

ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE NATIONAL BOARD FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE LADIES ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS, INC.

Due to the nature of the state of emergency caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the National President has determined that the 2020 Biennial National Convention of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc. will be held virtually. The National President and her Board are committed to the health and safety of each and every member of the LAOH nationwide. As a result, the National Convention will be conducted outside the format delineated in the National Constitution. The National President is afforded the authority and power to make such changes to ensure the ongoing functioning of the National Board. To ensure the involvement of our delegates from across the country, the following changes have been made.

To accomplish the many goals of the members of the LAOH who convene at the National Convention, the National Board has adopted the attached Rules of Order. The major changes that will occur are as follows:

- In order to participate in the National Convention, registered delegates will need to have the use of an electronic device connected to the internet and use of the “Zoom Meeting App”. If you share a device with another delegate, you may be forfeiting your right to vote on reports and in case of a contested election for National Officers.
- Convention Committee Meetings will be held virtually in the evenings from Saturday, June 27, 2020 through Friday, July 3, 2020. This will ensure participation by all delegates and allow delegates to participate in several committee meetings which is usually not feasible at a physical convention.
- All reports of the National Board members and the Committees will be sent to all registered delegates through their State Presidents on July 6, 2020.
- All registered delegates will be required to read all reports and direct their questions to the specific officer/appointee/or committee chairs, with copies to the National President and National Secretary by July 12, 2020. This will allow delegates to have their questions answered by the proper chair/officer/appointee. No reports will be read during the General Session and a virtual vote will be taken to accept a committee report.
- As we are not having a physical convention, there cannot be nominations from the floor. If you want to be nominated for National Office, you MUST declare your candidacy to the National President and National Secretary on or before June 30, 2020. If there are any contested elections, the election will take place during the virtual general session as directed by the National President with immediate on-screen voting and immediate results announced to all delegates.
- The General Session on Saturday, July 25, 2020 will not have the ability to have delegates heard. As a result, there will be no “Unfinished Business”, “New Business” or “Good and Welfare.” Any item previously ruled on during these topics will not be modified or discussed until the next convention in Pittsburgh in 2022.
- There cannot be the exemplification of the Major Degree at a virtual convention.
- As we cannot ensure the voice of each person being heard at the General Session, there will be no changes to the National Constitution discussed or acted upon at this 2020 National Convention.

The National Board requests that each delegate download the “Zoom Meeting APP” on your iPhone, Android, cell phone, iPad, Mac , PC, or Kindle; practice with family and friends; participate in the Convention Committee Meeting; observe the General Sessions; and exercise your right to vote for the acceptance/rejection of Committee and National Board’s Members’ Report and for the next term of National Officers, if contested. Together we can move the Order forward.

Attached are the Rules of Order for this 2020 Convention and a Timeline to assist you

Timeline for the Virtual 2020 LAOH Convention

June 10, 2020 – State must have their delegate listing to the National Secretary with confirmed functioning email addresses.

June 19, 2020 – The National Secretary will provide the National President with the listing of all delegates for assignment to their Convention Committee.

June 23 through June 27, 2020 – Delegates to receive their committee information packets including date and time of committee meeting, agenda, last convention's report, and log in information.

June 27 through July 3, 2020 – Committee meetings will be held virtually.

June 30, 2020 – Deadline for the submission of new nominations for National Office.

July 4, 2020 – All Committee Reports must be filed with the National Secretary and National President.

July 6, 2020 - Committee Reports and the reports of National Board Members are to be electronically sent to State Presidents for immediate forwarding to their State's registered delegates.

July 6, 2020 through July 12, 2020 - Delegates to review reports and contact committee chairs with questions on committee reports and National Board members with any question on her reports. No questions/concerns will be accepted after July 12, 2020.

July 15, 2020 – Any modified Committee or National Board report will be posted on the national website. Delegates will be required to check the website on **July 16, 2020** for any modified reports.

July 25, 2020 at 10:00 am Eastern Daylight Time – **General Session of the LAOH Convention.**

- Opening prayers
- Vote on reports of National Board
- Vote on the Committee Reports
- Reading of the report of the Auditor; and acceptance of report
- Vote for contested National Officers, if any
- Report of the National President
- Installation of Officers and Appointees
- Closing Prayers

JULY 2020

LAOH VIRTUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION

1. The National Board will set forth the Rules of Order for this virtual Convention.
2. The Rules of Order will be sent to all State Presidents to be shared with their State Delegation.
3. The Business of this virtual Convention shall be conducted as dictated in the LAOH National Constitution except for the meetings of the following Committees: Constitution, Ritual, Scrapbook and Workshops. No Unfinished or New Business will be conducted due to the difficulty of each Delegate having her voice heard.
4. As previously noted, the State Secretaries shall provide their list of confirmed delegates with functioning email addresses and committee assignment to the National Secretary by June 10, 2020. The National Secretary shall report the number of Delegates registered and their requested committee assignments to the National President by June 19th
5. The National President will assign the Committee Chairs and provide the list of their Committee to the Committee Chair.
6. All Committees meetings will be held evenings from Friday, June 27, 2020 through Friday, July 3, 2020.
7. The Committee Chairs will send out an Agenda, Date, Time and log in information to their Committee members no later than four (4) days prior to the scheduled committee meeting.
8. The Committee Chairs will send their Report to the National Secretary by July 4, 2020.
9. The National President will provide to the State Presidents the log in for the Virtual Meeting to be shared with her State Delegation by July 6, 2020.
10. The National Secretary will send all National Board Member Reports, as well as Convention Committee reports to the State Presidents by July 6, 2020. The State President shall immediately share all reports and log in information with her Delegation. The delegate must review all reports.
11. Any changes to Committee Reports requested by delegates, must be submitted to the Committee Chair, the National Secretary, and the National President by July 12, 2020.
12. All additional nominations for National Office must to be submitted to the National President and National Secretary on or before June 30, 2020.
13. For admission to the business session, the delegates will log in using the information provided by their State Presidents at the date and time assigned by the National President.
14. No Observers will be permitted at this Virtual Convention.
15. Each Committee Meeting shall convene promptly at the time designated by the National President and posted to the membership. The National President shall promptly convene the General Session on Saturday July 25, 2020 at 10:00 AM EDT. This information will be posted on the National website.
16. The National President shall give the Delegation every consideration in the timing of the Business Session as well as all committee meetings.
17. There shall be no photography or recording of the National Convention or any convention committee meeting besides that of the National Secretary and Committee Secretary.
18. The Convention Secretary or a duly approved alternate is authorized to record the Business session. No other recording or transmissions shall be permitted without the permission of the National President.
19. The National President and/or Committee Chairs shall inform the delegation/committee members to silence all cell phones, pagers, and any other electronic devices at the beginning of each session and/or committee meeting unless it is to be used for official business of the Convention.
20. Each State President or her duly elected alternate is responsible for her delegation to log in on time.
21. Each State President shall notify her delegation of any changes in the schedule, as well as excuse her delegates wishing to leave the meeting for reasons other than an emergency.

22. Delegates that wish to address the Convention Committee meeting, shall send a chat message to the Chair, and remain silent until the Committee Chair recognizes her. No delegate can speak until recognized by the Presiding Officer. The delegate shall address the Presiding Officer as "Committee Chair" and clearly state her name and LAOH State each time she speaks.
23. All Committee Reports are part of the permanent record of the Convention. The reports should be typed in WORD format. A copy shall be sent by email to both the National Secretary and the National President. The reports will include the names of the committee chair, the secretary, and the names of delegates in attendance. The listing of committee meeting attendees shall be listed by State (in alphabetical order) and then Delegate's names alphabetically by last name. All reports should start with "OFFICERS AND DELEGATES ASSEMBLED".
24. Immediately before adjournment of each session any necessary announcements should be made.
25. All discussions at Committee meetings must be relevant to the item being discussed; no delegate may speak more than two minutes or speak more than twice to each motion/topic.
26. At all Committee meetings, Delegates who have not yet spoken about the motion/topic at hand have priority over those who have already spoken.
27. Stay on point and attack the problem, not the person.
28. In the event of a disruption during a meeting, the Chair shall ask the member or members to leave the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

National President Carol Sheyer

National Secretary Marilyn Madigan

Committee Members:

New York: Karen Keane

Ohio: Kathie Linton

Pennsylvania: Mary Ann Lubinsky