** Ancient Order of Hibernians**

 of Hampden Hampshire Counties

 PO Box 6535 Holyoke, MA 01041-6535

Next meeting – AOH & LAHO– Monday, December 4 at JP’s Restaurant, 6-7 pm Happy Hour, 7 p.m. dinner

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

  **The annual Adult Christmas Party is back for 2023.** This year’s event will be held on Monday December 4 at JP’s Restaurant 200 Whiting Farms Road, Holyoke. A cocktail hour will be held from 6 – 7 p.m. followed by a buffet dinner at 7. The cost for members in good standing is $5.00. Guest and non-members are $20.00 per ticket. Call Joe O’Connor at 413 627-7148 by 11/29/23 to reserve your seat(s).

 **The AOH/LAOH Children’s Christmas Party will be held Sunday, Dec 17, 2023 from 11:30-2:30 at The Wherehouse? (third floor).**  Every year the Children’s Christmas party is such an uplifting couple of hours. Families will arrive to enjoy pizza and drinks, decorate their own cupcakes, receive a present from…… and have their pictures taken with Santa. The AOH/LAOH volunteers do a terrific job!

 The donation this year is $20 dollars per child. Please send an e-mail to kitc62@yahoo.com by December 4th with the following information: Your name as a sponsor and your phone #. Each of the children’s first and last names, their ages, and a little note you’d like Santa to say like: “very good report card” or “loves to play soccer” or “loves Legos and puzzles”. Kit Collamore will be at the Adult Christmas party Monday Dec 4th and will be happy to write down the children’s information and collect payments.

 **Welcome to the newest AOH members: Gerald Adams, John Hurley, Aiden Moriarty, Pat Flanagan and Jeff Walsh.**

 **Celebrating Holyoke’s 150th birthday, the histories of the AOH and LAOH will be published in the Springfield Republican and Holyoke Sun in the coming weeks.** Make sure to pick up several copies for your library. Items from the club will also be placed in a time capsule at City Hall to be opened in 2073.

 **Hibernian President Joe O’Connor has announced the AOH award winners for 2024 Hibernian Man of the Year and Christian Charity Award, “Mr. Hibernian” John Gaughan and Christian Charity recipient, CEO of the Polish National Credit Union, Jim Kelly.**

The Christian Charity Award “is given to the person who has made a difference in the lives of the people of Hampden/Hampshire Counties.” Kelly and his team at Polish National Credit Union has teamed up with the Hibernians to support Providence Ministries; raised funds for the Holyoke St. Patrick Parade, PNCU has donated to Chicopee Boys and Girls Club Teen Center; the PNCU assists veterans in the community and many more charitable deeds too many to mention at this time. Jim Kelly will be honored at the Hibernian Annual Communion Breakfast at the Wyckoff C.C. on March 10, 2024 and will March with the Hibernians at the Parade on March 17, 2024.

 John Gaughan, the 2024 AOH Hibernian Man of the Year, was chosen because he “truly lives by the Hibernian Motto of Friendship, Unity, and True Christian Charity. John has been supportive of the Hibernian Children’s Christmas Party; Hibernian Irish Night; Hibernian Picnic; and is the liaison to the ICC for the Hibernians. For years he has marched with the Hibernians as St. Patrick.

 The Hibernian Man of the Year Award will be given at the Hibernian Irish Night at the Log Cabin on

February 24, 2024. John will also march with Hibernians at the Parade on March 17, 2024. Congratulations to Jim Kelly and John Gaughan on their selections for the Hibernian’s highest Awards!

 **The food drive and clothing drive for Providence Ministries ends December 1.** Thanks to the Polish National Credit Union and Hibernian Jim Kelly for their untiring efforts to assist Providence Ministries as they continue to help those in need. Thanks also to the many LAOH and AOH members who stepped up big time. The drive is most successful and appreciated by Providence Ministries. The drawing for the basket of cheer donated by PNCU and $100.00 donated by the AOH will be announced at the Adult Christmas party on December 4 at JP’S Restaurant. We are grateful to all for your generosity.

 **The next delivery of peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for Kate’s Kitchen will be Sunday December 17.** Providence Ministries for the needy is always appreciates the help of the LAOH, Holy Cross Springfield Ladies Cursillo group and AOH for our continued support and dedication.

 **Don’t forget your stocking stuffers, as our March 2024 raffle calendars are going fast.** There are only 40 left. Peter will have them at the Christmas Party.

Don’t forget that starting November 1st, 2024 dues, which are $30.00 annually, are due to be paid. Please contact Peter Hogan at 413-330-6635, or pjhogan71@gmail.com if you have any questions.

 **With cold winter weather reporting, it isn’t too early to start thinking about the summer of 2024.** The annual summer picnic, Hennessey Hoe Down will be held on Sunday, August 25 at the Hamel’s Summit View Pavilion

 **LAOH Notes**

Congratulations to **Patricia Clayton** on being named the **2023 LAOH Woman of the Year.** She has been an active member for many years, is Division Sentinel, and always ready to participate in LAOH activities and fund-raising.

 **The LAOH annual quilt fundraiser is in progress, and promises to be distinctive, with many interesting embroidery pieces for “Wildflowers of Ireland” already submitted.** The 2024 LAOH Quilt will be on display for the first time at the 2024 Hibernian Irish Night. Thank you to everyone who is participating in the 24th LAOH quilt fundraiser. Please contact Paula Paoli, LAOH Div. 2 President, and Quilt Fundraiser Chair, with any questions. The embroidery pieces, if completed, can be brought to either the Adult Christmas Party, or Childrens’ Christmas Party, or call or email Paula (413-210-6031, paulaakpaoli@gmail.com) if you need it to be picked up. The quilt is scheduled to be assembled during the month of January. A sampling and layout will be shown at the Hibernian Christmas Party.

 **Welcome to newest members of the LAOH: Bridget Allen, Callie Flanagan, and Joanne Leary-Beaudry.**

**Thank you to LAOH Holyoke’s Vice-President Rosalie Pratt for continuing to host the ladies for Peanut Butter and Jelly Sandwich-making at her home. Also many thanks for the ladies who participate in this endeavor, which is vital for many needy families. As said above, Dec. 16 will be the next date, to be ready for delivery on Sunday, December 17.**

**Yearly dues for the LAOH are $25.00.** If you are not sure if you owe for 2023, please call or email Paula Paoli (413-210-6031, paulaakpaoli@gmail.com.) Please remit dues for 2023, as the per-capita payment for LAOH members will be due to pay to the State Board at the end of the year.

  **As always, the LAOH would like Catholic Action suggestions.** Please bring them to the meeting, as we are a non-profit, charitable organization, whose motto is Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity.

 **If you are receiving a printed copy of the newsletter and want it sent by email instead,**please contact Paula Paoli at 413-210-6031, or paulaakpaoli@gmail.com,  to make the change.  We appreciate those who have changed to email to save our division the cost of printing and postage. Thank you to Janet Dwyer for posting the newsletter to the Holyoke Hibernian Website every month. You can also find photos of events and membership applications at the website.

**Upcoming Events:**

**Adult Christmas Party –** Monday, December 4 at JP’s. Cocktail hour 6 p.m. with Dinner at 7:00 p.m. The price is $5 for members in good standing and $20 for guests.

**Children’s Christmas Party – S**unday, Dec 17, 2023 from 11:30-2:30 at The Wherehouse? E-mail to Kit Collamore, kitc62@yahoo.com by December 4.

**Kate’s Kitchen –** Sunday, December 17. (Club members will be making peanut butter and jelly sandwiches the previous day.) Contact Fran Hennessey at 413-883-0729 if you would like to help.

**Irish Night –** Saturday, February 24, 2024. More information to follow

**Communion Breakfast –** Sunday, March 10, 2024

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

**Hennessey Hoe-Down** – Sunday, August 25 at Hamel’s Pavilion

**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 Saturdays: Dee Reilly, December 2; New Leaf on December 9; Terry Brennan, December 15; and Jimmy McArdle and Jerry Murphy, December 16; My Alibi on December 29 and The Healys and Barney McElhone on December 30.

**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.

 **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 Christmas celebration.

**And finally ……**

 At the October meeting, the winner Tom Dillon was not in attendance and could not collect the 50/50 raffle prize. The $$$$ continues to grow.

 See you at the Christmas Party next Monday.

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