

**Ancient Order of Hibernians
of Hampden Hampshire Counties**

PO Box 6535

Holyoke, MA 01041-6535

www.AOH-Holyoke.com

Next meetings – **AOH**– Monday, April 6, 7 p.m.

LAOH – 6 pm

At The Warehouse?



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

Dear Brothers,

March came in with a roar and left with a thunder—what a remarkable and memorable month it has been for our division.

We began with our annual flag-raising ceremony at Holyoke City Hall. A special thank you to Mayor Garcia, Fran Hennessy, the late Peter Hogan, Peter Tallman, LAOH Woman of the Year Catherine Collamore, AOH Man of the Year Jordan Lemieux, LAOH President Mary O'Connor and all of our speakers. Following the ceremony, we gathered inside for coffee, tea, and homemade soda bread—many thanks to the LAOH for their warm hospitality.

Throughout the month, many of our members attended and supported a variety of events, including St. Jerome's Irish Night, the Northampton St. Patrick's Association Breakfast and Chicopee Irish Night.

On March 17th, many of us began the day at the Daley-Halligan wreath-laying ceremony, which saw the largest crowd to date—a true testament to the strength of our community and traditions.

The AOH and LAOH were also well represented at the Holyoke City Council meeting, where LAOH Woman of the Year Catherine Collamore, AOH Man of the Year Jordan Lemieux, and Christian Charity Award recipient Sister Betsy Sullivan were recognized for their outstanding contributions.

At the Communion Breakfast, Jay Driscoll served with distinction as Master of Ceremonies at Wyckoff Country Club. Our guest speaker, Dr. Ian Delehanty, PhD, delivered an insightful and engaging address. Additionally, our Christian Charity Award recipient, Sr. Betsy Sullivan, offered a moving and heartfelt presentation on the Sisters of Saint Joseph and how they are committed to the community titled "Uniting Neighbor with Neighbor and Neighbor with God."

Your assistance with runner registration, bib distribution, intersection safety and crowd control was invaluable. Your dedication and commitment contributed greatly to the overall success of the day leading up to the Road Race.

In preparation for the parade, our Float Committee worked tirelessly to build and prepare two outstanding floats. The dedicated crew, J.D. Watson, Kenny Charboneau, Fran Hennessy, Paula Paoli, Kay O'Connor, and Marty Fullwood put in countless hours of hard work. Their efforts were rewarded with a second-place finish in the Religious Category. We extend a very special thank you to each of them, parade was the highlight.

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

The morning began early at 6:15 am as we pulled the floats out of the Gas & Electric garage and made our way to the Holyoke Charter School for judging by the Parade Committee. The floats were pulled by Ryan Kokoski and Pat Hogan. Fran Hennessey managed the shuttle service that ran from 8:30 to 10:00 am helping participants get to the starting area. By 9:30 am, marchers began to arrive. At 11:45 we proudly stepped onward making our way through the streets of Holyoke.

Our honorees were glowing, marchers were smiling, and the floats were nothing short of spectacular. The pride and spirit of our organization were on full display despite the inclement weather.

Thank you to everyone who helped make March, Irish American Heritage Month, a monumental experience. A special thank you as well to the Cassin School of Irish Dance and their “Rain Dancers”, Maggie & Evie McLarey, Riona & Aoife Conz for their outstanding determination and energy on Parade Day.

A big thanks goes out to John Gaughan, John Cadigan, Dan Murphy, Jim Buckley, and Ryan Allen for delivering the Irish soda bread to their many locations

Joseph O’Connor- President DIV 1

We’ve hit 100! As promised by President O’Connor the club now has hit the century mark with 100 members. At the March meeting, the club welcomed William “Bunky” Collamore, Pat Bartley and Jim Brough into our brotherhood.

AOH Maurice A. Donahue Scholarships – Applications for the AOH Maurice A. Donahue Scholarships are available on the club’s website www-AOH-Holyoke.com. Applicants must be a son, daughter or grandchild of a member in good standing for 2 years. Applications must be postmarked no later than May 15.

Great thanks to the LAOH and the Ladies Cursillo group from Holy Cross Church in Springfield for making PB&J sandwiches for Kate’s Kitchen. Also, thanks to the delivery people, Peggy Reynolds, Rose Pratt, Paul Mengel and Fran Hennessey for braving the storm. The next Kate’s Kitchen date to make sandwiches is April 11. If you want to participate, call Rose Pratt at 413-532-1677.

The annual Summer Picnic unofficially named the “Hennessey Hoe Down” will be held on Sunday, August 30, 2026 at Hamel’s Pavilion in Holyoke from 1-5 pm rain or shine. The public is invite. The event will feature the Healy’s “Institute for Better Living”. A traditional cookout will consist of Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, toss salad, potato salad, dessert coffee (cash bar). For reservations call Fran Hennessey at 413-785-5687. The Maurice A. Donahue Memorial Scholarship will be presented. More details on the picnic will be available later.

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LAOH News

Dear Sisters,

As we gather this past month, I would like to take a moment to reflect on what has been an incredibly busy and meaningful few weeks for the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians. Out of the first twenty-two days of the month, Hibernians could be found involved in some sort of activity almost every day.

The month began with the Flag Raising at Holyoke City Hall, where the weather was extremely bitterly cold, yet the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians were well represented. After the ceremony, the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians provided Irish Soda Bread, tea, and coffee to the crowd. This was followed by volunteering at the spaghetti supper, making peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, and our final big baking day at Mater Dolorosa, followed by a weekend of bake sales at all the Masses.

The following week continued with Chicopee Irish Night, South Hadley Irish Night, and Holyoke St. Jerome's Irish Night, where several of our members proudly represented the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians by selling bread and Afghan raffle tickets.

Coming into the homestretch, we gathered for the Communion Mass, followed by the Communion Breakfast. Later on that afternoon several members attended the festivities at Flora's on Northampton St.

Cheryl Dupont, Chair of the Irish Soda Bread committee kept her oven running without pause, and her last days of baking set a personal best—up to sixty breads per day for seven days in a row. That same week, on St. Patrick's Day the Daley Halligan Memorial in Northampton was a freezing event, yet the Holyoke Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians set a record of attendance.

That evening, we proudly watched our Kit Collamore, Lady Ancient Order of Hibernians, receive her citation from the City Council.

By midweek, over 350 Irish flags had been placed at all four cemeteries in Holyoke, By Friday afternoon and Saturday morning, up to twenty volunteers helped the Parade Committee distribute race bibs to the runners.

And finally, we concluded with the parade. Even though the weather may not have been perfect, it was a perfect parade for those who participated, for the cheers and support of the crowds made the marchers feel warm inside, regardless of the rain outside.

When you stop and think about it, that is quite a list for just twenty-two days — but then again, when Hibernian women get together, there's very little that can't be accomplished.

Thank you to all of you for giving your time, your energy, and your hearts to everything we do.

In Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity. Mary K. O'Connor -President

UPCOMING EVENTS

Kate's Kitchen- Sandwich Schedule April 11th, May 23, and June 27, @10:00 am ,Contact Rosie Pratt if you want to help at 413-532-1677.

MD Spaghetti Supper-Volunteers to help serve on April 1st and May 6, 2026 3:30 -7:15 pm for more details call Mary K O'Connor @ 413-627-7149.

Homework House-Please support the Hibernian Hornets on Thurs. April 16 @ De La Luz Soundstage, 114 Race Street, Holyoke for further information and tickets go to homeworkhouseholyoke.org/spelling-bee

Next LAOH State Meeting-Sunday June 7, 2026 @12:00location Pope John Paul II Social Center, 25 Maple St, Holyoke Ma.

Drawing of the Homemade Crocheted Afghan-Monday April 6 LAOH Meeting, for additional tickets or tickets please reach out to Kathy Krisak @ 413-427-4671 or Rosie Pratt 413-517-5346.

Derby Kickoff Party-Sat April 18th at 6pm to support Each Moment Were Alive @ the Gary Rome Dealership, Whiting Farms Rd- for further information and tickets please contact Cindy Sheridan Murphy @ 413-204-4682 or coachsmurphy@gmail.com

2027 Next State Convention Meeting-April 25,2026 @ 10:00 am in Watertown for more details reach out to Joe O'Connor @413-627-7148 for location details.

Easter Sunday Uprising-Sunday April 5th at 4pm sharp @St. Michael Cemetery, State Street entrance, Springfield Mass for a Memorial Service, music provided by the Bards also afterwards, everyone's is invited back to the Members Lounge of the John Boyle O'Reilly for an evening of fun and entertainment.

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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 remembrance of Doc Dean, non-perishable food items can be brought to the February meeting. Items requested are meals in cans like Chef Boyardee, instant potatoes, peanut butter, stuffing, elbow macaroni, ziti, and soups. These will be delivered to the Providence Ministries.

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