

# LADIES ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS, INC.



PENNSYLVANIA STATE BOARD – 2013-2015  
<http://www.statepalaoh.com>

August 8, 2015

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Dear Division and County Presidents:

I am thrilled and delighted to have been elected your new State President of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc. for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. I have been a member of the LAOH since October 1997 and I am proud to be a charter member of Division #61, St. Katharine Drexel, Philadelphia County.

For those of you not in attendance at the biennial state convention in Montgomery County, you missed a terrific convention. Meetings for delegates were kept to a day and a half, and for once, the women finished our sessions before the men! We also had a wonderful mass and elected officer installation at St. Patrick's Church in Norristown. It was clear that careful consideration was given to the hymns selected for this mass as they were quite inspiring.

Our appointed officers in attendance at our post-convention meeting were installed by Mary Ann Lubinsky, National Catholic Action officer and Past PA State President.

In addition, we were grateful to have not only the National Vice-President, Patricia O'Connell in attendance, but Mary Hogan, National President as well. Pennsylvania's own Dorothy Weldon (Past National President and Past PA State President), Mary Ann Lubinsky (National Catholic Action Officer and Past PA State President) and Colleen Bowers (National Board Fundraiser and Past State President) were also in attendance. It was quite an honor for our state to have five National Board officers at our convention.

I would like to introduce the new State Board and appointees:

Chaplain: Sister Marie Veronica Murray, Division 39, Philadelphia County  
President: Ellen McCrane, Division 61, Philadelphia County  
Vice-President: Rae DiSpaldo, Division 2, Montgomery County  
Secretary: Mary Ann Amesbury, Division 1, Luzerne County  
Treasurer: Maria Gallagher, Division 87, Philadelphia County  
Historian: Shirley Murphy, Division 11, Allegheny County  
Missions & Charities: Kathleen Diulus, Division 23, Allegheny County  
Catholic Action: Clare Mc Manus-Fulginiti, Division 39, Philadelphia County  
Immediate Past President: Nancy Cullen, Division 39, Philadelphia County  
Freedom for All Ireland: Carolyn Killion, Division 4, Delaware County  
Immigration & Legislation: Maureen Cooper, Division 4, Delaware County  
Parliamentarian: Peggy O'Donnell, Division 39, Philadelphia County  
Publicity: Lydia Laughlin, Division 2, Schuylkill County  
Webmaster: Mary Ann Lubinsky, Division 2, Schuylkill County

The sisters elected and appointed at the convention are in the process of writing to their counterparts at the division and county level an "introduction letter" that will provide their contact information as well as a description of their duties.

This board of sisters is in office to help you and to get you any answer you might need. If someone on the board does not know the answer, they have the resources to get you the answer. We have a team of PA Past State Presidents on our board that have a wealth of experience as well as a counterpart to our office on the National Board.

As Presidents of counties and divisions without a county board, you should know that the **best way** to contact an officer on our board is through email. It can be hard to keep the list of division and county officers current if we are not aware of contact information changing (address changes, email changes, telephone number changes, name changes, etc). The State Secretary uses the annual membership reports to supply the board with required email addresses for most of our communications. She should be notified over the course of the year if something is changed. If one of your county officers (or division officer if there is no county board) hasn't heard from their counterpart at the state level, please review our website for correct contact information or review the email address on this letter for that office. We want to communicate as much as possible in order to keep you up to date on all LAOH information.

Ladies, **PLEASE** get familiar with our website. There is so much information on it and it can be accessed at [www.statepalaoh.com](http://www.statepalaoh.com) there is also an area to leave a question, if needed.

Remember that as LAOH members we are committed to support selected charities. Please try to organize a fundraiser or event to assure their success. Under Missions and Charities, we support the Columban Fathers (direct donations and mass cards), Columban Sisters and "Appeals for Aid." Under Catholic Action, we support both Project St. Patrick and SOAR (Save our Aging Religious). We should try to increase our donations, if possible. There are some divisions and counties that provide very generous donations, year after year. There are some divisions and counties that don't donate at all.

One division (my own) does a "Lucky Buck" drawing at each of the regular meetings and uses the proceeds for SOAR. How it works is as follows: each member writes their name on a dollar bill and places it in a bag and at the end of the meeting, a winner is pulled. Half of the proceeds goes to the winner, the other half to SOAR. If we have 30 sisters attend a meeting that could be \$15 a month for 10 months or a great donation of \$150 for SOAR. So, please discuss with your membership and donate this year!

The State Board meetings are typically held twice a year. Notices are sent to the County and Division Presidents prior to the meeting. The next General Session of the PA State Board will be held on October 17<sup>th</sup> in the Carlisle-Camp Hill area. More details will be sent prior to the meeting from the PA State Secretary, Mary Ann Amesbury.

After I was elected, I spoke with the sisters in attendance at the convention about recommitment to the LAOH and its tenets of Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity. I provided a top ten list of things that you should always keep in mind as a member of the LAOH. Sisters present at this convention asked me to attach those top ten things (as I see them) to my introduction letter.

That document is attached.

May God bless you all as you continue to do the work of our order!

Yours in Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,

*Ellen McCrane*

President

cc: State Board Officers