

Longford RTA Meeting - March 27th, 2019

A meeting of Longford RTA took place in Teaghlach Íosa, Longford in March 27th, 2019 at 11.00am. There were 25 members in attendance. Apologies were received from 11 members. Chairperson, Leo, welcomed all to the meeting.

Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting of June 15th, 2018 were read to the meeting. These were passed on the proposal of Seamus McRory and seconded by Mary McDermott. There were no matters arising

Report from National Convention:

Bridie and Noleen attended the National Convention which took place on March 5th, 2019. Noleen gave a report referring, in particular, to the dignitaries who had addressed the Convention. She also mentioned that Membership Plus will be discontinued as 79% of members never use it. Savings will go to Counselling service and Bursaries. Regarding financial allocations from RTAI there is €209, 000 in Branch accounts - an average of €6,700 per Branch. She cautioned that we must spend our funds each year to ensure that our opening balance does not exceed our allocation. Noleen also drew the attention of the meeting to the motions which were put forward, giving a short synopsis on those motions which were passed as follows:

- Branch Funding - a new sliding scale that will benefit smaller branches with allocations to be paid in October
- Delegates to Annual Convention will remain at a minimum of 2 rather than 3 per branch to avoid distortion for District voting
- Extending RTAI to Northern Ireland
- Medical Cards - grant to all Over 70
- Pensions Issues regarding 'Auto enrolment' Pension Scheme
- Treat all pensioners on equitable basis
- More prominence to Branch websites in RTAI website
- Income Tax on Health Insurance - demanded full income tax relief

Bridie sent apologies, as she was unable to attend the meeting but sent in a report which dealt mainly with the General Secretary's annual report under the following headings

- Membership: Membership of the Association stood at 9982 which was an increase from 2017. The RTAI had an information stand at the INTO Annual Congress to raise the profile of the Association among INTO delegates.
- Funding for branches: A subscription increase will be proposed at the Convention which will favour smaller branches
- Pension parity and the Public service pension reduction: Bridie outlined the changes under Public Service Stability Agreement
- Limited Company: The RTAI is now a Limited Company and has legal standing with limited liability.

Social Activities:

After much discussion the following activities were planned:

- Bloom in the Park on Thursday, May 30th
- Light a Penny Candle - Matinee in Gaiety on May 1st
- Visit to Farmleigh House and Guinness Storehouse - a date in early September
- Mamma Mia - Matinee in Bord Gáis Energy Theatre on Thursday/Saturday, December 12th/14th

All above will be subsidised to a certain extent by RTA Longford

Other Matters

We are considering moving to different towns around the county for our March meeting

Health Insurance

Information on Health Insurance Plan - contact The Health Insurance Authority, Lo-Call 1850 929 166 or +353 (0)1 406 0080

Computer Course

Computer Course at 11.00 am in Coffee House 45 on Saturday, March 30th and April 6th at 2.30 pm.

Tea/Coffee at Coffee House 45

Our Tea/Coffee morning will be on Wednesday, April 3rd at 11.00 am in Coffee House 45.

This concluded the business of the meeting

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Leo Donlon (Chairperson)

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Date

