



LADIES ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS

“Our Lady of Knock”

Division #87 – Organized February 4, 1992

December 2023 Newsletter

President's Message

Hello Ladies,

I hope you had a very nice Thanksgiving. Now we get ready for the Christmas celebration and the Reason for the Season.

Once again Congratulations to AOH Division 87 on 125 years of Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity. The banquet celebration was fantastic. It was a sellout of members and their families. Beautiful Mass, well deserved honorees, Mummers, Cummins School of Dance, The Natterjacks, DJ, photography and delicious buffet dinner with Stock's cake for dessert. Thanks to the committee and anyone who helped make it a Night to Remember. A very special shout-out to all of the honorees this year, especially our deceased members who helped pave the way to make us the fantastic division we are!!!

Please be sure to read inside about all the events going on in December and the opportunities to get together, especially our division meeting/party on Tuesday, December 5th. As we have done in the past, we will have a short meeting then there will be food and fun. We are planning on playing Music Christmas BINGO. If you would like to bring an appetizer or dessert to share, please feel free. We will have sandwiches, salads, and snacks.

Instead of a gift exchange, we will be collecting gift cards to help “Secret Santa” so they can be distributed to families in need. Walmart and Target are preferred but food stores are also useful.

We have a busy couple weeks leading up to Christmas (More information about these events are found later in this newsletter):

- This Saturday, December 2, 2023 join us for the “Tommy “Wengo” Wenger run/walk Santa stroll. Registration will be 7:30am and will start at 8:30 sharp since we need to leave St Georges Hall by 10:30 am because they have another event scheduled. After all that exercise, come to the hall to enjoy a fabulous pancake breakfast. Cost is \$35.00 per person.
- After breakfast, head over to the AOH Division 87 clubhouse at 11:00 for “Lunch with Santa” for our Annual Children's Christmas party. Santa will be available for pictures, crafts, lunch and gift will be given to each child.
- AOH/LAOH County Board meeting / Christmas party will be on Thursday, December 7th at 7:00 pm at AOH Division 39 (7229 Tulip Street). All are welcome to attend.
- Mark your calendar for our “Make and Take Deco Mesh Wreaths”. We still have some room available if you would like to attend on December 9, 2023 at 1:00 pm. All supplies and instruction for a \$25.00 donation. Make yourself a beautiful wreath then hang out for the annual Army/Navy game!
- On December 10th, we will be heading to St Mary's home for lunch and BINGO with the ladies living at the home. Santa, singing and a gift will be distributed to the residents.

- AOH/LAOH Secret Santa Kickoff at 3524 Thompson Street is planned for Friday night, December 15th and Saturday December 16th. Consider coming out and support this wonderful cause helping neighborhood families.
- Saturday morning, December 16th, the Hibernian Hunger Project will be at Shamrock Food Warehouse, 2251 Fraley Street to organize food boxes to be distributed to local families for Christmas meal. Deliveries take place immediately after they are packed.

If you are unable to make the meeting or any events, I would like to wish you a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year. Remember if any of us can be of need to you or your family just reach out. Stay Warm!!

In our motto of Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,

Maria



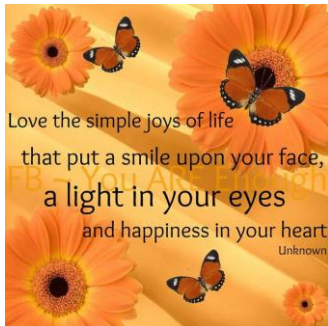
Shown in Picture (l to r)

Maria Gallagher
Kathleen Diulus;
Becky Puchalski:

Immediate Past President PA State; Division 87 President
National Catholic Actions; PA State President
Philadelphia County Board President



- Kathy Annan
- Kate Centofante
- Bunny Clark
- MJ Hayes
- Nancy Jones
- Colleen Bowers
- Kathy Fanning
- Ed Halligan
- Dennis James (Joanne James' husband)
- Drew Kearney
- Tim Morrison (Kathy Morrison's husband)
- All the unspoken concerns we hold dear in our hearts



- Anne Foody's nephew, Andrew, just got promoted to Sargeant for the Philadelphia Police Department!
- Terry Welsh's cousin, Alec Mosey, is currently serving in the US Navy and was promoted to Petty Officer 2nd Class!



St. Joan of Arc Food Pantry

The food pantry is looking for donations of non-perishable foods. There is currently a special need for **Peanut Butter & Cereal!!!**

Secret Santa Program

Please bring non-perishable foods (canned goods) that Santa will be donating to local food banks during the Christmas Season.

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR FINANCIAL SECRETARY

2023 DUES ARE NOW **PAST DUE!**

If you have not paid your 2023 dues, please be sure to contact Donna Kearney as soon as possible. Annual dues remain \$25 for the year. Make checks payable to LAOH Division 87.

If you are unable to attend the meeting mail your dues to:

Donna Kearney
4540 Almond Street
Philadelphia, PA 19137

You may also Venmo your dues to @LAOH-DivisionEightySeven. Be sure to include your name and "2023 Dues".

Please remember you must be a member in good standing in order to remain on the membership list.

UPDATE:

If you have paid your dues and need a new or updated dues card – reach out to Donna as soon as possible.

Phone: (215) 915-3205

Email: kddfam@aol.com

L.A.O.H. DIVISION #87
NEWS AND INFORMATION

MEETING REMINDER

Our general meetings are held monthly on the first Tuesday of the month (except July and August). The meetings are held at AOH Division 87 located at 3524 E. Thompson Street, Philadelphia, PA. Casbah Caterers has graciously allowed us to use their parking lot at Thompson and Tioga Streets. As a courtesy, do not park in numbered spaces as they are reserved for neighbors.

The monthly general division meetings are to be held the same as a National Convention meeting, in that, for the sake of the general membership, there is to be no smoking or alcohol permitted during the meeting itself.

GOT ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER

Please submit any newsletter items to Terry Welsh at TerryLAOH87@gmail.com or call 215.280.5992 no later than the 20th of the month for the next issue.

Please provide information on your family’s joys and concerns so we can share them with all of our sisters!

IMPORTANT WEBSITES

- LAOH DIVISION 87 – www.laoh87.com

LAOH PA STATE – www.statepalaoh.com
- LAOH Division 87 Facebook Group –
<https://www.facebook.com/LAOH87>

LAOH NATIONAL – www.ladiesaoh.com

ARE YOU ON OUR EMAIL LIST?

If you aren’t receiving division email news, please send your email address to TerryLAOH87@gmail.com in order to be added.

BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS TO OUR SISTERS!



Kristine Bucko.....	8
Natalie Smith	23
Theresa Banford-Dietzel	28

It brings us so much joy to celebrate your birthday with you. We pray that God blesses you and wraps His mighty arms of protection around you on this extra special day and forever.



UPCOMING EVENTS

THE TOMMY "WENGO" WENGER MEMORIAL 5K RUN OR 1 MILE STROLL



STARTING AT ST. GEORGE'S HALL
ENDING AT ST. GEORGE'S HALL
THROUGH THE STREETS OF PORT RICHMOND
Spread Christmas Spirit
Walk with us, or meet
Us on the route. ♡

DECEMBER 2ND

ADULTS \$35.00
CHILDREN U 16 \$25.00

- REGISTRATION
- LONG SLEEVE EVENT SHIRT
- PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Following Fire Engine 81

ROUTE FOR SANTA STROLL:
START AT VENANGO & EDMONT,
WEST TO BELGRADE,
SOUTH ON BELGRADE TO CLEARFIELD,
EAST ON CLEARFIELD TO THOMPSON,
NORTH PAST THE AOH 87
AND RETURN TO SAINT GEORGE'S
FOR BREAKFAST WITH SANTA.



WE WILL BE COLLECTING TOYS AND
MONETARY DONATIONS ALONG THE ROUTE
TO BENEFIT LOCAL FAMILY'S THROUGH
OUR AOH 87 SECRET SANTA PROGRAM.



Pre register on Venmo

WWW.Venmo.com/AOH87JCarr



Children's Lunch with Santa at Division 87

Write your Christmas wish list and hand-deliver it to Santa!

December 2nd, 2023

11:00 am – 1:30 pm

Get your picture taken with Santa!

Santa's elves will have presents, arts & crafts
Hot dogs, chicken fingers and dessert for lunch!!

All are welcome to attend!!

For more information contact:

Bernadette Coyne
(215) 407-7969
bernmcoyne@gmail.com

AOH Division #87 - 3524 Thompson Street
Parking in the Casbah lot at Tioga and Thompson
Reminder – do not park in numbered spots

JOIN LAOH DIVISION 87

MAKE & TAKE CHRISTMAS DECO MESH WREATHS



Saturday, December 09, 2023

1:00 – 3:00 pm

\$25.00 donation

AOH Division 87 clubhouse hall

3524 Thompson Street

All supplies needed will be on hand plus instructions to make a beautiful deco mesh wreath! We will also have helpers available.

Soda and snacks will be provided but feel free to bring your own.

Cash bar.

You **MUST** reserve your space in advance as space is limited and
we want to have enough supplies for everyone.

Maria Gallagher

(609) 304-7929

meglaoh@gmail.com

Picture for illustration only – not the actual wreath!

Hibernian Hunger Project

Christmas Food Basket Delivery

Saturday December 16, 2023

Location: Shamrock Food Distributors 2251 Fraley Street Phila 19137

Date: Saturday December 16, 2023

Time: 8 am to pack food. Delivery will be immediately following

****If you have a family in need of food contact Jeanne via email or phone. Name of family, address and phone # is needed in addition to your contact info.**

Donations of hams, turkeys or roasts can be dropped off at Shamrock Foods Monday – Friday. Call to schedule drop off #609-828-5687 or 484-467-3050

Volunteers are needed to pack the food at 8am and deliveries are needed immediately following

Bring your family, Community service hours can be given

This is a Phila County event, come celebrate Christmas with fellow Hibernians

Any questions contact:
Jeanne Hermley
jeanneh1629@gmail.com
267-266-4081



SECRET SANTA

For over 30 years, AOH, LAOH 87 has been doing a great thing.

Our Secret Santa Program goes like this

- * We collect donations, Monetary, Toys, Gift cards, supermarket cards.
- * We collect names of Deserving Families who need a hand up this Holiday Season.
- * We distribute the donations to these deserving folks, just saying that it is from someone who cares.

On Friday December 15th, stop in after work, again Saturday December 16th from noon until 6PM.

AOH 87 will buy you a drink for any bucket drop donation.

We will have food, Music, 🎵 🎵 🎵

GUEST BARTENDERS!

(HiFi and whoever wants to volunteer) ALSO:

Jason Kelce. Scarlett Johansson, The Cast of "It's Always Sunny."

The bucket drop event takes place at: Our AOH 87 Home

3524 E Thompson Street 🍀

(Between Tioga and Venango)

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

*We will have a BIG 50-50 raffle, going off on Saturday December 16th at 6:00. 3 for \$5, 5 for \$10.

Venmo and we will fill out your raffle ticket. Say Secret 🤫 Santa 🎅 in notes.

NOTE: If bringing a gift card, make sure it is for something useful, like a drug store, toy store or Supermarket.

As Always, In our Motto; Friendship, Unity and True Christian Charity!

If you know of someone in need let us know!

Call Kieran McGovern 267-429-7632

Or Jim Carr 215-620-6547.

If you cannot get to this event, we will be taking donations at the club any day, before and after this event.

you can always send donations to

AOH 87 Charity Fund

3524 Thompson Street

Philadelphia PA 19134.

www.Venmo.com/AOH87JCarr

Write Secret Santa in notes.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

By Sr. Lisa Breslin, SSJ

As we begin this very busy season of Advent, I am reminded of the often-quoted statement that "Jesus is the reason for the season." I am also aware that most of us get caught up in the busyness of these days as we decorate and shop and prepare for Christmas. And why do we do all these things? For the people we love! LOVE is the reason for the season! God's love for us is the reason we celebrate Christmas. God sent us His son, Jesus, as a fully human, fully divine faithful presence in our world and lives. As the commercial says, "Jesus gets us." He gets our anxiety and generosity, our laughter and our tears, our frustrations and successes. He even gets our lack of motivation or grief during this season. I like to think that Jesus and Mary and Joseph experienced everything we do. You may be thinking of what we were taught as children, that Jesus was like us in all things but sin so he really doesn't "get us." This teaching is accurate, but we misconstrue it. Sin is turning our backs on God. Jesus was tempted. Jesus felt pain and sorrow, but Jesus never turned away from God. So as you go through these days of Advent, take a moment and TURN TO GOD in a thought or prayer or act of kindness. Advent is a time of awareness that God comes to us, not from a distance but close-up, in the flesh. Know that you will be in my prayer with deep gratitude during these days.

In our motto,
Sister Lisa

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

STATE OF THE HEART



There will be no State of the Heart meeting in December.

The next State of the Heart will be held January 15th, 2024 at 7:00 pm. It will be held at AOH 87 Hall (2nd floor).

State of the Heart is a monthly meeting facilitated by Sister Lisa Breslin. This is a space for meditation, prayer and sharing

where you are at the present moment.

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New LAOH Division 87 T-Shirts for Sale!



Sizes available S – 3XL

\$15.00 each

Limited supply available at the meeting

Sweatshirts coming soon!!!

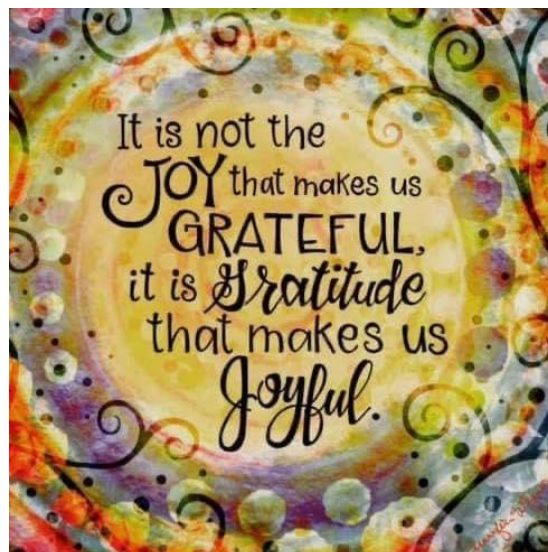


GENERAL MEETING:

Tuesday, December 5th, 2023

7:00 PM

3524 E. Thompson Street, Philadelphia, PA.
Parking at Thompson and Tioga Streets.
Please do not park in numbered spaces



In Case You Missed November's Irish History Report:

THE QUAKERS COME TO THE RESCUE

In 2011, Donegal man John Cassidy was strolling on the banks of the Clogher River, in the town of Cullenboy, when he found an old Famine pot, broken in pieces. He had it welded, restored, and mounted outside Leghowney Community Hall.

Because there was such an interest shown by American tourists, research on the whole Famine pot/soup kitchen aspect of the Famine was conducted. They found that because of bigotry, pride, misguided patriotism and inherited false information, this aspect of the potato failure was almost air-brushed from our history.

When the potato failed for the second time in 1846, a number of Quakers in Ireland, followed by Quakers in England and Quakers in America decided to do something in the way of direct intervention. And they started to fundraise.

In November 1846, a Dublin Quaker, Joseph Bewley, wrote to Quakers all over Ireland pointing out the seriousness of the situation. The Quakers brought 294 Famine pots into Ireland in the 1840's.

The first major shipment of supplies received from Great Britain in February, 1847 included a consignment of soup boilers. These were landed at various places along the west coast, the largest number, 10, going to Killybegs. The supply of boilers was greatly enhanced by the donation of no less than 56 of them from the Quaker iron manufacturers, Abraham and Alfred Darby of the Coalbrookdale Iron Company.

At one stage, at Templecrone, Co. Donegal, there were in operation 4 Famine pots, being used twice a day to give out 600 gallons of soup. The Quakers were not the only group to provide relief. But his book gives facts and figures to indicate that their humanity, generosity and organizational skills saved tens, if not hundreds, of thousands from the mass grave.

As the Famine progressed, other people, both Catholic and Protestant got involved in the provision of relief and that some of those set out to line their own pockets. In the process, some of those unscrupulous people added ingredients not fit for human consumption to the soup. It was at times described as "poison."

The Government didn't want to give food free because they thought it would make people lazy so they set up Public Work Schemes. This involved starving peasants, during the harshest winter in 100 years, doing heavy manual work, for pennies, building roads "going nowhere" and "famine-walls."

It didn't work and in 1847, the Government decided to allow more soup kitchens, modeled on what the Quakers had already done. But the Government hadn't really thought it through. Once again, the Quakers came to the rescue and brought in "hundreds of cauldrons."

The Presentation Sisters, at their convent in Listowel, fed the starving people of North Kerry during the 1840's. If you are asking about Famine pots and soup kitchens, you could say they were in the Presentation Convent in Listowel.

After the Famine, little value was attached to these pots, many of them were used by farmers to feed animals, hold grain or other farming needs. They have been used as garden planters and ornamental pieces. However, in recent years, there has been a resurgence of interest in these one vital objects and many have been restored and given the due respect and honor they rightfully deserve.

**Submitted by: Anne Foody, Irish Historian, Division #87
November 7, 2023**

See: <https://www.irishcentral.com/roots/history/quakers-irish-famine-pots>

Christmas Word Search

Words can be found in any direction (including diagonals) and can overlap each other. Use the word bank below.

A	Q	D	Y	V	K	W	Z	F	S	S	R	S	C	H	A	R	U	Y	O
B	I	I	X	U	Q	V	F	I	A	M	E	H	E	L	H	T	E	B	S
C	W	K	B	T	N	E	V	D	A	E	P	H	J	E	S	U	S	T	O
I	A	V	Y	I	P	M	V	K	M	A	S	S	B	Q	M	K	N	I	E
J	M	A	C	E	A	G	W	R	M	R	K	D	P	Y	D	E	X	Z	A
P	J	B	M	P	P	J	I	N	Y	F	L	H	S	O	M	R	Q	Q	Y
M	R	W	R	Q	M	Z	B	O	W	G	T	T	T	A	N	F	W	L	L
B	B	F	D	U	K	T	V	Y	C	I	O	G	N	R	V	Q	I	Q	O
Q	E	S	J	U	D	E	F	N	A	C	P	R	P	E	E	B	M	K	V
D	R	P	C	R	L	O	K	F	K	I	O	Y	Y	F	H	E	N	T	E
Y	Q	S	O	F	I	S	L	I	F	J	U	Q	B	E	I	J	E	X	D
A	Y	R	A	I	Z	P	N	P	F	P	D	N	O	E	L	H	O	P	E
B	U	X	W	M	N	G	M	F	H	W	L	O	C	I	N	N	D	D	C
L	L	U	Y	B	T	S	A	U	S	C	C	A	O	A	P	S	K	V	N
Q	E	O	J	E	Y	S	E	L	H	A	E	J	T	Q	Y	G	F	V	G
G	T	A	P	X	T	H	I	T	B	Y	G	I	S	X	K	A	J	V	O
F	I	V	T	Z	I	R	X	R	T	N	V	B	B	P	T	E	J	O	Y
M	D	J	J	N	Y	B	U	M	H	I	R	A	T	S	J	U	R	Z	E
P	E	R	J	E	A	Y	H	N	T	C	A	V	E	Q	H	O	N	B	J
D	B	V	S	Q	P	S	G	Y	I	B	G	D	H	V	U	M	P	O	Z

- | | |
|-------------|--------------|
| ○ Advent | ○ Nativity |
| ○ Bethlehem | ○ Noel |
| ○ Christmas | ○ Ornaments |
| ○ Elf | ○ Poinsettia |
| ○ Faith | ○ Rudolph |
| ○ Hope | ○ Santa |
| ○ Jesus | ○ Star |
| ○ Joy | ○ Stocking |
| ○ Love | ○ Tree |
| ○ Mass | ○ Yuletide |





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