

RETIRED TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION NORTHERN IRELAND

Minutes of 76th Annual General Meeting Glenavon House Hotel, Cookstown, Co. Tyrone Wednesday, 17th October 2018 at 11.00am

Welcome

Chairperson, Sandra Savage welcomed guests and members and read apologies. Platinum Financial Planning Ltd., and Cornmarket Insurance for Teachers were thanked for sponsoring the tea/coffee & scones on arrival and the Ulster Tatler magazine for the photographs and publicity which would appear in the November 2018 edition.

Sandra particularly welcomed Alan Tolson and Jayne Grimason from Platinum Financial Planning Ltd., Belfast; David Canning OBE, Chair, General Teaching Council N.I.; Carney Cumper, President, Ulster Teachers' Union; Paddy McAllister, Chair, Northern Committee, Irish National Teachers' Organisation; Sandra E. Douglas from the National Educational Union and Annette Currie, ATL. Sandra informed members that Vice-Chair, Colm Lambe would be absent.

Chair also thanked the branches' secretariat for their hard work throughout the year and was delighted that all eleven branches had offered events and activities for their respective membership. She also expressed the desire that all branches would continue to build upon this success in the coming year.

Guests Present

Alan Tolson	Platinum Financial Planning Ltd., Belfast;
Jayne Grimason	Platinum Financial Planning Ltd., Belfast;
David Canning OBE	Chair, General Teaching Council N.I.;
Paddy McAllister	Chair, Northern Committee, Irish National Teachers' Organisation;
Carney Cumper	President, Ulster Teachers' Union;
Sandra E. Douglas	National Education Union;
Annette Currie	Past Officer, Association of Teachers and Lecturers.

Apologies

Linda Robinson	Chief Executive Officer, Age N.I.
Cathy McGovern	Cornmarket Insurance for Teachers, Belfast, sponsor tea/coffee & scones
Susan Parlour	National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers

Colm Lambe	Vice-Chair, Executive Committee
Renée McClelland	North-East
Sr. Anne McWilliams	North-East
Arlene Allen	Craigavon
Chris Wilson	North-West
Mary Kirkpatrick	North-West
Albert Nixon	Fermanagh
Isobel Nixon	Fermanagh
Ann Walsh	Fermanagh
Rosemary Rainey	Belfast
James Bell	North West
Mary Armstrong	Mid-Antrim
Ann Gardiner	Craigavon

& 20 further apologies by e-mail

2017 Minutes

The Minutes of the 75th AGM, held on Wednesday, 11th October 2017, already tabled, were taken as read. No matters were arising. The Executive Committee Report, Financial Report and Hon. Secretary's Report, already tabled, were taken as read. No matters were arising. Gerry O'Loan proposed and Mary Sands seconded the adoption of all reports. All reports were adopted.

Vice-Chair

President, Iris Clarke declared that because of health issues, Colm Lambe had, unfortunately, been unable to participate fully as Vice-Chair. Iris requested meeting to consider endorsing, for another year as a temporary measure, Mary Marley who was the Acting Vice-Chair in Colm's absence, and had also served as Chair between 2012 and 2014.

Eugene Magill and Robert Thompson both proposed Mary Marley for a further year in office as Vice-Chair. This was seconded by Isabel McKenna and unanimously agreed by meeting.

Alan Tolson

Chairperson, Sandra Savage welcomed Alan Tolson, Senior Financial Consultant, Platinum Financial Planning Ltd., Belfast.

Alan thanked RTA for the invitation to address the members.

He stated that his four areas of expertise were:

- Living in Retirement;
- Wealth Management;
- Inheritance Tax Planning;
- Protection Planning.

He would be focussing on the following in his address:

- About Platinum Financial Planning Limited;
- Wills & Enduring Power of Attorney;
- Equity Release;
- Residential Care;
- Inheritance Tax (IHT);
- Suitability of Investments;
- Inflation;
- Investment & Pension Scams.

Alan stated that Platinum Financial Planning Ltd. are Independent Financial Advisers and Wealth Managers as well as Teacher's Pension & Investment Specialists who provide dedicated, no-nonsense and impartial advice and are here to nurture their clients' Financial Future.

The company's mission statement would be to get their clients thinking about post-retirement issues and help them understand post-retirement finances with a view to offering a second opinion on existing arrangements.

Alan outlined a statistical fact that the number of people in the UK without a Will is at an all-time high of 70%, meaning that, following your passing away:

- Your estate will be distributed solely according to Intestacy Law (which may not reflect your wishes);
- The Court will appoint Administrators who will take responsibility for getting together all your assets and making sure all the debts are paid before distributing your estate;
- Your surviving spouse may not automatically inherit everything;
- If you and your partner were not married then your surviving partner has no right to inherit anything.

Alan stressed that if you die intestate, that is, without a Will, then:

- Your estate will be shared among your family according to strict divisions. It will not be possible to increase the benefit to one person or exclude another from benefiting without a Will;
- If you want control over who inherits your estate, then you need to have an up-to-date, professionally drafted Will which takes account of your wishes and also your personal and financial circumstances.

He added that although only 1% of people in N.I. have Power of Attorney in place, it is important because:

- It is a legal document enabling you to appoint one or more people to assist you in making financial decisions or to make financial decisions on your behalf;
- Giving someone this authority may be important if at some point in the future you find yourself in a position where you are unable to make decisions and run your affairs;
- Your appointed attorney must act in your best interests, which is particularly important when dealing with financial matters such as your property and other assets;
- Enduring Power of Attorney in NI lets someone manage all your financial affairs but not to manage decisions about your health and well-being.

There are two ways to set up an Enduring Power of Attorney:

- You can get the forms and guidance you need to create an Enduring Power of Attorney online;
- The more robust option is to contact your solicitor and obtain an up-to-date, professionally drafted Enduring Power of Attorney;
- Visit: <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/managing-your-affairs-and-enduring-power-attorney>.

What will help your loved ones after you're gone?

- Make a Will. A Will ensures that the people you want to inherit your estate do so;
- Write a list. Pull together all your personal and financial information into one simple document and tell someone where it is;
- Make a plan to pay for your funeral. Research shows that an average funeral costs £3,800;
- Have the difficult conversation with your loved ones. Starting the conversation may include talking about your funeral wishes or showing them where all your important documents are kept.

Alan explained Equity Release:

- Equity Release is releasing a portion of the wealth tied up in your property without having to sell it.
- Currently there are two main types:
 - Lifetime Mortgages made up on either a Roll Up or Interest Only Basis and
 - Home Reversion Plans.
- Taking out an Equity Release plan could leave your family with little or nothing to inherit so you need to be comfortable with this possible outcome and are obliged to discuss it before committing yourself.

How do I pay for Residential Care?

- Care homes will seek payment from three sources, in the following order:
 - Your Income. When you pay towards care home fees, you are allowed to keep £25.27 a week to spend as you want. Plus £5.75 a week savings credit if you are over 65. Any amount of income over this is used to pay care home fees;
 - Your Capital. Unless it has been disregarded for assessment purposes;
 - Your Property.
- If you have savings over £23,250 your local Health & Social Care Trust will assess you as being able to meet the full cost of care;
- The home is counted as capital 12 weeks after residential care starts, unless any of the following people still live there: husband, wife, partner, a close relative who is incapacitated or one under 16 whom you're legally obliged to support or possibly a carer.

Alan further discussed scams and explained how to contact his office for further information.

Sandra thanked Alan and presented him with an engraved Belfast Crystal plaque.

David Canning

Chairperson, Sandra Savage welcomed David Canning O.B.E., Chair, General Teaching Council N.I. David thanked RTA for the invitation.

The following points were addressed in his presentation:

- What would his answer be to teachers who asked what they get for their annual £44 registration fee?
- Does the GTC provide an adequate professional voice for teachers?
- Is the GTC self-funded and totally independent?
- Does its Mission Statement hold under scrutiny?
- Does the GTC protect the professional status of teachers in NI?
- Will self-regulation promote even higher professional standards?
- Are the standards we set out mature and capable enough to withstand examination?

David explained the workings and functioning of GTCNI added that he was delighted, as were the members of the teaching profession in NI, to have implemented the internal setting of our own qualifications and regulations.

Sandra thanked David and presented him with an engraved Belfast Crystal plaque.

Carney Cumper President, Ulster Teachers' Union, Carney Cumper, thanked the association for the invitation and stated that she has marked Monday 30th June 2025 on her calendar as the date she retires and joins RTANI.

The following points were addressed in her presentation:

- Teachers have been involved in industrial action over the last twenty months;
- The misuse of social media has led to significant bullying of pupils and teachers;
- Teachers are being harassed both in and out of school;
- Clear guidance on these issues is needed from the Education Authority;
- The Education Authority has been unsatisfactory in its approach to resolving the on-going dispute concerning teachers' pay and conditions.

Carney added that teachers never really retire from their profession and that we see the face of a child we once taught in the face of every adult.

Sandra thanked Carney and presented her with an engraved Belfast Crystal plaque.

Paddy McAllister Chair, Northern Committee, Irish National Teachers' Organisation, Paddy McAllister, thanks the association for the invitation and mentioned that he was currently seconded to INTO as he is Principal of Holy Rosary P.S. in Belfast.

The following points were addressed in his presentation:

- Since September, he has dealt with over 400 issues;
- There is a current deadlock in the pay and conditions dispute;
- Teachers' salaries have fallen by 15.9% over the recent few years;
- Directed time and the balance of pay and workload is the main cause for concern;
- The external pressure of ETI is largely unwelcome;
- Retirement pensions are now based on career-average rather than final-salary;
- There are wider issues of budget cuts which has created a financial crisis in schools, made worse by there being no Minister of Education in place.

Paddy, however, stated that the picture wasn't as black as the national and local media painted it and praised the teaching profession for continuing in the face of an overwhelming workload.

Sandra thanked Paddy and presented him with an engraved Belfast Crystal plaque.

Q & A Session Several questions, addressed to the four speakers in general, were taken from the floor. These included:

- The 7-year rule as it would be applied to Inheritance Tax;
- What happens to a spouse's on death of that spouse;
- Passing on the family home several years before a life-changing/limiting condition;
- Giving financial gifts to members of the family to escape care-home penalties;
- Parity of pay and conditions between Northern Ireland and the rest of the United Kingdom;
- The apparent switch from analogue banking, among other facilities and utilities, to a digital process which discriminates against older people.

Announcements There being no further business, the date for the 77th AGM and Annual Conference was set for Wednesday, 16th October 2019, at the Glenavon House Hotel, Cookstown.

Chairperson Sandra Savage duly closed the meeting for lunch at 12.50pm.