

### RTA Longford Meeting March 12th, 2015

A meeting of Longford Branch of the Retired Teachers' Association was held in place on Thursday, March 12th, 2015 at 11.00 noon in the Courtyard Café, Longford. The Social Sub- Committee met at 10.30

Apologies were received from Patricia O'Byrne, Christine Treacy, Seamus McRory, Patsy Fitzmaurice. Ita Murtagh, Doreen McHugh, Rita Canning, Eilis Hourican, Geraldine Farrar, Catherine Kennedy, Loretta Farrell and Pat Finnerty

#### **Retired Teachers' Association of Ireland AGM:**

Chairperson, Leo Donlon, attended the RTAI AGM which was held on Tuesday, March 10th. He reported that the AGM was addressed by a very inspirational and interesting speaker in the person of Br. Kevin Crowley, CEO of the Capuchin Day Centre. Br. Kevin does not take any salary for his work and does not fundraise but depends completely on the goodness of 'the Man above', who always provides. He recently celebrated his 80th birthday and was awarded with the Freedom of the City of Dublin.

A Presentation of €5000 to Br. Kevin's charity was made by RTAI

Elections took place for various positions. Our new President is Ita Sweeney, Iarchorcaí.

Concerns were raised at the AGM on the following points:

- INTO President, Sean McMahon, warned of rift developing between young teachers and older/retired teachers
- Implementation of 2014 Motions
- Although substitute teachers are again in short supply substitute teaching for retired teachers is barely worthwhile due to the many deductions. In order to take up a substitute position retired teachers must be registered with the Teaching Council and must not teach for more than 90 days in the school year

Other Issues:

- Comhnasc magazine would welcome contributions from Retired Teachers
- The RTAI website will be revamped in the near future
- An up-dated Handbook will be published shortly
- Members were reminded that they can avail of a special Counselling service for Retired Teachers
- A good relationship with Comhar Linn Credit Union has been maintained
- Members were urged to question politicians regarding the repeal of FEMPI legislation. It was felt that when it is repealed it will favour lower paid retirees. Members were encouraged to attend Alliance of Retired Public Servants meetings where possible
- 90% teachers are RTAI members - membership is over 10 000. Many more will leave the profession before retirement deal ends in 2016

Denis Desmond is retiring and the name of his successor will be announced shortly. The General Secretary's salary scale is the same as Assistant Principal.

It was agreed that a gift, to the value of €100 will be presented to Denis on his next visit to Longford. Leo will check with John Regan

#### **Report from Social Sub-Committee Meeting:**

Present: Katherine Kennedy, Carmel Fallon, Leo Donlon and Noeleen Rooney.

Apologies: Loretta Farrell and Pat Finnerty

#### **Proposed Activities:**

Suggested by	Activity	Date	Travel	Meal
Teresa Greene	Walk Mullaghmeen Hill, Coole	Wednesday April 22nd	Individual cars Meet in Coole@ 11 am	Pollard Arms
Katherine Kennedy	Trip to Glasnevin Cemetery	Thursday May 14th	8.15am train from Longford 19 Bus to Glasnevin	Cemetery Restaurant
Pat Finnerty	Presentation on Calcutta (Pat Finnerty)	TBA	In Longford Library	
Pat Finnerty	First Aid Course (Tommy Devlin)	TBA	6 Sessions 20 participants required Give names to Noeleen	

The Chairperson congratulated Kitty Hughes on her recent TV appearance. He sympathised with Mary Connolly on the death of her brother, Richard Bissett RIP. He also sympathised with the O' Brien family, Newtownforbes on the death of Agnes O'Brien RIP, Longford RTA member

