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**HIBERNIANS**  
Irish • Catholic • American

BROOME COUNTY UNITED HIBERNIAN DIVISIONS  
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# THE CHIEFTAIN

Friendship • Unity • Christian Charity



DECEMBER 2025 • WWW.BCAOH.COM

## FROM THE PRESIDENT



Patrick Walsh  
AOH President

Greetings, Brothers and Sisters,

We are excited to announce our **All-Division Christmas Party on December 6th** at the hall, beginning at **6:00 PM**. Sign-up sheets will be available at the hall. This annual celebration is always a wonderful opportunity to reconnect, share some holiday cheer, and enjoy the fellowship that makes our Order so special.

At our last meeting, the men's division proudly inducted **five new members** into our ranks. Please join me in welcoming **Thomas Murry, Tim O'Shay, Mike Smalt, Mike Beagle, and Jack Spence** to our brotherhood. We are

fortunate to have such dedicated individuals join our Order, and we look forward to their involvement in the months and years ahead.

As we near the end of what has been a truly great year for our division, I encourage everyone to take a moment to enjoy the holidays with family

and friends at our AOH Hall. We are blessed to have a hall of our own—something many divisions do not have—and it takes all of us working together to preserve it for the next generation. Your continued support keeps our traditions strong.

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to those who have offered support, guidance, and mentorship during my term as AOH President. Special thanks to **Bill Burke, Terry Reagan, Tom Kelly, Mark Kadlecik, and John Walker** for their leadership and friendship. I would also like to thank the Presidents of both Ladies' Divisions over the past several years for their dedication and collaboration.

I still have one more newsletter to write, but I wanted to express my sincere appreciation to everyone who helps support our hall and our beloved Order of the AOH. It has truly been an honor to serve.

In Our Motto,  
Patrick Walsh, President

Next AOH meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 9th, 2025

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## HISTORY CORNER: BEN FRANKLIN'S VISIT TO IRELAND

### BEN FRANKLIN'S FORGOTTEN VISIT TO IRELAND

In 1771, Benjamin Franklin visited Ireland. Some say this seven-week visit may have transformed him. Franklin was Britain's biggest fan. He was born in Boston to English parents. He lived in London for almost twenty years as a colonial representative. In his letters back to the colonies, he praised Britain's culture, science, and government. But upon seeing Ireland according to writer Brighid O'Sullivan, "Franklin was horrified by the extreme poverty he saw". Although this was well before the Great Famine, entire families starved while British landlords exported grain and livestock from Ireland. The people survived mainly on the potato harvest. When first landing in Dun Laoghaire, he described the city as a sinkhole of filth. However, upon entering Dublin, the seat of British control, a magnificent city of Georgian architecture, the contrast struck him.

Franklin noted that the British penal laws were in effect in 1771. Therefore, the majority Catholic people could not vote, own land, or inherit property. He observed that the Irish were kept on a level below the English

and wondered if that would be the fate of the Americans in America.

From a proud Englishman, loyal to the British Empire, to an American revolutionary and patriot. Franklin had been transformed. He became a proponent of the American Revolution, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, and a true founding father of the United States. The American Revolution certainly influenced world history. It led to the downfall of kings and the rise of democracies. The oppression of the Irish in Ireland may not have ignited the American Revolution, but it is possible that it woke up the revolutionary fire in Franklin. This forgotten visit by Franklin to British-controlled Ireland did not bring about the American Revolution, but for sure, it did influence one of the paramount proponents of one of the most paramount events in world history. – submitted by Bill Burke .

Sources: *The Irish Times Among friends -Denis Fahey on Benjamin Franklin in Ireland, Seamus Dubhghaill Ben Franklin Begins Visit to Ireland by J. Doyle 9.5.17, How Benjamin Franklin's Visit to Ireland Turned Him Against The British Empire YouTube 8.28.25.*

## CORPORATION NEWS

Our Hall recently hosted several fun and financially successful events. These included the AOH Turkey Party, the hilarious Halloween party, the Ladies of Charity Trivia Night, the Juniors' Election Day Spaghetti dinner, and a couple of well-attended birthday parties. Bingo, Trivia, and Sunday football have also gone smoothly. Congratulations to the Luck of the Irish winners. The All-Division Christmas Party will be on December 6th. These fun events help keep our hall fiscally secure.

The A.E.D. batteries will be replaced soon, and Bryant heating will be coming this month for maintenance on the HVAC units. Dampers will also be installed in the kitchen vents. Recently, visiting State AOH reps

have commented on how appropriate our hall appears. The display of our charters and plaques, along with our Irish pub-like atmosphere, signifies that we are not just another bar. We are an Irish social and cultural club, with a mission to promote Irish culture and the Church.

On a personal note, I am pleased to have had the opportunity to serve that mission. I will be leaving the board after 5 years and wish to thank all of you for your support. Congratulations to the newly elected board members.

Yours in Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity - Bill Burke

## LAOH COUNTY BOARD

As we approach the ending of another year let us be thankful for all the memories that we have with all of our members of events and happenings during the year.

The AOH/LAOH Christmas party will be held on December 6, 2025, at the hall 6pm. Hope to see you all there to celebrate with everyone.

I would like to thank everyone who helped in any way to make a special day for our sisters who have received their Degrees from The

LAOH Trinity Degree Team on Saturday, November 15th, at St. Vincent de Paul Church in Vestal. Congratulations to all I am very proud of all of you.

I hope you all have a Blessed Christmas and a very Happy New Year. 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!

Thank you for a wonderful Election night fundraiser! We extend our appreciation to Little Venice Restaurant for their generous donation of sauce, and to the AOH, LAOH and members who donated for their support. A special shout-out goes to the Juniors, their families, and all the volunteers who cooked and worked in the kitchen and dining room. The support of our community, members, and all those who joined us for dinner made this event a tremendous success!

Toys for Tots – Mitten Collection- This year we are collecting children's warm/snow mittens for Toys for Tots. Donations are greatly appreciated. A collection box is located at the Hall; please drop off contributions by December 7th.

We are pleased to adopt a family referred to us by RISE this Christmas. We look forward to shopping for gifts, wrapping, and delivering them to help make the season brighter.

Our next meeting will be held on Sunday, December 14 at 1:00 PM at the Hall on Main St. After the meeting, we will wrap gifts for our adopted family, prepare thank-you notes, and enjoy some festive Christmas crafts. Please remember to bring a gift for the exchange.

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

We wish everyone a Merry and Blessed Christmas!

**SOUNDS of the SEASON**  
at the  
Oakdale Commons

Southern Tier Concert  
Band - 12.1 @ 7pm  
Tuba Christmas -  
12.13 @ 1pm  
Vestal Community  
Band - 12.18 @ 7pm



# LADIES ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS



## LAOH DIVISION ONE



**Barbara Walling**  
President

I hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving filled with many blessings and gratitude for all we are thankful for every day.

Congratulations to those who received their Major Degrees on November 15. Thank you to the LAOH Capital District Trinity Degree Team for traveling to Binghamton to hold this ceremony and for those who supported the candidates as observers.

Mary Donovan joined our division at our November meeting. We look forward to getting to know you and you getting to know us. Welcome, Mary!

There is still time to sign-up for the all-division Christmas party (adults only) being held on Saturday, December 6th. Reservations will be taken until December 2nd by contacting me or signing up at the hall. A cocktail hour will be held between 6:00-7:00 pm (cash bar) with a buffet dinner being served at 7:00 pm. We will also have a Christmas sing-along.

On Saturday, December 13th, at 2:00 pm the Wreaths Across America ceremony will be held at the Savage-Demarco Funeral Home on Conklin Avenue in Binghamton. After the ceremony we will go to three cemeteries in Conklin to place the wreaths. All are welcome to attend.

Bernadette Burke and helpers have decorated the Irish Christmas tree at Roberson

Museum and the exhibit will be open through January 9th. This display includes the Irish Cottage.

Dues for 2026 are \$30 and are now being collected. You may pay your dues at our monthly meeting or mail your check made out to LAOH Division 1, membership card and a self-addressed stamped envelope to Eileen Zemek, 1960 Hawleyton Road, Binghamton NY 13903.

Please remember in your prayers our sister and brother Hibernians who may need a healing prayer. Continuing prayers go to our military, first responders and health care workers.

Our December meeting will be on Friday, December 12th. This will be our holiday dinner. Please feel free to bring a dish to pass. We will say a decade of the Rosary at 5:45 pm, eat at 6 pm, with our meeting following dinner. I hope you will be able to join us.

Wishing a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you and yours!

Yours in Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,  
Barb  
bwalling@binghamton.edu • 607-232-6367

## PARADE COMMITTEE NEWS

The Grand Marshal and Maid of Erin for the 2026 "parade day", on March 7, will be announced on December 7.

Advertisers for the parade booklet- check the flyer for a new e-mail for the printer because of a system issue at the printer.

Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year from the Parade Committee



## LAOH DIVISION TWO



**Deborah Burke**  
President

We were honored to welcome the Capital District Trinity Degree Team for the Exemplification of the Degrees in November. Twenty-seven LAOH members from both divisions received their degrees. Congratulations to all!

We appreciate the generous donations to the "Sock Hop for Socks" event. Socks are a major need for the homeless. A special thank you to Susan Connors, who hosts the event and delivers the socks. It is always a fun evening of music and camaraderie while raising awareness and helping to meet an important community need.

The AOH/LAOH Christmas Party will be held on December 6th at 6 PM. Members and spouse/guest are welcome to join us for music, camaraderie, and dinner. Cash bar available. A reservation sheet is at the hall—please sign up by December 3rd.

In keeping with our long-standing tradition, LAOH Division 2 is donating to Wreaths Across America. All are welcome to attend the ceremony on December 13th at 2 PM at Savage Funeral Home on Conklin Avenue.

The installation of new Officers for the AOH, LAOH Division 1 and 2, and the LAOH Junior Division will take place on January 4, 2025.

The Parade Committee is ramping up for the St. Patrick's Day Parade to be held on March 7, 2025. This year's theme is "Walking in the Footsteps of Saint Patrick." Please consider placing an advertisement in the Parade Ad Journal—a wonderful way to showcase your business or include a personal message. See the worksheet. For information, please contact me at (607) 772-0280. Proceeds help support the cost of sponsoring the parade.

Thank you to our members for the generous donations toward the Thanksgiving baskets provided to families in need.

Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 17th at 6 PM. We will celebrate Christmas together—please bring a dish to share for our holiday dinner and an unwrapped baby gift for Birthright. If you wish to participate in the gift exchange, please bring a \$15 wrapped gift.

Time is running out to keep your membership active. If you haven't taken care of your 2025 dues, we appreciate you taking a moment to do so. Mail a check payable to LAOH Division Two with your dues card and a self-addressed-stamped envelope to AOH Hall, 148 Main St. Binghamton, NY 13905 Attn: Darlene Comeno or to Darlene at 43 Marys Rd. Windsor, NY 13865.

Please keep in your prayers the family of Ellen Coyne, our beloved member who passed away in November.

With the end of the year approaching, we take time to reflect on the meaningful moments and shared accomplishments of the past months. We are fortunate to be part of such a committed and hardworking community. Thank you for your contributions throughout the year. May the close of this year bring you peace, clarity, and renewed hope for the journey ahead. Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas filled with love and the spirit of giving.

In Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,  
-Debbie-  
dburke8@stny.rr.com • 607.772.0280

## BARTENDER SCHEDULE - DECEMBER 2025

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
30 Funday Sunday 12-2nd half of second game Deb K 10:45 Formula One race then football Bob and Betty	1 Closed	2 Jeff W Joanie M  Broome County Board 5:30	3 Barb B Deb K  Bar Bingo 5-7:30	4 Barb B Tom M	5 Charlie&Dick Sylvia S	6 Matt F Open 3-?  All Divisions Christmas
7 Closed  Parade Christmas Party 2-4 Cookie	8 Closed	9 Mike C Sylvia S  Men's Meeting 7:00	10 Tom M Craig W  Trivia 6-8 \$5 a person	11 Kate H John T  Morning Lark 7-9	12 Deb B Pat W  LAOH Div 1 5:30	13 Hollie W Open 3-7
14 Funday Sunday 12:00-2nd half of second game  Tom C	15 Closed  Irish Dance 6:00	16 Susan C John T	17 Donald B Sylvia S LAOH Div 2 6:00	18 Eileen R Donald B  Pitch pickup 3:30-7	19 Barb B Kathy B&Diane will be there 4-9 to also bartend	20 Donald B 3-9
21 Funday Sunday 12:00-2nd half of second game Molly M  Juniors 1:00	22 Closed  Irish Dance 6:00	23 Pat H Jim B	24 Closed Christmas Eve	25 Merry Christmas	26 Bill B Deb K	27 Tom M Open 3-7
28 Funday Sunday 12:00-2nd half of second game Eileen	29 Closed	30 Cookie L Deb K	31 Diane D Pre New Years Eve party 2-4 Bloody Mary Bar Ball drop at 3:30	1 Happy New Year	2 Charlie&Dick Sylvia S	3 Matt F Open 3-7

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.



### RICHARD J. GRACE

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