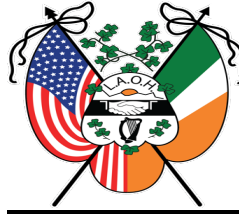


**REV. JAMES T. O'REILLY DIVISION 8
LADIES ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS**

www.div8aoh.com.



LAOH NEWS OF INTEREST

Summer, 2019

Dear Members,

It is hard to believe that the month of August is upon us already. In only a couple of short weeks, we will be getting ready to start up our Hibernian activities. I hope you are all having a healthy and safe summer. For those of you that have not been able to attend our meetings as much as you would like to, I would like to tell you about a few of the events that we have held since I became your Ladies President again as well as the many exciting and fun times ahead.

Beginning with our installation of officers in February, President Sullivan and I started holding joint officer meetings which proved to be most helpful to our membership. The Ladies officers also have been meeting monthly to discuss various events that will be upcoming.

One fact that I am most proud of is the fact that Division 8 LAOH is the only division within the State of Massachusetts that has a Junior Division. Under the leadership of Isabelle Gannon, these young girls work very hard at celebrating and learning about their Irish heritage and we should congratulate them for that. There are approximately 15 Junior Divisions across the Country and it is nice to know that we are one of those few. They were also installed with us in February. This is an honor for us Ladies to include them. They are in great need of members however, so please spread the word. Two of our Juniors made us proud at the recent North American Irish Dance Championships held in July in Vancouver, Canada. Emilie Fiore's 8 hand mixed ceili team placed 2nd overall and 8 hand ceili team placed 16th overall. Isabella Fiore placed 23rd out of 80 in the Under 13 Girls' category.

Of course, the month of March is our busiest month and the AOH again did a great job in scheduling their festive events as well as their educational ones. We began the month by proudly raising our Irish Flag in the North Common across from City Hall and the festivities continued throughout the entire month. Congratulations went out to Kathleen Melvin, our 2019 Irish Woman of the Year, John Cuddy, the 2019 Irish Man of the Year, Robert Crowley was selected as the 2019 recipient of the Richard Cardinal Cushing Award and the John E. Fenton Citizenship Award was presented to the Cor Unum Meal Center. Many of us marched in the St. Patrick's Day parade this year. We were all so proud to be part of this organization and it was evident by our enthusiasm as we walked the imaginary green line through the City of Lawrence. **SHOUT OUT to the Breen Funeral Home who is celebrating 150 years this year.** They donated the funds for our Officers' sash embroidery.

In April, we held a pound sale and a Irish Cottage fundraising night to defray some of the costs of the Division officers' expenses while representing our Division at the State AOH-LAOH Convention that was held in May.

Our St. Bridget's Tea at the end of April was a lovely afternoon of tea and friends thanks to the tireless efforts of Ellen Melvin, Helen Mathison and Marie Pacheco. This affair remains to be one of the nice traditions that will be carried on throughout the years. This year's event was held at the Lawrence Heritage State Park. Those in attendance enjoyed the presentation by Gerard Hayes, author of several books on the Blasket Islands. We again welcomed dignitaries and members from across the State. The winner of the \$1000.00 Margaret Webb Scholarship was the Treasurer of our Junior Division, Erin O'Neill and the winner of the \$1000.00 Eileen Donovan scholarship was the President of our Junior Division, Emilie Fiore. The winner of the \$750.00 LAOH Scholarship was Daxylee Murphy and the Winner of the \$500.00 LAOH Scholarship was Brigid Lamprey. All recipients were very talented and deserving candidates.

As spring continued, so did our fundraising efforts and we were able to raise funds by holding various contests at the end of our meetings such as raffles, 50-50's and so on.

This brought us to May and Division 8 members, **Margaret O'Connor** was elected as our new State LAOH President, **Cathy Callahan**, our new State LAOH Missions and Charities officer, **Jack Lahey**, our new State AOH President and **Keith Murphy** our new AOH State Secretary. They sure do our Division proud by representing us. **The next joint State Board meeting will be held at the Heritage State Park, 1 Jackson St., Lawrence, MA at 11:00. The Ladies separate meeting will be held following the joint meeting. All members are welcome to attend.**

On June 1st, Division 8 AOH held an event to commemorate the Great Hunger on the grounds of the Immaculate Conception Cemetery. All that participated did a wonderful job and as usual, President Sullivan provided not only a lovely get together but also a very informative one as we all learned more about the An Gorta Mor (The Great Hunger). David Burke was definitely looking down at all and was proud of President Sullivan who did such an honorable job in planning this ceremony.

At our last meeting in June, with 45 members in attendance, we held our annual Ice Cream social after the business meeting. Again, this year, Helen Mathison provided the hot fudge sauce made with Mrs. Crowley' delicious recipe. Maureen Loughlin graciously provided all of the ice cream and toppings. Thank you to both! Also, at our June meeting, we collected diapers for Lazarus House. Thank you to Sue Fink for organizing that donation drive. June did not end without a Hibernian presence however, 43 members and friends traveled to Fenway for a tour of the Park. Many new amenities have been added and it proved to be quite informative. Then the bus stopped at the Bunratty Tavern in North Reading for a delicious lunch.

We look forward to seeing many of you at the next Family and Friends outing being held on **September 14, 2019**. This event is being sponsored by the AOH and LAOH and is being held at the Greater Lawrence Community Boating, 1 Eaton St., Lawrence, MA from 12PM to 4PM. Come enjoy with your entire family. Once again, Reverend Delaney will end the afternoon off by saying mass for us at 4:00PM. See the enclosed flyer.

Among the other events planned for the fall are a 3-card bingo being held at the Relief's In on Market St. on **October 26, 2019** at 4PM. This is a fundraiser where a person purchases 3 cards for \$10.00 and if they match the cards drawn you win! 50% of the money taken in goes to the winners and 50% goes to the Division. Please show your support by attending and taking part in this fun event. More information will be available at the September meeting.

Another fun event will be a Wine Tasting and Christmas (includes 2) Ornament Painting Party on Thursday, **November 7th, 2019** at 6:00 p.m. at the Black Water Grill, 43 Pelham Road, Salem, New Hampshire. Appetizers will be served compliments of the Breens. All are welcome. The tickets are \$45.00. For more information and details call Lisa Breen 978-815-1199.

Regarding our own Division, we started strong in membership in January with 174 members with 4 new members either joined, reinstated or are to be sworn in this year. I would 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.

Our State President, Margaret O'Connor has been working with our National liaison regarding degrees and has confirmed a date of **September 29th**. **See the enclosed flyer**. This is an important element in being a Hibernian and the Division would be honored if those that do not have their degrees yet would obtain them.

I would like to suggest a few events to take place in the fall. Those being a trip to Foxwoods, 45's – Left Right Center tournaments, an "Afternoon of Irish Music" at the Claddagh Pub and a possible "Mystery Trip." 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 strong.

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. These Ladies are always so supportive of any of the ideas that I come up with but also for carrying through on their own ideas for the benefit of all. Also, a thank you goes out to Mary Ellen Pelletier for her efforts with the Christmas calendar, which is always a great fundraiser and her **Halfway to St. Patrick's Day calendar**. **Don't forget to mail yours in or bring it to the September meeting**. 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 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. 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 Country Stores and our "baby showers," so that we can carry on in our *Christian Charity*.

I think being a dedicated officer of any Division requires one never to take a break in being committed to coming up with new ideas to get members, retain members or to hold events that balance our cultural interests as well as our social interests. Every one of us knows how fragile our organization can become, whether on a Division, State or National level. 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. Please consider filling out the survey on the reverse of this last page and either mail it back to me or bring it to a future meeting.

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. My life will surely get busier with a third grandchild due in August and a National Board appointment but I thank you for the privilege to serve as your President and to represent you all.

Once again, I leave you with these words of John F. Kennedy,

***As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not utter words,
but to live by them.***

Yours in Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,



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

cc: Carol Sheyer, National President, LAOH
Karen Keene, National Vice President, LAOH
Margaret O'Connor, Massachusetts State President, LAOH

Upcoming dates to remember:

September 8th, Joint State Board meeting – Heritage State Park

September 11, 2019 – Division meeting at the Claddagh

September 14th – Friends and Family Outing at the Boathouse

September 29th – LAOH Degrees in Holyoke

October 26th – 3 Card Bingo at Reliefs In

November 7th - Wine Tasting and Christmas (includes 2) Ornament Painting Party – Black Water Grill in Salem, NH

SURVEY

1. How long have you been a member of the LAOH? _____.
2. Do you regularly attend meetings?
_____.
3. If not, what keeps you away?

_____.
4. What type of social events would you like to see Division 8 LAOH sponsor?
5. Would you be interested in participating in the events mentioned in the letter, such as the Foxwoods or attending a "mystery trip."

_____.
6. What type of charitable causes would you like us to consider?
_____.
7. Is there any particular aspect of Division 8 LAOH that you would like to see change or improve? If yes, please describe

_____.
8. Any additional comments?
_____.

Please complete and mail back to:

Anne-Marie Doherty, President
Division 8, LAOH
266 Colonial Rd.
Lawrence, MA 01843
