** Ancient Order of Hibernians**

 **of Hampden Hampshire Counties**

 PO Box 6535

 Holyoke, MA 01041-6535

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

Next meeting – **AOH & LAOH Christmas Party** –

Monday, December 2, 6 pm. Cocktail Hour

 7 p.m. Dinner at JP’s

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

**Dear Brothers ,**

  **I would like to thank everyone for the work, generosity and support you’ve given this year. Two thousand twenty four was very successful.** We awarded a $1,000 scholarship in memory of Maurice A. Donahue, filled five Polish National Credit Union vans with food and clothing, and with the cooperation of the Holy Cross Parish of Springfield Ladies Cursillo , and the volunteers from Div. 2 Holyoke LAOH, we prepared over 1500 meals for Kate’s Kitchen. Who can forget our very successful Irish Night, Communion Breakfast and Irish Flag raising ceremony at Holyoke City Hall. We had a wonderful presence at the 2024 Holyoke St. Patrick’s Parade. At the Hennessey Hoedown (summer picnic) we relaxed, celebrated and promoted our Irish Heritage. Do you remember how we adopted and beautified the island by the Martin J. Dunn Energy Center on Water St.? We assisted the Ladies with their golf tournament. Oh and the year is not over as next month everyone will enjoy many young smiles when Santa arrives at our Children’s Christmas party. This will close out a busy twelve months of Christian Charity and get us ready for an exciting 2025.

 Sincerely,

 President Joseph O’Connor

**The Children’s Christmas Party will be held on Sunday, December 15 at The Wherehouse?** from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The cost is $20 per child. For more information contact Kit Collamore at kitc62@yahoo.com. There will be crafts/ coloring, cupcake decorating, pizza, soft drinks and, of course, a visit from, and photos with SANTA.’’

**President O’Connor is suggesting a great gift for your loved one for Christmas this year, a ticket to Irish Night, February 22, 2025 at The Log Cabin.** The night will feature the Irish American band, of Keohane and Kenneally. Also featured is a corned beef and cabbage dinner with Danny’s superb corned ribs. Tickets are $50 per person. This event has been a sell out the past two years. For tickets call Joe O’Connor at 413-627-7148.

 **Saint Patrick’s Calendar raffle tickets for March 2025 are now available at each meeting until the end of February. The calendars are still $10.00 each, and they make great stocking stuffers. Prizes are $50.00 daily and $500.00 on March 17, Saint Patrick’s Day.** Chairman Peter Hogan can also deliver them to your home. Call him at 413-330-6635, or email him at pjhogan71@gmail.com

 **Congratulations to unanimously elected AOH officers for the 2025-2026 year:** President, Joseph O’Connor; Vice President, John Cadigan; Recording Secretary, Owen Donohue; Treasurer, John Whelihan and Financial Secretary, Peter Hogan.

*To Be Irish Is A Blessing, To Be a Hibernian an Honor*

 **Our undaunted cyclist, Jay Driscoll thanks the AOH for our support racing the highways and byways of Massachusetts in the Pan Mass Challenge to support the Dana Farber Cancer Center.** In 10 years, Jay has raised over $108,000. Father Time (old age, creaky bones and sore muscles) have finally slowed this fine- tuned athlete. Jay is finally retiring his tight tights and announced his retirement from fundraising cycling.

 **Welcome to our newest member, Matthew McAndrew.**

 **The food and clothing drive for Kate’s Kitchen food continues through Monday, December 2.** Non-perishable food items, sleeping bags, blankets and gently worn clothing can be dropped off at PNCU insurance service, 270 Westfield Road and don’t forget to enter the raffle for a $100 and a giant raffle basket. We value our partnership with PNCU to assist Providence Ministries each year and are grateful for the support from Hibernian, Jim Kelly, CEO of PNCU. The raffle will be held at the Adult Christmas Party in December.

 **Peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for Kate’s kitchen will be delivered this season on December 15.** Call Rose Pratt at 413-532-1677 if you want to participate.

 **Our fiscal year for your 2025 dues starts November 1, 2024. As an incentive we will be holding a $50.00 gift card raffle for J P's restaurant which will be drawn at our adult Christmas party / meeting.** To be eligible for this drawing you must have had your dues in by 11/23/2024. Dues are $30.00 per year. Please make a check out to AOH & send it to: AOH, 22 County Road, Holyoke MA 01040. Please contact Peter Hogan (financial secretary) if you have any questions on your dues he can be reached at 413-330-6635 or pjhogan71@gmail.com .

 **AOH Polo shirts are available for sale, $70.** They come in all sizes and make great Christmas gifts. To purchase your shirt, contact President O’Connor at 413-627-7148.

 **LAOH Notes**

 **Having been the LAOH Division President since the late Daniel Curran was the AOH Division President.  I know it will be a big adjustment for me to become the Immediate Past Division President as of January 2025.**

**I want to thank the members who have supported my efforts through the years to make the Holyoke LAOH (as Paul Hogan would say) the best Division by a Dam Site! I want to also thank all of our wonderful officers, who have served us all so well, and so professionally, for so many years: Rosalie Pratt (Vice President)**

**Barbara Twohig, (Recording Secretary), Janet Dwyer (Treasurer), Pat Murphy (Financial Secretary), Noranne Duquette, (Historian) Patricia Pluta (Mistress-At-Arms), and Patricia Clayton (Sentinel).**

Our division is highly respected throughout Massachusetts. In June, we will soon have our third state president from Holyoke, **Noranne Duquette,** who will follow our current State President**, Barbara Twohig.**

 Congratulations to the newly selected officers of Div. 2 Holyoke, Mary K O’Connor (President)

Cheryl Dupont (Treasurer) Catherine Collamore (Financial Secretary) Patricia Clayton (Recording Secretary), and also to the returning officers, Rosalie Pratt, Noranne Duquette, and Patricia Pluta.

 Mary K. O'Connor and the rest of our 2025 division officers deserve all of our support for the coming year and thereafter. For some of our officers, this will be their first experience on the LAOH board, but I know they will receive the help and encouragement they need from our more seasoned members.

Plans are underway for the Installation Ceremony for the Division Board. More information to follow.

 **Yours in our motto: Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity**

 **Paula Paoli**

**Soon to be Immediate Past President of Div.2**

 **First and foremost, the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians. Div. 2 would like to recognize President Paula Paoli for twenty years of service and leadership. We are a strong and vibrant division. Thank you, Paula.**

 I am deeply honored and humbled to have been elected as President of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians during our last meeting. It is a privilege to serve such an extraordinary group of women who embody our shared values of faith, heritage, and service.

 As we prepare to begin a new year, I am filled with gratitude for your confidence in me and for the legacy of leadership that has brought us to this point. Together, I am confident we will continue to honor our traditions, support our communities, and inspire future generations to carry our mission forward.

 Thank you for this incredible opportunity. I look forward to working with all of you as we embark on this exciting new chapter.

Sincerely-

 **Mary K. O’Connor**

 **LAOH President-Elect**

 **The LAOH will be making PB&J sandwiches for Kate’s Kitchen December 14.**

  **Contact Paula Paoli at 413-210-6031, or paulaakpaoli@gmail.com; or Pat Murphy at 413-532-3121, if you are unsure your 2024 dues are paid.**

 **NOTE: New contacts will be published in the January Newsletter.**

 **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. Note: new contact information will be published in January Newsletter.

**Upcoming Events:**

 **Kate’s Kitchen –**If you would like to join us, please contact Rosalie Pratt at 413.532.1677 if you would like to volunteer. The last schedule date for sandwich making is December 14.

 The new year’s schedule will be coming in the next newsletter

**Food and Clothing Drive for Providence Ministries** - through December 2. Drop off items at the PNCU, 270 Westfield Road, Holyoke.

**Adult Christmas Party** – Monday, December 2, at JP’s Restaurant. Cocktails at 6 with dinner to follow at 7.

**Children’s Christmas Party** – Sunday, December 15 at The Wherehouse? from 10 – 12:30 p.m. Kit Collamore is chairing the fun. Contact her at kitc62@yahoo.com

**Irish Nite –** Saturday, February 22, 2025 at The Log Cabin. Highlight this date in your calendar.

**St. Brigid Mass** – Sunday, February 2nd at 8:00 a.m. St. Jerome Church

**Communion Breakfast -** Mass will be held onSunday, March 16, 8 am at St. Jerome Church followed by breakfast at the Wycoff Country Club.

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 **ICC News The Trinity Pub**

The Trinity Pub is open Wednesday–Saturday with the pub open from 4 – 10 p.m. and dinner served from 5 – 9 p.m. For reservations and gift certificates call 413-342-4358.

**Entertainment at the Trinity Pub –** Wednesdays, December 11 and Thursday, December 5 and 19 - Trad Seisun; Fridays, December, 20 – Brothers by Law, December 27 – Geezer, Saturdays, December 7, Billy Eagen; December 21 – Dee Reilly and Saturday, December 28 – Terry Brennan.

 **Irish Cultural Center Book Club**

 **Join the Irish Cultural Center Book Club.** Enjoy good craic and delve into Irish and Irish-American literature, with guided discussion in a welcoming, relaxed atmosphere. This event is open to all, Patrons and the general public. The meeting will take place on Thursday, December 12 from 5:30–6:30 pm at the ICC. This month’s selection is *The Lost Bookshop* by Evie Woods.

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

**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 program is on the air every Saturday from 9 a.m – 11 a.m. on WARE Radio, 97.7 FM and 1250 AM. It is also streamed online at classichits977.com and available anytime at 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 Christmas Party.

 **Congratulations to Aiden Moriarty on winning the 50/50 raffle.** He took home a full wallet just in time for Christmas shopping. The next 50/50 raffle will be at the January 2025 meeting.

**(**Editor’s Choice) Do you like listening to the radio at work or home. Use your smart phone and enjoy the daily broadcast of Ireland national radio station, RTE. RTE 1 includes talk, music and much more. I especially enjoy listening at 7 a.m. and 1 p.m. as the Angelus bells are rung. It gives me a chance to recite the Angelus prayer. I feel good the rest of the day.

If any reader has other interesting social media sites on Irish history, culture, sport, or politics send me the link and I’ll share in the next issue. Owen Donohue at Helloh@aol.com

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