display noting their crowning achievements. However, the headliner of the event was our 4th annual *Traditional Irish Breakfast!* In 2014 we started this event thinking how great it would be to serve a great breakfast to 50 people or so. But after filling 500 bellies this year, our original estimate seems almost laughable! Patrons were treated to live Irish music, Irish Dancers, and a blast of Celtic culture that succeeded in turning everyone Irish for the day! This event continues to grow each year so it won't be long before we're writing about breaking ground on the Father James J. Brown Convention Center (well maybe that's a bit of a stretch but you get the idea)! We are sincerely humbled by the success of this event as we are almost universally met with "see you next year" as our guests leave. We don't know how we'll feed them all...but we sure will try!!! So mark your calendars and plan on visiting us on the 1st weekend in March next year.



Next up was our annual *St. Patrick's Day Party*. This year marked the 125th birthday for the City of Niagara Falls so the event was held in conjunction with not only the AOH, but with the City as well. And let me tell you, it was a blast! The Dynamic duo of The City and the Hibernians resulted in a bit of extra fun for everyone involved. Not only did we have live Irish music, Irish dancers, and as much corn beef as you could imagine...we were treated to a photo booth, birthday cake and a giant birthday card signed by all in attendance. And as if that weren't enough, the evening was capped off by a spectacular fireworks display with a homemade soundtrack of ooo's and ahhh's. It was a grand showing of affection from the City of Niagara Falls and a great St. Patrick's Day.



After a few hours of sleep and several glasses of water we were right back at it. March 18th saw our ladies put on their game faces and head over to the Youngstown parade. We set out with every intention of repeating our first place finish in the shopping cart-float competition. But as we lined up for the start of the parade, it was evident that the competition had kicked it up a notch and our confidence momentarily waned. But thanks to the ~~luck~~ hard work of the Irish, namely, vice president and creative force, Mari Boland, we once again crossed the finish line in first place. As you can see from the photo below, Mari and the rest of the LAOH knocked it out of the park!



Rejuvenated by a great victory, our ladies ignored their lack of sleep and hopped on a bus bound for the Buffalo parade. Each year the standing-room-only ride to Buffalo seems to take on a life of its own. Food and drink seem to disappear as though the bus had been driven through the Bermuda triangle. It's hard to imagine how so much food and spirits can be consumed in such a short time. We try to outdo ourselves every year, and as usual, we succeeded.

Our march in the parade was a wonderful experience full of familiar faces, bright smiles, and green beer. As our eventful day turned into evening we found our way to our favorite post-parade watering hole, the Shannon pub. We gave our feet a bit of break and enjoyed lovely live music, dancing and the fellowship and camaraderie synonymous with St. Patrick's Day. The only complaint we have about this March is that it's a full year away from the next one!!!





Division 2, Lockport

Ladies from LAOH Division II were busy in December with the PBJ Drive and Bell Ringing for the Salvation Army. The PBJ drive was a huge success and ladies helped collect and sort to get ready for donation.

Our Ladies always have fun with bell ringing for the Salvation Army. Some even sing Christmas carols to customers. On a more serious note, our sister Pam Farina and her husband were in a serious accident in December. Pam suffered several broken bones to her neck and back. She is doing extremely well but please continue to keep Pam in your thoughts and prayers.

January brought Little Women's Christmas, Irish Day at our local hockey arena and our Annual Holiday Party. Ladies enjoyed getting together and visiting local establishments to commemorate Little Women's Christmas.



A holiday celebrated on January 6th celebrated after the Christmas decorations are taken down and all the Christmas preparations are finished, women were finally allowed to have a day to relax and celebrate the end of the hectic Christmas season. The AOH/LAOH supported the Lockport Express hockey team for Irish Day at the rink. Teresa Kearns dropped the first puck of the game. The Irish National Anthem was also sung prior to the game. Our Holiday Party was celebrated with our brother AOH'ers where we gave our Shamrock award to Jeanine Shaw. The award is based on Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity, Jeanine is always willing to help her fellow sister and constantly volunteers. Jeanine sings in the choir at All Saint RC Church and is our Catholic Action officer. Congratulations Jeanine and a well-deserved award!



In February we celebrated St. Brigid's Mass

On February 4th, our ladies celebrated St. Brigid by attending mass at All Saint Church with Father Walter Szezney officiating. On February 17th, we held our Great Guinness Toast event and as always it was a huge success. Of course the real winners will be our local charities that will eventually benefit from all the proceeds. Our ladies do everything they can for local charities even collecting thousands upon thousands of metal pop tabs to donate to Buffalo's Ronald McDonald House. Finally, the Lockport LAOH

Division II is one of the original donors to the PBJ Drive. We were recognized at the 1st Annual PBJ Recognition event. Congratulations Division II ladies for a job well done!

Onondaga County



In December 2015, we celebrated the holidays at our annual installation dinner at Coleman's Irish Pub.

On Sunday, March 6th, we attended a parade fundraiser at Kitty Hoyne's and were honored with a picture with the Grand Marshall, Joe O'Hara, brother of our member Eileen Tickner.



On Wednesday, March 16, our hard core members made it to the midnight kickoff off festivities under the infamous green over the red light on Tipperary Hill at the Stone Throwers monument.

On the charitable side, we distributed just short

of \$500 to local charities as part of our annual fundraising efforts. As you can see we play hard and we work hard and we give generously.

Looking forward to doing it all again this year!

Orange County

Orange County LAOH celebrated the Feast of St. Brigid on February 5, 2017 at Sacred Heart Church in Monroe. There was a luncheon reception at the Lakeside Restaurant.



Therese Meyer, NYS Missions & Charities and Orange County LAOH President at the Grand Marshal reception held at Antun's in Queens in February. Terry is the first woman elected by the LAOH in Orange County to be an Aide to the Grand Marshal in the NYC St. Patrick's Day Parade.



Orange County LAOH members help County President and NYS Missions & Charities Officer and Hudson Valley Organizer Terry Meyer celebrate her selection as Orange County's LAOH

first woman Aide to the Grand Marshal in the NYC St. Patrick's Day Parade. Pictured l to r: Patsy McAteer, Anita Colman, Marie Cunningham, Peggy Flynn, Terry Meyer (center), Ann Pirock and Mary Wingenter.



Orange County Ladies at the New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade. Picture grand stand. Terry Meyer pictured at the Grand Stand at the New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade.



Orange County Ladies marching in the Rock Hill St. Patrick's Day Parade.



Rockland County



The LAOH Division 3 of Pearl River hosted its annual Christmas Party and St. Patrick's Day parties for the residents and sisters of St. Zita's Villa, a women only nursing home, in Monsey, NY. They were entertained by the students from the Pearl River School of Irish Music.

In addition to the parties, several LAOH members make weekly visits there to play bingo and do arts and crafts with the residents.

The LAOH County Board and LAOH Division 3, were well represented in our local St. Patrick's Day Parades.



LAOH Division 3 was especially proud to support two of their own.



Carmel Reilly and Helen Kilgallen Murphy

Carmel Reilly, Financial Secretary, LAOH Division 3, was the Grand Marshal in the 55th Annual Rockland County St. Patrick's Parade. She is just the 5th woman to hold that position. Her father, Matthias (a/k/a Matt) Reilly was the Grand Marshal in 1974, thus making them the 1st Father/Daughter Grand Marshals! The parade was held on March 19th and God was good. The men and women of the Rockland County AOH had perfect marching conditions. It is the 2nd largest parade in New York, after New York City.



Carmel's aides included: Moira Reilly, LAOH Division 3 (her mother); Mary O'Donoghue, LAOH Division 2; Susan D'Adamo, LAOH Division 4 and Patricia Brady, LAOH County Board.

Helen Kilgallen Murphy, Recording Secretary, LAOH Division 3, was the Rockland County Aide to the Grand Marshal of the NYC St. Patrick's Day

Parade. Helen represented Rockland in true Irish fashion. After suffering the loss of her father on the morning of the Emerald Ball, Helen did what any real daughter of Erin would do. She honored her father's memory and his legacy (Tom Kilgallen was a part of the first few parade committees) by attending the Emerald Ball with her husband and danced the night away, with her parents never far from her thoughts. Tom and Bridie must have been beaming. On March 17th, 2017, Helen proudly marched up Fifth Avenue.



Schenectady County

The Schenectady Ladies have been busy this quarter. We celebrated St Brigid's feast with mass at St. Luke's Church followed by a wonderful luncheon back at the Hall. Many thanks to our AOH brothers who assisted with the meal that day. At our celebration, our Sister Martha "Marti" Juhren was awarded our Spirit of St Brigid award. Marti was chosen as she has been an active member of our division for over 20 years and symbolizes our motto of Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity. She has been the chairwoman of our Sunshine Committee for several years and supports sisters who are going through a serious illness, have been under the weather or just need a little cheering up from all those life events that can get you down. Marti sends cards, plants, flowers, or visits a sister in person. She lifts the spirit of all those around her

and Marti has played an integral role in her support of her sisters in her division by organizing and chairing our Sunshine Committee. She supports many worthy causes with her time and talent. Congratulations Marti!



Pictured above, L to R: Brenda Adams- Committee member, Marti Juhren- Spirit of St. Bridget Award winner, Jean Boughton- Committee member, and current Division President Cathy Turck

Our St Patrick's Day celebration started with mass at St John's Church and then everyone hustled back to the Hall to set up for our annual raffles table. Every year the ladies solicit donations from members and supporting local businesses so that they can raise money with the raffle baskets to support many local charities. Much to our surprise the local Spectrum Cable news crew showed up and decided to do a live noon time shoot from the Hall. Despite the reporters urge to make St. Patrick's Day all about the "big party", Division President Cathy Turck, reminded her about our Faith, History, Heritage, and Culture. By the end of the discussion the reporter was beginning to understand what St. Patrick's Day means to the Hibernians and got to sample a bit of our traditional Irish faire with soda bread and colcannon. Divisions Secretary, Kim DePeaux, assisted with showing the reporter the Hall operation and how much everyone was working together to show the public how proud the Irish are and all about our traditions, our faith, our history.

We will be having a Western themed fundraiser on April 29th. Reservations and information can

be obtained by contacting Kim De Peaux at kimdepeaux@gmail.com

Suffolk County

Suffolk County LAOH held its 10th annual St. Brigid's Day Celebration on January 29th with Mass celebrated by Fr. Stephen Donnelly at the Sacred Heart Chapel of the Sisters of St Joseph in Brentwood, NY. Music was provided by the Hibernian Festival Singers and the Roisin Dubh Irish Pipe Band led the procession into the chapel. Mass was followed with a Breakfast at Division 2 Hall in Babylon, where the recipients of the 2017 "Footsteps of St Brigid" Award were honored. The recipients, pictured above, were:

Division 1-Kathleen Coletti, Division 2 -Sharon Lauro, Division 3-Mary Heizman, Division 4- Kiera McCourt, Division 5-Debbie Baer, Division 7-Madonna Nolty, Division 8/9 – Joan Campbell, Division 11 – Patricia O'Flaherty

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 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 Nolty, Division 7 V.P.





Led by President Patricia Rattigan, the Ladies of Suffolk County march down 5th Ave in the 2017 NYC St. Patrick's Day Parade. On another note, Suffolk County LAOH placed 2nd in the 2016 Parade



The McWilliams Sisters of Kings Park

Members of Suffolk County LAOH Division 3, Margie Stajk, Barbara Griffin, and Cathy Donnelly are also known as the famous McWilliams sisters of Kings Park. All have been active and well-loved members of the community and of LAOH Division 3, which meets in Kings Park.

The sisters were selected to be the Grand Marshalls of the 2017 Kings Park St Patrick's Parade. In November 2016, they were honored at a Grand Marshall Ball held at the beautiful Flowerfield Estate in St. James.



Division 5 of Patchogue had their 2016 Christmas party on December 9th, and it was a great success. The children got to see Santa and make their wishes, and everyone enjoyed the Chinese Auction held later in the night.

LAOH Division 5 participated in the Mastic-Shirley Christmas Parade on Saturday, Dec 3rd. A fun time was had making the children smile as we went by!

Westchester County

LAOH Lady of Knock Division 19 Yonkers were selected as the 2017 winners of the Best Senior Marching Unit at the 62nd Annual Yonkers St. Patrick's Day Parade on McLean Avenue, which took place on Saturday, March 18th. The division will receive a trophy and hopefully a spot up front in next year's parade!



Members of the Ladies AOH-Yonkers, Division 19 attended the Yonkers St. Patrick's Day Parade on McLean Avenue.

Installation, which took place at Empire City Casino in Yonkers, NY on Saturday, March 11th. Two of our members were selected as Aides to Grand Marshal Timothy Cardinal Dolan including Cathy Hogan and Denise O'Flynn Donaghy. Congratulations ladies - you represented our division well!



raffles and many friends, old and new, sharing a meal together. The Feast of St. Brigid was marked with a special Mass celebrated by Father Matthew Janeczko, the Associate Pastor of Sacred Heart Church in Yonkers, NY and division chaplain. (Photo by Nuala Purcell)

See you all in East Durham!!



LAOH Yonkers Division 19 President Allison Burke, Mass Celebrant Father Matthew Janeczko, Division 19 Vice President Brigid Arpa (Photo by Nuala Purcell)



Members of LAOH-Yonkers Division 19 are pictured at their annual St. Brigid's Communion Breakfast on Saturday, February 4th at Burke's Bar & Restaurant on Bronx River Road in Yonkers, NY. A great day was had by all in attendance with