

# Hibernians honor Donahue scholar

## Scholarship to be presented at summer picnic

The scholarship committee of the Ancient Order of Hibernians James A. Curran Division One, and the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians Division Two of Hampden and Hampshire Counties selected Lauren A. O'Donald, of West Springfield, as the recipient of the Maurice A. Donahue Scholarship.

"Lauren O'Donald exemplifies the values that were so important to Maurice A. Donahue: scholarship, community service, and love of Irish tradition and culture," said committee chairperson Paul O. Mengel. "She is the ideal recipient of the scholarship that bears his name."

O'Donald is the daughter of Hibernians member A.J. O'Donald and the ladies ancient order member Alison O'Donald, of West Springfield. She is a recent honors graduate of Deerfield Academy, where she excelled in field hockey.

She plans to attend Bowdoin College in Maine in the fall to as a pre-law student and political science major.



Lauren A. O'Donald is the Hibernians' 2022 Maurice A. Donahue Memorial Scholarship winner.

O'Donald has been involved with community service by participating in can drive and sandwich-making events to benefit the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts and volunteers at the Holyoke Children's Museum.

"Seeing the need for advocacy for those less fortunate either socio-economically, or due to incapacity, has made me work to make a resounding difference in our community and society," she told the scholarship committee in her application.

The scholarship honors Donahue, a Holyoke native who was a Hibernians member and longtime public servant,

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having served as president of the state Senate.

The scholarship committee, in its press release, said Donahue "would have been proud of this year's choice for the scholarship. Maurice was so committed to encouraging young people to pursue a higher education so that they could give back to the community. At the (national) Democratic Convention in Chicago in 1968, he challenged everyone to do more for the less fortunate: 'Let us place ourselves in the shoes of the less fortunate and determine humanely what we all must do and do it.'"

The Hibernians' husband-wife team of Joe and Mary K. O'Connor and their committee raised the money to benefit the scholarship in March by sponsoring a take-out edition of the traditional corned beef and cabbage dinner, "Irish Night A-Go-Go," that was prepared by the Log Cabin Banquet & Meeting House. Next year, the Hibernians hope to return to an in-person event.

In the 19th century, the Hibernians helped Irish immigrants assimilate in America. The organization was founded in Holyoke in 1880 and the ladies order followed in 1897. Today the Hibernians have been active in the community by assisting at Kate's Kitchen, offering the Donahue scholarship and assisting the St. Patrick's Committee of Holyoke at the annual road race.

The Donahue scholarship will be presented Aug. 28 during the Hibernians' annual summer picnic at Hamel's Pavilion from 1 to 4 p.m., rain or shine. There will be Irish and American music

provided by the Boston Blackthorn Band, children's games, dancing, and plenty of food.

For tickets call John Gaughan at 860-904-3056 or Fran Hennessey at 413-785-5687 or go online to **Eventbrite.com** by Aug. 22. The event is open to the public.

For more information on the Hibernians, visit the website, **aoh-holyoke.com**.