** 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, May 5, **7 p.m.**

at the **Irish Cultural Center, Morgan Road, West Springfield**

**LAOH** – Monday, May 5, 6 p**.m**. at The Wherehouse?

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

 **Just a reminder, the May 5 AOH meeting will be held at the Irish Cultural Center, Morgan Road, West Springfield, 7 pm.**

(The following is from a speech given by AOH President Joe O’Connor at the Providence Ministries

gala to honor Sr. Margaret, Paul Hogan, and Charlie Popp)

Good evening,

 I am Joseph O’Connor, President of the James A. Curran Division One of the Ancient Order of Hibernians of Hampden/Hampshire Counties. Honored Foundress Sr. Margaret Mc Cleary, Clergy, Hibernians, Jasmine Colon and Kitchen Staff, Members of Marcotte Ford, and Sunshine Village, Members of the Hogan and Popp Families. It is my honor to say a few words about Sr. Margaret McCleary and also give due recognition to the late Hibernians Charlie Popp and Paul Hogan who were devoted to assist at Kate’s Kitchen.

 Back in the day perhaps late 70’s early 80’s the Hibernians were initially involved with helping at Kate’s. One of our members copied a prayer from the first kitchen on Elm Street.

 **All we ask Lord, is to be safe from rain**

 **Enough warmth in winter to smile at the snow**

 **Food enough that our hunger will not turn us into angry beasts**

 **And sanity enough that will make a justice that will not kill our love for life.**

 Paul Hogan brought us back to once again help at Kate’s in 2005. Living up to our motto of “Friendship Unity and True Christian Charity” the Hibernians once again assisted at making meals every six weeks.

 I want to thank Jasmine Colon and her staff for recognizing the efforts of Paul and Charlie. Paul was the counter and would give the numbers served. Here’s a side story. One day a lady came in with a snake, a Boa Constrictor. Paul jumped into action and escorted her out. After that episode he would tell others that like St Patrick, he drove the snakes out of Holyoke.

 Charlie Popp spent countless hours cleaning the kitchen assuring everyone had a clean plate for their meals. Each meal Charlie always brought humor, devotion, energy, and enthusiasm to everything he did.

 Here is an Irish Prayer for the Popp and Hogan Families:

 **May God give you….**

 **For every storm, a rainbow. for every tear, a smile,**

 **For every care, a promise, and a blessing in each trial.**

 **For every problem life sends, a faithful friend to share,**

 **For every sigh, a sweet song, and an answer for each prayer.**

 Sister Margaret was the Hibernian Christian Charity Award Winner in 2018, for truly seeking to improve the quality of life for the people of Hampden/Hampshire Counties. Sister Margaret always taught us not to judge people who came into her kitchen but be kind to all.

 There is a sign a banner on Main St in Holyoke with Margaret’s picture and an inscription which reads: ***“Holyoke’s Hidden Legends Sr Margaret Mc Cleary “el corozon de Holyoke”.***

 Author Tommy Shea recounts a story in 1953 at Mercy hospital where Margaret at an early age modeled after Sr. Evangelista. When the cafeteria was closed for the night, Sr. Evangelista opened the door for the homeless. She made sure the tables were always set. Sister was worried many couldn’t chew so every night there was served something soft and nutritious. “It was a sermon that can’t be preached and only lived and Sr. Margaret did that.”

 In 2018, Sr Margaret stated, “Being a sister of Providence for 60 years is among the greatest blessings in my life. I was always allowed to pursue what I deeply felt called to do and that is to be a friend to the poor and to be their advocate.”

 Jennie Adamczek, - The Ancient Order of Hibernians will help to continue the works of Margaret. Every six weeks, the LAOH and Holy Cross Cursillo Group continues to make PB&J sandwiches. From September to December with Hibernian Jim Kelly and the Polish National Credit Union, we conduct a food and clothing drive.

 Sr. Margaret-we will try to follow your great example and strive to continue your great works.

 May God Bless You!

**Applications for the AOH Maurice A. Donahue Scholarships are available on line at** [**www.AOH-Holyoke.com**](http://www.AOH-Holyoke.com)**.** Applications are to be postmarked no later than Friday, May 16. To be eligible an applicant must be a child or grandchild of a member of at least two years and in good standing.

**T**he St.Brigid (traveling) Float is changing to a more patriotic theme in order to celebrate and support our veterans. This float will again take part in the Watertown Memorial Day Parade. We also hope to be able to carry area Vietnam Veterans at the Hampton Ponds Fourth of July parade.

**The club has 89 total members** with only76 members paid for 2025. Thirteen 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. Remember- your name will not be in the monthly drawing if you are not up-to-date with your dues.

 **President Sean Cahillane of the Irish Cultural Center organized a coordination meeting with Ancient Order of Hibernians, the Sons of Erin, John Boyle O’Reilly Club and the Holyoke Saint Patrick’s Parade Committee to establish a Calendar of Events for all Irish organizations in the Valley.**

 **Congratulations to JD Watson on being the March 17** AOH Saint Patrick’s raffle daily March monthly raffle.

 **The April 50/50 raffle went unclaimed, as the name drawn was J.D. Watson, who wasn’t present. Many 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, or alop33@aol.com.

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

 **LAOH Notes**

Dear Sisters-

 April has been a very very busy month. Big kudos to all the volunteers for their time and talents for this past month.

 At our monthly meeting on April 7, we swore in our newest member, Mary Chase Bartley. Also, that evening we reviewed six applications for potential future members. Each applicant came highly endorsed. The six women are Jessica Dupont, Elizabeth Gaulin, Mary Haley, Mary Larrow, Kathy Brunelle and Carolyn Chrichton. These women will be sworn in at the May 5 meeting.

 On Saturday April 12, we gathered to assemble 100 sandwich meals for Kate’s Kitchen at Rosie Pratt’s house. The list of attendees included Pat Pluta, Janet Dwyer, Patty Clayton, Kim Gaughan, Cindy Sheridan-Murphy, Jacki Reardon, Ann Kelly, Joan Grady, Pam Brough, Peggy Reynolds, Sue Cannon, Joanne Lusignan, Rosie Pratt and myself. This is an open invitation to new and old members. The next assembly day is 10 am on Saturday, May 17, 25 Roland Street, Holyoke. Future dates and locations will be shared in subsequent monthly newsletters.

 On April 13th, along with AOH President Joe O’Connor, John and Kim Gaughan, we had the opportunity to meet with the heads of various local Irish-American organizations at the Irish Cultural Center to discuss the creation of a “Community Calendar.” This living document would be updated regularly by the I.C.C. staff with our events along with those of the other organizations. The purpose of this is to have one central calendar to increase awareness of our various organizations and expand attendee turnout. The hope is to have this calendar active in the coming months. More to come on this as details come from the I.C.C. executive board.

 On April 14 and 23, the **New Membership Committee** came together to prepare various new membership and appreciation bags that included a St. Brigid’s Cross bracelet, St. Brigid prayer cards and preparation of labels for donated Yankee Candles. Also on the 28, the committee gathered to pre-assemble a balloon arch for the I.C.C. event. This committee consisted of Joanne Lusignan, Kathy Dunn, Kit Collamore, Cheryl Dupont, Rosie Pratt, Peggy Reynolds, Joan Grady, Eileen and Carolyn Leahy, Marie Zurheide, Cindy Sheridan-Murphy, Kim Gaughan, Ann Kelly, Patty Clayton and myself.

 On Friday April 25, I had the privilege to represent the LAOH at the Providence Ministries Gala and showcased our work that we do in the community with Kate’s Kitchen. I was also able to acknowledge the vision of Sr. Margaret McCleary and the work of past AOH members, Paul Hogan (RIP)and Charlie Popp (RIP) had done for this wonderful organization. Joining me that evening were fellow LAOH members Kit Collamore and Paula Paoli.

 On Saturday the 26th our LAOH chapter served as the **“Sweet Treat” Sponsor** for the ***Each Moment We’re Alive*** fundraiser at Gary Rome. This was to show our support for our LAOH members that have previously battled various forms of cancer in the past. The Sweet Treat Committee that baked, prepared the sweets and supported the event were Cindy Sheridan Murphy, Kathy Dunn, Cheryl Dupont, Ann Kelly, Kit Collamore, Patty Clayton, Joan Grady, Joanne Beaudry and myself.

 On the April 30 we hosted our **New Member Drive** at the I.C.C. where we distributed LAOH applications for any interested. Guest speaker that evening was Providence Ministries Executive Director Jennie Adamczyk. A recap of this event will be in next month’s newsletter. The entire event was orchestrated by Cheryl Dupont and her team. Please note that we are always accepting new applicants, and you can forward the link below to the application to anyone you know that may be interested. <https://ladiesaoh.com>.

 I want to thank all who helped spread the word and participate in the ***Delaney House Mother’s Day Brunch Raffle.*** More information at the meeting.

 Also, at time of press for this newsletter we have our **Ladies Hibernian Hornets** will be representing us at the **Annual Homework House Spelling Bee** on May 1. Our Hornet team is comprised of Cheryl Dupont, Patty Clayton and Kathy Dunn. Good luck ladies!

 I look forward to seeing you at the monthly meeting being held at 6 pm, May 5 @ The Wherehouse?, For the 5th connective month we will be reviewing applications for new membership.

Sincerely, Mary K. O’Connor

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

**Upcoming Events:**

**Kate’s Kitchen –** next dates to prepare peanut butter and jelly sandwiches are May 18 and June 22. Please call Rosalie Pratt at 413-517-5346 if you have any questions.

**Maurice A. Donahue Scholarships – applications for the AOH/LAOH scholarship are available online at** [**www.AOH-Holyoke.com**](http://www.AOH-Holyoke.com)**. Applications can be postmarked no later than Friday, May 16.**

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

**Hennessey Hoe Down (summer picnic) –** to be discussed at the May meeting

 **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.

**Celtic Music Fest**

 **Mark your calendar for Saturday, May 10 for the return of the ICC’s Celtic Music Festival.** This is a free event and will feature Celtic influenced jam bans,Kilashandra and Billy Eagan and The Rising. There will be a Kerry Castle bounce house for the kids. Entertainment will take place in the covered outdoor patio and in the pub. Doors and the Trinity Pub open at noon with the kitchen opening at 1 p.m. Free admission. Bring a chair or blanket for additional seating.

**Fiddler Gerry O’Connor in Concert**

 **The ICC invites the public to a special evening with celebrated Irish fiddler, Gerry O’Connor,** from County Louth. Gerry is on his Northeast tour and will perform at the I.C.C. on Sunday, May 18,5:30 p.m.at the Trinity Pub. Doors open at 4 p.m. Tickets are $25 for ICC patrons and $30 for the general public. To purchase your tickets 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.

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