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## HISTORY CORNER: “WE OURSELVES”

### WHEN THE IRISH COULD FINALLY GOVERN - “WE OURSELVES”

The Irish political party Sinn Fein (pronounced shin feign) has always had a goal that Ireland would govern itself. Translated to English, the phrase Sinn Fein translates to “Ourselves” or “We Ourselves”. Arthur Griffith, revolutionary founder of Sinn Fein insisted that Ireland would never prosper unless it was governed by “We Ourselves”

In 1922, when Ireland was granted status as the “Irish Free State”, Griffith made a commanding speech. He stated, “As a Free State, Ireland at last regains the power of shaping and molding her own way of life. We have justly blamed England for the disappearance of our language and culture. We have rightly blamed England for the fertile lands let run to waste, for the empty harbors, for the decayed industries, for the emigrant-ship and the workhouse.” He demanded that, “we cannot do this in the future. If our culture decays and disappears, if our people be landless when land abounds, if our country remains deforested and undrained, if the emigration of the young and vigorous continues, if our harbors remain derelict and our fisheries unworked. If our commerce stagnates and our industries remain undeveloped, if the jail, the barrack, and the poorhouse continue to be prominent features of our landscape. – if these things endure, then no longer can we blame British tyranny. The blame must rest with

ourselves”. He insisted the Irish could no longer shirk the responsibility of building up their nation

In 1949, Ireland gained total independence from the British Commonwealth. It would be governed by the Irish themselves! But the country’s economy still struggled, and in the 1950s, many still emigrated. However, when the Irish Republic joined the Common Market, things improved, and by 1980 the Irish standard of living equaled that of the British for the first time. Today, analysts report that Ireland has emerged as one of Europe’s fastest-growing economic hubs. Ireland is a key global player in the tech and pharmaceutical industries, hosting major firms such as Apple, Pfizer, and Facebook. Presently, Ireland is facing some housing problems. Yet, researchers expect the Irish economy to remain one of the strongest performers in the European Union. The vision of Arthur Griffith is being realized. He would be proud; the Irish, when given a chance, did it themselves.

-Bill Burke.

Sources: *FocusEconomics Ireland Eco Data & Projections Oct.2025*, *The Rise of Ireland You Tube Oct 2023*, *The Irish Uprising 1916-1922 Rego Irish Records and Tapes* courtesy B. Kelleher.

## CORPORATION NEWS

Greetings,

The inaugural board meeting was held on January 12th during which the board committees were established. We anticipate a productive and collaborative effort moving forward. Please note that several events are scheduled for February and March.

In Our Motto,  
Patrick Walsh

### THE 2026 AOH MEMBERSHIP CARDS HAVE ARRIVED.

We’d appreciate you paying your dues at your earliest convenience. The dues are \$40.00.

Drop off or mail your payment to:  
AOH Hall, 148 Main St., Binghamton, NY 13905.

Attn: Mark Kadlecik.

If you have an address change please let us know.

FEBRUARY 2026 • WWW.BCAOH.COM



# THE CHIEFTAIN

Friendship • Unity • Christian Charity



## FROM THE PRESIDENT



Ian Haines  
AOH President

Dear Brothers & Sisters,

My name is Ian Haines, and I am the newly elected President of the AOH. I want to thank everyone for their support and well wishes as I begin my term, and I look forward to a great year of Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity! I especially want to acknowledge Patrick Walsh for his leadership these past two years, and I want to sincerely thank Pat for everything he has done for our organization!

As we move towards our busiest season at the AOH, I want to take some time to encourage you all to stop down at the hall and have a drink, or enjoy our many activities such as bingo, trivia, pitch or football Sundays (Go Bills!). Of course, I encourage you all to attend our monthly meetings on the second Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. to get more involved in the charitable side of things in our organization!

Coming up soon are events I would encourage you to attend and participate in at the hall and in the community. February 1 at 9 a.m. is the St. Brigids Mass at St. Paul’s Church in Binghamton. If you plan to attend, please wear your sash and feel free to attend the brunch afterward for members in the church hall.

The LAOH Div. 1 Simple Soup Supper is February 18 from 4 p.m.-6 p.m., please support our sisters and order your pints by February 11. The Irish Heritage Dinner Dance is February 21 at 5 p.m. at Atrio in Endwell. Tickets are \$45, please contact Susan Connors or Meryl Deemie for tickets. The deadline to purchase tickets is February 14. Irish Days will be held in the St. Thomas Gym on February 28, which is always a great time!

Parade Day is March 7 which includes our annual mass at St. Mary’s in Binghamton to remember our recently deceased members and to honor the Glorious Apostle St. Patrick. The parade will follow as well as fun activities at the hall after! Lastly, Sunday, March 15 from 8 a.m.-12 p.m. will be the annual AOH Irish breakfast at the hall. We encourage all to attend!

We are looking forward to a busy season, and we are blessed to be together for another year of fun and making good memories as we celebrate our Irish heritage, I look forward to seeing you all throughout this Holy season!

In our motto,  
Ian Haines

Next AOH meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 13th, 2026

## LAOH COUNTY BOARD

All of the Officers for the AOH, LAOH Divisions 1 and 2 and Juniors have been installed. Best of luck to each of them in their new responsibilities.

February has many fundraisers and activities hoping that all members could please support them.

The LAOH County Heritage Dinner Dance on February 21,2026 @ Atrio Banquet Hall, Endwell, NY which is sponsored by the County Board.

Irish Days sponsored by the LAOH Divisions 1 and 2 on February 28th at St. Thomas Aquinas Church. We hope everyone can attend and enjoy music, dance and food. A fun time for all.

Our next County Board meeting will be March 3, 2026 @ 5:30.

In our motto of Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,  
Michele Talcott, President 607-349-8736

## BROOME COUNTY LAOH JUNIORS

### Join the LAOH Junior Divisions – Keep Our Traditions Alive!



At our January meeting, members were busy creating handcrafted items for sale at our Irish Days craft table at Saint Thomas on Saturday, February 28. Please stop by to meet our Juniors and pick up a handmade treasure—along with a sweet treat!

Our Juniors and their families are warmly invited to attend the LAOH Division 1 Saint Brigid’s Mass on February 1 at 9:00 a.m. at Saint Paul’s Church. A light breakfast will be served following the Mass.

Parade Day is Saturday, March 7, and it will be here before we know it! Please save the date and join us for a beautiful Mass at Saint Mary’s Church at 11:30 a.m., a meaningful way to begin the day’s celebrations.

Junior members are encouraged to represent their division by marching in the annual Saint Patrick’s Day Parade.

Until next time—if you know any young ladies who are Irish by birth, descent, or adoption, between the ages of 5 and 18, and who are practicing Catholics, we would love to welcome them to our organization.

We will see everyone on February 28th at Irish Days!

Our next meeting will be held at the Hall on Main Street on March 15th

We warmly welcome young ladies who are Irish by birth, descent, or adoption, between the ages of five and eighteen, and who are practicing Catholics, to apply for membership. To apply, please contact Division 2 Vice President or pick up an application at the Hall.



# LADIES ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS



## LAOH DIVISION ONE



**Jaqi Kenefick**  
LAOH1 President

I would like to introduce your officers for 2026: President-Jaqi Kenefick, Vice President-Mary Gilroy, Secretary-Debbi Benzi, Treasurer-Linda Bazewick, Financial Secretary-Eileen Zemek, Irish Historian-Tracy Wagaman, Missions and Charities-Maureen Kadlecik, Catholic Action-Cathy Leonard, Mistress-at arms Barb Ritz, Sentinel-Patty Bartotillo, Freedom for all Ireland-Nancy Hyatt, Immigration and Education-Sue Mission and Public Relations-Tracy Wagaman. We are looking forward to having 2 great years.

The busy season has begun, contributions and participation are appreciated and needed to make our fundraising efforts successful.

February 18th- SIMPLE SOUP SUPPER Please order your delicious Creamy Potato Chowder or Minestrone soup by 2/1. Further details in the flyer.

February 22nd- Irish Heritage Dinner Dance Tickets \$45 Held at Atrio Banquet Hall, Refer to the flyer for further details.

February 28th IRISH DAYS at St. Thomas. We will have a table with goods for sale. Things like scraves, beads, socks etc sell well (Dollar Tree has a good selection) Also Irish themed knick knacks sell. We also can sell baked goods, please send them in individuals wrapped bags. Items can be brought to the meetings or dropped off 2/27 at the Hall.

Dues are now being collected for 2026 and are \$30. You may pay at the meeting or mail a check made out to LAOH DIVISION 1 and your membership card to Eileen Zemek 1960 Hawleyton rd Binghamton NY13903. Include a self address stamped envelope to return your membership card. If paying dues is a financial hardship please contact me. Money will never exclude a sister.

The National Convention: Mary Ann Lubinski, National President has sent a notice directing us not to contact the Hilton Hotel to request a room. The room rate has been negotiated \$167.79 including tax and fees. WE WILL BE NOTIFIED when contact can be resumed.

Save the date March 7th is Parade day Mass is at Saint Mary's 11:30am. To proceed with us please meet in the basement of the church by 11:15am. Please wear your sash if you have one. After the Mass we will join the Parade and the festivities at Seton and the AOH Hall.

My cell is 607 206 6762, Email [jkenefick1@stny.rr.com](mailto:jkenefick1@stny.rr.com) and I have a mailbox at the hall.

Our next meeting is February 13, 2026 at 7pm Decade of the Rosary is said at 645pm.

In our Motto,  
Jaqi Kenefick



## LAOH DIVISION TWO



**Susan Connors**  
LAOH2 President

Congratulations to the recently installed AOH, LAOH 1 and 2 and Junior Division officers. It was great seeing everyone at the first meeting of the year and look forward to all the upcoming events we have scheduled. A warm welcome to Winnie Esworthy, we are happy to have you and look forward to your participation.

We received some nice thank you notes from our end-of-the-year charitable contributions. Thank you to Debbie Burke for chairing the LAOH 2 Scholarship in honor of Mary Curry, an updated flyer with instructions to apply is forthcoming.

February and March are always busy, I hope you can support some, if not all of these activities...see enclosed flyers for more information.

Saturday, February 21 at 5pm - Irish Heritage Dinner Dance (sponsored by the LAOH County Board and Hibernian Parade Committee), at Atrio Banquet Hall in Endwell, \$45 per person, choice of beef, chicken, fish or vegetarian. Tickets are going fast, so call me for tickets (607.727.2262). The parade officials will be introduced - Grand Marshal Joseph Mihalko, Maid of Erin Mikayla Walsh, Official Police Parade Starter Inv. John Eggleston and the Brian Murphy Community Service Award winner will be announced.

Saturday, February 28 from 10-3pm is Irish Day at St. Thomas, if you'd like to volunteer to work at our table, make crafts or cookies, or have crafts to donate to our table, please contact Barbara Button (607.759.8946). If you have a raffle basket to donate or are interested in working at the raffle table, contact Darlene Comeno (607.759.2999). Food, entertainment and vendors will make this for an enjoyable day, pipers, dancers and Old Friends!

And to start the weekend off, Friday, March 6 - BC Pipers at the AOH. Saturday, March 7 - St. Patrick's Day Parade Activities - We will participate at the 11:30am mass for our deceased members at St. Mary's, march in the Parade at 1:30, and music at the AOH Hall with John Tobias from 2-4pm and 6-9pm.

Cookie Luke is accepting payment for dues (\$30), please send a check with your card and a self-addressed stamped envelope to the AOH Hall, 148 Main St., Bing., NY 13905 to her attention or better yet, pay at the February meeting, Wednesday, February 18 at 7pm.

Please continue to pray for our brothers and sisters and their families and for those serving in the military and all who need our prayers.

Yours in Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,  
- Susan -  
607.727.2262 or [sconnors@binghamton.edu](mailto:sconnors@binghamton.edu)

## PARADE COMMITTEE NEWS

### COMING EVENTS:

February 21 - Dinner Dance - deadline for tickets is February 14

February 28 - St. Thomas Irish Day-10-3:00.

March 6 - Pipers at hall.

March 7 - Parade Day - 11:30 mass at St. Mary's. 1:30 parade.

2:00 - 6:00 Post Parade Party at Seton.

The Mummies - The Avalon String Band will return for the parade in 2026 and the party at Seton.

## BARTENDER SCHEDULE - FEBRUARY 2026

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1 St Brigid Mass St Paul's 9am Funday Sunday 12:00- to end of first game Tom C	2 Closed	3 Jeff W Joanie M	4 Barb B Deb K Bar Bingo 5-7:30	5 Barb B Tom M	6 Charlie&Dick Sylvia S	7 Matt F Open 3-7 Drivers safety 10-5
8 Super Bowl 5:00 Molly \$5 a person sign up at hall Bring a dish to pass	9 Closed  Irish Dance 6	10 Mike C Sylvia S Men's Meeting 7:00	11 Tom M Craig W Trivia 6-8 \$5 a person	12 Kate H John T Parade Comm 7:00	13 Deb B Pat W  LAOH Div 1 6:30	14 Eileen R Open 3-7
15 Closed	16 Closed  Juniors 1:00	17 Susan C John T	18 Donald B Sylvia Soup 4-6 LAOH Div 2 7:00	19 Eileen R Donald B  Parade Comm 7:00	20 Barb B Kathy B	21 Donald B 1-5 Parade Dinner Dance 5:00 Atrilo
22 Closed	23 Closed  Irish Dance 6	24 Pat H Jim B	25 Susan C Jaqi K	26 Susan C Tom M Card pick up night 4-7	27 Bill B Deb K	28 Diane D Open 3-7
1 Closed	2 Closed	3 Jeff W Joanie M	4 Barb B Deb K Bar Bingo 5-7:30	5 Barb B Tom M	6 Charlie&Dick Cookie & Sylvia  Pipers 5:15	7 Parade Day Mass 11:30 Open 12:00 John Tobias 2-4 6-8

Bartender shifts: 3-5:30 and 5:30-8. Saturday 3-7. Please call Cookie at 607-727-8161 if unavailable for your assigned shift and can't find a substitute.



62 Leroy St.  
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### RICHARD J. GRACE

ATTORNEY AT LAW  
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