



Ladies AOH  
Division 5, "Mary of the Gael"  
Division Happenings



Volume III, Issue II, Division 5, Orange County, NY, Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians

Sept. 2011

Gail Cane, President/Editor

Ann Marie Mulholland,  
Asst. Editor

**A Message from the President...**

Dear Sisters,

How can the summer be over so soon? It feels like we just had our last meeting, kicked off our shoes and headed out for vacations and some summer fun! Unfortunately for many of our fellow Hibernian's, the end of summer was rudely interrupted by "Irene", who infiltrated our homes with driving rains, gusty winds and to top it off, loss of power to many areas. I hope by now this finds all of you dried out and on the road to recovery.

I never give up on summer until the actual first day of Fall; but the kids going back to school, leaves changing their color and a few cold nights remind us that summer is just a fleeting memory! September is a time when we think of "Halfway to St. Patrick's Day". This year, our division, along with AOH Division 1, in conjunction with the St. Brendan's Gaelic Football Club's opening of their new field at Gonzaga Park in Monroe, will sponsor the first annual Leprechaun Hunt to be held on Saturday, September 24, 1:30 pm. Please see the article in the newsletter for more details. Why not come down to show your support as this fundraiser will benefit "Beautiful People", an organization that assists families with children having special needs. Bring your family and friends for a fun day and chance to win some prizes as you venture out on a hunt to catch that little leprechaun!

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Priest Dinner, co-sponsored by AOH 1 & LAOH 5, will be held at St. Columba in Chester this October. Tommy Flynn and Kathleen Curnyn are working together to coordinate this event. A date will be announced soon, so stay tuned for further details.

We're also planning on supporting the Wounded Warrior project; Tim Curtin's cousin, John, was seriously wounded in Afghanistan. Ideas are being discussed. See details on the article inside the newsletter.

As a supporter of AOH Div. 1 events, they will hold their annual Communion Breakfast on Oct. 16, which follows Mass at Sacred Heart. Don't forget the children's Halloween Party on Oct. 30, which will be co-sponsored by the men's, ladies and juniors, as we all work together to bring events to our members and community in the true spirit of Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity.

Yours in our motto,  
Gail

**Upcoming Events**

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**Sept. 23**

LAOH Mtg.  
7:30 pm

**Sept. 24, 1:30 pm**

1<sup>st</sup> Annual Leprechaun  
Hunt

**Oct. 7, 7 pm**

Bunco Night

**Oct. 16**

Div. 1 AOH  
Communion  
Breakfast/Mass

**Oct. 28**

LAOH Mtg.  
7:30 pm

**Oct. 30**

Halloween Party  
3-7 pm

**Nov. 18**

LAOH Mtg.  
7:30 pm

**Nov. 20**

"Cahal Dunne"  
Monroe Irish Center

**Dec. 16**

Andy Cooney,  
Paramount Center  
Middletown

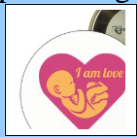
**LAOH DIVISION 5**

**Good and Welfare**

~ Our prayers are with all of those who suffered loss during the recent Tropical Storm Irene.

~ Congratulations to Gail Edmonds on the birth of her nephew, Gary Richard Ghent, who arrived on Sept. 21 at 8lb.7oz.! All the best to the Ghent/Edmonds family.

~ October is recognized as "Right to Life" month. Please pray for all unborn babies so they may receive the precious gift of life.



**NEW YORK STATE**

**AOH/LAOH**

**96th Biennial Convention**

This year's convention, hosted by Rockland County AOH/LAOH, was held at the Pearl River Hilton, July 13-16. Congratulations to Division 5 members who received the Degree of the Order: Mary Luciana and Ann Marie Mulholland.

The newly-elected New York State LAOH board:

- ~ **President:** Denise Sobus
- ~ **Vice Pres:** Carol McTigue
- ~ **Secretary:** Karen Keane
- ~ **Treasurer:** Jacqueline Gilroy Clute
- ~ **Irish Historian:** Francine Connorton
- ~ **Missions & Charities:** Mary Beth Durkee
- ~ **Catholic Action:** Patricia Rattigan
- ~ **Immediate Past Pres/Organizer:** Meg Redling
- ~ **Public Relations:** Cathy Turck
- ~ **FFAI:** Bridie Mitchell
- ~ **Immigration & Legislation:** Maureen Leahy
- ~ **Scrapbook:** Cecillia Leonard
- ~ **Fundraising:** Aggie O'Leary

**1st Annual Leprechaun Hunt**

LAOH Division 5 is co-sponsoring, with Division 1 AOH, the first annual Leprechaun Hunt on Saturday, September 24, in cooperation with St. Brendan's Gaelic Football Club during the grand opening of their new field. The hunt will begin at 1:30 pm. The field is located at Gonzaga Park, 379 Seven Springs Road, Monroe. This is a first for Orange County; an idea that came from an actual hunt that a few of our members discovered on a trip to Ireland. Thousands of people came out to hunt the hillsides for a chance to win prizes upon finding the "leprechauns". Briege Debold, Gail Edmonds and Mary Luciana have organized this event. They are hoping the idea will catch on in the States. The license to hunt costs \$5 each; the proceeds will benefit "Beautiful People", an organization that supports families of children with special needs. We're looking forward to a great turnout that not only supports this worthy charity, but supports the St. Brendan's Gaelic Football Club as well, as we work together with other Hibernian organizations, in our motto of Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity. So bring your family, friends and neighbors as we hope to follow the rainbow that leads to the leprechaun!



**BUNCO NIGHT IS BACK!**

Please join us as LAOH Div.5 hosts Game Night (ladies only) at the Monroe Irish Center, on **Friday, October 7**. Kathleen Metcalf will again organize this fun night! Doors open at 7 pm; games begin at 7:30 pm. "Bunco" and "Left, Right, Center" will be played, along with raffles and door prizes. Bring some friends. A donation of \$20 to play, includes light fare. All proceeds will benefit LAOH charities. Don't miss a great night of fun and games. Contact Kathleen at 914-262-7531 to reserve your spot!



### MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS

Your annual membership dues are an integral part of this organization. WITH YOUR SUPPORT, we strive to sponsor events and hold fundraisers that benefit various programs and charitable organizations, both in and outside our community. your participation in these events is always welcomed and encouraged. but your dues help to keep us financially afloat so that we may continue to give to others less fortunate. So if you haven't paid your dues this year, please make an effort to do so this month. If you haven't been to a meeting in a while, please come down to our meeting on Friday night, Sept. 23, at 7:30 pm. If you can't make the meeting, you can mail your dues to: LAOH Div. 5, PO Box 2191, Monroe, NY. We'd like to see some familiar faces again, at the next meeting, as well as new. If you know of a worthy woman who is a practicing Catholic and of Irish heritage or descent, please contact Gail Edmonds at [galedmonds@frontiernet.net](mailto:galedmonds@frontiernet.net).

**OUR GOAL IS TO KEEP THIS DIVISION GROWING!**

### WOUNDED WARRIOR PROJECT

In an effort to assist Lcpl. John Curtin (cousin of Div. 1 member Tim Curtin), who was wounded in Afghanistan, we would like to raise funds to assist this fine hero as he continues to recuperate from serious injuries suffered while serving our country. Ann Curtin, Gail Cane and Melissa Jones are discussing some ideas on how we can accomplish this project. Stay tuned for details as we would like to have this program up and running before Veterans' Day. On a side note, the 34th Pct. Golf Tournament will be held on Friday, October 7 at Hickory Hill Golf Course in Warwick as a fundraiser for Lcpl. Curtin. Contact Chris Debold for details at [belurgan@frontiernet.net](mailto:belurgan@frontiernet.net), or by phone at 845-216-6963.



### JUNIOR DIVISION NEWS

**The juniors are busy planning events for the upcoming year; they include:**

**Sept 24** - Leprechaun hunt. All welcome! The juniors voted to donate \$50 to Beautiful People, the group we are supporting for this event.

**Oct 16** - AOH Div 1 Communion Breakfast/Mass, 9 am at Sacred Heart. Breakfast to follow at the hall. Juniors who would like to help will be serving food and assisting in the kitchen. Please wear black bottoms, white tops, if you have ... if not anything nice will do! Speaker at the breakfast is AOH National Historian. Also our next Junior meeting is that day at 3 pm.

**Oct 30** - Halloween party 3-7 pm at the hall. The juniors, AOH 1 and LAOH 5 will all be supporting this party... the juniors have it all pretty much planned out. Help will be needed in the morning to set up quickly. Pizza and party food will be supplied as well as soda and candy. Events are planned. A prize will be awarded for best costume. A movie will be shown after activities.

**November** - starts our collection for the troops. A basket will be placed in the hall like last year; we want to send the basket in early Dec. so troops have it in time for Christmas. A list of necessary items will be provided. The juniors will also shop; they voted to spend \$300 to purchase items.

**Irish National Anthem** - will be taught to the juniors by Kate and Briege. We plan to have them sing at the Grand Marshal's breakfast which is in March, right before the Mid Hudson St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Hunger Memorial Trip - postponed til spring, maybe spring break.

Also, Katie and Lauren are working on a website for juniors.

Suggestions and comments always welcome!

In honor of our first Leprechaun hunt, I found a bit of Irish folklore for our newsletter – it comes from the website [www.yourirish.com](http://www.yourirish.com). (submitted by Gail Cane)

### *“The Magical Legend of the Leprechaun”*

You may end up being the luckiest person alive if you ever manage to catch a Leprechaun but there again it could bring more than enough trouble for what its worth. A Leprechaun is a smart, devious little thing and who'll do anything to escape capture even if it means turning you into a frog. They are the exception in the Faerie realm as they are the only Faerie that has a trade other than cattle trading. They are shoemakers.

#### *Who Are The Leprechauns of Ireland?*

As part of Irish mythology and folklore the Leprechauns are part of our faerie folk, called by some as the “wee folk”. As a cousin of the clurichaun they are known to inhabit Ireland well before the arrival of the Celts. Small enough for one to sit comfortable on your shoulder they are very smartly dressed in small suits with waistcoats, hats and buckled shoes. As mischievous and intelligent folk they are generally harmless to the general population in Ireland, although they are known to play the odd trick on farmers and local population of villages and towns. It is said that every Leprechaun has a pot of gold, hidden deep in the Irish countryside. To protect the leprechaun's pot of gold the Irish fairies gave them magical powers to use if ever captured by a human or an animal. Such magic an Irish leprechaun would perform to escape capture would be to grant three wishes or to vanish into thin air!

Leprechauns are also very keen musicians who play tin whistles, the fiddle and even the Irish Harp and various other Irish traditional instruments. They are known to have wild music sessions at night, which, in Ireland, are known as Ceili's with hundreds of Irish leprechauns gathering to dance, sing and drink. The leprechaun is fond of drinking Poteen, moonshine, but must not be mistaken by their Irish cousins the cluricauns who are drunken creatures who love to cause chaos around Ireland at night time, a headache for us humans. William Butler Yeats once said:

“...Because of their love of dancing they (the Fae) will constantly need shoes”.

He goes on to tell the story of a woman who had been spirited away by the Faeries and had been returned seven years later minus her toes. She had danced them off!!!

#### *Catching a Leprechaun*

It's no easy task to catch a leprechaun as they remain very well hidden from us humans. If you get lucky and manage to catch a leprechaun you need to be smarter than him or else you will be easily tricked which can have damaging results, never take your eye off him or he will vanish. A captured leprechaun will grant you three wishes or a gold coin to bribe his way to freedom but this is when things can go terribly wrong if the wrong decisions are made.

Many of an Irish man who thought he could outsmart an Irish leprechaun had selected the three wishes and would either go insane trying to think of what to wish for or their wishes would back fire with something bad happening. One common story was of Seamus in County Mayo who wished to be the richest man on a tropical Ireland, but when his wish came true he suddenly realized that there were no shops or pubs on the island to spend his money or even people to talk with. Unfortunately Seamus became bored after a few hours on the island and had to waste his third wish to return to Ireland. This could be how the phrase “luck of the Irish” originated. One of the biggest tips an Irish person can give anyone is to never listen to what the Irish leprechaun says, no matter what. The leprechauns are great mind players and will say anything into confusing you into making the wrong wishes, although he is smart, he can be fooled. Irish leprechauns are devious little creatures and will do anything to escape from man so they should never be trusted. Some say angry leprechauns are more common than a friendly one but this is very untrue as Irish leprechauns are very friendly but tend to dislike humans who always seem to chase them for wishes and pots of gold. If you ever spot a leprechaun you may be better off to pass him by without taking notice, you can end up in more trouble than its worth if you decide to chase them as the people of Ireland only know to well. Unfortunately with cities in Ireland expanding, the poor wee leprechauns are being driven further underground away from man, taking their rainbows with them.