



Spring 5/2/2023 Officers Meeting

The meeting opened at 7:03 pm via Zoom

Opening prayers and the Pledge of Allegiance done

Welcome all by President Aggie O'Leary

Thank you to all officers for doing Zoom committee meetings and Becci for setting them up. Bring computers to the convention. Be sure all materials are turned over in a timely manner. The last time took a few over six months to do so. Will allow observers to speak at the general meeting again but can only speak on whatever they had previously spoken to their presidents about ahead of the meeting.

* Roll call: Fr. Henry excused, Cathie Doherty coming on later, Past President Carol McTigue excused, Past National President Mary Leathem excused, Past President Rosalie Reardon absent

Present: VP Regina Begley; Secretary Terry Meyer; Treasurer JoAnn Gundersen; Missions & Charities Teresa Kearns: Catholic Action Sissy Durkee –Terry & Teresa are having issues with their internet connections. Auditor Christina Parisi; National Treasurer Cathy Turck

Immediate Past President Mary Beth Durkee; Web/Publicity Becca Enders; Immigration & Education Kathleen Stevens; FFAI Joan Moore; Sports Maureen Caffrey; Scrapbook Madonna Nolty; Fundraising Chris Brogan; Military Affairs Jeannine Mannarino, has to leave early; Past President Jackie Clute; Past President Denise Sobus; Past President Anne Marie Ferguson; Past President Margaret Redling; Past President Cathy Conway; Past Natl President Mary Hogan; Past Natl President Margaret Hennessy; Immediate Past Natl President & Past State President Karen Keane.

*Reading of Minutes: Motion made to dispense reading of minutes and to accept the minutes as sent to the parties made by Joan Moore and seconded by Regina Begley. All were in favor motion passed.

Presentation of bills: JoAnn stated that are no bills at this time; there will be after the general board meeting and convention.

Vice President Regina Begley: has gotten only two entries for the Mother Teresa and Junior of the Year. Sent out information about the Trinity Scholarship.

Secretary Terry Meyer: reports all were submitted in time and accepted. We have 3435 members. Still getting attendance for the general meeting right now it looks like around 100+. Our National President, Marilyn Madigan, was invited to attend our convention and do the installation. She is currently in Ireland, but we confirmed that she and Fr. Henry both have rooms at the hotel for the convention. A call to the convention was sent out at the end of February to all and currently working on numbers for credentialing delegates for the convention. Problems still with year-end reports; many still do not put the membership year or when they got their degree. Financial secretaries in divisions should be able to

determine the year of membership or its on-dues cards. The degree date can be an issue for older members but suggested asking other members that may have been around the same time. Emails are missing or incorrect; also, they need to correct that.

Will work on who has the most increased percentage for the Marie English Award sponsored by the Schenectady division at Convention.

Treasurer/JoAnn Gunderson: audit is currently being done by Christina. The balance is \$38,495.10, which includes money coming in for the convention. President Aggie and Cathy Turck stated that JoAnn has been doing an excellent job. JoAnn stated that our members are following our motto in supporting our national and local charities. It was great to see this. Explained that she would be paying \$130 for convention registration for officers and forms to be given out at the general meeting. Covering travel expenses for the board at the convention plus reimbursements. At general meetings, appointees receive mileage and reimbursement of up to \$300; past presidents receive mileage and reimbursement of up to \$150.

The Pat Doyle fund had a starting balance of \$4790, with expenses of \$99.94 for the mailing of raffle tickets and an additional \$1050 in expenses. Currently, the balance is \$3640.06.

Irish History/Cathy Doherty: we have two national winners in the writing contest and six state winners. Will give information to JoAnn for checks to be issued to state winners, and she will then have certificates to present to winners along with the checks. There were great entries, triple the amount from last year. Discussed putting it on Facebook, and it was decided that only first names, last initials, and county they were from should be listed. Will need permission to put photos up of the winners. History reports are only due now, and she is working on them.

Missions & Charities/Teresa Kearns: for the first quarter of 2023, figures are: Columban Sisters \$1255, Columban Fathers \$475, Mass cards \$410 for a total of \$2,140. Collecting hygiene items for Rochester at our general meeting and the convention. There is no day of service scheduled for Rochester. It seems men had put out information about collecting food items in East Durham, which we are not involved in, and John Manning will correct that.

Catholic Action/Sissy Durkee: for the first quarter of 2023, we had donations of \$865 for Project St. Patrick and \$1350 for SOAR. Working on where mass will be for the general meeting as things are muddy. Tim McSweeney and Fr. Henry had not gotten a response from the Shrine yet. The other alternative is the hall at the Shamrock House. Tom O'Donnell will do the first reading, and Regina will pray to the faithful. The AOH of Green County had reached out to do a reading or collections since this is our LAOH mass; they were told that maybe next year, they could be ushers. To be determined next year. It was also discussed that if a gentleman from AOH came to play as a piper, we would give him a donation for that, but we already have Maureen as our piper, so that was left open.

Immediate Past President/Mary Beth Durkee: no one new for membership. Terry mentioned that Bernadette from Green had a membership drive with 11 new members and hopes to get more. Gave her Mary Beth's info to ask if she could come to their meeting beginning of June. Mary Beth will contact her about this. They will also need degrees as none currently have them. Karen stated she had forwarded two people interested in membership that had contacted national to Terry, who put them in contact with

divisions. Both have since joined 1 in Green and 1 in Dutchess. The AOH was having various local booths on Memorial Day and invited us to join for a membership drive.

Much confusion regarding Pat Doyle Grant- Mary Beth was upset and thought it was the immediate past president's responsibility and was upset that she knew nothing about fundraising. Discussion ensued with Karen explaining that the raising of funds was for all past presidents and that she received no request for assistance. As fundraising chair, Chris is holding a golf outing on June 19th at the direction of the State President in order to have additional funds available for the groups requesting such.

Still waiting on a check from men regarding calendars, which apparently has to be approved at an AOH meeting. There are seven outstanding, and Mary Beth has reached out to them as status and that they will be fined \$50. Double-checking g with men they didn't receive; some have said they have canceled checks to prove they paid for them.

Web/St. Brigit's connection Becci Enders: Wished Becci congratulations on becoming president of Division 7. Aggie thanked her for setting up Zoom meetings 7 running them. Some commented that maybe they started too early in April, and Becci said it was set up upon availability and added that it does take up much time. If we continue doing Zoom committee meetings for a convention in the future, it should be discussed with whoever is the next president and webmaster. Everyone agreed Becci had done an outstanding job with it this year and applauded her time & efforts.

Hoping to do another St. Brigit's connection in June- possibly June 5th will send out a notice to the membership. The email address is Nyslaohstbrigidconnection@gmail.com.

Send any information to post on Facebook to LAOHNYSWEB@gmail.com.

Fundraiser/Chris Brogan: there are three shirts left if anyone wants. Will be 50/50 at the general meeting, and Sissy has tickets for it. So far, fundraising has raised \$5066. Christina doing an audit on the account.

Aggie noted there was \$1000 from her testimonial and wished to make a donation of \$500 each to the following two causes Chronic Diaphoretic Hernia Foundation in honor of Ronald Gentile & memory of Richard Engelhardt and Multiple Sclerosis in honor of Tara LePage & Maria Zinerco.-As the money was from Aggie's dinner and not state funds, she can spend it as she wishes.

Auditor/Christina Parisi; will email the audit- there were no outstanding issues, and all was in order. Motion to accept audit report by Joan Moore and seconded by Becci Enders all were in favor. Motion carried.

FFAI/Joan Moore: attended the Cooper Union Event with speakers: Jerry Adams, Senator Mitchell, and Pres. Clinton. It was very informative. New York again is one of the top donors this past year, was a total of \$12,960. Karen Keane made the motion to reimburse Joan her parking and tolls for attending this event, and Becci Enders seconded it; all were in favor motion carried. Joan is to submit expenses to Treasurer JoAnn. Joan has gold and silver pins for \$10 and will bring them to general meeting and convention to sell.

Immigration & Education/Kathleen Stevens: nothing to report. Aggie congratulated Kathleen for being the Grand Marshall of the Albany St. Patrick's parade.

Sports Chair/Maureen Caffery: Fr. Henry's BBQ at McGrath will have cornhole to play for fun. BBQ cost is \$10 going to Father's Charity.

Scrapbook/Madonna Nolty: link is on our website. Looking for judges. Is there room to leave them during the convention? Karen will let her know.

Military & Veterans/Jeannine Marinino: was asked if she had any expenses. Got a \$3,000 grant for dinner. Currently working on an event to be held in Long Island with Cathy. Division 7 donating \$100 toward food. Consider inviting Colleen Bowers to speak about domestic violence; discussed a possible dinner with her as a speaker. Jeannine knows a retired major Sargent that could also speak on the same issue within the service. Both could speak at the same event. Aggie suggested, and Becci seconded it, that Regina might consider covering hotel costs for up to 2 nights as the new president. Becci said that as a mom of a damaged military son may also be able to speak. Jeannine knows Andrew Berry, who is on board as a consultant to a nonprofit that addresses these issues, and try to get him involved. Both to get domestic and military violence discussed as these are important issues.

*Motion to accept officers' reports made by Joan Moore seconded by Maureen Caffery all in favor motion carried

Past Presidents: introduced

Jackie Clute-looking forward to seeing everyone

Anne Marie Ferguson- happy to see everyone. Congratulations to Karen on the convention work she is doing

Cathy Conway-Pleased to see everyone-Suffolk County having a degree on 8/6 flyer will go out on Facebook.

Denise Sobus- hello, everyone. Thank you to Becci for setting up Zoom meeting

Immediate Past National President/Karen Keane: Gayle has done most of the convention work. Happy to see that the AOH and LAOH of Monroe County are working together on our convention.

Denise Sobus noted for the cornhole AOH holds in East Durham; checks can be made to Tom McNabb Scholarship.

National Treasurer/Cathy Turck: hopefully, they can establish the traveling degree team in May. Denise asked if the \$1.00 assessment was a one-time fee, and Cathy confirmed it was. They hope they will have a degree team up & running for next year's national convention in Florida.

Past National President/Mary Hogan: also went to Cooper Union Event with Joan. Pushing her degree team, they are meeting and hope to get going within six months. We all wished Mary a Happy Birthday.

Past National President/Margaret Hennessy: hello, looking forward to meeting and convention

Unfinished business: 2025 Convention

Motion made by Karen and seconded by Joan Moore to go back to joint convention- all favored the motion-motion carried.

Karen's prospective actions for a joint convention with AOH were discussed. It is needed to decide the length of the convention in 2025. Regina stated that we really need to see how this one goes. The motion was made to have Zoom meetings before the 2025 convention to help reduce the convention length and was made by Chris Brogan, second by Karen. Discussion of motion: Karen stated that if the meeting was held to the allotted time, it should work; whoever holds the meeting should know how to run it so it doesn't exceed 45 minutes. Chris mentioned that the Zoom meetings worked well and that maybe do them in May and June, not April. Madonna is all for the Zoom meetings and agrees with Chris to keep it fresh for members. April is too far away from the convention. Anne Marie felt the same and do not do it in April. Keep it fresh by doing it in May & June. Everyone realizes this is much work for the webmaster and president to schedule, but it can be done. Becci noted that it takes much time to set up Zoom meetings, and for all to be done, it needs more than a month to do as the webmaster has to set up. The question was, can committee chairs set up and run their own? To be researched with our Zoom account capabilities.

AnnMarie asked that we make sure wrap-up meetings are done after joint conventions. We have no real idea of expenses or income, as AOH doesn't tell us. Karen noted that none was done for the Buffalo convention; Tom just emailed Jackie. Still nothing on the Syracuse one. This is not acceptable, and we need to see full financial records.

Joan stated that for the 2025 convention, Regina would have to sit down and discuss with AOH President and discuss a further tentative agreement between to two organizations. No one likes having separate conventions, really.

We have to decide if the joint can only make two dinners and have it run Wednesday through Saturday to shorten time and costs. Anne Marie mentioned we need to discuss liability with men. Motion made by Karen to set up a committee to reduce the length of the convention, shorten the convention, and Zoom meetings. Do a cash bar instead of an open bar to cut costs. Regina, Mary Beth, Mary H., Jackie, Sissy, Terry, and Maureen are against it until we see how this goes before making decisions. Joan abstained-motion passed.

All letters of endorsement for officers have been received except for Cathy Doherty, who will get it done ASAP. Deidre Hickey submitted an endorsement letter and was originally going to run for Catholic Action but has decided to withdraw it. We also received a letter of endorsement for Maura McSweeney to run for the catholic action office.

NYSLAOH Convention: Chair Karen Keane: 2023laohconventionchair@gmail.com and Gayle Shalvoy, local committee, will be at the general meeting only

Karen stated that Gayle and her committee are doing a great job working together with men. There will be tee shirts and pins available. Hopes everyone will support our local committee's events. There are currently two sponsorships of \$7500 for the convention. Please send in Journal ads as soon as possible. Margaret asked if scooters would be available. Karen said she would look into it for her. Also, will look into the hotel having a shuttle from the airport.

New business:

Life membership applications were discussed. Unfortunately, there were issues in that some of the applications were sent to Terry first instead of to President Aggie, and she then forwarded them to Aggie, so because this was not the proper procedure, some were disqualified from consideration. Karen discussed the procedure ~~in the~~ at length of how applications should be submitted; President Aggie reiterated that all officers should be familiar with our by-laws. The applications received were discussed, and three were voted to be forwarded to the national for consideration. Maura McSweeney from Albany, Mary McLaughlin from NY county, and Eileen Fee from Monroe County.

It was voted upon to do Hole sponsor \$50 for Aggie for the men's golf event in East Durham-motion made by Chris Brogan and seconded by Becci Enders- all were in favor-motion passed.

Denise Sobus asked for a certificate for Anne Greer, a 70-year member. Terry will have it at the general meeting.

The new LAOH Constance Markievicz Award was sent out to all counties and divisions, and there is a firm return submission date directly to President O'Leary of June 15th for consideration. We explained that it was indeed short notice, but President O'Leary had asked for the deadline to be extended, but national said no.

Good & Welfare

Mass card to be sent to John Manning for the loss of his mother

Send a card of care to Mary T for her husband's surgery and recuperation

Prayers for our members and their families who may be sick or suffered a loss

Motion to close meeting: Joan Moore Seconded: Regina Begley

Closing prayers by President Aggie

The meeting closed at 10:03 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Meyer

NYS LAOH Secretary