**Ancient Order of Hibernians**

of Hampden Hampshire Counties

PO Box 6535 Holyoke, MA 01041-6535

Next meeting – AOH – Monday, April 3, 7 p.m. at The Wherehouse?

LAOH – Monday, April 3, 6 p.m. at The Wherehouse?

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

  **I want to thank everyone for all that has been done over the past few months.** Preparing for our "High Holy Season" and all the events which have taken place is a herculean accomplishment. Our collective efforts have not gone unnoticed. It would not have been possible if not for the hard work and dedication of so many. Whether you sold tickets to Irish Night, made raffle baskets, sold raffle tickets, helped in planning Irish Night, planned our flag raising ceremony, organized our Communion Breakfast, worked on our floats, marched in the parade, handed out bibs for the road race, carried our banners and shuttled marchers up to the Parade route, you played an important role. The AOH and LAOH is a successful organization, proudly promoting our Irish Heritage! I would also like to thank Mark DuPont for advertising our Irish night and putting the story together on Real to Real about our Christian Charity award recipient, Brenda Lamagdelaine.

 AOH President – *Joseph O’Connor*

 **Hoo-Ray for the Hibernians!** Congratulations to the Float Committee on winning 2 awards in the Parade: 2nd prize Patriotic for the Traveling Float and 3rd Prize for the Patriotic Dancing Float; Thanks to Peter Hogan, J. D. Watson, Janet Dwyer, Paula Paoli, Charlie O’Connell, Joe O’Connor, and others who help make it possible. No Honorable Mention this year!

 **Braving the cold, windy weather on Parade Day, our award winners,** Mr. Hibernian, Jay Whelihan, Ms. Hibernian, Mary Kate Shenanigan O’Connor and our Christian Charity recipient, Brenda Lamagdaleine were greeted with loud warming cheers from the crowd.

 **Jim Henderson of Springfield, long- time supporter of Hibernian events, won the 50-50 raffle at Irish Night and distributed his $500 winnings to the following organizations:** St Jude Hospital, Wounded Warriors, Sisters of St Joseph, Shriners, and Families of First Responders Killed in Action.

 **Thank you to Matt O’Connor for leading our contingent into St. Jerome Church on Sunday, March 12.** St. Jerome Pastor, Father Francis Reilly thanked and congratulated the AOH, LAOH, and our award winners.

 T**he Communion Breakfast on Sunday, March 12 at the Wyckoff Country Club was a great success.** A large crowd heard guest speaker, former Boston Police Commissioner, William Evans. Jay Driscoll was a more-than-capable last minute emcee replacement. And the longest running event by the AOH continues. Thanks for filling in, Jay!

  **The next Peanut Butter and Jelly Sandwich making for Kate’s Kitchen will be Sunday, May 28 and June 25.** If you want to contribute, call Mary Kate O’Connor at 413-627-7149 or Fran Hennessey 413-785-5687.

 **On Thursday, April 6 from 7:30 am-to 8:45am AOH members, Mike Sugrue and Shane Hall of Polish National Credit Union will be guest chefs at the Lug Nuts Café a**t Marcotte Ford, 1025 Main St., Holyoke. Proceeds will benefit Kate’s Kitchen. Please bring cans of food to the event.

 **On Wednesday, June 14, 6-8 pm, Hibernian Jim Kelly, President of The Polish National Credit Union will be a Celebrity Bartender to benefit the Holyoke St Patrick’s Parade Committee** at Glendale Ridge Vineyards, 155 Glendale Rd. Southampton.

 **Jennie Adamczyk, Executive Director of Providence Ministries, has announced a “Retro Game Night” fundraiser for Providence Ministries on Thursday, May 4, 5 pm to-8:30pm at the Log Cabin.** Dinnerand games will be provided. The cost is $60.00 per person; $480.00 for a table of 8. They are asking for Hibernian support.

 **The Hibernian Summer picnic will be Sunday, August 27, 1-4 pm at the Summit View Banquet Pavilion.** We need new ideas. Please call John Gaughan at 860-904-3056 or Fran Hennessey at 413-785-5687 to share your thoughts. We hope to conduct a Membership Drive at the Picnic and hope to draw a large crowd. The Boston Blackthorn Band will perform. More details will follow.

 **The Ireland Forever Festival scheduled for Saturday, June 3 at the indoor soccer arena on Old Ferry Road in Northampton has been cancelled.**

 **Please keep Dr. Thomas Moriarty in your prayers.** Tom is at Senior Living 298 Jarvis Ave Holyoke Day Brook Village.

 **Our own conductor, Charlie O’Connell** is working on arranging a fall foliage train ride fundraiser.

  **Members who owe dues for more than 3 years, please contact Peter Hogan at 413-330-6635, or** **pjhogan71@gmail.com****.** At the November meeting the club suspended five memberships**.** If you are not sure of your membership status, please contact Peter.

**LAOH Notes**

 **Thank you to everyone who made the Hibernian contingent in the St. Patrick Parade such a success.** From the volunteers who helped with the floats, to the banner carriers, St. Patrick, and St. Brigid, everyone worked together.

 **The LAOH Quilt raffle drawing will take place Friday, April 14th at the Irish Cultural Center.** Please bring any quilt returns to the meeting on April 3. Thank you to all of our supporters, including the St. Patrick’s Parade Committee.

 **There are two different raffle tickets being sold to benefit this year's Hibernian State Convention, taking place in May in Hyannis.** The first is for lottery tickets and the second for the convention's basket raffle. Tickets will be available at the April meeting.

 **Suggestions are always needed for Catholic Action ideas for our members.**

  **If you are receiving a printed copy of the newsletter and want it sent by email instead,**please contact Paula Paoli at paulaakpaoli@gmail.com or 413-210-6031 to make the change.  We appreciate those who have changed to email to save our division the cost of printing and postage.

**Upcoming Events:**

**Kate’s Kitchen** – Sunday, May 28 and June 25 making peanut buttery and jelly sandwiches. Contact Mary Kate O’Connor at 413-627-7149 or Fran Hennessey at 413-785-5687 to assist.

**Summer Picnic/ Hennessey Hoe-Down –** Sunday, August 27, 1 – 4 p.m. at the Summit View Pavilion.

**ICC News**

**The Trinity Pub**

 **The Trinity Pub at the Irish Cultural Center is open 5 days a week; Wednesday through Saturday 4 p.m. to 10 p.m. and on Sunday, 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.**

**Remember the AOH in Your Will**

 **Please consider the Order when writing or rewriting your will,** and add a paragraph with the lines of “I leave to the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America (X percent of my estate or a specific dollar amount) for its charitable works.”

 **The Healy’s Irish Radio broadcasts weekly at Kool Radio WACM 100.1 FM 1270 AM each Saturday from 11 am to 1 pm.** You can also listen to their program at your leisure on the internet at www.healysirishprogram.com.

 **In continued memory of Doc Dean and our commitment to Kate’s Kitchen.**  Providence Ministries is in need of canned goods. Please bring a can or two to the meeting on Monday night.

 **Zach Mengel, your name card was picked at the March meeting for the 50/50 raffle. If you had been there, you’d be rolling in the dough.** There hasn’t been a winner since the pandemic started. The pot is almost overflowing. You have to be at the meeting to win. See everyone on Monday night.

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