**Ancient Order of Hibernians**

of Hampden / Hampshire Counties

PO Box 6535

 **Holyoke, MA 01041-0826**

**Next Meeting** –

Monday, April 2, 7:00 p.m. / LAOH – 6:00 p.m.

At The Wherehouse?

[www.AOH-Holyoke.com](http://www.AOH-Holyoke.com)

 and on Facebook

**In ainm an Athar agus an Mhic agus an Spiorad Naoimh, Amen.**

   **Thank you to Jay Driscoll, chairman of the Communion Breakfast for another great event.** Sister Margaret McCleary, 2018 Christian Charity Award recipient was gracious in her thanks for the recognition. Guest speaker Michael Ryan gave an informative talk about the Irish election of 1918 with emphasis on the role of women who were granted the right to vote.

   **A special thanks to all AOH/LAOH members who assisted at the Holyoke St. Patrick’s Road Race on March 16 and March 17-**Barbara Twohig, Janet Dwyer,  Paula Paoli, Paul Hogan, Peter Hogan, Fran Hennessey, Charlie Popp, Pat Hogan, Mary Laura Hohol, Nora McMahon, Rosalie Pratt, Jaime Hoppock, Mary Pat Murphy, Joanne Beliveau, Paul Mengel, Dan Leary, Ann Chartier, Amanda Olmo, and Kim Gaughan.

     **Marchers and all those who participated in the Holyoke Saint Patrick’s Parade** will be recognized in the May newsletter.

**Congratulations to our amazing float builders on winning several trophies in the Saint Patrick’s Parade:** First Prize Religious - Celtic Cross; Second Prize Religious - St Bridget's Float for LAOH; and Third Prize – Irish Dancer's Float. We should be very, very proud.

   **Our next opportunity to volunteer serving at Kate’s Kitchen is April 29, 9 a.m .** June 10th will be our final date for this season. If you would like to volunteer, contact President Paul Hogan at 413-210-1416.

    **Applications for the 2018 the Maurice A. Donahue AOH scholarships will be posted on our website,** [**www.AOH-Holyoke.com**](http://www.AOH-Holyoke.com) **during the first week of April.** All the necessary information can be found there.

    **This year’s summer picnic Hibernian style will be held on Saturday June 23rd  at The Wherehouse? .** Doors open at 4:30 p.m. with serving at 5:00 p.m. Music featuring  Billy O’Connor and the Boston Blackthorn Band will begin at 5:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. The Maurice A. Donahue Memorial Scholarships will be presented. Save the Date! Stay tuned for information on the LAOH Par 3 Golf Tournament and a celebration after 9:30 p.m.

 **When a club member passes, the AOH and LAOH pay our respects at wakes for the deceased with a Hibernian ritual.** If you would like more information or would welcome one, contact Paul Hogan at 210-1416 for the AOH and Paula Paoli at 210-6013 for the AOH.

**A new treasurer is needed for the AOH.** If interested, please contact Paul at 533-0436.

**Several club committees are open for new members.** If you would like to work on a committee or chair one this year, please speak up. **Please note the PO Box for the AOH, PO Box 6535, Holyoke, MA 01041.**

**LAOH News**

  **The winning ticket for the LAOH quilt raffle will be drawn on April 11 at the Irish Cultural Center**. There is still time to purchase tickets. Thank you to everyone who helped with this year's fundraising event. Plans are already underway for the 2019 Irish quilt.

    **Check out future newsletters, the website and our Facebook page for more information about LAOH Spring fundraisers,** a "Sip and Paint" evening and the Chip & Put tournament before the Summer Picnic.

    **LAOH, dues should be paid by April for the previous year. If members are not sure what their paid status is, they can check with either Pat Murphy at 413-532-3121,** or send dues to her at 9 Magnolia Avenue, Holyoke, MA 01040, or call Paula Paoli at 413-210-6031.

**Our monthly reminders:**

**As always Doc Dean provides us with a reminder that Kate’s Kitchen needs our assistance.** Donations will be gladly accepted at the April meeting. Our help is always appreciated.

**Kevin O’Connor, you were not at the February meeting and your name was picked for the 50/50 raffle.** Sorry Kev, you didn’t split the $266 jackpot.  Remember, you have to attend the meeting to win.

**Upcoming Events:**

**Kate’s Kitchen** – Sundays, April 29 and June 10,

**An Gorta Mor Mass** – Sunday, May 20, 8 a.m. at St. Jerome Church

**Hennessey Hoe-Down**- Saturday, June 23 at The Wherehouse?.

**In ainm an Athar agus an Mhic agus an Spiorad Naoimh, Amen.**

**Irish Cultural Center Events**

**Thursday, April 5-** 5:30-7:30 p.m. -Fundraiser for Girl Scouts

**Sunday, April 8** - 1- 4 p.m.- “From Malawi to Morgan Rd” - Mags Riordan returns to West Springfield to provide updates on the Billy Riordan Memorial Clinic. Author Suzanne Strempek Shea will be in attendance with copies of her book, “This is Paradise”. Lunch will be available.

**Sunday, April 15**- 1 p.m. - Info Session on October Ireland Tour 2018

**Saturday, May 5** - Irish Language Irish Immersion Day at Elms College 8:30 a.m.

**For more information on these and other events at the Irish Cultural Center, call 333-4951 or visit the website,** [**irishcenterwne.org**](http://irishcenterwne.org)**.**

**In ainm an Athar agus an Mhic agus an Spiorad Naoimh, Amen.**