

LAOH NYS General Meeting

Saturday November 2, 2019

Hilton Garden Inn

Sartoga Springs, New York

General Meeting - Final

Officer's Meeting

The Meeting opened at 1:05PM with the Ritual led by President Mary Beth Durkee.

OPENING PRAYERS	Chaplain Deacon Chuck & President Mary Beth Durkee
Act of Consecration	VP Agnes O'Leary
Prayer for the Unborn	Secretary Regina Begley
Prayer to St. Michael	Treasurer Terry Meyer
Pledge of Allegiance	Historian JoAnn Gundersen and all assembled.

Call to Order/Welcome	President Mary Beth Durkee
	Exit Doors
	Defibrillator – Denise Sobus
	Parliamentarian – Mary T. Leathem
	Time Keeper – Kathy Conway

President Durkee introduced Deacon Chuck as our Chaplain for the 2019-2021 administration.

Roll Call conducted by Secretary Regina Begley (see attached)

Reading of the Minutes – Secretary Regina Begley

As the minutes were distributed via email, a motion was made by Christine O'Reilly (Albany) to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the 2019 Spring Board meeting. Motioned seconded by Cathy Murphy(Richmond) . All in favor. Motion carried and so ordered.

Presentation of Bills Treasurer – Terry Meyer

The following Bills were presented:

Reimbursement of President Durkee's expenses for Interim board meeting and 125th Anniversary Celebration in Michigan including a gift from NYS to National President Carol Sheyer: \$905.53.

Reimbursement of President Durkee's expenses for trip to Syracuse to view 2021 Convention site: \$101.05

New Officer Name Badges: \$154.60

NYC Parade Affiliation: \$200

Austin V. Carew Scholarship Fund (Golf sponsor -East Durham): \$100

Irish Heritage Room: \$100

National Raffle Tickets: \$40

Board Member expenses for this weekend

Motion was made by Jeryl Hess(Albany) to pay the bills. Motion was seconded by Joan Parisi (Kings). All in favor. Motion carried and so ordered.

Reading of Correspondence – Secretary Regina Begley

Thank You note from National President Carol Sheyer thanking her Sisters of New York State for the invitation to attend their State Convention in July and for the warm welcome she received from everyone.

Thank You note from National President Carol Sheyer thanking the Ladies from NY for the beautiful gift of a Claddagh pendant given to her in honor of her testimonial.

Thank You note from Aidan Molly Arnold our 2019 Junior Hibernian of the Year.

Endorsement letter from the California LAOH State Board endorsing Peggy Cornish for the National Office of Catholic Action or Higher.

Invitation from NYC St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee to attend meeting announcing awards for the 2019 NYC Line of March. LAOH NYS Board won first place in their marching unit category followed by Orange County in 2nd place and Suffolk County in 3rd place.

Invitation from NYC St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee to once again affiliate with the NYC Parade. Affiliation fee is \$200.

Email from the Director of the Roarke Center thanking the LAOH for their generous donation of \$1000.

Letter from National Secretary Marilyn Madigan Letter was read by National VP Karen Keane. The letter spoke about November as the month of Remembrance and Thanksgiving. This November the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians has much to be thankful. Let us remember all the members over the past 125 years who have left us a great legacy. As Veterans Day approaches, our Order will be thanking our Sisters who have served our Country in Military Service. Many of the States have provided the names of their Veterans. Marilyn requested that any State who has not submitted names of Veterans to send email addresses to her. Marilyn also requested to reach out to thank their families. In addition, the letter referenced declining membership and Marilyn encouraged all members to do what they can to increase membership. Nat'l VP Karen Keane and Past Nat'l President Mary Hogan will participate on a committee to gather ideas and suggestions to increase membership.

Letter from East Islip Division 7 introducing the 'Irish Heritage Room' located in the East Islip Library. The room contains Irish books and Irish memorabilia. Room has been set up to encourage everyone to become familiar with their Irish history and traditions. Donations or loan of books or any other Irish treasures gratefully accepted. Monetary donations also accepted.

OFFICER REPORTS

All Officer Reports were posted to the LAOH NYS website 10 days prior to the meeting. Below are highlights/summary or anything new the Officer's may have become aware of since submitting their report.

Chaplain - Deacon Chuck described his role as a Deacon and welcomed the opportunity to work with the LAOH State Board. He is very much looking forward to it. Happy to offer spiritual guidance to those who may need it.

President - Mary Beth Durkee attended the interim board meeting and the 125th Anniversary party in Michigan. President Durkee expressed appreciation for sending her to Michigan. President Durkee also visited the site of our 2021 convention in Syracuse with Past President Ann Marie Ferguson.

Vice President - Aggie O'Leary stated that her report is on the NYS website. She has requested information on Junior divisions around the state to be posted on the NYS website 'Junior's Corner'. and a master list of all degreed members and where degrees were held. Aggie also took a moment to thank Mary Hogan and Regina Begley for the work they did for the 2019 St. Patrick's Day parade. We had a great turn out from across the country and it was an honor to march alongside all of them.

Secretary - Regina Begley stated that her report is on the NYS website and reminded all that the year end reports were just around the corner. Expecting reports from National by mid November. Regina will forward reports as soon after that as possible.

Treasurer - Terry Meyer stated that her report is on the NYS website. Terry reminded everyone to be mindful of the due dates for the upcoming annual financial reports and please do not change starting number. Expecting reports from National by end of November. Financial reports must be submitted electronically.

Historian - JoAnn Gundersen stated that her report is on the NYS website. JoAnn reported that the History report for 2019 has been suspended. In lieu of the report all Divisions, Counties and States and Degree teams should concentrate on their submission to the 125th Anniversary book. Don't forget to include closed divisions in your histories. February 1st is the deadline for submission. National Historian Sandi Swift Riley obtained a grant for \$13,000 to publish the book; which will also help to make the books available to the membership at a reasonable price. In addition to history submissions, journal ads are also welcome. No personal ads. Also JoAnn is looking for scrapbook material. The history report will be back in 2020.

Missions & Charities - Cathie Norton Doherty Cathie encouraged everyone to continue to support our two LAOH NYS Charities: Columban Fathers & Columban Sisters. Cathie let us know that on the Columban Fathers website they are offering a free calendar. Cathie was happy to announce that the Woman's Veteran's pin is now free. Also available for free is the Gold Star Mother's Pin (for active duty, combat related death).

Catholic Action - Teresa Kearns stated that her report is on the NYS website. Teresa reported that for the 3rd quarter there was \$1,715 donated to Project St. Patrick. Teresa also thanked everyone for their food and cash donations for the pantry at St. Clemens. Looking toward East Durham, Teresa is working with the AOH to offer an alternative to attending Mass at the Shrine instead of at Mass Rock. More information will be forthcoming.

Auditor - Christina Parisi-conducted an audit of the financial records, and found all expenses were reasonable within exempt purpose of the of the Order. PSP Karen Keane (Albany) made a motion to accept the Auditor's Report. Motion seconded by Joan Moore (Rockland). All in favor. Motion carried and so ordered.

Immigration & Education - Jeri Hess- stated that her report is on the NYS website. Jeri encourages everyone to contact Chuck Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand to vote no on the Fairness for High Skilled Immigrants Act, Titled H.R 1044/S.386 The bill is currently on hold. If this bill passes it would remove the 7% cap on visas that a given country could receive, giving a monopoly on employment-based immigration to Indian Nationals for the next decade. If the bill passes, Ireland will not receive any work visas.

FFAI - Joan Moore stated that her report is on the NYS website. She reminded everyone that Mark Thompson will be coming to Albany on 11/22, Peekskill on 11/23, and the Bronx on 11/24. There is also one engagement in New Jersey on 11/18. Mr. Thompson is currently seeking support from the US government to prevent the shutdown of prosecution of British Troopers and the cutoff of truth mechanisms to investigate Britain's legacy coverup. Also keep Malachy McAllister in your prayers as he still is in danger of deportation.

Public Relations - Mary Hogan stated that her report is on the NYS website. Mary requested that if you did not receive the most recent St. Brigid's Newsletter to see her after the meeting so that she can get your email address. Mary also requests that every division and county appoint a Public Relations Officer. In addition, Mary requests that each Division and County send a small article to each edition of the St. Brigid's newsletter. It can be an article on a favorite charity or a special project.

Webmaster/Information and Technology - Kimberly Clancy stated that her report is on the NYS website. Kim encourages everyone to visit the website. She re-vamped the website's navigation to hopefully make things easy to find. She is also managing our Facebook page; updating it as often as possible. She pointed out that our page has a combined 1313 'likes' and 'following' from Ireland and all over the U.S. Kim is also our Sports Chair. Interest in the bowling tournament was quite low and therefore it was cancelled. Kim will also get information on the East Durham golf outing out as soon as possible.

Fundraiser - Mary Durkee stated that her report is on the NYS website. The annual calendars are available at the meeting and Sissy will distribute to County/Division Presidents or alternates. Please remember that this is one of our biggest fundraisers. Sissy is challenging all to sell at least 1 additional calendar. We outsell the men. And a reminder that Counties/Divisions that do not sell all their calendars and are not returned by January 15th will be charged for them. We are also doing a raffle. 3 tickets will be distributed to each division and county. Only 300 tickets available. Additional details in Sissy's report. Sissy will also be selling Kelly green shirts. We are also doing a 50/50 at this meeting. Half to the winner

Past Presidents

Denise Sobus – Glad to be here. Available for installations in the Western tier or for any other help needed.

Kathy Conway – thanked everyone for their good wishes and words of encouragement. Also would like to give a sign of appreciation for all the hard work done by the LAOH NY State Board.

Ann Marie Ferguson – Delighted to be here. Wishing everyone a Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Looking forward to seeing everyone in Syracuse.

Meg Redling – Happy to be here. Attended the Convention in July. So good to see everyone and very inspired by the good work done by the membership.

National Officers

Past National President Mary T. Leathem – Hello. Goodbye.

Past National President Mary Hogan – Ditto.

National Vice President Karen Keane – The celebration in Dearborn for the 125th Anniversary was fabulous. At the interim board meeting Karen had the opportunity to present a charter to a new Junior Division in Kentucky. She opted to hold presentation of the new NY junior division until this meeting. The new 125th Anniversary Charter was presented to the Albany County Vice President and the Division 1 President. We must remember that the juniors are the future of our order and we must do everything we can to nurture them.

National Catholic Action Officer Cathy Turck – Happy to be here. Always great to see her sisters from around the State. As Nat'l Catholic Action Officer she is thrilled that NY is the most generous State for donations to Project St. Patrick. NY State donations far exceed all other States.

President Durkee requested a motion to accept all the reports. Motion made by Betsy Henderson (Schenectady) and seconded by Madonna Nolty (Suffolk). All in favor. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Bylaws Committee – Mary Hogan reported that she is just waiting on a signed copy of the updated bylaws from Immediate Past President Jackie Clute. Once that is received, Mary will forward to National President Carol Sheyer for her review and signature. Once signed by Carol, Mary will have the new bylaws published on the LAOH NYS website.

Convention Report – PSP Karen Keane acknowledged all the hard work done by the committee especially in raising \$6000 in sponsorships which went a long way in reducing overall costs. The final report is not ready yet, but Karen believes that the Convention was financially successful especially with \$10 per registered LAOH member (and guests) coming back to the Board.

NYC St. Patrick's Day Parade – President Durkee announced that Regina Begley and Mary Hogan will represent her with respect to anything concerning the LAOH and the NYC parade. President Durkee also reiterated Aggie's earlier comments thanking Mary and Regina for all the hard work that went into getting everyone together to march behind the 125th Anniversary banner. It was a delightful day and if you get the chance in 2020 march in the parade. The whole parade is on youtube.

Committee to Raise Money for Pat Doyle Fund – The Past NYS Presidents will work together to come up with ideas to raise funds for the Oat Doyle Fund.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

National Appeals For Aid – When the Missions & Charity report was sent out last year the request to pay 50cents per member was not very clear. As a result NYS did not pay their bill. When we were notified of our lapse, President Durkee directed the Treasurer to pay the bill from the State Treasury. So, for this year each County/Division will receive a bill for \$1.00 per member to cover 2018 and 2019. For year end 2020, you will be billed 50 cents per member.

National Interim Board Meeting/125th Anniversary National VP Karen Keane reported that the Interim Board meeting was well attended. President Durkee represented us well. Many States who never come to anything were there. Many left feeling empowered and encouraged to move forward. The soiree at the Dearborn Inn commemorating the 125th Anniversary was a fun filled evening. The top 4 Officers from the AOH attended.

Software for State Board Laptops has been ordered and Mary Hogan will install on the 6 state board laptops.

Gaelic Mass in the Bronx Mary Hogan and Joan Moore attended. Ladies from the Bronx are interested in re-opening an old division or starting a new one. Anyone who knows someone who would be interested in joining a division in the Bronx please let Mary know. Karen Keane and Mary Hogan will partner to help re-establish the Bronx division.

Greene County Division 32 – Bernadette Gavin is actively campaigning to keep Division 32 open. Many of the existing members want to turn in their charter and close the division. President Durkee will be setting up a meeting with Bernadette and other division members (old and new) to figure out how to move forward and keep Division 32 open.

Proceedings from State Convention are completed and have been posted the website.

Motions passed at Officers Meeting:

\$100 to Irish Heritage Room in East Islip Library

\$100 to Austin V. Carew Scholarship Fund (East Durham golf Outing)

\$200 NYC St. Patrick's Day Parade Affiliation

\$40 National Board Raffle

As Immediate Past President was unable to attend the meeting, discussion on the proposed budget was tabled until a later date.

National Convention 2020 will take place at the Rosen Centre Hotel adjacent to the Convention Center. Opening Mass will be Wednesday July 22nd. Installation and closing Mass will take place on Saturday July 25th. Price of rooms with tax will be approximately \$130.68. Event package will be \$200. The committee is working on a deal for a shuttle to and from the airport. There is a free shuttle to Universal. The Degrees of the Order will be exemplified on Wednesday. VP Aggie O'Leary mentioned that this would be a very good convention to have a strong NY delegation as the next National President will be from NY State.

NYS State Convention 2021 will be held in Syracuse at the Syracuse Marriott. Room rates are \$135 per night, plus tax. Rate available 2 nights before and 1 night after.

There is a \$5 per day parking fee.

Convention dates: July 7th – July 11th

Committee to Review Appointee's Reimbursement

VP Aggie O'Leary will chair this committee. Other committee members are PNP Mary T. Leathem, NYS CA Officer Teresa Kearns and PSP Karen Keane. This was a suggestion made at the May State Board meeting.

Financial Guidelines Committee will re-convene to take another look at our financial guidelines and recommend necessary changes. PNP Mary T. Leathem chairs this committee. Her committee members are NYS Secretary Regina Begley and Nat'l CA Officer Cathy Turck.

History Book President Durkee made a final request for everyone to do their best to submit a division/county history page for the 125th Anniversary book.

Good and Welfare

NYC St. Patrick's Day Parade – Maureen Caffrey (Nassau) reported that at the Parade Committee meeting it was announced that as 2020 is the 100th anniversary of Women's right vote, the parade will be honoring women.

Meryl Deemie (Broome) – Check your furnaces and carbon monoxide alarms. Meryl had quite a scare in October and she wanted to share her experience with her sisters.

A motion to adjourn the NYS LAOH November Board meeting was made by Joan Moore (Rockland) and seconded by Jeryl Hess (Albany). All in favor. Motion carried.

Following the Ritual, the meeting was closed at 1:35PM by President Durkee.

Respectfully submitted,

Regina Begley
LAOH NYS Secretary