

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

www.div8aoh.com



LAOH NEWS OF INTEREST

Summer 2023

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. Our next Monthly Meeting is scheduled to take place on Wednesday, **September 13th** at the Claddagh. ***More information on this will be available in our September Newsletter, our Website and by email.*** As I looked back on my summer letter in the past years, 2020 stood out since all I was reporting on was zoom meetings and cancelled events. Thank God once again that we were able to meet in person from September to June.

Once again, 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 **THIRD** annual Irish Christmas Festival again this December. Watch for your newsletter for more information.

A thank you goes out to Mary Ellen Pelletier for her efforts with the Christmas calendar, which is always a great fundraiser

Back in January, we lost our beloved LAOH State President, Joyce Burgess which was a huge loss for us. Barbara Twohig, our current State President stepped up to the plate and has done a wonderful job. She had big shoes to fill but I am confident that Joyce would be so very proud of her.

Back in March, congratulations went out to Erin Doherty Capano, our 2023 Irish Woman of the Year, a well deserving recipient and for me, a very proud Mom moment, I must say. The AOH awards included Mary Alice Rock selected as the 2023 recipient of the Richard Cardinal Cushing Award, and Eric M. Alaimo selected, as their 2023 Irishman of the Year. The 2023 John E. Fenton Citizenship Award was presented to Hon. Daniel Rivera.

We also held events such as a 3 card bingo night, a trip to the American Heritage Museum, an afternoon with the Jolly Tinkers, the fundraisers at the Irish Cottage, Super Bowl and St. Patrick's Day square fundraisers organized by Erin Capano, (thank you Erin for helping to keep our accounts stable), a green pound sale to benefit Catholic Action organized by Cathy Callahan, a donation drive for Lazarus House, a Lottery Board to benefit the Missions and a clothing drive to benefit Pegasus House, all organized by Nora Carroll Bevilacqua. Thank you to Cathy and Nora for thinking of these worthy causes.

Our Massachusetts State Convention was held during the weekend of May 5th – 7th. Congratulations to Carol Calderone for being elected to the Office of State Historian and Susan Fink for being elected to the Office of State Catholic Action. Also, a huge thank you to Cathy Callahan for her service on the State Board. Also, congratulations to Jack Lahey for being elected to the Office of AOH State Treasurer and Keith Murphy for being elected to the Office of AOH State Secretary. We are a proud Division LAOH and AOH alike. We were honored to have our LAOH National President, Marilyn Madigan and the AOH National President, Danny O'Connell present to provide guidance and wisdom to our deliberations. We must congratulate our own President Sullivan on his being presented the National AOH Leadership Award and 50 Year Membership Pin by National AOH President O'Connell. We are lucky to have such dedication in our midst!

The June Ice Cream Social was again a success. Thank you to Helen Mathison for continuing the tradition of Mrs. Crowley's hot fudge sauce. We presented four worthy individuals with the 2023 Scholarships. The winner of the *Eileen Donovan \$1000.00 Scholarship* was Lea McGuigan and the winner of our *Grammar School Division 8 LAOH \$500.00 Scholarship* was Julia Alaimo. Congratulations to both these well deserving recipients. The winners of the History Essay contest are High School - First Place – Maggie Bernal, Second Place – William Guggenberger and Third Place – Lea McGuigan. The winners from Grade School are First Place – Ethan McGuigan and Second Place – Jake Fiore. Congratulations to all. Thank you to Michael Donovan who graciously remembers us every year with the donation in memory of his mother.

At the Ice Cream Social, we also awarded three Division Life Membership pins. They were given to Patricia Lyons, Catherine McCarthy and Carol Calderone. Thank you to those deserving members for their commitment to our organization.

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 6. The officers are President – Isabella Fiore, Vice President – Kylie Paris, Secretary – Mary Kate Bevilaqua, Treasurer – Madison Mackland Rivera, Irish Historian – Nora Sanzi, Missions and Charity – Hailey Edler and Gabriella Adorno-Colon, jointly.

Congrats to our Junior Division President, Isabella Fiore for placing 20th at the North American Irish Dance Championships in Nashville and she is now a World Qualifier! We are all so very proud.

Regarding our own Division, we currently are strong in membership with 167 members. I would always encourage more members to come to our meetings. At our last meeting, we welcomed 6 new members and anticipate one more in September. 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 summer of 2024 we have our National 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.

Your officers have already planned a few events that will take place in the fall or winter. An Afternoon of Irish music with the Jolly Tinkers on halfway to St. Patrick's Day, September 17th, a 3 Card Bingo night on October 20th and of course our second annual Irish Christmas Festival on December 10th. And do not forget the AOH's Cornhole Tournament on September 9th. Thank you to Brian Farrell of the Claddagh Pub and Restaurant for accommodating all our events. 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. 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 Calderone, Marie Pacheco, Ellen Melvin, Helen Mathison, Joyce Buckley, Cathy Callahan, Nora Carroll Bevilaqua, Kathleen Melvin, Lisa Breen and Susan Fink. I know their commitment to our organization is still as strong as it ever was. 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 National President, Marilyn Madigan and State Presidents, Barbara Twohig and Joe McCusker are doing their best as well to keep our Members and Divisions across the Country communicating.

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. 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, Unity, and 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. Many organizations similar to ours are struggling to survive, whether it be for financial reasons, lack of participation or lack of interest. Division 8 LAOH is no different, but I ask that we band together to try our best to continue to grow in numbers and cause an awareness of our organization.

I leave you with these words,

***As a leader, you don't inspire
your team by showing them how
amazing you are.
You inspire them by showing how
amazing they are.***

Yours in Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,



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

cc: Marilyn Madigan, National LAOH President
Barbara Twohig, Massachusetts State LAOH President