



**LADIES ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS**  
**“Our Lady of Knock”**  
**Division #87 – Organized February 4, 1992**

**March 2026 Newsletter**

Hello Ladies,

March can't get here quick enough. I hope everyone survived the storms. I'm sure we all are waiting for some nice Spring weather.

February was a struggle, but we have much to look forward to getting ready for All things Irish beginning with Irish Potatoes, BINGO fundraisers, Parade and Parade parties, Retreat and St Patrick's Day.

So, as you heard we had to move back the date for mixing and rolling. Hopefully you can make it over to help. Again, here is the schedule:

March 4 & 5<sup>th</sup> – Mixing

March 6<sup>th</sup>- Friday – Rolling 1:30 – 7:00 pm

March 7<sup>th</sup>- Saturday – Rolling 9:00 am – TBD

March 8<sup>th</sup> -Sunday- Rolling 9:00 am – until finished

Now for a few updates that I have for the **Philadelphia St Patrick's Day Parade**.

- The 2026 Parade will be held on Sunday, March 15, 2026.
- The theme this year is 250 YEARS OF IRISH CONTRIBUTIONS TO AMERICA.
- No line up is available currently but we have much to celebrate with our own, AOH Division #87 Jim “HI FI “Carr in the Ring of Honor. A well-deserved award.

Our uniform will be black jackets we wore a while back with a green shamrock and gold claddagh. Orders were placed for anyone needing one and black slacks. We will be attending St. George's Church for 8:30 am Mass then walking over to the club around the corner and wait there to board the buses. Once the lineup is posted we will have a better idea of what time.

No information on the after party yet but it will be at the Casbah Caters when we return.

Be sure to keep reading inside for updates on all events and fundraisers.

Our Annual Retreat at Francis House of Prayer is scheduled for Sunday March 22 (info provided inside)

If you have any questions or concerns, be sure to contact me or any other officer.

In Our Motto,

***Maria Gallagher***

## OFFICERS LIST

### **Chaplain**

Sr. Lisa Breslin, SSJ  
(267) 592-0841  
lisabreslinssj@gmail.com

### **Historian**

Anne Foody  
(215) 421-7359  
afoody813@aol.com

### **By-Laws**

Eileen Smith  
(215) 688-0190  
eileenlaohdiv87@gmail.com

### **President**

Maria Gallagher  
(609) 304-7929  
meglaoh@gmail.com

### **Missions & Charities**

Kris Bucko  
(609) 206-5613  
Krisine.bucko@icloud.com

### **Hibernian Hunger Project**

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

### **Vice President**

Eileen Smith  
(215) 688-5992  
eileenlaohdiv87@gmail.com

### **Catholic Actions**

Ann Marie Kuvik  
(215) 901-8052  
amkuvik@gmail.com

### **Immigration & Education**

Peggy Hanratty  
(267) 456-4247  
Peggyd1963@gmail.com

### **Recording Secretary**

Terry Welsh  
(215) 280-5992  
TerryLAOH87@gmail.com

### **Mistress At Arms**

Sr. Lisa Breslin, SSJ  
(267) 592-0841  
lisabreslinssj@gmail.com

### **Publicity / Newsletter / Webmaster**

Terry Welsh  
(215) 280-5992  
TerryLAOH87@gmail.com

### **Financial Secretary**

Donna Kearney  
(215) 915-3205  
kddfam@aol.com

### **Sentinel**

Angie Hines  
(267) 346-7174  
Ahines1027@gmail.com

### **Treasurer**

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

### **Freedom for All Ireland**

Tish Dugan  
(215) 264-1888  
tishdugan@aol.com



*Cindy Bird  
Robyn Bird  
MaryKate Breslin  
Patricia Drozdowski  
Lisa Rooney  
Maryanne Seltner  
Kimberly Seltner  
Amanda St. John*

# Prayer Requests



Gracious and Merciful Father,

As we gather before Your presence, we bring before You our joys and concerns, knowing that You care for every detail of our lives. We thank You for the moments of joy that have filled our hearts—a new life welcomed into this world, a restored relationship, answered prayers, and the simple pleasures that remind us of Your goodness. Our hearts overflow with gratitude for these blessings.

Yet, Lord, we also lift up our concerns and burdens before You. We think of those who are facing health challenges, financial difficulties, and emotional struggles. We ask for Your healing touch, provision, and comfort to be upon them. We remember those who are grieving the loss of loved ones, and we pray for Your peace that surpasses understanding to envelop their hearts.

In this sacred time, we lay our joys and concerns at Your feet, trusting in Your unfailing love and wisdom. May Your grace sustain us, Your peace guard our hearts, and Your presence guide us through every joy and every trial.

We offer these prayers in the name of Jesus, our Savior, and Redeemer. Amen.



## MISSIONS & CHARITIES COIN DROP!

There's no better time to clean out that purse, empty those pockets and lift those couch cushions!! Gather up all that spare change that is weighing you down and bring it to the meeting and drop off to Kris Bucko. Kris will accept the folding stuff too!

All proceeds benefit Columban Missions.

The LAOH has maintained a strong relationship with the Columban Fathers and Columban Sisters. The Columban Fathers have been the primary charity of the LAOH since 1935, and the LAOH added the Columban Sisters in 2006. The donations collected help those that answered the call to mission and help facilitate their work across the world.



**GENERAL MEETING:**

Tuesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> 2026

7:00 PM

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

Zoom link will be sent out prior to the meeting!!

**A MESSAGE FROM OUR FINANCIAL SECRETARY**

**2026 DUES ARE NOW DUE!**

Annual dues remain \$25 for the year. Make checks payable to LAOH Division 87. You may also Venmo your dues to @LAOH-DivisionEightySeven. Be sure to include your name and "2026 Dues".

If you are unable to attend the meeting mail your dues to: Donna Kearney; 4540 Almond Street; Philadelphia, PA 19137

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



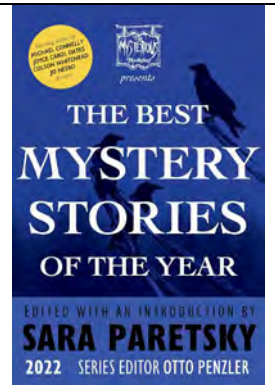
We are reading *The Best Mystery Stories of the Year - 2022*

The next book club meeting is on March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026 at 7:00 pm. Meetings are via zoom.

To prepare, please read:

- October in Kauai by Sean Marciniak
- Gun Running on Vacation by Stefon Mears

Interested in joining or have any questions please contact:  
Terry Welsh (215) 280-5992 or via email at  
TerryLAOH87@gmail.com





**CHECK OUT OUR NEWLY REDESIGNED WEBSITE: [WWW.LAOH87.COM](http://WWW.LAOH87.COM)**

You will find links to valuable information including the current issue of the newsletter, links to State and National websites, and a link to the "Saint of the Day." Check back often for more information!!

**ARE YOU RECEIVING OUR DIVISION EMAILS??**

This is our primary way of communicating with you between meetings!!

If you aren't receiving emails, please send your email address to [TerryLAOH87@gmail.com](mailto:TerryLAOH87@gmail.com) in order to be added.

**BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS TO OUR SISTERS!**



Karen Snow .....	3
Kathleen Lindline-Evans .....	10
Patricia L. Leach .....	19
Amanda St. John .....	22
Judy McDevitt .....	28
Lori Ann Stopyra .....	30
Linda Sweeney .....	30

May your years be many, your troubles be few,  
and may each birthday remind you of the blessings  
that love and friendship bring into your life.

This event is shared by our sister, Deana Ditri



## Designer Bag Bingo



Saturday, March 14, 2026  
Doors open at 11:00am-Games begin at 12:00pm  
Polish American String Band  
2727 E Westmoreland St  
Philadelphia, PA 19134  
Tickets: \$35

Soda, water and light snacks provided  
All proceeds will go to Herren Project, helping individuals and their families in recovery \*Additional bingo cards will be available for purchase (Outside food and beverages permitted)



50/50 RAFFLE  
Raffle Baskets  
Door Prizes



To purchase tickets please venmo: Deana Ditri @deana-ditri or send a private message via facebook to inquire about sending a check or cash.

This event is shared by our sister, Terry Welsh

**SPECIAL OLYMPICS PHILADELPHIA**

## GIFT CARD BINGO



**535 Rhawn St.  
Philadelphia, PA 19111  
St. Cecelia's Catholic Church**

### Basket Raffle

**Sat, March 14, 2026**  
Doors Open At 6:15 PM &  
Game Starts At 7:15 PM

**\$25 In Advance & No Alcohol Is Bring Your  
\$30 At The Door Permitted Own Snacks**

**Terry Welsh  
215-280-5992  
coachterryso@gmail.com**

### Mass of St. Brigid Fr. Judge Memorial Chapel 3501 Solly Avenue Philadelphia, PA

Between Fr. Judge H.S. &  
The Most Blessed Trinity Mother House



**RESCHEDULED DATE!**  
Sunday, March 22nd, 2026  
11:00 am

Sponsored by L.A.O.H. and A.O.H.  
Philadelphia County Board

Please be mindful when you arrive at the Chapel.  
Please speak quietly the sisters are in  
meditation for the celebration of the mass.

## PHILADELPHIA ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE

Sunday,  
March 15, 2026

Theme is  
"250 Years of Irish  
Contributions To America"



**CHAPLAIN'S CORNER**  
By Sr. Lisa Breslin, SSJ



---

**STATE OF THE HEART**



The next State of the Heart will be held March 9th, 2026, at 7:00 pm. Location is to be announced.

State of the Heart is a meeting facilitated by Sister Lisa Breslin. This is a space for meditation, prayer and sharing where you are at the present moment.

---

**It's Irish Potato time!**  
**Please join us in making these delicious treats!**

### **Rolling Schedule**

Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup> - Rolling begins at 1:30 pm- 7:00 pm

Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup> - Rolling begins at 9:00 am - TBD

Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup> Rolling begins at 9:00 am – until finished

Remember Ladies - this is our largest fundraiser of the year and we need EVERYONE's help to make it successful!





**IRISH POTATO SEASON 2026**

**CAN YOU FEEL THE EXCITEMENT IN THE AIR?**

**THEY ARE ALMOST HERE!!!**

**HOW DO I ORDER MY VERY OWN LAOH 87 IRISH POTATOES??**

**\$10.00 per container**

We have **TWO** methods of ordering this year:

- PREFERRED METHOD:** Simply, scan this QR Code and complete the Google Form. No calls, texts or emails required!
- Problems With The Form:** Contact Anne Foody directly by texting (215) 421-7359

**WHEN:** Orders will be packaged and ready for pickup on Friday afternoon, March 6th or Saturday, March 7th

**WHERE:** St. George's School Cafeteria at 2700 East Venango Street (back door to Cafeteria)

**ALL ORDERS SHOULD BE PLACED AS INSTRUCTED ABOVE!**

## In Case You Missed January's Irish History Report:

### The Night of the Big Wind

The Night of the Big Wind was the most devastating storm ever recorded in Irish history. The hurricane on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> of January, 1839 made more people homeless in a single night than all the sorry decades of eviction that followed it. It is estimated that a little more than 200 people died in Ireland and several thousand were left homeless as winds reached well over 115 miles per hour, in a category 3 hurricane. Twenty-five percent of the houses in Dublin were destroyed and 42 ships were sunk. It hit Ireland's West Coast with such power that the waves actually broke over the top of the Cliffs of Moher. Reading contemporary accounts, the impression is that if Ireland did not have such magnificent cliffs forming a barrier along the West Coast, the entire country would simply have been engulfed by water.

The calm before the Big Wind struck was particularly eerie. Most of the 8 million people living in Ireland at the time were preparing themselves for Little Christmas, the Feast of the Epiphany. The previous day had seen the first snowfall of the year; heavy enough for some to build snowmen. By contrast, Sunday morning was an unusually warm, balmy 75 degrees. At approximately 3:00 p.m., the rain began to fall and the wind picked up. Nobody could possibly have predicted that those first soft raindrops signified an advance assault from the most terrifying hurricane in human memory. A deep Atlantic low-pressure system began moving across Ireland where it collided with the warm front. By 6:00 p.m., the winds had become strong and the raindrops were heavier, sleet-like, with occasional bursts of hail. Farmers grimaced as their hay-ricks and thatched roofs took a pounding. In the towns and villages, fires flickered and doors slammed. Church bells chimed and dogs began to whine. Fishermen turned their ears west; a distant, increasingly loud rumble could be heard upon the frothy horizon. Perhaps the most terrifying aspect of the hurricane was that it took place in utter darkness reaching its peak between 2:00 a.m. and 5:00 a.m. while most were sleeping. People cannot have known what was going on. The wind churned its way across the land, extinguishing every candle and lantern it encountered. The darkness was relieved only by the lightning streaks that accompanied the storm and the occasional blood-red flicker of the aurora borealis burning in the northern sky.

The first news of bad weather was reported in County Mayo when the steeple at the Church of Ireland in Castlebar was blown down. The arrival of the hurricane force winds would never be forgotten by those who witnessed it. However, there was something close to an outbreak of brotherly love and people survived by helping one another. They shared shelter, provided food and clothes for their neighbors and relatives, so some good did come from this storm.

The Night of the Big Wind became part of Irish folk tradition. Irish folklore held that Judgment Day would occur on the Feast of the Epiphany, January 6<sup>th</sup>. Such a severe storm led many to believe that the end of the world was at hand.

The Old-Age Pensions Act of 1908 introduced pensions for over-70s, but many Irish Catholics prior to the Registration of Births and Deaths (Ireland) Act, 1863 had no birth registration. One of the questions used to establish proof of age was whether the applicant remembered The Night of the Big Wind. The historic legacy of this storm was such that it is still referred to in the press today and terrifying stories of that night have been ingrained in the Irish psyche ever since.

**Submitted by:** Anne Foody, Irish Historian, Division #87  
January 6, 2026

**See:** <https://www.irishtimes.com/culture/books/the-calm-before-the-big-wind-of-1839-was-particularly-eerie-1.3257684>  
<https://www.irishcentral.com/roots/history/night-of-big-wind-hurricane-ireland-1839>  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Night\\_of\\_the\\_Big\\_Wind](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Night_of_the_Big_Wind)



March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026

### **A Woman's Prayer**

Make us, O God, spirit- filled women..women of prayer..women of vitality..

women of vision..women of courage..risk –taking women.

Fill us with your love..a love which affirms..a love which calls forth ..a love which challenges..a love which frees. Grant us your gift of Godliness..a reverence for you.

Instill in our hearts the spirit of holy Joy..the joy that sanctifies..the joy that gives..the joy of one who loves..the joy that imparts to others the spirit born of self-control.

Make us Peace-seeking women..instruments of your peace..directed by your Wisdom, bridge builders..working with others for justice to bring about true peace. Give us Patience..a strong patience which enables us to trust and to keep heart in the face of disappointments, frustrations and failures. Plant deep within our attitudes your kindness..make us women who are open and friendly..women of hospitality..women who image our people friendly God. Impart to us your spirit of Goodness..Make us women who believe in the good of the other..who speak the good to each other and about each other..who do good for one another.

Bestow on us your gift of knowledge that we may know you who are the source of all good. Root us in your Fidelity..a fidelity that keeps us true to you..walking in integrity in our presence.

Mold us into faithful women..women who are true to ourselves..true to others ..true to life and all creation. Form us into women who follow your Counsel in all things, who uphold true values and the rights of all people.

Make us, O God, Spirit- filled Irish women, trusting you and one another as we move into this 21st Century.

By Sr. Peggy Flaherty, CDP  
Late LAOH Pennsylvania State Chaplain