

Retired Teachers' Association (NI)

Minutes of 65th Annual General Meeting
held at Corick House, Clogher, Co. Tyrone
Wednesday, 10th October 2007 at 11.00am

Welcome

Chairman, Robina Atkinson welcomed members and guests to the meeting and thanked Kim Silkstone, Financial Solutions, for generously sponsoring the tea/coffee and scones on arrival. Robina also thanked David Andrews, Ulster Bank, for his generous donation towards AGM costs.

Apologies

(in no particular order)

Mary Ferris, Waringstown
Kay O'Neill, Omagh
William Clarke, Ballymena
Kevin & Mairead Quinn, Mid-Ulster
R. Alterskye, West Yorkshire
Jean Cochrane, Belfast
Laura Adair, Secretary Mid-Ulster
Wesley Beasant, Secretary Belfast
Robert & Margaret Pinkerton, Exec. Rep. & Sec. Mid-Antrim
David Andrews, Commercial Manager, Ulster Bank, Lisburn
John Martin, Retired Workers Com., ICTU
Beverley Weir, widow of the late Roy, UTU
Isabel McKenna, Vice-Chair, RTA
Mr. & Mrs. J. Sheehan, Kilkeel

Guests Present

(in no particular order)

Eamon Quinn, DENI Pensions Branch
Sally McKee, General Teaching Council
Kim Silkstone, Financial Solutions
Stanley Poots, President UTU
Anne O'Reilly, Chief Executive ACNI
Valerie McKee & Heather Adams, Fergus Press
Oswald Jamison, recent Hon. Sec. RTA
Richard Adams, Ass. Gen. Sec. ATL
Frank Bunting, Northern Sec. INTO

RTA Present

(in no particular order)

Executive Committee	13 members
Belfast Branch	13 members
Mid-Antrim Branch	1 member
Mid-Ulster Branch	11 members
Craigavon Branch	5 members
North-West Branch	3 members
North-Down Branch	4 members
Tyrone Branch	12 members
East-Down Branch	1 member
South-Down Branch	3 members
Fermanagh Branch	20 members
North-East Branch	8 members

Total present 104

Minutes

The Minutes of the 64th AGM, 2006, were proposed as a correct record by Des Rawlings and seconded by J.W. Calderwood. They were adopted unanimously.
A minute's silence was observed in honour of deceased friends and colleagues.

Executive Report

From the AGM Report, Hon. Secretary outlined the general business of the three Executive Meetings held during the year, as follows:

- March 2007, to consolidate finances and approve establishing the RTA website;
- March 2007, with Branch Secretaries to consider ways to improve our association;
- September 2007, to organise and prepare for this AGM.

Age Concern

Renée McClelland drew members' attention to the ACNI Public Policy booklet, of which 100 copies were freely available, and stated that, being the 'silent generation' which doesn't complain too much, we need the voice of a strong organisation, like ACNI, to lobby and campaign for us. Renée also stated that Michael McGimpsey's political party had committed to free personal care, costing £60 million per annum although the legislation enabling this would take years. Renée presented Anne O'Reilly with this year's ACNI corporate membership fee of £100. In addressing the AGM, Anne argued that legislation should extend the notion of 'good facilities and services' to health, transport and housing and not just employment issues. Anne urged members, through their branches, to press for a robust community safety strategy. Members were encouraged not to be passive about their entitlements and were reminded that the Human Rights Act does not extend to private nursing and residential homes.

PSPC

From the AGM Report, Hon. Secretary stated that our membership of the Public Services Pensioners' Council was giving support for the following on-going campaigns:

- The restoration of the Earnings Link for pensions;
- Protecting teachers from having to work until 68 years of age;
- Retaining occupational pensions for 60-year-olds.

RTA Website

From the AGM Report, Hon. Secretary stated that our website address had been registered and that material for the website would be welcome from Branch Secretaries and, indeed, any others at all.

Secretary

From the AGM Report, Hon. Secretary drew members' attention to the main areas which included:

- Keeping Branch secretaries' lists and membership files up to date;
- Consolidating our financial accounts;
- Representation at PSPC meetings;
- Providing equipment for AGM and Branch use.

Adoption of Reports

Gerry O'Loan proposed that all reports should be adopted. Sadie McClelland seconded this.

Appointment of Hon. Auditor

Robina Atkinson stated that Patricia Halliday had audited the accounts and that the records had been verified and reconciled accordingly. Eugene Magill proposed and Mabel Bill seconded that we should continue with Patricia Halliday. This was agreed unanimously.

Election of Officers

President, Robert Thompson first of all welcomed recent Hon. Sec. Oswald Jamison to the meeting and assured him of the esteem in which he was held for many years. Robert then reminded members that offices were now vacant and would be filled by nominations.

President	Robert Thompson	Not up for re-election	<i>Continuing</i>
Chairman	Robina Atkinson	Proposed by Des Rawlings Seconded by Bill Henry	<i>Re-elected</i>
Vice-Chair	Des Rawlings	Proposed by Robina Atkinson Seconded by J.W. Calderwood	<i>Elected</i>
Secretary	Brendan McGlone	Not up for re-election	<i>Continuing</i>

Robert informed members that the four co-opted Executive Representatives remained as;

Mary Marley	
Sandra Savage	
Ian Dixon	
Colm Lambe	<i>Continuing</i>

Fraternal Greetings

Frank Bunting, INTO, spoke of a new threat to teachers in that employers were beginning to use age as one of the factors in the redundancy procedure. He kindly offered the use of the INTO webmaster company to help develop and maintain the RTA website.

Kim Silkstone, Financial Solutions, encouraged members to be pro-active in ensuring proper financial planning and always to seek professional advice.

Stanley Poots, UTU, spoke of the debt that society owes to teachers and reminded members that teachers right across the UK were all facing the exact same issues and challenges in education.

Sally McKee, GTC, voiced the concern of many young, newly qualified teachers who were unable to secure employment but had future hopes for a guaranteed initial year following graduation.

Richard Adams, ATL, spoke of the challenges and opportunities presented by new areas of modern technology and stressed how important it is for education to keep up with these developments.

Eamon Quinn, DENI, apologised for the recent late delivery of pension cheques. He stated that this year there were 750 retirees and spoke of the various new avenues of retirement opening up. Eamon was presented with a token of RTA appreciation for the invaluable work he and his team carry out on our behalf.

Valerie McKee, Fergus Press, Ballyclare, was thanked for the work her company does in producing the AGM Report and was presented with a token of RTA appreciation.

Announcements

2008 AGM was set for Wednesday, 22nd October at the same venue, Corick House, Clogher.

AOB

Robina thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 12.55pm for lunch.