

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

JANUARY 2024 NEWSLETTER

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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AOH President's Message

Happy New Year!

I hope that everyone had a Blessed and Happy Christmas with family and loved ones. I know that for some Christmas time can be difficult because of the loss of a loved one or someone couldn't make it home for Christmas. Please embrace those that you can and enjoy every moment.

My take-away from this past year is that can we look back and say that despite the challenges put before us we persevered! I'm proud to say that Division-14 didn't not stop the doing the work of The Order. We continue to move forward year after year. The main reason that we can continue to support local charities, needy families, Blood Drives, the WCC Food Pantry, St. Vincent de Paul, St. Patrick's and Sacred Heart Churches and Division Scholarships is because of the work of a core group of members, both men and ladies. My hope is that this core group of men and ladies continues to grow. I can only imagine what more we could do if more members got involved with the work we do for the Community at large.

All those members that are that are homebound and/or in constant care please know that we are thinking about you. We had tentatively planned on visitations around Christmas time but based on the current increase of flus/virus in our area it was decided to hold off at this time.

Lastly, I pray that as we come together in this New Year that all stay healthy and safe. "The greatest wealth is health."

Yours in Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity,
Joe McCusker

LAOH President's Message

Dear Sisters,

I hope everyone had a Blessed and Merry Christmas. I pray this newsletter finds you and your family being strengthened in prayer and surrounded by the love of God. As we enter upon 2024, I'm excited about new opportunities and prospects the year has to offer. I look forward to bringing in new members, sharing ideas, and expanding our ministries.

At our November meeting, we made donations to the Watertown Food Pantry and the Collaborative Food Pantry for \$300 each. We also made a donation to the Friends for All Ireland for \$100.

Rita Stacy and I had the pleasure of visiting Dorothy Brown, Ellen Dupuis, Mary Flanagan, Mary Logue, Margaret Morash, Eileen Waldron, Jenn Smallwood, Zita Callahan, and Mary Johnson. They received one of the fleece blankets made in November as our service project for Christmas. The look of surprise and happiness was priceless!

Our next scheduled meeting is Monday, March 11, at 7:00 PM.

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 or Eileen Waldron so we can send a card and check in with that person.

Do not forget to keep your dues up to date. You can pay your 2024 dues by check. Please make checks payable to LAOH Division 14 and mail them to LAOH Division 14, Attention: Ellen Ridge, P.O. Box 11, Watertown, MA 02471. The dues are \$30 up to and including age 64 and \$25 for ages 65 and over. Wishing everyone a Safe and Happy New Year!

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.

AOH New Class

Sometime early next year.

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 Eileen Waldron at 781.642.9250.



Please remember recently deceased



Cornelius M. Murphy, 86, of Medford passed away January 2nd 2024. The son of Francis and Mary Agnes Murphy “Connie” was born and raised in Somerville. When he was 23 he enlisted in the army and fought during the Vietnam War. He went on to marry his wife Cathleen and the two shared many wonderful years together. Cornelius was involved in many clubs and associations in the area such as the Knights of Columbus, The Ancient Order of Hibernians, the American Legion, MCFL, Retired Men’s Club of Arlington, Malden Elks, Malden Irish American, he was also on the advisory board of Mary Queen of Help Radio Station on 89.3 FM, as well as many other ways he contributed to the community over the years.

Cornelius is survived by his wife Cathleen Murphy of Medford and his sister Tessie Mulkern of New Hampshire.

Known Members currently in constant care/recovery

Dorothy Brown is currently being cared for at the Brigham House which is located at 341 Mt. Auburn St. Watertown, MA 02472.

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. 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.

Patrick Hanlon is currently being cared for at Marist Hill which is located at 66 Newton St. Waltham, MA 02453.

.Please keep these folks in your daily prayers.

Political Education Chair Message

At the end of 2023, the big news to close the year is that the Irish Government [is taking an inter-state case against the UK government](#) over its controversial Legacy and Reconciliation Bill. The Government's case is based on the belief provisions of the Bill are incompatible with the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), of which the UK is a signatory. President Biden gave [Dublin's rare legal challenge his personal blessing](#) when he met with Leo Varadkar. Mr Biden, proud of his Irish roots, offered Mr Varadkar his support in the case and the effective green light in New York in September.

Not surprisingly, [the UK government "profoundly regrets"](#) the move to legally challenge its legislation. In a statement, Britain's secretary of state for Northern Ireland slammed the case as "unnecessary" and warned it came at a "particularly sensitive time in Northern Ireland". "It did not need to be taken now, given the issues are already before the UK courts," Mr Heaton-Harris said, referring to a legal challenge that was heard in the Belfast High Court. A judgement there is awaited.

The legal process will take a couple of years to come to a judgment. It is an election year in Britain. The case will likely land on the desk of a new British Prime minister. The Labour leader and bookies' favorite to win, has [said that he will revoke the legislation](#).

Some commentary / context

Sometimes it is hard to convey, in an even-handed way, how lawless the passage of the Legacy and Reconciliation Act was. To this end I share a different, contemporary example regarding immigration.

Like the US, England would prefer immigrants were processed outside the country, then allowed in when they had proper documents. In April 2022, Britain signed a deal under which some asylum seekers who arrive in the UK across the English Channel were to be [sent to Rwanda](#), where their asylum claims would be processed. The UK Supreme Court concluded that the UK is party to various conventions, including the refugee convention, which would dictate that the Rwanda plan is unlawful.

Rishi Sunak began preparing law that [would defy ECHR \(European Convention on Human Rights\) over Rwanda asylum deportation plans](#). However, this month, a senior Minister who was to introduce the new Bill on Immigration resigned because he believed that the Sunak bill *did not go far enough*, because the proposed bill was still bound by the ECHR. PS: [The bill passed](#) on 12-Dec on a 313 to 269 margin.

[As Sein Fein noted](#), this behavior is not only restricted to immigration. Early in the Brexit process, a British Minister stood up in Westminster to declare that new Brexit legislation would only break international law "*in a limited way*". Just imagine trying that defense to a cop: "Yes, I do intend to break that speed limit, but I have the right to do so in a limited way."

So, for people to think that the passage of the Legacy Bill was a 1-off act of lawlessness done in deference to veterans (?), you should know it is a pattern of doing what is expedient rather than what is right, and worrying more about domestic politics vs international commitments you agreed to.

Rick Connell; Division 14 Political Education Chair

Financial Secretary Notes January 2024

Happy New Year! This month I want to summarize a conversation I had with AOH National Secretary, Ray Lynch.

But first I want to say I'm happy to say we only had to suspend seven members, not counting associate members, for non-payment at the end of 2023. That did result in us ending the year with less than 300 (294) but it was the fewest such suspensions in a long time and we'll be over 300 soon.

I'm also happy to note that over 65% of our members have already paid their 2024 dues.

Discussion with National Secretary.

Each year, nationwide, the AOH tends to suspend over 1,000 members at year end for non-payment. When the AOH goes to representatives in congress, etc. they ask for membership data and seeing 1,000 lost members each year does not look good. To reduce that number division financial secretaries were required to call Secretary Ray Lynch to discuss why members were being suspended at year end, what steps were taken to avoid that action, what actions are needed to try to bring those members back, and, to have that conversation prior to the new, earlier last action date of December 20. The earlier year end date will also help expedite issuance of 2024 membership cards.

He was very pleased with the retention efforts we have put in place (financial incentives and penalties related to dues, multiple email and postal notifications, key card suspensions, the policy notice in the monthly newsletter, and the fact that the newsletter is distributed four ways (mail, email, in club, and on website).

Ray noted that the national roster tool is being updated again soon. That update will allow for a non-payment status so that National can choose to keep those members on the National roster if they so choose without charging the Division the per Capita. It also will allow for reinstated members to come back under their prior member number which the current system does not do and thereby makes it look like more members have permanently left the AOH than is true. This will make the voice of the AOH stronger.

To try to bring back members, each Division is expected to assign two members the task of contacting any members suspended for non-payment and trying to bring them back into the organization.

Also, he noted that we should present the full list of unpaid members as of September 1st at our September meeting so we a) have wider circulation of the list to help reach out to unpaid members, and, b) to formally vote for approval of the suspensions if needed, in December.

Closing Note: We will be having an initiation ceremony during our February meeting and we may bring in over 15 new members!

Yours in Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity

Rick Stacy

Financial Secretary

Membership.AOHDiv14@gmail.com

(617) 575-9585

January in Irish History

The Act of Union (1801): On January 1, 1801, The Act of Union between Ireland and Great Britain went into effect uniting the Kingdom of Great Britain and the Kingdom of Ireland to create the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. Before the Act of Union, Ireland had been in personal union with England since 1542, when the Irish Parliament passed the Crown of Ireland Act 1542, proclaiming King Henry VIII of England to be King of Ireland. The union saw the dissolution of the sectarian, puppet Irish parliament in Dublin where only members of the Church of Ireland (Anglican) were allowed to be members of parliament. Thus, excluding the majority Catholic population as well as non-Anglican Protestants.

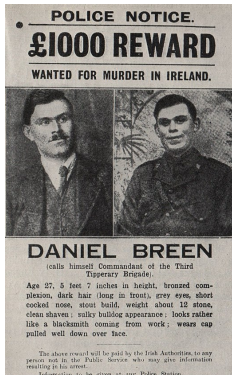
Many wealthy Catholics, who were allowed to vote, were in favor of the Act of Union as they believed this would lead to religious emancipation and the resulting right to become a member of parliament.

The British establishment was in favor of the act as they were in fear of the influence of the American and French Revolutions on Ireland and in the aftermath of the rebellion of 1798 they wanted to ensure stronger control over the country.

The Repeal Association to repeal the Act of Union was set up in 1830 by Daniel O'Connell who was elected the first Catholic to the British Parliament since 1688, in 1828.



The Birth of Douglas Hyde (1860): Douglas Hyde was born January 17, 1860, in Castlerea, Roscommon, the son of a Church of Ireland minister. Hyde grew up at a time when the Irish language was still spoken in that part of Roscommon. As a teenager, he began to study the Irish language and folklore before becoming an academic at Trinity College Dublin. Hyde was a founding member and first president of Conradh na Gaeilge/Gaelic League, an organization to promote the Irish language and culture in the belief that an independent Ireland could only exist if it had its own language and traditions. In 1938 Douglas Hyde became the first President of Ireland under the new 1937 constitution.



Irish War of Independence (1919): Two members of the Royal Irish Constabulary (RIC) escorting a consignment of gelignite explosives were shot dead on January 21, 1919, by IRA Volunteers including Seán Treacy and Dan Breen in an ambush at Soloheadbeg, Co. Tipperary. The IRA Volunteers were acting on their own initiative. The Soloheadbeg Ambush is regarded as the start of the 'War of Independence' (Anglo-Irish War) as the ambush happened on the same day the First Dáil (the independent Irish Parliament) met and declared Ireland's independence.

John JF Murphy
Division 14 Historian

CALENDAR PROGRAM 2024

1. CALENDAR PROGRAM 2024. Please note that we have our calendars in to start the Calendar program for 2024. The Calendar program is one of the ways we generate much needed funds for the Division to cover expenses and provide for donations to charities, etc. Please consider buying a calendar (many members give them as Christmas gifts) as it is a great way to support the Division and in the process have a chance to win some \$\$\$. The way the Calendar (Mass State Lottery) program works ...

a. Calendars may be purchased for \$50
b. You will have a 3 digit number on your calendar
c. If the 3 digit number on your calendar is the same as the first 3 digits of the evening daily number (exact order) you will win the prize allocated for that day (you have a chance to win every day). No need to call to receive your prize, we reconcile all the winners at the end of each month and automatically mail payments out typically within 10 business days.

- i. The prize money for Monday – Friday is \$50
- ii. The prize money for Saturday and Sunday is \$75
- iii. The prize money for Holidays will vary and are

identified on the calendar

d. You can purchase a calendar at the Members lounge – If you can't make it to the lounge you can mail a check in the amount of \$50 to Joe McCusker and I will send the calendar to your return address, details below.

- i. Joe McCusker
P.O. Box 11
Watertown, MA 02471

Note: make the check payable to A.O.H. Division 14 – remember to include your return address.

PLEASE NOTE CALENDARS ARE NOW AVAILABLE



Day of the week	Date	Time	Calendar of Events
Saturday	6-Jan-24		Little Christmas
Thursday	11-Jan-24	7:30 PM	AOH Division-14 Meeting
Wednesday	17-Jan-24	7:30 PM	AOH Club Inc. Meeting
Thursday	8-Feb-24	7:30 PM	AOH Division-14 Meeting
	14-Feb-24		ASH WEDNESDAY
Wednesday	21-Feb-24	7:30 PM	AOH Club Inc. Meeting
Monday	11-Mar-24	7:00 PM	LAOH Division-14 Meeting
Thursday	14-Mar-24	7:30 PM	AOH Division-14 Meeting
Sunday	17-Mar-24		St. Patrick's Day
Wednesday	20-Mar-24	7:30 PM	AOH Club Inc. Meeting
	28-Mar-24		Holy Thursday
	29-Mar-24		Good Friday
	31-Mar-24		Easter

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

FÁILTE!

We have classes for boys and girls age 4+ in your area!

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Facebook/osheachaplin
Instagram/osheachaplin
BostonIrishDance.com
osheachaplin@hotmail.com



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.

**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

Fit Z's Bar & Grille
451 Main St.
Watertown, MA
617-923-3969

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

