

Hibernians bestow annual awards



Above, from left, Hibernian president Joe O'Connor; Ladies Hibernian president Paula Paoli; 2025 Mr. Hibernian, center, Dan Murphy; Ms. Hibernian 2025 Cheryl DuPont; and 2025 Christian Charity award winner Owen Donohue. (PETER HOGAN)

Ancient Order of Hibernians president Joe O'Connor and Ladies Hibernian president Paula Paoli recently announced the selections for the organization's highest awards for 2025.

The Man of the Year (Mr. Hibernian) is Dan Murphy, of West Springfield, and the 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 the two persons who truly live by the Hibernian motto of "Friendship, Unity, and True Christian Charity." The awards will be given out at Hibernian Irish Night in Holyoke at the Log Cabin on Feb. 22.

For Murphy, being chosen as Man of the Year is a humbling experience. "For me, it is a

great day to be Irish," he said.

He is married to Cindy Sheridan Murphy and has two step-children, Ashley and Tyler Ziemba. Murphy has been involved with the Ancient Order of Hibernians in various avenues, including on the Float Committee, Irish Night and Picnic Committees, and the Committee to Land-scape the Martin Dunn Power Facility.

Dupont found herself "truly humbled and honored" to be chosen as Woman of the Year.

"I am speechless. ... I get so much more out of the camaraderie of the LAOH and work we do than I give," she said.

She has been married to her husband Mark for 43 years and the couple have three children: Jessica, Mary Alice and Eihar.

With her great passion for baking and cooking, Dupont always on hand for the Ladies Hibernian organization to assist with Irish soda breads and French meat pies for numerous events. She is the treasurer for Ladies Division 2, and serves as chairperson for food for the LAOH Golf Tournament. She has assisted Providence Ministries with sleeping bags and participate in making peanut butter and jelly sandwiches every six weeks.

Donohue stated that he is "overwhelmed at being selected for the award and is most appreciative for being chosen." The Christian Charity Award is given each

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year to the person who "improves the lives of the people of Hampden/Hampshire Counties." Donohue will receive his award at the 2025 Hibernian Communion Breakfast, to be held at Wyckoff Park Banquet Hall in Holyoke on March 16.

Donohue has been a member of the Hibernians

most involved with supporting the inner city for 30 years, and assists the youth of Holyoke with various organized team sports.