** Ancient Order of Hibernians**

 of Hampden Hampshire Counties

 PO Box 6535 Holyoke, MA 01041-6535

**website - aoh**[**holyoke.com**](http://holyoke.com/)

**Next meeting** – AOH – Monday, January 8, -**7 p.m**. at The Wherehouse?

 LAOH – Monday, January 8, - **6 p.m**. at The Wherehouse?

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

  **Happy New Year!**

 **It was a great end of the year meeting, and a nice excuse for a Christmas Party,**with 85 members and guests. The announcement of Patty Clayton, as the 2024 LAOH Woman of the Year, John Gaughan as the 2024 AOH Man of the Year, and Jim Kelly as our 2024 Christian Charity Award Recipient were the highlights of the evening.

 **The Children’s Christmas party was once again a magical celebration.** First year chairman Kit Collamore did a beautiful job. The children enjoyed coloring, decorating cupcakes and gingerbread men, writing letters to Santa, and cheering when Santa and his elf arrived with presents for all the good boys and girls. Afterwards, they had their pictures taken with Santa, and then everyone had a pizza party. Thanks to Kit, her volunteers, and a special thank you to the men and woman of the Polish National Credit Union for their support.

From **President Joseph O’Connor:** **Our Annual Irish Night will be held on Saturday, February 24 at The Log Cabin. Doors will open at 5 p.m., with dinner served at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are $50 per person.**The event will feature a corned beef and cabbage dinner with a generous helping of Danny Curran’s famed corned ribs. The Keohane and Kenneally band will provide the entertainment. In addition there will be plenty of raffle prizes. Volunteers are needed to distribute posters, obtain raffle prizes and assist with the raffle. For reservations and to offer assistance, please contact Joe O’Connor at 413-627-7148, or Fran Hennessey at 413-785-5687.  There will be valet parking.

 **Every March Saint Patrick’s 2024 calendar raffle has been distributed.** Please return your sold ticket stubs by February 25. Chairman Peter Hogan thanks all who help make this a successful fundraiser.

**The Hibernian Memorial Mass to honor deceased members of the AOH and the LAOH will be celebrated on Sunday March 10 at 8:00 a.m. at St. Jerome Church in Holyoke. The Communion Breakfast will be held on Sunday, March 10 following the Mass, at the Wyckoff Country Club. The speaker is yet to be determined.** Chairing this Committee is Jay Driscoll at 413-534-0445. James Kelly from the Polish National Credit Union, the recipient of the Christian Charity Award, will be honored at the breakfast. Ticket prices and more information will follow.

   **Thanks to LAOH Vice President Rose Pratt and the members of the LAOH, for volunteering to make peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for Kate’s Kitchen**on January 27, 2024 at 10:00 a.m., at Rosalie’s home. (25 Roland St., Holyoke) They will be delivered to Kate’s Kitchen the following day.

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

 The tentative schedule for making sandwiches for Kate’s winter-spring is: March 2, April 6, May 4, and June 8.   **Delivery to Kate’s Kitchen will be the following Sundays.**

**Fifty-five members out of 84 are paid for 2024. If you are not sure if you owe for dues, please contact Peter Hogan @ 413-330-6635, or****pjhogan71@gmail.com****.**If you are looking for additional information, please use our website **aoh**[**holyoke.com**](http://holyoke.com/) **.**

 **Do you want to have some fun? Keep your calendars open as volunteers are needed to help get the two parade floats ready,**starting in February.

   **Please bring your ideas to increase membership to the next meeting.**

  **LAOH Notes**

 **Congratulations to Patricia Clayton, who has been chosen to be the 2024 LAOH Woman of the Year!**

  **Thank you to the AOH for** **inviting members of the LAOH to the** **annual Christmas Dinner-Party at JPs.**  **Thanks also to** **Kit Collamore, for your hard work chairing the annual AOH Children's Christmas Party, which made it a truly memorable occasion. Great job! Thanks also to Santa and his Elf.**

**To everyone who is working on embroidery panels for the 2024 LAOH quilt:**

**Please bring your embroidery to the meeting on January 8, or make arrangements for it to be handed in as soon as possible.** The quilt has to be assembled in time to be brought to Karen Motyka, who has done the finish quilting, since the beginning of this project in 2000. We need to have it ready for its first viewing at Irish Night in February. If you are unable to finish the embroidery on time, please feel free to pass it on to another person so it can be completed on time. As always, we are looking for various places to bring the completed quilt in order to sell the raffle tickets. Thank you so much for your continued help for this important fundraiser for the LAOH.

**Our Mass in honor of Saint Brigid will be celebrated on Sunday, February 4, 8 am at St. Jerome Church. St. Brigid is the patron saint of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians.**

  **If you are not sure if your 2023 dues are paid, please contact Paula Paoli at 413-210-6031, or****paulaakpaoli@gmail.com****.** The annual LAOH report is due soon, and the LAOH has to pay a per capita fee for each member. This is paid by a portion of the annual $25.00 dues, so it is important that members are current in the payment of their annual dues. Our members' 2024 dues should be paid is the end of April.

Please consider volunteering for the **LAOH Golf Tournament** **Committee** – the tournament is scheduled for September 21, 2024. – We need to keep the momentum going for this fun event.

  **As always, the LAOH would like Catholic Action suggestions,** as we are a non-profit, charitable organization, whose motto is Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity.  Please bring any suggestions to LAOH meetings. **If you are receiving a printed copy of the newsletter and want it sent by email instead,**please contact Paula Paoli at paulaakpaoli@gmail.com,  or 413-210-6031 to make the change.  We appreciate those who have changed to email to save our division the cost of printing and postage.

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 **Upcoming Events:**

**Kate’s Kitchen –** On January 27, March 2, April 6, May 4, and June 8. Club members will be making peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, for delivery the following Sundays to Kate’s Kitchen. (Contact Fran Hennessey at 413-785-5687 if you would like to help.)

**Saint Brigid’s Mass –**Sunday, February 4, 8 am St. Jerome Church

**Irish Nite –**Saturday, February 24, 2024 at The Log Cabin. Tickets are $50. Call Joe O’Connor for reservations at 413-627-7148 or visit Eventbrite.com.

**Hibernian Memorial Mass-** Sunday, March 10 at 8:00 a.m. at St. Jerome Church

**Communion Breakfast –**Sunday, March 10, 2024 at the Wyckoff Country Club. More details to follow.

**Holyoke Saint Patrick’s Parade –**Sunday, March 17, 2024

**Hennessey Hoe-Down**– Sunday, August 25 at Hamel’s Pavilion **LAOH Golf Tournament**- September 21 at the Holyoke Country Club

**ICC News** / **The Trinity Pub**

**The Trinity Pub at the Irish Cultural Center is open 4 days a week; Wednesday through Saturday 4 p.m. to 10 p.m.**Live music includes trad. sessions every Wednesday and live music on Friday and Saturday: Geezer, January 5; Dee Reilly, January 6; Dan Ringrose, January 12; Billy Eagan, January 13; Brian Walker, January 19; The Blaney Brothers, January 20: Timbreweed, January 26; and The Healys, January 27.

  **Irish Cultural Center Book Club**

  **Join the new Irish Cultural Center Book Club.** Enjoy good craic and delve into Irish and Irish-American literature, with guided discussion in a welcoming, relaxed atmosphere. This event is open to all, Patrons and the general public.  The meeting will take place on Thursday, January 11 from 5:30–6:30 pm at the ICC. The January selection is “This is Happiness” by Naill Williams. For more information, contact the ICC at [irishcenterwne.org](http://irishcenterwne.org/).

  **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 broadcasts weekly at Kool Radio WACM 100.1 FM 1270 AM each Saturday from 11 am to 1 pm.**You can also listen to their program at your leisure on the internet at [www.healysirishprogram.com](http://www.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.

**And finally ……** At the November meeting the winner, Tom Dillon Jr. was not at the meeting and could not collect the 50/50 raffle prize.  The $$$$ continues to grow. See you January 8.

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