** 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** – Monday, January 6, **7 p.m.**

at The Wherehouse?

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

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

**Dear Brothers ,**

 **Wasn’t it a wonderful Christmas Holiday?**

 We started with the adult Christmas party where Ms. Hibernian Cheryl Dupont, Mr. Hibernian Dan Murphy and Christian Charity recipient, Owen Donohue were announced. The Children’s Christmas party was a magical event. Our thanks to Kit Collamore for organizing the children’s party and special thanks to Santa, his elf and all the volunteers who made it special.

 Now it is back to work as we get ready for the “High Holy Days.” Let’s all stay healthy, have fun and work together to celebrate our Irish heritage.

Sincerely,

 President Joseph O’Connor

 **Tickets are now on sale for Irish Night, Saturday, February 22, 2025 at the Log Cabin.** Call Joe O'Connor at 413-627-7148 or Fran Henessey 413-785-5687 by February 18 to make your reservation. Tickets are only $50.00 per person. To reserve on-line visit www.eventbrite.com. The evening will feature music by the Keohane Kennealy Irish-American Band and a Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner with Ribs.

 **It was with great pride that AOH President Joe O’Connor and LAOH President Paula Paoli recently announced the selections for our organizations’ highest awards for 2025. The AOH Man of the Year (Mr. Hibernian) is Dan Murphy of West Springfield and the LAOH Woman of the Year (Ms. Hibernian) is Cheryl Dupont of Holyoke. The Christian Charity Award goes to Owen Donohue of Holyoke.**

The Mr. and Ms. Hibernian Award is given each year to that person who truly lives by the Hibernian Motto of “Friendship, Unity, and True Christian Charity.” This Award will be presented at Hibernian Irish Night in Holyoke at the Log Cabin February 22, 2025.

 **Mr. Hibernian 2025, Dan Murphy stated that “It is a humbling experience. For me, it is a great day to be Irish.”** Dan is married to Cindy Sheridan Murphy and has two step children -Ashley and Tyler Ziemba. Dan has been involved with the Hibernians on the Float Committee, Irish Night and Picnic Committees, and the Committee to landscape the Martin Dunn Power Facility.

 **Ms. Hibernian 2025, Cheryl Dupont stated: “I am speechless. I am truly humbled and honored. I get so much more out of the camaraderie of the LAOH, and the work that we do, than what I give.”** Cheryl has been married to her husband Mark for 43 years and the couple have three children: Jessica, Mary Alice, and Ethan. Cheryl has been a member of the Holyoke LAOH since 2019.

 With her great passion for baking and cooking, she is always there to assist with Irish Soda Breads and French Meat Pies for numerous events. She is the incoming Treasurer for LAOH Division 2. She has served as Chairperson for food for the 2024 LAOH Golf Tournament. She has assisted Providence Ministries collecting sleeping bags for the homeless, and participates in making peanut butter and jelly sandwiches every 6 weeks for Kate’s Kitchen.

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

 **2025 Hibernian Christian Charity Award Winner, Owen Donohue stated that he is overwhelmed at being selected for the Award.** The Christian Charity Award is given each year to that person who improves the lives of the people of Hampden/Hampshire Counties. The award will be presented at the Hibernian Communion Breakfast at Wyckoff Park Banquet Hall, Holyoke on March 16. 2025. Owen has been a member of the Hibernians since 1999. Owen is the AOH recording secretary, and a member of the scholarship committee. He is the editor of the monthly Hibernian Newsletter. He wrote the article for Holyoke 150th Anniversary book for Republican Newspapers: “A Year in the Life of a Hibernian.” Owen has been most involved with supporting the inner city youth of Holyoke for 30 years and “walks the walk” . He has been Director of the Our Lady of Guadalupe CYO for the past 25 years. He is also is a Board member of Western Massachusetts Cursillo Secretariat and a Western Mass Track and Field Official.

 **Condolences to the families of Maurice J. Ferriter and Claire Bresnahan.** Maurice was a life member of the AOH and a fixture at all our events. Claire is the mother of AOH member Daniel Bresnahan. Please keep their families in your prayers.

 **Saint Patrick’s Calendar raffle tickets for March 2025 will available at the January and February meetings. The calendars are still $10. Prizes remain the same, $50 daily and $500 on March 17, Saint Patrick’s Day.** Chairman Peter Hogan can also deliver them to your home. Call him at 413-330-6635, email-**PJHogan71@gmail.com**.

 **Posters for the 2025 Irish Night will be available at the January meeting.** Members are encouraged to pick some up and place them at businesses around the Valley.

 **The next date for making peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for Kate’s Kitchen is Saturday, Jan.25, 2025.** Please call Rose Pratt at 413-517-5346, if you have any questions.

 **Dues for AOH members are $30.00 per year. Please make a check out to AOH & send it to: AOH, c/o Peter Hogan, 22 County Road, Holyoke MA. 01040. Please contact Peter Hogan (Financial Secretary) at 413-330-6635, or** **PJHogan71@gmail.com****, if you have any questions about your dues.**

 **AOH Polo shirts are available for sale for $70.** They come in all sizes, make great Saint Patrick Day gifts and are a stylish addition to anyone’s wardrobe. To purchase your shirt, contact President O’Connor at 413-627-7148.

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**LAOH Notes**

 **Thank you to everyone who volunteered at the Children’s Christmas Party. Kit Collamore orchestrated the fun** with assistance from Aiden Moriarty, Peter Hogan, Paula Paoli, Rosalie Pratt, Cheryl Dupont, Joan Grady, Patrick O’Connor, Joe O’Connor and Mary Kate O’Connor. The children enjoyed a visit with Santa Claus and his merry little elf. The children kept busy prior to jolly old Kris Kringle’s arrival writing letters to Santa, decorating cupcakes and making Christmas tree ornaments.

Later, everyone enjoyed pizza.

 **Congratulations to the newly elected officers for the LAOH who were announced at the Christmas Party.** Newly elected and re-elected members are **Mary K O’Connor**-President:

**Rosalie Pratt**-Vice President; **Cheryl Dupont**-Treasurer; **Patricia Clayton**-Recording Secretary;

**Kit Collamore**-Financial Secretary, **Noranne Duquette**, Historian, **Pat Pluta**- Mistress-At-Arms, and **Kathy Krisak**- Catholic Action Officer.

 **At the January meeting, the Ladies will discuss ideas and dates for assembling Irish Night basket raffles.**

 **Thank you to Rosalie Pratt for organizing and preparing 100 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for Kate’s Kitchen in December. Future** dates will be announced at the January meeting.

Please contact Kit Collamore if you have any questions about your $25.00 annual LAOH dues.413-364-7484.

2025 dues should be paid by April 2025.

Upcoming Events:

**Kate’s Kitchen –** next date tentatively scheduled for making peanut butter and jelly sandwiches is Saturday, January 25, 2025. Please call Rosalie Pratt at 413-517-5346 if you have any questions.

**Irish Nite –** Tickets are now on sale for Irish Night, Saturday February 22, 2025 at the Log Cabin. Call Joe O'Connor at 413-627-7148 or Fran Henessey 413-785-5687 by February 18 to make your reservation. Tickets are only $50.00 per person. To reserve on-line visit [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com).

**St. Brigid’s Mass**- February 2 – 8:00 a.m. at St. Jerome’s Church

Installation of 2025 LAOH officers will take place after the Mass

**Communion Breakfast -** The Annual Communion Breakfast will be held on Sunday, March 16 following the 8 am Mass at St. Jerome Church. More information to follow.

**Saint Patrick’s Parade –** Sunday, March 23

**AOH/LAOH State Convention**-at Cape Cod - May 30 through June 1

 **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.

**Music at The Trinity Pub –** Wednesdays, January 8, 15, 22 and 29 – Trad Seisun; Fridays, January 3 – Brothers by Law; January 10 - Baird Souls; January 24 – Timbrweed; January 31 – Tom Savoy; Saturdays, January 4 – New Leaf; January 11 – The Corner Boys; January 18 – The Blaney Brothers; January 25 – The Healy’s.

 **Irish Cultural Center Book Club**

**Join the Irish Cultural Center Book Club. We’ll 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.** The next meeting will take place on **Sunday, January 19 from 12–1 pm** at the ICC. ***Please note date and time change, as this meeting includes a special presentation with the author Nuala O’Connor via Zoom.***

**We are reading Nora: A Love Story of Nora and James Joyce by Nuala O’Connor.** Dublin, 1904. Nora Joseph Barnacle is a 20-year-old from Galway working as a maid at Finn’s Hotel. She enjoys the liveliness of her adopted city and on June 16 – Bloomsday – her life is changed when she meets Dubliner James Joyce, a fateful encounter that turns into a lifelong love. Despite his hesitation to marry, Nora follows Joyce in pursuit of a life beyond Ireland, and they surround themselves with a buoyant group of friends that grows to include Samuel Beckett, Peggy Guggenheim, and Sylvia Beach
The Book Club is free to join. [Please register ahead](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/january-book-club-at-the-irish-cultural-center-tickets-1117916902549) so we know how many people to expect. [Register online >](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/january-book-club-at-the-irish-cultural-center-tickets-1117916902549) at [www.irishcenterwne.org](http://www.irishcenterwne.org).

 **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.**

**Congratulations to Aiden Moriarty on winnng the 50/50 raffle at the November meeting. A** new raffle will begin at the January meeting. Remember you have to be at the meeting to win.

**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.

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