

**REV. JAMES T. O'REILLY DIVISION 8  
LADIES ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS**

[www.div8aoh.com](http://www.div8aoh.com)



**LAOH NEWS OF INTEREST**

Summer 2022

Dear Members,

In only a couple of short weeks, we can only hope to start up our Hibernian activities. I hope you are all having a healthy and safe summer.

***IMPORTANT:*** Our next Monthly Meeting is scheduled to take place on Wednesday, September 14<sup>th</sup> at the Claddagh. ***More information on this will be available in our September Newsletter, our Website and by email.***

For the last two years, I was reporting on zoom meetings and cancelled events. Thank God we are back meeting together. Of course, we still have to be very cautious but hopefully things will begin to get back to normal in this crazy world we live in.

Our biggest event of the season was our Irish Christmas Festival last December. We had many vendors, raffles and Entertainment by Sean Buckley. We shared in this day with the O'Shea Chaplin Irish Dance School which held a ceili upstairs with the Silver Spears. It was a great success due to our hard-working committee members. We are planning our second annual Irish Christmas Festival again this December. Watch for your newsletter for more information.

Back in March, congratulations went out to Cathy Callahan, our 2022 Irish Woman of the Year, a well deserving recipient. The AOH awards included Christopher Sullivan, President of Central Catholic High School as the 2022 recipient of the Richard Cardinal Cushing Award, and John Michael Pelletier as our 2022 Irishman of the Year. Both awards were presented at the Dinner Dance. The 2022 John E. Fenton Citizenship Award was given to Larry F. Giordano.

We also held events such as the Music Bingo, fundraisers at the Irish Cottage, Super Bowl and St. Patrick's Day square fundraisers organized by Erin Capano and the June Ice Cream Social. Thank you Erin for helping to keep our accounts stable. Thank you to Helen Mathison for continuing the tradition of Mrs. Crowley's hot fudge sauce. We had four worthy individuals that have been chosen to receive the 2022 Scholarships. The winners of our scholarships for graduating seniors and one for a graduating eighth grader who will be attending a Catholic High School. The winner of the *Margaret Webb \$1000.00 Scholarship* was Madison Ouellette, the winner of the *Eileen Donovan \$1000.00 Scholarship* was Julianna Calderone, the winner of the *Division 8 LAOH \$750.00 Scholarship* was Gabriela Calderone and the winner of the *Division 8 LAOH \$500.00 Scholarship* was Brady Lyons. The winner of our *Grammar School Division 8 LAOH \$500.00 Scholarship* was Kylie Paris. Congratulations to all these well deserving recipients. The winners of the History Essay contest were First Place – Maggie Bernal, Phillips Academy Grade 10 and Second Place - William Guggenberger, St John's Prep Grade 10. Congratulations to both winners. Thank you to Michael Donovan who graciously remembers us every year with the donation in memory of his mother.

On the week of July 13<sup>th</sup> to the 17<sup>th</sup>, the AOH and LAOH held their National Conventions in Pittsburg, PA. This happened through the efforts of many hard working AOH and LAOH National Officers. It was an education in itself! It was enjoyable to speak to Hibernians from across the Nation about their Divisions, whether it be about their Juniors, their events, their strengths or their problems. We all share the same goals and obstacles. The LAOH National Board now consists of President – Marilyn Madigan, Vice President – Mary Ann Lubinsky, Secretary – Sandi Swift, Treasurer - Cathy Turck, Irish Historian – Peggy Cornish, Missions and Charities – Natalie Petrinelli and Catholic Action -Kathleen Diulus.

We must congratulate our own President Sullivan for holding his National Director responsibilities for the past 10 years. Be assured, the National AOH will continue to benefit from his talents and efforts as the National AOH President has already reappointed him as Chairman of Hibernian Hunger Projects and as Chairman of Scholarships. Once again, President Dan O'Connell would be crazy not to.

Our Juniors are flourishing and we are all proud that Division 8 LAOH is the only division within the State of Massachusetts that has a Junior Division. Under the leadership of Isabelle Gannon and Carol Calderone, these young girls work very hard at celebrating and learning about their Irish heritage and we should congratulate them for that. There

are approximately 11 Junior Divisions across the Country and it is nice to know that we are one of those few. Our Division currently has 6 members, ranging from age 16 to age 8. The officers are President – Isabella Fiore, Vice President – Kylie Paris, Secretary – Tess Sullivan, Treasurer – Nora Sanzi, Irish Historian – Mary Kate Bevilaqua, Missions and Charity – Madison Mackland Rivera.

Congrats to our Junior Division President, Isabella Fiore for placing 16th at the North American Irish Dance Championships in Montreal. And she is now a World Qualifier! Our former Junior President, Gianna Fiore danced in an eight-hand team and got 6<sup>th</sup> and Isabella's team got 7<sup>th</sup>! Great job girls. We are all so very proud.

Regarding our own Division, we currently are strong in membership with 164 members. I would always encourage more members to come to our meetings. Also, I would be remiss if I did not mention the importance of our dues being paid on time. I am repeating myself but please remember, we are a charitable organization funded by the members and fundraising activities. We will be continuing with these fundraising efforts because in the spring of 2023 we have our State Convention to attend and that will incur costs for our delegates as well. Anything we can do as a Division, men and ladies alike to help defer these costs without affecting our bank accounts is a plus. Much more information will be forthcoming in relation to that weekend. Also, a thank you goes out to Mary Ellen Pelletier for her efforts with the Christmas calendar, which is always a great fundraiser. The list could go on and on and actually I could thank **each and every one** of the members that continue to support this organization. I encourage you to let people know how proud we are to be called Hibernians and do not hesitate to let people know what our organization stands for.

I would like to suggest a few events to take place in the fall or winter. The ideas include a trip to the American Heritage Museum, a 3 Card Bingo night, Left Right Center and 45's tournaments, an "Afternoon of Irish Music" at the Claddagh Pub and of course our second annual Irish Christmas Festival. Again, I ask that we band together to try our best to come up with more activities and events that would not only strike up the interest of our elders in the Division but also spark up the interest of some of our younger members and even encourage more to join. Your help is needed in keeping our Division not only strong but also committed to continuing our heritage.

I need to thank my officers, Carol Calderon, Marie Pacheco, Ellen Melvin, Helen Mathison, Joyce Buckley, Cathy Callahan, Nora Carroll Bevilaqua, Kathleen Melvin, Lisa Breen and Susan Fink. We have tried to keep in touch the best way we could during the last few months and I know their commitment to our organization is still as strong as it was before the pandemic. I encourage you to let people know how proud we are to be called Hibernians and do not hesitate to let people know what our organization stands for. I also thank all the AOH members that continue to support our causes, our events and our organization. The Men's Division is growing in membership and is continually looking at new ways to seek new members. Hopefully, we can hold more joint events to bring about the unity in our Division 8. Our State Presidents, Joyce Burgess and Jack Lahey are doing their best as well to keep our Divisions across the State communicating.

I will continue to try to do my best to promote our Division and make decisions only in its best interest. It is definitely worth repeating that I truly feel that the members of Division 8 LAOH have lived up to our motto, *Friendship*, by encouraging and supporting all during good times and bad, *Unity*, by joining together with the Men of Division 8 in their endeavors as well as the Divisions across the State, and through the generous gifts of time and talent of many of our members, Division 8 LAOH will continue to hold our "baby showers," and the like, so that we can carry on in our *Christian Charity*.

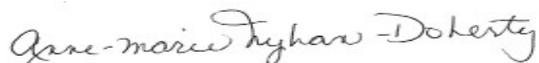
As I wrote early into my tenure as your president many years ago, the only way we can survive and continue our good deeds and traditions in this multi-cultural city is to strengthen our members' participation and not let it dwindle as many other civic and cultural groups have experienced. It is up to each and every one of us, ladies and men, to make this Division stronger and make a difference to the success of this organization.

I thank you for the privilege to serve as your President and to represent you all. As we begin again in September, I count on this continued support and hope that our goals and ambitions will help this Division continue to strive long after I am your President.

Once again, I leave you with these words from Mark Amend,

***"Be strong enough to stand alone, smart enough to know when you need help, and brave enough to ask for it.***

Yours in Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,



Anne-Marie Nyhan-Doherty, President, Division 8 LAOH - Lawrence

cc: Marilyn Madigan, National LAOH President  
Joyce Burgess, Massachusetts State President