Dear Sisters,

*2019-2021*

*New York State Board*

*Chaplain*

 Deacon Charles Z. Wojton

 cwojton1@nycap.rr.com

*President*

 Mary Beth Durkee

 mbdurk7@gmail.com

*Vice President*

 Agnes O’Leary

 laohaggie@gmail.com

*Secretary*

 Regina Begley

laohregina@optonline.net

*Treasurer*

 Therese Meyer

 tmmeyer4@gmail.com

*Irish Historian*

 JoAnn Gundersen

 jgunde2000@aol.com

*Missions & Charities*

 Catherine Doherty

 cathieedoherty@hotmail.com

*Catholic Action*

Teresa Kearns

 irishsmiles17@verizon.net

*Past President & Organizer*

 Jacqueline Clute

 banbha1021@gmail.com

Appointees

*Auditor*

 Christina Parisi

 clp110388@hotmail.com

*Freedom for All Ireland*

 Joan Moore

 joan55mmoore@msn.com

*Fundraising*

 Mary “Sissy” Durkee

 mdurkee1@nycap.rr.com

*Immigration & Education*

 Jeryl Hess

 dalunchlady1@aol.com

*Information Technology*

 Kimberly A Clancy

 laohnysweb@gmail.com

*Public Relations*

 Mary Hogan

 laohbklyn@aol.com

*Addresses and phone numbers are available on the website*

*laohnys.com*

*Members Resource Page*

I am honored to have been appointed by our State President, Mary Beth Durkee, to be your representative for Freedom for All Ireland for 2019-2021. This is my first year on the State Board and I am looking forward to working with Marybeth and her board as well as many of you to keep you informed about what is happening in Ireland and the importance of Freedom for All Ireland.

Many of you may know me, “Joan Moore, Rockland County” but for those of you who do not, I will give a little background on myself. I live in Pearl River and am married to Dermot Moore and am the proud mother of 3 boys, Thomas Ashe, Terence McSweeney and Conor Naughton and 1 daughter Margaret O’Rourke, proud Grandmother to Cormac McConnell, Charles Holt and Rose Mary. As you can see by these names, Irish history is important to our family and why I am honored to be your FFAI chairperson. I had the pleasure of having a great Irish woman teach me and inspire me to become involved in all things Irish, Mary Holt Moore. I have held the FFAI position on both the Division and County Levels and have worked with Men’s Division 3 to have many guest speakers here in Rockland. such as Ruan O’Donnell, representative and families of Relatives for Justice and Denis Mulcahy speaking on his documentary “How to Diffuse a Bomb”. I have held many positions on both the Division and County levels cumulating in being elected as President for both.

I would like to sincerely thank Dolores Desch the immediate past FFAI Chairperson. She is deeply involved in this issue concerning Ireland and I encourage all of you to read her report for the State meeting. She has a lot of information as to the various groups that benefit from our donations and the importance of continued support for FFAI. The pending Brexit is a high priority for those living in the North of Ireland to help ensure there is NO hard border in Ireland. I will continue in her lead to keep you informed of the effects of Brexit in the North and Ireland overall. We need to continue to support the people in the North and monitor what effects Brexit will have on our beloved Ireland. There are a great many ways to keep informed such as showing of some of the powerful and moving movies/documentaries out there:” *Unquiet Graves*” by Sean Murray, “*How to Diffuse a Bomb*” by Denis Mulcahy, Netflix “*Remastered- the Miami Showband Massacre*” or some of the new books out “*Counterinsurgency and Collusion in Northern Ireland*” by Mark McGovern . I encourage all of you to check our website <http://www.loahnys.com/ffai.html> for presentation by Divisions or Counties. Dolores also provided a table of the donations made by various Divisions/Counties so please check it out and let me know if your group is not on there. I would like to remind you all that the FFAI Appeal is starting up soon and all donations are to be sent :

**Agnes Gowdy LAOH National FFAI Chairperson, 13201 Rosselo Ave Warren, MI 48088 (586) 573-4121 Sengarose48@gmail.com**

Be sure to make checks out to **LAOH Inc**., and indicated which organization you want the funds to go to or just the general fund in the memo area. I would appreciate if you would copy me on all your FFAI donations so I can report to all how much NYS has donated.

In Closing, if you are not the current LAOH County/Division President or County/Division FFAI Chair and received this Introduction letter, I ask for you to forward this letter to your Freedom for All Ireland chairperson and reply to my email with the person’s name and email address, so I can update my records.

Yours in Friendship, UNITY and Christian Charity,

**Joan Moore**

 **LAOH State FFAI Chairperson,**

 **155 Hunt Ave., Pearl River, NY 10965, joan55mmoore@msn.com**

Sisters;

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

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

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

On the personal side:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

I remain sincerely in our motto,

Mary Beth Durkee

LAOH New York State President