** 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, June 9, **7 p.m.**

at The Wherehouse?

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

**Summer Break until Monday, September 8**

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Dear Brothers,

It was busy month. We were notified that for all good work our division has done during the past year: (sandwiches for Kate’s Kitchen, food and clothing drives to Providence Ministries, the national AOH Hunger project committee has recognized the AOH & LAOH. I would like to thank each and every one of you who help support our efforts to feed the hungry and cloth the needy. Special thanks goes to the CURSEO GROUP, the Ladies Ancient order of Hibernians, Fran Hennessy and Jim Kelly for putting together the food and clothing drive also would like to thank President Mary O'Connor LAOH, Vice President John Cadigan and Financial Sectary Peter Hogan for submitting the application. We make a difference in our community!

On June 9 at our monthly meeting, we will be swearing in 4 new members.

Plans are underway for a membership drive in October at the Irish Cultural Center. Dan Murphy is chairing the drive. More information will follow.

Thanks to Peter Hogan and the crew of Paula Paoli, State President Barbara Twohig, State Vice President Noranne Duquette, Division Vice President Rosie Pratt and Peggy Reynolds for bringing our travel float down to Watertown for the Memorial Day Parade. Many thanks to JD Watson for the use of his truck to pull the float.

The Mother s Day raffle was a great success. We did not sell every ticket and still made a profit. Thanks to all who participated.

President Joseph O’Connor

**AOH NEWS**

**Our famous Hennessey Hoe-Down, Hibernian Summer Picnic will be held on Sunday, August 24, 1 – 5 pm at the Hamel’s Summit View Pavilion.** This year the club welcomes “The Healys,” who will entertain us with great Irish music. Tickets are $30 per person; and $15 for children 10-15. Hamburgers, hot dogs, potato salad, tossed salad and dessert will be served There will be a cash bar, kid’s games, raffle and dancing., contact Fran Hennessey at 413-785-5687 and Joe O’Connor at 413-627-7148 by August 19th, or visit our website at AOH-Holyoke.com.

**The Scholarship Committee of the AOH and LAOH have chosen four recipients for the 2025 Maurice A. Donahue Memorial Scholarship: They are Emma Kelly, Peter Pluta, Maela Allen and Riley Allen.**

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

Emma Kelly plans attend Northeastern University. Maela Allen will attend UMass Amherst. Peter Pluta will study at Springfield Technical Community College, and Riley Mary Allen will matriculate at Westfield State University. Emma Kelly was nominated by her grandfather Owen Kelly Jr. Maela Allen was nominated by her grandfather Timothy Allen. Peter Pluta was nominated by his grandmother Patricia Pluta, .and Riley Mary Allen was nominated by her mother Bridget Allen. Scholarship Chairman Paul O. Mengel proudly remarked about the 2025 recipients: “These four young people represent the core values that were so important to the man for whom the scholarship is named. Maurice A. Donahue believed deeply in academic excellence, community service, and love of Irish history and culture. He would be very proud of these scholarship award recipients.” The Awards will be given at the Annual Picnic August 24 at Hamels Pavilion. Congratulations to these young people!

**The next date to make peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for Kate’s Kitchen will be Saturday June 21, for delivery to Kate’s Kitchen on Sunday, June 22.** Call Rosalie Pratt if you wish to participate at 413-532-1677. Fall dates will be announced in our September newsletter.

**Members of Holyoke's AOH and LAOH joined Watertown at their Memorial Day Parade, bringing the "St. Brigid" (traveling) float, which sported our new Patriotic theme.**  After the parade, Holyoke members were invited to Watertown's Hall for a cookout, and a ceremony to honor our country's Veterans. Watertown is known as "the President's Division", because of a well-known AOH member, JFK.

**The club has 89 total members** with 77 members are paid for 2025. Twelve members are not up to date. Notices were sent out last month to all members not paid. Please send your dues money to Peter Hogan-AOH, 22 County Road, Holyoke, MA 01040.

**The April 50/50 raffle went unclaimed. Great thanks to Aiden Moriarty winner of the March 50/50 raffle.** Aiden donated his winnings to the family of Patrick Brennan.

**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.

**LAOH Notes**

Fellow Div. 2 Holyoke Sisters,

**Once again we banged it out of the ballpark for the month of May,** I am pleased to report Monday, May 6, we swore in five new members Mary Haley, Jessica Dupont, Elizabeth Gaulin, Kathy Brunelle and Carolyn Crichton.

**It was also on that same evening that we reviewed 11 new perspective member applications and I am pleased to announce that we will be swearing in those applicants on Monday, June 9** and they are Caitlin Allen, Bridget Allen, Joanne Allen, Angela Burke, Geri McCarthy, Michelle Liswell, Kathy Lawrence, Moira Cannon, Kathy Sliwa, Deborah Smith and Mary Larrow. I am pleased to report that for the 6 consecutive months we've experienced growth in our organization. The division has grown by 19.45 % since January 1, 2025. This consistent momentum is a direct result of the dedication and the enthusiasm of our members. Through strong networking, a positive spirit, and meaningful impact in our community, we continue to attract new members and strengthen our presence. It is a statement to what we can achieve when we work together with a purpose and heart.

**On Saturday May 17th we gathered at the home of Rosie Pratt where 100 peanut butter Jelly meals were prepared.** The preparers that day were Peggy Reynolds, Kathy Brunelle, Jacki Readon, Janet Dwyer, Rosie Pratt, Pat Pluta, Patty Clayton and Kim Gaughan. And if you missed this one the next one will be June 21, 2025, 10 am at Rosie Pratt’s house, 25 Roland St., Holyoke, MA.

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

**An e-mail was sent out mid-month to all members offering an opportunity to join different committees that the organization is in the process of developing.**  If you did not receive the email and want to get a little

more involved with the organization, please reach out to me directly @ laohmarykateoconnor@gmail.com or 413-627-7149 and I will see to it that you are made aware of the new committees that the organization is offering.

**A special thank you to two outstanding LAOH members this month we are proud to recognize two of our dedicated sisters whose generosity and hard work embody the spirit of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians. Kathleen Krisak and Peggy Reynolds. Kathleen,** our Catholic Missions Officer, has gone above and beyond by organizing and collection of personal items for our veterans at the Holyoke Veteran's Home. Her compassion and dedication ensure that those who served are remembered and honored with dignity. Peggy Reynolds, Chair of the Greeting Card Committee, poured her heart into creating over 125 handmade cards to be distributed to veterans this Memorial Day. Her thoughtful gestures remind our heroes that they are not forgotten.

**A heartful thank you to our newest member, Kathy Brunelle,** for introducing the LAOH to the barrel-adopt program-helping us beautify our beloved city of Holyoke one barrel at a time. Coming soon to the median between Northampton St. and Hillside Ave.

**The LAOH Holyoke Division 2 was well represented at the Annual Watertown Memorial Day parade on Monday May 26, in Watertown, MA.**  Thanks to members like Rosie Pratt, Peggy Reynolds, Past State President Paula Paoli, State President Barbara Twohig, and State Vice-President Noranne Duquette.

The Annual LAOH Par 3 Golf Tournament will take place at Holyoke Country Club on Saturday, September 20. Tee off will be at 10:00 am, followed by lunch at 12:30 pm.

We are looking for members to participate in our committees to support this event:

• Advertising

• Sign-ups

• Sponsorship (securing sponsors and sponsor signage)

• Food

• Putting content

• Raffle

**A meeting will be held mid-late June at Holyoke Country Club to discuss the tournament and determine committee members.**  Please contact Nora McMahon is you would like to participate (driscona@gmail.com or text 413.218.2092)

**And at the end of the month, the LAOH Holyoke Division sent 9 delegates to Cape Cod for the Biannual State Convention** the delegates were Cheryl Dupont, Kit Collamore, Cindy Sheridan- Murphy, Kim Gaughan, Peggy Reynolds, Rosie Pratt, Mary Pat Lenihan, Paula Paoli, and Mary K OConnor, these delegates will be sharing their newly acquired information with the body at the next monthly meeting on June 9, 2025, 6 pm at the Wherehouse? Lyman Street, Holyoke. I would also like to add that our own Noranne Duquette was unanimously voted to be the next State President for 2025-2027.

Sincerely your President

Mary K. O’Connor

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

**Thank you to Barbara Twohig, the immediate past State President, for very capably running the 2025 LAOH State Convention meetings. Barbara was honored at the State Banquet, following the convention business, for all of her accomplishments as LAOH State**

**President for the past three years. Congratulations to our new State President, Noranne Duquette. You are continuing Holyoke’s tradition of serving the state board in the highest office.**

**And, as always, thank you Owen for all of your work throughout the years, in preparing the newsletter!**

Paula Paoli, Immed. Past Division President, and past MA State President

**Upcoming Events:**

**Kate’s Kitchen –** the final date before the summer break to prepare peanut butter and jelly sandwiches is June 22. Please call Rosalie Pratt at 413-517-5346 if you have any questions.

**Hennessey Hoe Down (summer picnic) –** Sunday, August 24, 1-5 pm at Hamel’s Summit View Pavilion. Tickets are $30 per person; $15 for children10-15. For tickets contact Fran Hennessey T 413-785-5687or Joe O’Connor at 413-267-7148.

**Irish Cultural Center News**

**The Trinity Pub**

The **Trinity Pub** is open Wednesday–Saturday with the pub open from 4 – 10 p.m. with dinner served from 5 – 9 p.m. The bar is now open on Sundays from noon to 6 p.m. (drinks only). For reservations and gift certificates call 413-342-4358.

**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 meeting on Monday night.

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