**Ancient Order of Hibernians**

of Hampden Hampshire Counties

PO Box 6535 Holyoke, MA 01041-6535

Next meeting – AOH – Monday, January 9, 7 p.m. at The Wherehouse?

LAOH – Monday, January 9, 6 p.m. at The Wherehouse?

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

  **Happy New Year! May 2023 bring you good health, much happiness and abundant love.**

 **Congratulations to our 2023 Hibernian Cultural Award winners: LAOH Hibernian –of the Year Mary Kate O’Connor; AOH Hibernian of the Year Jay Whelihan; and the Christian Charity Award recipient- Brenda Lamagdeliene.** With her ever present smile and abundant energy, Mary Kate is recognized for her LAOH activities including the return of the LAOH Golf Tournament, creating bountiful fundraising baskets of cheer, and for her peanut butter and jelly sandwich- making skills. Jay, the AOH Ttreasurer, not only keeps our finances in order- this quiet leader is an ever present volunteer at all events. The Executive Director at Providence Ministries for the Needy, Brenda is a person who truly improves the lives of the poor in Holyoke. All three live by the Hibernian Motto of Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity. Mary Kate and Jay will be honored at the AOH Irish Night on February 25. Brenda will be recognized for her achievement at the AOH Communion Breakfast on March12.

 **Irish Night in Holyoke will be held on Saturday, February 25 at The Log Cabin.** The evening will feature the Keohanne and Keannelly five-piece band – “a tour de force” of musical talents. The evening will also showcase the Cassin School of Irish Dance and our own heralded piper, Matt O’Connor from the Springfield Kiltie Band. The Log Cabin will serve the traditional corned beef, cabbage dinner with heaping plates of “Danny’s famed corned ribs. Reservations are required by February 20. For tickets, call Joe O’Connor at 413-627-714 or Fran Hennessey at 413-785-5687 or go on-line to Eventbrite.com. Tickets are $40 per person. The event is in memory of Daniel P. Curran and benefits the Maurice A. Donahue Scholarship Fund.

 **Elected unanimously at the November meeting were the AOH Officers for the 2023-2024 term** : Joe O’Connor, President; Patrick Hogan, VP; Jay Whelihan, Treasurer; Peter Hogan, Financial Secretary; Owen Donohue, Recording Secretary; and Steve Suprenant, Sargeant at Arms.

  **Thank you to John and Kim Gaughan for another successful Children’s Christmas Party** held on December 4. Fifteen children enjoyed a nice time with Santa and his favorite elf, Millie, who did a wonderful job and were assisted by, Paula Paoli, Noranne Duquette, Tommy and Mary Laura Hohol, and Peter Hogan. Special thanks to Peter for taking photos with Santa, to and Tom and Mary Laura Hohol for purchasing food, soda and to Paula for the return of the Gingerbread Men to decorate. An anonymous gift of $50 towards the party was presented by President O’Connor. Thank you to everyone who generously devoted their time and help. It was a great way to bring the Christmas spirit to all both young and not so young.

 **Celebrating another successful year and sharing a night of relaxing fun before the Holidays, the Adult Christmas party at JP’s restaurant was much deserved** for all our hard work in the last 12 months.

  **2023 March Saint Patrick Calendar raffle tickets are available for sale.** The price is $10. Last year we sold out all 350 tickets. Please reach out to anyone who would like to buy and sell tickets. Get yours early by attending a meeting or by calling Peter Hogan at 330-6635 or pjhogan71@gmail.com. At last count, there were only 50 calendars left- don’t miss out on a chance to help your club and also to win!

 **At the November meeting the AOH welcomed our newest members, Jim Kelly, Mike Sugrue and Shane Hall**. Glad to have you on board.

 **Thanks to the Polish National Credit Union and Hibernian Brother Jim Kelly and the many members who contributed to our food drive benefitting Kate’s Kitchen.** The Christmas basket of cheer was won by LAOH member Kit Collamore and was donated by the Polish National Credit Union.

 **The next date for the AOH/LAOH, and Holy Cross Ladies Cursillo Group to make PB&J sandwiches will be January 29, 2023.** The staff at Kate’s Kitchen is grateful for our continued efforts. The Providence Ministries is still trying to work out staffing issues, so we still cannot go to prepare and serve as of yet.

 **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.

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

 **LAOH News**

 **The LAOH offers its sincere condolences to the family of Joyce Burgess, a well -respected member and LAOH State President on her recent passing.** Joyce always enjoyed coming to Holyoke for the parade and was a mentor to all state board members. She was always knowledgeable, patient and kind. A large contingent of Hibernians attended services in North Chelmsford in respect.

 **With this sad news, our own LAOH member Barbara Twohig is now the acting MA State President and will move up to that office at the state convention this spring.** Please consider joining and celebrating Barbara’s accomplishment at the convention May 5th-6th at the Doubletree Hotel, Hyannis, in Cape Cod.

 **Thank you to our members who are now finishing up with embroidery for the 2023 Holyoke LAOH quilt.** Please bring your embroidery pieces to the meeting on January 9. The quilt will be ready at that time to set in the embroidery pieces in preparation for the finishing touches, so it can make its debut at Irish Night.

 **If you purchased a long-sleeve LAOH t-shirt, please return it at Monday’s meeting. There was a problem with the logo imprints, and new shirts are being embroidered instead. They should be ready soon for the upcoming festivities.**

 **Yearly dues for the LAOH are $25.00.** If you are unsure if you owe dues at this time, please contact Pat Murphy at 413-532-3121, or Paula Paoli at 413-210-6031, or paulaakpaoli@gmail.com

 **A Mass for St Brigid will be celebrated on Sunday, February 5 at 8:00 a.m., and the Mass to remember deceased Hibernian is scheduled for March 12, at 8:00 a.m., both at St. Jerome’s.**

 **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. Thank you to Patricia Clayton for taking the office of Sentinel. Remember- if your schedule makes it necessary to arrive at meetings that are already underway, to enter quietly; and if you must leave during the meeting, to exit quietly as well.

 **Upcoming Events:**

**Kate’s Kitchen** – Sunday, January 29 making peanut buttery and jelly sandwiches. Contact Mary Kate O’Connor at 413-627-7149 to assist.

**St Brigid’s Mass** – Sunday February 5, 8 a.m. at St. Jerome Church

**Irish Nite** – Saturday, February 25 at The Log Cabin details are on page one of the newsletter.

**Communion Breakfast and Mass in Remembrance for deceased Hibernians** - Sunday, March 12, 8:00 at St. Jerome Church with Communion Breakfast location to be determined.

**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.”

 **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.

 **Peter Tallman, your name card was picked at the November meeting for the 50/50 raffle. Too bad, you weren’t in attendance.** 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.

 **And finally, before we knew it, plans are already underway for the many events for the High Holy Season.** Please consider marching in the Parade, or riding on the float. We also can always use help to get the floats ready.

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