

Ancient Order of Hibernians  
151 Watertown Street  
PO Box 11  
Watertown, MA 02471

NOVEMBER 2024 NEWSLETTER

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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Division 14  
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### AOH President's Message

We had our biennial State President's dinner at the home of Division 11 Peabody this past Sunday. Special thanks to the committee that put together a wonderful event. The ladies did a tremendous job putting together and donating gift baskets that were raffled off at the dinner.

Thanksgiving is a national holiday that is celebrated primarily in the United States and Canada as a day of giving thanks for the blessings of the preceding year. The observance of Thanksgiving can also be found in Grenada, Liberia, The Netherlands and Norfolk Island. The holiday in Grenada marks the anniversary of the U.S. led invasion of the island in 1983. Liberia celebrates the colonization of freed black slaves from the United States beginning in 1820. The Netherlands celebrates the day to commemorate the hospitality the Pilgrims received in Leiden on their way to the New World. The observance in Norfolk Island was brought there by visitors of American whaling ships.

Of all the American holidays, Thanksgiving is probably the one most open to personal interpretation. Thanksgiving, while certainly known for food and football, is first and foremost about giving thanks in whatever way you find personally appropriate. Across the nation, thousands of Americans will volunteer their time to help serve a meal to those in need. What does Thanksgiving mean to you?

Please note that as we come closer to the end of this year the current Division Officers terms will be coming to and end as well. I encourage those Brothers that are looking to help the Division and to make an impact to consider running for a chair.

Yours in Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity

Joe

### **LAOH President's Message**

Dear Sisters,

This Thanksgiving, I encourage you to take a moment to reflect on the goodness of God and the many ways in which he has blessed us. Let us give thanks for our families, our friends and our church community. Let us be mindful of those who are struggling and in need and offer our help and support. Your generous donations last month to the Pregnancy Help resource center were overwhelming! As always, thank you for your support.

On Saturday, October 26, our 4th annual craft fair was well attended and a great success. A huge thank you to Janice Aucoin, Noelle Daly, Karen Bloomer, Kathy Cunningham, Carol Stockdale, Denise McLaughlin and Rita Stacy who helped with the planning and working throughout the day. Also, a HUGE thank you to all the raffle donations. They all did a fabulous job through their contributions and hard work.

Our next meeting will be held on Monday, November 4, at 7 PM. We will be voting for new officers for the 2025-2026 term. The next State Board meeting will be held on Sunday, December 8, in Lynn at noon.

Would you like to be more involved? Are you interested in volunteering for a committee or helping at an event? Let me know.

As always, please keep our brother and sister Hibernians in your prayers who are dealing with illness or hardship. If you know of a member who is not well, please reach out to me and Rita Stacy so she can send a card and check in with that person.

**2024 dues are now past due.** If you still have not paid your dues, please make checks payable to LAOH Division 14 and mail to LAOH Division 14, Attention: Ellen Ridge, P.O. Box 11, Watertown, MA 02471. Better yet, come to a meeting and enjoy the company of your fellow members. The dues are \$30 up to and including age 64 and \$25 for ages 65 and over.

In Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity,  
*DeeDee*

## UPDATES and NOTICES

### AOH Membership Notice 2024 DUES

Regular Members pay \$55.00, Senior Members (age 65 plus and a member in good standing for at least 10 consecutive years) pay \$30.00. All Associate Members regardless of age pay \$55.00. You can mail your checks to A.O.H. Div. 14 c/o Rick Stacy, P.O. Box 11, Watertown, MA 02471. **Please see the insert below relative to incentives to pay early and/or on time. There will be penalties for late payment.**

### LAOH Membership Notice 2024 DUES

2023 dues are payable NOW. When sending your dues please include your name, address, phone number and e-mail. This will provide us with an up-to-date listing. There are only two prices for dues, Members age 64 and below - \$30, 65 and over - \$25. You can make your checks payable to LAOH Division 14 and mail to Ellen Ridge, P.O. Box 11, Watertown, 02471.

### Scholarship News

The Scholarship Golf Outing was a complete success, thanks to all the participants and especially the volunteers who put in a tremendous amount of time and effort to make this happen.

### New Class

A new class came in before our meeting this past October.

### Bartenders needed

Anyone interested in helping out as a bartender please contact Bobby McLaughlin, Vice-President/Steward, 617.448.3400.

### Sick Members and/or shut-in

Contact Joe McCusker at 508.386.6438. For the LAOH please contact Rita Stacy at 617.230.7408.



### **Known Members currently in constant care/recovery**

Mary Flanagan is currently being cared for at Meadow Green Rehab and Nursing Center which is located at 45 Woburn St. Waltham, MA 02452.

Ellen Dupuis is currently residing at The Residence at Watertown Square 20 Summer St. Rm #505 Watertown, MA 02472.

Zita Callahan is now being cared for at Benchmark Senior Living at Waltham Crossings which is located at 126 Smith St. Waltham, MA 02451.

Eileen Waldron is experiencing some medical difficulties and is being cared for at Benchmark Senior Living at Waltham Crossings which is located at 126 Smith St. Waltham, MA 02451.

Paul Connolly is currently residing at New Horizons Suite 130 which is located at 400 Hemenway St. Marlborough, MA 01752.

Peggy Walsh is unfortunately experiencing some medical difficulties at is being cared for at home which is located at 22 Eliot St, Watertown, MA 02472.

Please also note that Mary Hegarty and Jessica Scully are dealing with health issues. As soon as I get their contact information I will include in the next newsletter.

## **Freedom for All Ireland / Political Education**

### **Legacy & PEC**

In an article entitled, "British government must work with all families on agreed way forward for legacy". Sinn Féin MP Dáire Hughes told the British Secretary of State Hilary Benn on Thursday at the Joint Committee on the Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement that the ICRIR does not have the confidence of the majority of families here. The Newry and Armagh MP said, "The majority of families have been abundantly clear that the ICRIR does not command their confidence, and at yesterday's committee I made that exact point to British Secretary of State Hilary Benn. "This is a result of a number of flaws with the body, not least the question around its impartiality and the role of the British Secretary of State".

And finally, according to Reuters, the British government plans to further appeal a Belfast court ruling that legislation introduced by the previous government was incompatible with human-rights protections secured in a post-Brexit agreement for Northern Ireland.

### **FFAI**

For those interest in a good read on the reunification of Ireland, two articles are worth mentioning. In the first "Scotland is Not Northern Ireland" gets into the history and nitty gritty details about how Scotland's process for independence from the UK is legislatively and functionally different from the efforts to reunite NI with the republic.

For another good, educational read on the history and prospects for a united Ireland, click on this article "Irish Unification, 2024" historian Jack Sheehan.

Yours in Brotherhood,

Rick Connell

Division Political Education and FFAI Committee Chair and Vice President; Ancient Order of Hibernians

Division #14, Watertown MA

<https://www.facebook.com/aohdiv14>, Website: [www.AOHDIV14.com](http://www.AOHDIV14.com)

## **From Division Historian John Murphy**

### **Martin Sheridan, Ireland's Greatest Olympian**



As a nation, Paris 2024 was by far Ireland's most successful Olympics, with Irish athletes winning seven medals, including four golds and three bronzes in four different sports: gymnastics, rowing, swimming, and boxing. However, this achievement pales compared to the accomplishments of one early and often overlooked Irish athlete, Martin Sheridan.

Sheridan was born on a small farm in rural Bohola, County Mayo, in 1881. As a young man, he moved to New York seeking better opportunities, and, like many young Irish men, the 6'3 Sheridan joined the New York City police department. As an athlete, he became a member of the Irish American Athletic Club (IAAC) and the renowned "Irish Whales," a group of Irish-born and Irish American athletes known for their immense size and strength who dominated early Olympic throwing competitions.

As an Olympian, Sheridan's talent was unmatched. Competing in the 1904, 1906 (unofficial Intercalated Games), and 1908 Olympics for the United States (Ireland was not an independent country then), he amassed five gold and three silver medals. His primary events included the discus, shot put, and standing jumps. Sheridan's style and technical ability in the discus, in particular, set him apart, and his athletic prowess drew large audiences and media attention, especially from Irish-American communities.

Despite representing the United States, Sheridan's pride in his Irish heritage was well known. At the London 1908 Olympics, after US flag bearer Ralph Rose refused to dip the flag to King Edward VII, Sheridan supposedly gave then now legendary quote (referring to the Stars and Strips), "This flag dips to no earthly king,"

### **Financial Secretary Notes November 2024**

Over the last two years I've been writing monthly notes about topics related to the Financial Secretary (FS) role. If you've read my notes, you understand that there are a lot of things that can be involved. This month, I'd like to discuss what I consider the three basic functions (Shepherding Applications, Issuing Keycards, & tracking dues payments) and the single key responsibility of the FS:

#### **Major Functions**

**Shepherding Applications:** Applications come into the division either by email, or by paper. Once an application comes in the applicant needs to be contacted to determine if the proper application (regular or associate) has been filled out, and the applicant gets vetted. The application fee needs to be paid, the applicant's name gets read at the next meeting, and then applicants are invited to be initiated. The vetting process can be shared with the Standing Committee or other volunteers.

**Issuing Keycards:** The actual process of activating, assigning, and when necessary is simple (admittedly the computer sometimes is temperamental).

**Tracking Dues Payments:** When members pay their annual dues, the payments are deposited into the bank (a photo of the deposit slip gets sent to the treasurer), the payment also gets recorded in a ledger (a simple notebook) and into a spreadsheet which includes each member's name, member info, and contact information. That spreadsheet totals the membership numbers (paid & unpaid) and those numbers are presented at the monthly meetings. When a new member joins, that information is added to the spreadsheet and entered to the AOH National on-line system. AOH National issues travel cards in early February based on the Year-End roster and the Financial Secretary mails them out to paid members.

#### **Key Responsibility**

The key responsibility of the Financial Secretary is to report the membership numbers to Division and to provide a list of the paid and unpaid members on a monthly basis to the Club Steward and the Club Rental agent. The three functions listed above could be split between two or even three people.

#### **Closing Notes**

1) I have done what I can to promote new membership, but I also hold the position of "Organizer", AND as I've stated in these notes many times, that's every member's job.

2) I've written these monthly notes for the bulletin, but that has always been my choice. I think it is useful, but it isn't a requirement of the position.

Yours in Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity

Rick Stacy

Financial Secretary

[Membership.AOHDiv14@gmail.com](mailto:Membership.AOHDiv14@gmail.com)

(617) 575-9585





Ancient Order of Hibernians  
Division 14 Watertown  
Presents



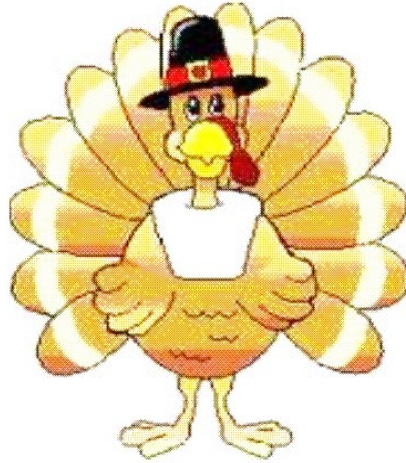
Irish Band The Gobshites  
Will be playing in Hibernian Hall

Saturday, November 9, 2024  
8 PM

The event is *open to the Public.*

**Tickets are \$5 and sold at the door**

Contact Rick Connell for more info  
(860) 867-7866  
Rconnellsr@gmail.com



AOH DIVISION 14  
151 WATERTOWN ST. WATERTOWN  
ANNUAL TURKEY SHOOT  
FRIDAY NOVEMBER 22, 2024  
DOORS OPEN AT 6:30 PM (**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**)  
CASH BAR  
ALL PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT THE SONNY  
WHOOLEY FUND  
HELPING LOCAL FAMILIES IN NEED DURING THE  
CHRISTMAS SEASON



**Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 1 PM**  
**At Hibernian Hall, Watertown**

The AOH & LAOH is hosting its annual Children's Christmas party at the hall on Sunday, December 15th. The event is open to children and grandchildren of members and is free.

Dance force will host the entertainment and feature Snowball wrap, hula hoop. Musical chairs, Dance contest, line dances, etc. Drinks snacks and pizza will be provided for the kids.

Santa arrives after 3:00 PM for pictures with the kids in attendance.

*Signup for each child **before Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup>** at the Hall is required in advance to get an accurate headcount.*

Questions? Looking to help out? Contact Rick Connell at 860-867-7866 or email him at [rconnellsr@gmail.com](mailto:rconnellsr@gmail.com)





**Shake Up Your  
Holiday Tradition**  
*Give Blood*



*Sign Up here..!*



**Red Cross Blood Drive/ Food Drive**  
 Hosted by the  
**Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH)**  
 Hibernian Hall  
 151 Watertown Street  
 Watertown, MA 02472  
**Saturday, December 28, 2024**  
**9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

*Who are the AOH?*





Each pint of blood we collect can help save up to three lives and will touch the lives of so many more. What a great way to pay it forward and make an impact on people in our community and across the country. Visit <https://www.redcrossblood.org/> and enter: AOH to schedule an appointment.

On the same day (at the same time), we are hosting a Food drive to support the Watertown Catholic Collaborative. Items being collected include non-perishable and non-expired food, including oatmeal, canned corn and green beans, coffee and tea, and more. Your generosity will support local families in need. Drop off your contributions at our event and spread kindness in our community. Together, we can fight hunger!"



<b>Day of the week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Calendar of Events</b>
Sunday	3-Nov-24	10:00 AM	State President's Dinner (Peabody)
Monday	4-Nov-24	7:00 PM	LAOH Division Meeting
Saturday	9-Nov-24	8:00 PM	Irish Band The Gobshites
Thursday	14-Nov-24	7:30 PM	AOH Division Meeting
Wednesday	20-Nov-24	7:30 PM	Club Inc. Meeting
Friday	22-Nov-24	6:00 PM	Turkey Shoot fundraiser
Sunday	8-Dec-24	Noon	LAOH State Board Meeting (Lynn)
Thursday	12-Dec-24	7:30 PM	AOH Division Meeting
Sunday	15-Dec-24	TBD	Children's Christmas Party
Wednesday	18-Dec-24	7:30 PM	Club Inc. Meeting
Wednesday	25-Dec-24		Christmas Day
Saturday	28-Dec-24	9:00 AM	Blood Drive/Food Drive

Please remember when renting the hall or Lounge as a member you must be a member in good standing (dues must be paid in full), pay with your own check and you must be at the function. The Members Lounge may be used for up to forty (40) people. For more than forty (40) the Big Hall is available. We love to see members renting the hall for all their family functions. Please note that the members rental fee for the Hall is now \$375 and for the Lounge it's \$100.

For more information please contact the Rental Agent at 617-710-8680. Also check out our web pages for photos of the Hall:  
[www.aohdiv14.com](http://www.aohdiv14.com)



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# BARTENDERS NEEDED!

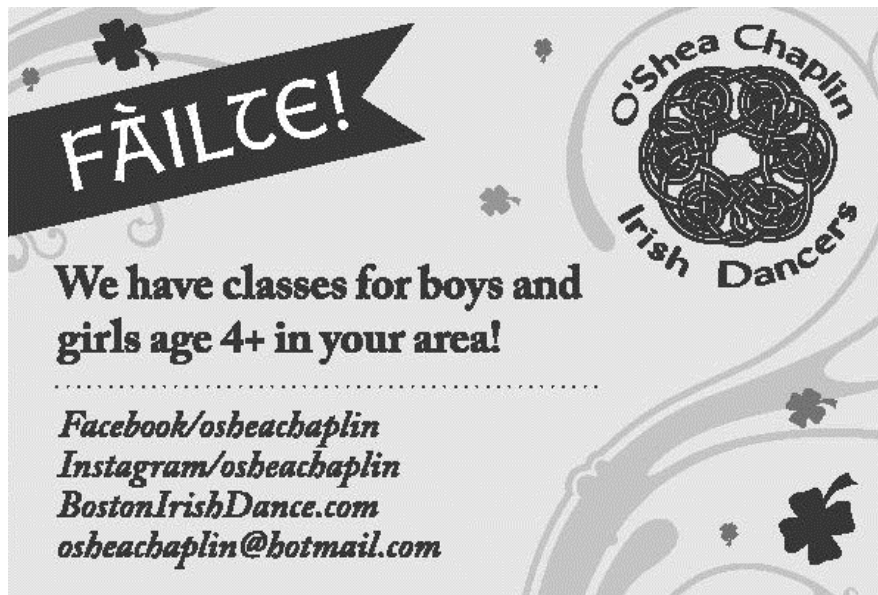
*No Experience Necessary!*

*We Will Train!*

If interested please Contact Bob McLaughlin

617.448.3400





Beginner Irish dance classes for children age 4 and up are held at Division 14 every Tuesday beginning at 5:15PM. For more information contact Lisa at the email address above.

Looking for something to do over April vacation? Come and try a free Irish dance class with us on Tuesday April 16th starting at 5:00PM.

**Please support these establishments  
who have supported the Hibernians!**

Paddy's Pub  
95 Elm St.  
West Newton, MA  
617-965-6444

Devlin's Restaurant  
332 Washington St.  
Brighton, MA  
617-779-8822

Donohue's  
87 Bigelow Ave.  
Watertown, MA  
617-924-4900

Copper House  
380 Winter St.  
Waltham, MA  
781-890-8989

The Warren Tavern  
2 Pleasant St.  
Charlestown, MA  
617-241-8142

O'Hara's Pub  
1185 Walnut St.  
Newton, MA  
617-965-6785

The Dooliner Pub  
7 West St.  
Newton, MA  
857-297-2709

Deveney & Sons  
Monuments  
Waltham, MA  
781-891-9876

