

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

**JANUARY 2025 NEWSLETTER**

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



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Division 14  
PO Box 11  
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**AOH President's Message**

I hope that everyone had a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. This will be my last message as your Division President. I have had the pleasure of serving as your Division President for the last twelve years (6 two year terms). I want to thank all those members who have helped and encouraged me along the way. This moment is bittersweet and it's been a long ride, so let's keep it going. As your State President I still have plenty of work to do and I trust that our combined efforts will put Massachusetts at the forefront of the National Board

I feel confident that your new Division President, Rick Connell, will do a tremendous job and will follow on with the legacy Division 14. Please extend all the courtesy and support to Rick that you afforded to me.

We come together upon this new year and wipe the slate clean and look forward to working with each other to do the best for our Division and Club Inc. As the old saying goes, "A little hard work never hurt anybody."

Under the leadership of incoming President, Rick Connell, I expect that we will continue thrive in our support of local charities, families in need, the WCC food pantry, St. Vincent de Paul, Division Scholarship and of course the churches of St. Patrick's and Sacred Heart.

All those members that are that are homebound and/or in constant care please know that we are thinking about you.

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

## LAOH President's Message

Dear Sisters,

I hope everyone had a Blessed and Merry Christmas. As we enter upon 2025, I look forward to bringing in new members, sharing ideas, and expanding our ministries.

Here are our new officers elected at the November meeting:

President - DeeDee Walsh\*

Vice President – Kathy Cunningham\*

Recording Secretary - Janice Aucoin\*

Treasurer – elect - Lori Moran

Financial Secretary-- Ellen Ridge\*

Sentinel- Denise McLaughlin\*

Historian- Deborah Johnson\*

Missions & Charities - Rita Stacy\*

Mistress-at-Arms – elect-Bernadette Lahey

Good-and-Welfare – elect -Rita Stacy and Lori Moran

\*Currently serving in this office and has been previously sworn in.

At our December meeting, Beth Lynch, Past Massachusetts State President from the Lynn division, installed our newly elected officers for the 2025-2026 term. Year-end donations were made to the Freedom for All Ireland (FFAI), the Watertown Food Pantry and the Collaborative Food Pantry.

Our next monthly meeting will be held on Monday, March 10, at 7 PM.

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, Rita Stacy, and Lori Moran so a card can be sent and to check in with that person.

**Do not forget to keep your dues up to date.** You can pay your 2025 dues by check. 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.

Wishing everyone a Healthy and Happy New Year!

In Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity,

*DeeDee*

UPDATES and NOTICES

**AOH Membership Notice 2025 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 2025 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 for 2025 will be in memory of Pat Hanlon.

**New Class**

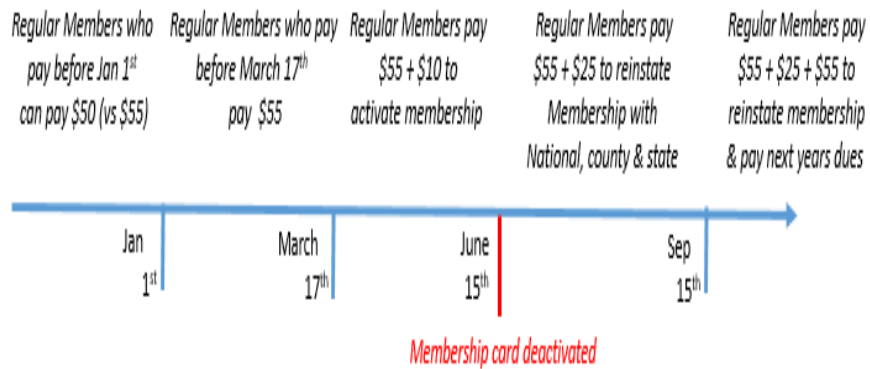
A new class is coming in this month, Thursday (1/9/25) and will be in memory of Billy Gildea.

**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.



### **Please remember recently deceased**



Bill Gildea passed away surrounded by his loving family at home in Watertown Thursday evening at the age of 94.

Bill was an Air Force veteran serving from 1948 to 1952. He joined the Watertown Fire Department in 1959, retiring in 1991, after 33 years of dedicated service.

Bill joined the Ancient Order of Hibernians in 1956 serving as president of Division #14 and president of the building as well as club steward, a position he held for more than ten years. Some of Bill's accomplishments at the Hibos included reviving bingo in the early 70's, organizing the annual golf tournament, attracting the largest number of members to "The 150 Club" a charitable fund raiser for scholarships and organizing many Christmas parties and events that were held at the Hibos.

Bill was the beloved husband of the late Mary E. (Gray) Gildea and the loving father of Susan Calden & her late husband Kevin of Watertown, William Gildea, Jr. (Retired WFD) & his late wife Maura and his girlfriend Anita Chapman of Newmarket, NH, Patricia Kennedy her husband Bernard of Derry, NH, Maribeth Gildea & her wife Julie Anderson of Newmarket, NH, and Laura Morrison & her husband Robert of Framingham. Dear brother of the late James A. (Barbara), Doris M. McCarthy (Joseph), Gladys A. Walsh (John), John H., Jr. (Jean), Robert J. (Harriet), Mary R. Mosley (Lou), Ruth F. Thibaut (Thomas), Francis P. (Janet), Elizabeth Robertson (Robbie), and Margaret A. Morash (Charles). Loving grandfather of Jennifer Sims (Robert) of Revere, Christopher Calden (Caitlin) of Weymouth, Kathleen Gildea (Adam Tam) of Acton, Lauren Gildea of Maynard, Brigid Williamson of Arlington, Bernard Kennedy (Victoria) of Chelmsford, Brian Kennedy (Rachel) of Shrewsbury, Kaitlyn Kennedy (Travis Hom) of Worcester, Brendan Kennedy of Derry, NH, Sean Morrison of Framingham, & the late Liam Gildea. Also survived by doting great-grandchildren: Camryn Calden, Kiera Tam, Haley Sims, Kellan Tam, Zoey Kennedy, Mackenzie Kennedy, and Addison Sims along with many nieces & nephews.

### **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.

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

### **Legacy & Political Education**

Folks interested in getting a detailed update on the Northern Ireland Troubles (Legacy and Reconciliation) Act 2023 should read the article “[Benn in trouble over Northern Ireland legacy and reconciliation](#)”. The author provides a balanced assessment of Labour’s follow through on the election promise to “Repeal and Replace” the act. On December 4<sup>th</sup>, the Northern Ireland Secretary, Hilary Benn, outlined the 1<sup>st</sup> step of the plan. Bottom line: The Labour plan is not a single stroke of the pen. It starts initially to remove the most egregious bits (immunity from prosecution) through a legislative process called “A remedial order”. This is moth doable and in their gift. After this, they will focus on other aspects of the overall bill. If you have time, read the full article. It is very informative.

On a related note, the [Joint Committee on Human Rights Committee launched an inquiry into Northern Ireland Troubles Act remedial order](#). The committee is required under Standing Orders to scrutinize proposed remedial orders and report its findings to Parliament. It must report its findings within 60 sitting days of the remedial order being proposed.

### **Freedom for All Ireland (FFAI)**

As the [Friends of Sinn Féin newsletter](#) pointed out, this election has not moved the dial in terms of government this time, it does continue a historic trend. For almost one hundred years Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael swapped roles in government and opposition. Ireland was a two-party state.

Over the past twenty years, all has changed. In the 2002 election, the two parties won 112 seats and Sinn Féin returned 5. This year Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael had a combined seat share of 86 and Sinn Féin returned 39.

The reaction of Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael to the rise of Sinn Féin has been to rule out ever going into government with Sinn Féin. This is a very blatant attempt to portray a vote for Sinn Féin as a wasted vote. This is not a new tactic. For years the British Government and other parties refused to recognize the mandate of Sinn Féin.

Rick Connell

FFAI & Political Education Committee Chair

### **Financial Secretary Notes**

I hope everyone enjoyed the Christmas and New Years holidays. This will be my last monthly note as Financial Secretary before being sworn in as Vice-President at what should be a very busy January meeting.

#### **Dues Payment**

The collection of 2025 dues is lagging way behind last year's pace. Hopefully, a big part of that is because I haven't been at the club to collect payments for the last few weeks, but if you haven't paid your 2025 dues, please do so ASAP. Regular and Associate member due payments are \$55 and late fees apply after St. Patrick's Day.

Senior dues are \$30. To be eligible for Senior dues you must be BOTH over 60 years old AND have been a member for more than ten consecutive years.

#### **Member Travel Cards**

The AOH National office does not issue the travel cards until late January or early February. The new Financial Secretary, Kevin Paquette will send those out to paid members after getting them from our National Secretary's office.

#### **Key Cards**

The key card system is malfunctioning again. If your card was previously turned off due to late payment of your 2024 dues but you are now up to date, please put a note in the mailbox in the lounge to request that your key card be reactivated.

#### **January "Billy Gildea" Class**

We are expecting a very large (15+ members) class of new members to be initiated at the January 9, 2025 7:00PM meeting. Come down to the club to welcome the new members including some of Billy's grand-children. If you sponsored someone, please remind them to attend.

#### **Closing Notes**

1. Congratulations and thank you, to Kevin for stepping up to take over as Financial Secretary. Please be patient with him as he adapts to the new role.
2. Congratulations to Richard Connell as he moves up to the Presidents role.
3. Thank you to Joe McCusker for all you've done (but don't think you're done, we'll still be leaning on you for a lot).

Yours in Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity

Rick Stacy

Financial Secretary

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

617) 575-9585

# Upcoming Division Events

The Irish Whispa Are playing in Hibernian Hall

Who are the AOH?



Hosted by the Watertown Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH)

**Sunday, March 2, 2025, 3-6 p.m.**

Hibernian Hall  
151 Watertown Street  
Watertown, MA 02472

The event is open to the Public.

Tickets are \$15 on Eventbrite or the day of the event  
[\$10 for AOH & LAOH members who buy in advance]



**Ancient Order of Hibernians**

**Tracing your Irish Genealogy**

Hibernian Hall , 151 Watertown Street  
Watertown, MA 02472

**Saturday, March 8, 2025**  
**Doors Open at 2 PM**

Who are the AOH?



Learn how to get started on Tracing your Irish Ancestors

Admission is free & open to the Public

Contact John Murphy (John.JF.Murphy@gmail.com) for details



Sign Up here..!



**Red Cross Blood Drive**

Hosted by the Watertown AOH

Saturday, March 15, 2025, 9:00 AM to 2 PM



## CALENDAR PROGRAM 2025

1. CALENDAR PROGRAM 2025. Please note that we have our calendars in to start the Calendar program for 2025. 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 AVAILABLE NOW



<b>Day of the week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Calendar of Events</b>
Thursday	9-Jan-25	7:00 PM	AOH Division Meeting
Wednesday	15-Jan-25	7:30 PM	Club Inc. Meeting/Stockholders Meeting
Thursday	13-Feb-25	7:00 PM	AOH Division Meeting
Wednesday	19-Feb-25	7:30 PM	Club Inc. Meeting
Sunday	2-Mar-25	3:00 PM	Irish Whispa performing in the hall
Saturday	8-Mar-25	2:00 PM	Trace your Irish Genealogy
Monday	10-Mar-25	7:00 PM	LAOH Division Meeting
Thursday	13-Mar-25	7:00 PM	AOH Division Meeting
Saturday	15-Mar-25	9:00 AM	Red Cross Blood Drive
Monday	17-Mar-25		St. Patrick's Day
Wednesday	19-Mar-25	7:30 PM	Club Inc. Meeting

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)

**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.

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

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

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

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

DiCeeca Brothers  
Catering  
Somerville, MA  
781-789-9907

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

