Maryland State Board
Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc.

Erin's Echo

Volume 54 No. 1 Jan., Feb., March 2019

President's Message

Greetings Sisters:

I hope everyone enjoyed a very Blessed Christmas Season. We are coming up on a very busy couple of months. I hope everyone gets a chance to participate in some of the activities.

First off, congratulations to our own Joanna MisKelly Cox who is the Grand Marshal for the 2019 St. Patrick's Day Parade. Joanna has led the Parade committee for several years and has been involved with the Parade for as far back as I can remember. Congratulations to this year's LAOH Deputy Marshals – Jeraldine (Jeri) Ragan – Division #4 and Patricia (Pat) Gillease – Baltimore City. Both ladies are well deserving of this honor. Come join all the Irish Communities on February 24, 2019 at the Installation of Parade Marshals at the Basilica.

Plans are moving along for the 125th Anniversary Party for the LAOH as well as the 120th Anniversary for Baltimore County Division #4 – the oldest division in Maryland. We are also busy with the State Convention-more information to follow.

The Ways and Means committee is working on a new event for the LAOH – A Mardi Gras Party set for March 5, 2019 at the Rosedale Gardens. Please consider coming to this event to celebrate with our Irish Community the beginning of the Lenten Season. Again, this year we will have a bus for the St. Patrick's Day parade.

Here's hoping the winter months will treat us all kindly and I look forward to seeing all of you at these events.

D'fhéadfadh teas an teallaigh do chroí a líonadh an gheimhridh seo agus táimid ag tnúth le Earrach luath (May the warmth of your hearth fill your heart this winter as we look forward to an early Spring)

Slainte

Kelly-

Calendar

February

Feb. 1: St. Brigid Mass, Ocean City, St. Luke's, 9 AM
Feb. 10: St. Brigid Mass, St. Ignatius Church, Baltimore, 1 PM, $25, flyer
Feb 23: IRWM St. Patrick's Day Parade Kickoff Party, Rosedale Gardens, 7 PM, $75, 410-347-4747
Feb 24: Parade Marshal's Installation Mass, Basilica, 1:30

March

Mar 5: LAOH Mardi Gras Party, Rosedale Gardens
Mar 10: St. Patrick's Day Parades, Baltimore at 2 PM, Annapolis at 1 PM
Mar. 15: St. Patrick's Day Lunch, Harford 1 at An Pointin Stil, 12:30, $30, flyer
Mar. 16: St. Patrick's Day Parade, Ocean City

April

April 13: 120th Anniversary of LAOH Division 4, Columbus Gardens, 12:30 PM
April 19: Good Friday Way of the Cross, Annapolis
April 27: Team Trivia Luncheon, Harford 1, St. Mark's, $25, flyer

Cultural Corner

Books
NORMAL PEOPLE by Sally Rooney
THE SEA by John Banville
THE BOOK OF KILLOWEN by Erin Hart
-next book club selection January 21, 1 PM, Blue Stone Restaurant

Music
March 17, 3 PM Celtic Woman: Ancient Land, Hippodrome
April 12-14 Baltimore Irish Trad Fest
Multiple venues

-Joanna Cox-

Gatherings

Prayer of St. Brigid

Brigid you are a woman of peace.
You brought harmony when there was conflict.
You brought light to the darkness.
You brought hope to the downcast.
May the mantle of your peace cover those
who are troubled and anxious and
May peace be firmly rooted in our
hearts and in the world.
Inspire us to act justly and to reverence all God has made.

Brigid you were a voice for the wounded and weary.
Strengthen what is weak within us.
Calm us into quietness that heals and listens.

May we grow each day into greater wholeness in mind, body and spirit.
Amen

-Kathleen Norris-

Harford County, Division 2

In October we had a report on Samhain, by historian Mary Asaki. Mary explained that Samhain was a Celtic festival celebrated from October 31st to November 1st, marking the end of the harvest season and the beginning of winter.

We tried a new idea for the division Christmas party. In October some of our sisters went dining around Harford County for lunch. The various restaurants for the Christmas party were presented at the November division meeting. Some of the restaurants offered off –premise catering. The division voted to have the Christmas party catered. So, we decided to have the Christmas party catered for a buffet dinner at our meeting site of St. Mark's White Hall in December. The caterer provided roast beef, crab cakes, spanakopita and side dishes. The division provided appetizers, desserts, and beverages. We brought canned goods for donation to the St. Mark's Food Pantry. Family and friends joined us for a joyous Christmas party.

We ended 2018 by completing plans for our St. Ita Mass on Tuesday, January 15th, our monthly meeting night. January 15, 2019 was the actual feast day for St. Ita. We planned on donations to the troops in Afghanistan and on baby gifts for the Gabriel Network.

Peace,
-Gleela Kolakowski, Reporter-

Baltimore County, Division 4

Greetings Sisters:
We hope everyone had a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Our Division is very excited about the new year. As most of you are aware, we will be celebrating our 120th anniversary on April 13th at Columbus Gardens from 12:30 to 4:30. More details will follow. We are the oldest Division in the State of Maryland.

We would like to thank everyone who participated in our annual Baby Shower, either by attending or sending gifts. A special thanks go to Hannah and Chase for helping with set up and take down. We had a wonderful speaker; Alice Steck from the Greater Baltimore Pregnancy Center, where our donations were sent. She explained the Center's Program and how great the need is for help of any kind.

Congratulations to Laura Ensey of Howard County who was the winner of our Gift Card basket. The winning number was drawn at our Christmas luncheon. Thank you to everyone who participated. Congratulations to Joanna Cox who will be the Grand Marshall at the 2019 Baltimore St. Patrick's Day parade. And more kudos to our own Jerri Ragan and also to Pat Gillease from Baltimore 14 who will serve as the LAOH Parade Marshalls on March 10, 2019.

Please remember in your prayers all of our sisters and their families who may be having difficulties.

God Bless,

-Mary Helene Miller, Reporter-

Baltimore City, Division 1

The Venerable Catherine McAuley Division-- LAOH Baltimore City 1 hopes that everyone enjoyed a blessed Christmas and New Year's with their loved ones. We celebrated the holidays with a lovely Christmas dinner at Amicci's in Little Italy. We continue to support the women of Marion House and Independence Place by collecting toiletries and kitchen supplies for them.

All the ladies of our Division are thrilled to congratulate our sister, Pat Gillease, on being chosen as an LAOH Deputy Marshal for the 2019 Baltimore St. Patrick's Day Parade. Pat has worked tirelessly in support of the Parade for many years and we couldn't be prouder of her.

We invite you to join us in helping those in need and celebrating our Irish history and culture. We meet at Kibby's Restaurant across from St. Agnes Hospital in west Baltimore on the third Tuesday of the month at 7 pm. Join us for dinner and a meeting.

In friendship, unity, & Christian charity,

-Dorothy Reed, President-

Anne Arundel County

Once again we were busy this fall preparing and hosting our Tinsel Tea. We so appreciated that so many Sisters came "down" to Annapolis to support our fundraising efforts and we do thank you kindly!

Our Annapolis Sisters enjoyed travelling to participate in the Irish Festival at Timonium and the yummy Christmas Brunch at the Bluestone Restaurant. Our Christmas dinner was a wonderful feast hosted by Helen Seerey in her beautifully decorated Severna Park home. We collected diapers for Birthright and gift cards and donations for the Bernie House Mom.

We are currently voting on our 2019 budget and the purchase of fast food gift cards for the Winter Relief Program. This is run by the St. Vincent de Paul Society for the homeless of Anne Arundel County.

Next up we will be prepping in March for Donut Sunday, the Annapolis St. Patrick's Parade on March 10, Lenten Soup Night, and our AOH/LAOH St. Patrick's Day Mass.

We wish you happy and healthy days for 2019,

-Jane Lunney, Reporter-

LAOH Anne Arundel enjoying Christmas spirit together

Worcester County, Division 1

On Friday, February 1st our division will honor St. Brigid as our patron with a special Mass. There will be a new icon of St. Brigid at St. Luke's Church and this will be the first time it will be present at our Mass in her honor. Mass is at 9 AM and will be followed by a breakfast at Abi's Diner on Rt 589, near Ocean Pines. All are welcome to join us this special Mass and the breakfast.

We will be collecting cereal during the winter months. In March we will take it to the Seton Center in Princess Anne. We will also be collecting socks and hats for the men that the Sisters of Jesus and Mary help at Joseph House in Salisbury.

March will be full of preparations for St. Patrick's Day. We will join with the AOH in their St. Patrick's Day Mass and breakfast on Friday, March 15, 2019. Mass will be at 9 AM at St. Luke's with breakfast at the Clarion. The next day we will have the Ocean City Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade. This is always a lot of fun and promises to be an enjoyable weekend.

April will bring Easter and we will again work with Worcester GOLD (Giving Others Lives Dignity) to be sure that the blessings of Easter are enjoyed by all.

-Mary Rosenhagen, President-

Harford County, Division 1

Our division has supported SARC (The Sexual Assault/Spouse Abuse Resource Center) for several years with monetary donations. SARC is Harford County's lifeline to victims, potential victims, and survivors of domestic violence, sexual violence, child abuse and stalking. This year, as a Catholic Action project, we are collecting essential items needed for the women and children who are being sheltered in safe houses. Among the essential items are personal hygiene items, linens, infant formula, diapers, etc. as well as cleaning supplies. A SARC representative is scheduled to attend our monthly meeting to explain the program in detail and to accept our donations.

We hope you can join us for our 33rd annual St. Patrick's Day luncheon on Friday, March 15th at the An Poitin Stil in Timonium. Wear your **green** and be there at 12:30 pm for a good meal, fun and fellowship.

Plans are under way for our spring fundraiser. "TEAM TRIVIA" If you have never played, give it a try! There will be a buffet lunch, prizes, games and raffles. Individuals are welcome and may team up on arrival. Save the date – Saturday, April 27th.

In this New Year, may God bless you in surprising and joyful ways!
Slainte,

- Kathy Lay, President-

125th LAOH ANNIVERSARY

In the next couple of months, we will be meeting to organize the 125th Anniversary of the LAOH which will be celebrated in August 2019.

As a state, we will be joining in with the National LAOH Celebration which has been set for October 10 through 12, 2019 to coincide with the Interim Board meeting in Dearborn, Michigan. Kelly will be forwarding information to the division presidents.

Baltimore County, Division 14

Happy New Year! I hope 2019 brings you all you are hoping for! 2018 was a busy year for Division 14! From a new slate of division officers to changing our meeting location we had quite a lot going on. Outside of our yearly donations for the Mercy Hospital NICU, we also collected blankets for VIVA House during the holiday season for those upcoming cold winter months.

Much like 2018 was full of excitement 2019 does not seem to be slowing down for us!

One of the most exciting moments for us this year is that our very own Joanna Cox has been selected to be the Grand Marshal for this year's Baltimore Saint Patrick's Day Parade! I hope you all will join us in attending the Installation Mass on Sunday, February 24 so we can honor Joanna and all of the other wonderful marshals for this special event. We will not be having our February meeting to allow for our members to attend the Installation mass.

We look forward to an eventful year, filled with fun events that will give us the opportunity to get together in Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity.

-Ashley Knapik, President-

Baltimore County, Division 1

I would like to thank all of our sisters who donated baked goods and their time at the LAOH Bake Table at the Irish Festival. We had an abundance which didn't run out until closing time on Sunday. It was our best year yet and I can't thank you enough.

All of us who attended the Annapolis Tinsel Tea had a wonderful time---Great atmosphere, music, tea and food. We hope it continues and becomes a tradition. Maureen Michael knitted a perfect blanket and baby items for the Shaw ministry.

The winner of our 50/50 raffle was Marge Malcure of our division (believe me it wasn't fixed). The proceeds were sent to Little Sisters of the Poor, St. Frances Academy, Sisters Academy, Oblate Sisters of Providence, Charlestown Benevolent Care, and a member's son and daughter-in-law who lost all their possessions, home and livelihood in 2 hurricanes over a year ago.

We enjoyed the Christmas brunch at the Bluestone Restaurant and our division Christmas dinner at Dimitri's.

We're excited about the LAOH 125th Anniversary celebration this coming year and all of the fundraisers for the St Patrick's Day Parade along with the Mission and Charity Bingo in the spring.

The following Irish blessing I received from a dear friend that I would I like to share with all of you:

> May the blessing of God be with you
> May the Christ child light your way,
> May the Holy Spirit guide you, to keep you safe each day (thru the Year)

Maureen Shettle, President-

SALLY MURPHY EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM 2019

The Sally Murphy Educational Assistance contest for the $1,000 scholarship towards education is running now until March 15th. All entries must be postmarked no later than March 15, 2019.

Detailed information and an application are available on the LAOH Maryland website. All LAOH members, their children, sister, brother, niece, nephew or husband are eligible to apply for the $1,000 scholarship.

If you have any questions that are not answered on the website, please feel free to call me.

Yours in Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,

-Maureen Shettle- Chairperson

(410) 740-0591

maureenmgp@msn.com

Carroll County, Division 1

Some of our ladies worked the Irish Festival in November, helping at the Bake Table and the Front Door.

In December we celebrated our 20th Anniversary as a division. We had a Mass with a luncheon afterwards. Thanks to Sr. Cecilia, Sr. Barbara and Sr. Mary Teresa for designing our programs for the celebration and also for the wonderful pictures and slide show. It brought back a lot of memories!
We adopted a family for Christmas. We are hoping everyone has a healthy and happy New Year!

Yours in Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,

-Christina Parks, Reporter-

LAOH Website

Go to www.marylandlaoh.org for events, flyers and forms. There are links to items of interest in the local Irish Community as well as information on the national scene.

You can also find us on http://www.facebook.com

Howard County, Division 1

Our Division closed 2018 with a combination of low and high notes. In October, one of our sisters, Helen Barcroft, passed away unexpectedly. Although she had only been with our Division a little over a year, her bright smile, warmth and compassion truly touched each of us. She will be sorely missed but we know she's regaling the heavenly host with her Irish humor.

Several of our members baked items for and volunteered at the LAOH bake table at the Maryland Irish Festival in November. All who attended enjoyed the camaraderie, music, step dancing, food and vendors. Special thanks go to our Catonsville sister, Maureen Shettle, for skillfully creating a master staffing schedule for the event and to our President and Carroll County sisters, Kelly Parks and Mary Beth Connolly for coordinating the Friends and Family tickets. At our November meeting, we presented Patti Gifford with a "Past-President's Pin" as a thank-you for her Division leadership and made St. Brigid's crosses as an Irish history activity.

In December, several of our members shared friendship, food and fun with our LAOH sisters at the annual Holiday Brunch. Laura Ensey was a grand prize winner! We also held our Division's annual pot-luck dinner attended by our members, their husbands and significant others. Several of our members rang in the New Year by joining our LAOH sisters at the Women's Little Christmas celebration on January 5. The merriment and music certainly made the event a big hit.

"Athbhliain Faoi Mhaise Daoibh"

-Sharon Strobel-

Cecil County, Division 1

The sisters from Cecil County division 1 worked hard in November running a membership drive and manning the St. Patrick's Chapel booth at Good Shepherd bazaar. We also baked and worked at the Irish festival.

Several members were very busy spreading cheer this holiday season by delivering handmade floral bouquets to our local nursing homes to cheer the residents for the holiday season. We had some crafty members who worked on shawls for those in need in the county. Many of us supported, attended and represented the LAOH at the annual Advent mass on Saturday, December 1 at St. Patrick's Chapel. December also brought us together for our division Christmas luncheon at Schaffers Canal House. Our fall fundraising efforts were donated to three of the Charities we voted on. We all felt good seeing how we touched those in need in our community this holiday season. On January 6th we gathered to enjoy each other's company for fellowship, food and games to celebrate Little Christmas.

Now it's time to look ahead to 2019 and upcoming events planned such as our St. Brigid mass and co-chairs for Immaculate Conception's St. Patrick's dinner dance.

Wishing all our sisters a very Happy New Year!

-Janice White, President-

A Division Centerpiece from the LAOH Christmas Brunch

LET US PRAY

Let us remember in prayer our Sisters who are sick and suffering, especially those in nursing homes and hospitals as well as our deceased Sisters that they may rest in God's eternal embrace.