

RETIRED TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION NORTHERN IRELAND

Minutes of 81st Annual General Meeting Glenavon House Hotel, Cookstown, Co. Tyrone Wednesday, 11th October 2023 at 1.00pm

- Welcome* President, Iris Clarke, welcomed guests and members and read apologies from 19 members. She announced that 135 were present at today's AGM. The Ulster Tatler magazine was thanked for the publicity and photographs which would appear in their November 2023 edition. Iris also welcomed poet and author, Maureen Boyle; winner of The Voice UK, Andrea Begley; Lynelle Fenton, President, Ulster Teachers' Union; Caoimhín MacColaim, Chair, Northern Committee, Irish National Teachers' Organisation; retired principal and past-President UTU, Lexie Scott; John O'Brien Secretary Retired Teachers Association Ireland; well-known columnist and writer Malachi Doherty; and Sandra E. Douglas, past-President National Educational Union. Ronnie Strong kindly led us in Grace.
- Lunch* At 1.00pm, lunch, comprising Chicken Charlotte, Pavlova, and tea/coffee & biscuits, was served.
- AGM* At 2.25pm, President, Iris Clarke stated that there were elections this year for the positions of Chair and Vice-Chair. Iris outlined that the procedure involved calling for nominations from the floor which would be voted on by a simple show of hands by members present. There were no nominations from the floor for the position of Vice-Chair. Following the meeting, however, Hon. Sec., Brendan McGlone, was approached by Executive Member Liz Dempsey who kindly offered her own nomination for the position of Vice-Chair. Secretary gratefully accepted this nomination and looked forward to ratification at the next Executive Committee Meeting. There was one nomination for the position of Chair, from current Executive Committee Member, Mary Sands, which was seconded and ratified by the members present. Iris then installed Mary with the Chairperson's Chain of Office and wished her every success.
- UTU & INTO* Last Vice-Chair, Eugene Magill, invited Lynelle Fenton, President, Ulster Teachers' Union to address us briefly on current developments within the teaching profession. He then invited Caoimhín MacColaim, Chair, Northern Committee, Irish National Teachers' Organisation to address us briefly on current developments within the teaching profession. Eugene presented Lynelle and Caoimhín with engraved Belfast Crystal Plaques to mark the occasion.

Raconteurs Eugene invited poet and author, Maureen Boyle to entertain us with stories, songs and extracts from her various books. Later, guests had the opportunity to purchase copies of Maureen's latest publication 'The Last Spring of the World'.

Newly-elected Chair, Mary Sands, invited Andrea Begley, winner of The Voice UK, to entertain us with several songs from her repertoire. Andrea was ably accompanied on the electric piano by retired P.S. Principal, Damien Cullen.

A.O.B. There being no further business, Chairperson, Mary Sands announced that the date for the 82nd AGM & Get-Together Lunch was set for Wednesday, 9th October 2024, at the Glenavon House Hotel, Cookstown where, in addition to our regular speakers, the President of the UTU and Chair of the Northern Committee INTO, we would again hope to have light after-lunch entertainment.

Eight guests, who were winners of a ticket, randomly placed under their side-plates beforehand, were invited to collect their prize of a box of M&S shortbread biscuits.

Announcements Mary thanked the Executive Committee for organising the event, Ronnie Strong for leading us in Grace, the members themselves, their guests, representatives from INTO and UTU, and Maureen Boyle and Andrea Begley for their support and entertainment and hoped that everyone had an enjoyable and memorable day.