



2020 Walks of Life Honoree
Helen C. Malloy

When Helen Malloy was elected president of the West Side Irish American Club in 1983, she was believed to be the first woman president of an Irish organization of that type in the United States. She served as president for 12 years and remains on the club's board. In 2005, she became the second of only three female Grand Marshals of the St. Patrick's Day Parade in the parade's 177-year history in Cleveland. One of Helen's major projects after she became president of the West Side club was to oversee the club's move from a former movie theatre at West 96th and Madison Ave., with limited parking space, to its present location on 27 acres in Olmsted Township, which the club had purchased several years earlier. When the club opened its new facility in Olmsted Township in 1990, it had more than 3,000 members and was considered the largest Irish organization in Cuyahoga County.

Helen has been a life-long member of the West Side Irish American Club. In her younger years, her parents, Patrick and Catherine Malloy from County Mayo, would take her and her brother, Bill, to various cultural activities sponsored by the club. She was elected the club's queen in 1971, as well as co-chair of the St. Patrick's Day Parade in 1993, and was named the club's Woman of the Year in 1999. She also was co-chair of the Ohio Irish Festival in the 1980s and was honored by the Irish Music Academy of Cleveland in 1996. Her many commitments to Irish American organizations include service on the Board of Trustees of the Irish American Archives Society; she has been a longtime IAAS delegate to the United Irish Societies of Greater Cleveland and is an IAAS Trustee Emeritus.

After graduating from St. Joseph Academy, she started working at the East Ohio Gas Co., where her father had worked for 42 years. She retired from the company's advertising department in 1995 after 38 years. She also served on the board of the company's credit union.

She is a lifelong member of St. Vincent De Paul Parish on Cleveland's West Side and serves on the church's Finance Committee. She is a strong supporter of Fr. Jim O'Donnell and the Little Brothers and Sisters of the Eucharist. Her most treasured family memory was a trip to Ireland with her brother, where they shared the experience of meeting cousins and seeing where their parents were born.

2020 Walks of Life Award of the Irish American Archives Society, Cleveland OH.