

Longford RTA Meeting - June 23rd, 2016

Longford RTA Meeting took place in The Richmond Inn, Clondra, Co. Longford on Thursday, June 23rd, 2016. There were 19 people in attendance, as follows: Billy Sheehan, Leo Donlon, Noeleen Rooney, Joe Hunt, Carmel Kelly, Séamus Ó Ceallaigh, Olive Donohoe, Mary Cassells, Rose Moran, Bridie McGuinness, Teresa Kyle, Róisín McHugh, Mary Fallon, Christine Treacy, Seamus McRory, Rose Hagan, Emer Murphy, Maura Mulvey and Regina Leavy. Apologies were received from the following: Katherine Kennedy, Patsy Fitzmaurice, Judy Mahon, Eileen Moynihan, Mairéad Heslin, Eilís Hourican, John Fitzpatrick, Bernadette Noonan, Rita Canning, Anne Corkery, Carmel Fallon, Lynn Nerney, Loretta Farrell, Angela Bracken, Geraldine Farrar, Kieran Tonra, Pat Finnerty, Doreen McHugh, Mary Hughes, Teresa Greene and Kitty Hughes

Chairperson, Leo, welcomed all to the meeting, extending a special welcome to newly appointed General Secretary, Billy Sheehan. He also welcomed Sr. Rose Moran and Sr. Olive Donohoe who were attending their first RTA meeting.

Condolences:

Secretary, Noeleen, sympathised with Leo on the recent death of his brother, John.

Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting of March 9th were read to the meeting - there were no matters arising

Correspondence:

- Notice of date of General Secretary's visit (Head Office)
- Name list and address sheets for Longford members (Head Office)
- Notice of Secretary's meeting on September 22nd (Head Office)
- Reply from Emily Leonard, Secretary Roscommon RTA regarding joint activities
- Letter from Colm Harte thanking all for support during recent Teaching Council elections

Social Activities

- Siúilí Walk in Loughcrew on June 29th - Noeleen will check with Teresa Greene and send out details
- Possible trip- Joint outing with Roscommon RTA to Glasnevin in August
- Bridge trip to Ennistymon in Autumn 2016/Spring 2017 - details were circulated
- Barge Trip on Royal Canal - suggestion from Leo

Address by Billy Sheehan - General Secretary:

Billy Sheehan, newly appointed RTAI General Secretary, introduced himself to the meeting, detailing his involvement with education, initially as a teacher and, later, as an administrator with INTO.

He went on to address the meeting, making the following points:

- Tom Burke was elected President and Luke McGinley Vice President at the Annual Convention
- Teachers who retired prior to 01.03.12 and are on €34, 132 or less will be exempt from PSPR from 01.01.18
- When pay increases are restored we must decide if we want to link with a) serving teachers or b) inflation
- Current Projects - Comhnasc Review, Website and Solidarity Fund
- Branch Secretary Conference to take place in September to promote communication between branches
- VHI are now seeking written permission for deduction of premium from salary
- Annual completion of Pension Declaration Form is now mandatory for Retired Teachers who are 80 years or over
- There were 27 salary payments in 2015 - this may be relevant to those seeking tax back on health expenses
- Biennial Garda Vetting and Teaching Council Registration is required for all substitute teaching
- RTAI will apply for legal status. This will cost €10 000
- There will be a meeting of Branch Secretaries on September 22nd

Billy then clarified some of the points he had made and concluded by thanking Branch members for their welcome. Leo thanked Billy for his attendance and for his very comprehensive presentation.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

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Leo Donlon (Chairperson)

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Date

