

Retired Teachers' Association (NI)

Minutes of 64th Annual General Meeting
held at Corick House, Clogher, Co. Tyrone
Wednesday, 11th October 2006 at 11.00am

Welcome

Chairman, Robina Atkinson welcomed members and guests to the meeting and introduced the newly-appointed Hon. Secretary, Brendan McGlone. Robina thanked Kim Silkstone, Financial Solutions, for sponsoring the tea/coffee scones on arrival.

Apologies

Frank Bunting, INTO
Theresa Devenney, ATL
Margaret Galloway, ICTU
Anne O'Reilly, Age Concern N.I.

Guests Present

Jacqueline Friel, DENI
Eamon Quinn, DENI
Kim Silkstone, Financial Solutions
Roy Weir, UTU

RTA Present

Executive Committee	12 members
Belfast Branch	12 members
Mid-Antrim Branch	4 members
Mid-Ulster Branch	13 members
Craigavon Branch	9 members
North-West Branch	3 members
North-Down Branch	5 members
Tyrone Branch	14 members
East-Down Branch	2 members
South-Down Branch	2 members
Fermanagh Branch	17 members
North-East Branch	12 members
<i>Total present</i>	<i>109</i>

Tributes

Robert Pinkerton paid tribute to Bob Neilly, Chairman from 1990 to 1994 and President from 1997 to 2005. He had been Principal of Park Parade School and the father of sports commentator, Jim Neilly, with a firm hand on all aspects of the RTA.

Robert Thompson remarked that, as a member of the RTA Executive Committee, Bob had been very supportive and efficient in his work and that he would be sadly missed.

Robina Atkinson spoke on how the sudden bereavement of Hon. Secretary/Treasurer, Margaret Wilson came as a shock. Margaret had taught at Lurgan Model and Lurgan College. As President of UTU, she had been on several committees, eventually following Oswald Jamison as Secretary to RTA. Margaret had done an excellent job, extending the influential boundaries of RTA to Age Concern and alerting Government Ministers to some of the issues facing retired teachers. Her untimely and unforeseen passing away was a major blow to her many friends and colleagues.

Des Rawlings spoke on Margaret's very considerable organisational skills and how impressed he was by her attention to order and detail in her reports. It was Margaret's vision and commitment that led to the RTA being represented on the Steering Committee of the PSPC in 2005. Des acknowledged that we had lost the services of a person of great importance and called for a minute's silence in memory of Bob Neilly and Margaret Wilson.

Minutes

The Minutes of the 63rd AGM were read by Des Rawlings and Robina Atkinson, passed as a correct record on the proposal of Des Rawlings and seconded by Robert Pinkerton. They were adopted unanimously.

Executive Report

Des Rawlings moved that the Executive Report was straightforward and self-explanatory and should be consequently accepted. This was agreed unanimously.

Financial Report

Robina Atkinson stated that Patricia Halliday had audited the accounts and that the records had been verified and reconciled accordingly.

In answer to a question about £305.63 expenditure, Robina replied that this was incurred by a sub-committee formed to find a new Hon. Secretary. The advertisement in the Belfast Telegraph, costing £550, had not been shown separately but was included in 'Office'.

The honorarium had been paid to Margaret Wilson's estate.

In answer to a question as to why subscriptions were down this year, Robina replied that some teachers had never attended any event at all organised by RTA and had their names removed at DENI.

Age Concern

Des Rawlings reported that Renée McClelland had been unwell and unable to talk and that her report should be adopted.

Robina Atkinson stated that she had recently accepted an invitation to Stormont on behalf of Age Concern which was looking at a Charter of Rights for Older People. While this was being updated, Robina wanted to remind members of their rights regarding, in particular, personal independence and opportunities. Robina also alerted members to the issues involving the new Rating System, advising members to exercise caution in this matter.

Adoption of Reports

Robert Thompson proposed that all reports should be adopted. Isabel McKenna and Marion O'Hanlon seconded this.

Appointment of Hon. Auditor

Robert Thompson moved that the appointment of Patricia Halliday be left to the next Executive Committee Meeting. This was agreed.

Election of Officers

Robert Pinkerton reminded members that all offices were vacant and that they would be filled by nominations which would be proposed, seconded and accepted.

President	Robert Thompson	Proposed by Des Rawlings Seconded by Marion O'Hanlon
Chairman	Robina Atkinson	Proposed by Des Rawlings Seconded by Wesley Beasant
Vice-Chair	Isabel McKenna	Proposed by Des Rawlings Seconded by Mary Marley
Secretary	Brendan McGlone	Proposed by Ian Dixon Seconded by Wesley Beasant
Co-Opted	Mary Marley Sandra Savage Ian Dixon Colm Lambe	Proposed by Robert Thompson Seconded by Marion O'Hanlon

Fraternal Greetings

Roy Weir, UTU, thanked RTA for the invitation and emphasised the important work the association undertakes for teachers in their later years. He echoed teachers' concerns that schools were still working on shoestring budgets and remarked how well teachers were coping under very difficult conditions. The UTU, he stated, will continue to support teachers in their work and in retirement for better pensions.

Eamon Quinn, DENI, thanked RTA for the invitation and drew members' attention to the large number of teachers, around 800, who retired in August alone. He spoke of the forthcoming legislative changes affecting newly retired teachers and the recently introduced cap on the lifetime award of £1.5 million, explaining that this is an entitlement-only notification and that very few retired teachers, if any, would ever reach this pension amount! Eamon assured members that both Jacqueline Friel and he would always be available to deal with queries involving tax and payroll issues.

Kim Silkstone, Financial Solutions, thanked RTA for the invitation and stressed that the financial market is changing so rapidly that everyone should make it their business to consult a professional to ensure that their assets are protected and that they are maximising their financial investment, particularly where this is possible in the name of couples. Robina again thanked Kim Silkstone for generously sponsoring the tea/coffee scones on arrival.

On behalf of all the Branches of RTA, Hazel Dunford, Hon. Secretary East-Down, expressed her appreciation of the work done by the Executive Committee.

Robina thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 12.30pm for lunch.