** Ancient Order of Hibernians**

 of Hampden Hampshire Counties

 PO Box 6535

 Holyoke, MA 01041-6535

Next meeting – AOH – Monday, March 6, 7 p.m. at The Wherehouse?

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

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

 **Wow! The AOH is back and with last Saturday’s Irish Nite turnout bigger and better than ever.** After a 2-year absence due to COVID, over 400 guests celebrated the beginning of the *High Holy Season* at The Log Cabin. Shout outs to our Hibernians of the Year, Jay Whelihan and Mary Kate O’Connor. Their acceptance speeches displayed their pride in our heritage, appreciation of our Hibernians predecessors, the joy of being Irish-American and a member of the AOH and LAOH. We are united, faithful and live lives of Christian Charity. #AOH-Holyokestrong.

 **The dozens of people who need to be thanked for help at Irish Nite will be in the April Newsletter.**

 **Despite what news media outlets report, it is the AOH that sponsors the celebration of the raising of the Irish flag in Holyoke.** This year the tricolor begins flying over City Hall with a ceremony on Wednesday, March 1, 10 a.m. All are invited to attend.

 **The LAOH will host their State Board Meeting on Sunday, March 5 noon at the Blessed Sacrament Rectory.** Our own, Barbara Twohig, Acting President of the LAOH State Board, and Paula Paoli, LAOH Holyoke Division President are hosting the event. Volunteers are needed to help set up, serve and breakdown. If you can help, please contact Paula Paoli if you will attend or like to help at 413-210-6031, or paulaakpaoli@gmail.com.

 **As a continued effort displaying our Christian charity in the community,** the AOH and LAOH will be making PB&J sandwiches for Kate’s Kitchen on Sunday, March 5. Contact Mary Kate O’Connor at 413-627-7149 if you would like to help.

 **Peter Hogan and JD Watson have begun working on the float at the G&E garage.** The club will have 2 floats in the Parade. The traveling float will be in honor of Holyoke’s 150th anniversary with the second float, a Parade favorite, the return of the Cassin Academy Irish Dancers. Contact Peter if you would like to help at 413-330-6635, or PJHogan71@gmail.com

 **The Mass for Deceased members of the AOH and LAOH will be held on Sunday, March 12, at 8:00 at St. Jerome Church.** Don't forget to set your clock as Daylight Savings time ends that morning. Clocks will move ahead one hour.

 **The Communion Breakfast will be at Wyckoff Country Club on Sunday, March 12, 9:00 a.m. , following the Mass at St. Jerome Church.** Tickets are $25.00 per person and can be obtained by calling

Jay Driscoll at 413-534-0445 by March 7. There will be a presentation of the 2023 Christian Charity Award to Brenda Lamagdeleine of Kate’s Kitchen. Nora McMahon will be the Master of Ceremonies, and the keynote speaker will be William Evans, former Boston Police Commissioner who was vital in the capture of the Boston Marathon bombers.

 **Our own Matt O’Connor will lead the AOH contingent into St. Jerome Church at Mass** before the Communion Breakfast on Sunday, March 12, 8 a.m.

 **The Holyoke Saint Patrick’s Parade will be held on Sunday, March 19, rain or shine. After all the hard work to prepare the floats for the big day, marchers, riders on the traveling float and sign holders are needed.** We will assemble at the Holyoke Community Charter School parking lot (old Mammoth Mart) at 10:30 a.m.

 **Congratulations to AOH member Eamonn Burke who received the John and Agnes Burke Award at the 2023 Colleen Coronation and Awards Ceremony presented by the Springfield St. Patrick’s Parade Committee** at the Sheraton Monarch Place Hotel on February 11th.

 **Welcome to the newest AOH member, John Cadigan.** John is the brother of the LAOH Women of the Year, Mary Kate O’Connor.

  **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 quilt made its 2023 debut at Irish Night and will be making the rounds of area Irish festivities. If you have a possible venue to sell raffle tickets for the quilt,** please contact Paula Paoli at 413-210-6031, or paulaakpaoli@gmail.com. Thank you to all the members who make this LAOH fundraiser possible.

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

 **We will have another signup sheet for the parade at the March meeting.** The riding float will be also available for anyone who does not want to march. **Prayers for warm weather will be appreciated.**

 **Thank you to the 18 members of the LAOH and AOH who attended The Mass in honor of St Brigid, the Patron Saint for the LAOH on February 5.** The Mass to remember deceased Hibernians is scheduled for Sunday, March 12, at 8:00 a.m., also St. Jerome Church. Please wear your black Hibernian jacket, if possible, or a sash if you have one.

  **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. Please also contact Paula with any questions about if your dues are paid for 2023.

**Upcoming Events:**

**Irish Flag Raising –** Wednesday, March 1, 10:00 a.m. at Holyoke City Hall. All are invited.

**LAOH State Meeting** – noon, Sunday, March 5 at Blessed Sacrament Rectory

**Kate’s Kitchen** – Sundays, March 5, and April 16 making peanut buttery and jelly sandwiches. Contact Mary Kate O’Connor at 413-627-7149 to assist.

**Communion Breakfast and Mass in Remembrance for deceased Hibernians** - Sunday, March 12, 8:00 at St. Jerome Church with Communion Breakfast at Wycoff Country Club

**Holyoke Saint Patrick’s Parade –** Sunday, March 19, rain or shine or snow.

**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.

 **Tom Hohol, your name card was picked at the February meeting for the 50/50 raffle. If you had been there, I’m sure the pipes would have been loudly piping.** There hasn’t been a winner since the pandemic started. The pot is almost overflowing. You have to be at the meeting, and have up-to-date dues to win.

See everyone on Monday night.

 **And finally, before we know it, the Holyoke Parade will be here.** Please consider marching 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.**