

# **RETIRED TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION NORTHERN IRELAND**

## **Minutes of 82<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting Glenavon House Hotel, Cookstown, Co. Tyrone Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> October 2024 at 1.00pm**

- Welcome* President, Iris Clarke, welcomed guests and members and read apologies from 11 members. She announced that 126 were present at today's AGM. The Ulster Tatler magazine was thanked for the publicity and photographs which would appear in their November 2024 edition. Iris also welcomed Geraldine McGowan, Chair, Northern Committee, Irish National Teachers Organisation; Leigh McKay, President, Ulster Teachers Union; Lexie Scott, Past President, Ulster Teachers Union; John O'Brien, General Secretary, Retired Teachers Association, Ireland, and our guest-speaker, Brian Rowan, esteemed journalist, political correspondent and author of several books, who was recently awarded a Doctorate from the Open University. Iris stated that there were no elections this year. On behalf of the Executive Committee and members, Iris presented Eugene Magill with an engraved Belfast Crystal Plaque in recognition of over twenty years' dedicated service to the association as Chair, Vice-Chair and Executive Committee Member.
- Lunch* Ronnie Strong kindly led us in Grace. At 1.00pm, lunch, Chicken Charlotte, Pavlova, tea/coffee & biscuits, was served. Complimentary copies of Brian Rowan's new publication, "Impossible Peace" were distributed immediately after the lunch. Everyone at the AGM received a copy.
- INTO & UTU* Executive Committee Member, Maureen Clements invited Geraldine McGowan, Chair, Northern Committee, Irish National Teachers' Organisation to address us briefly on current developments within the teaching profession. Maureen then invited Leigh McKay, President, Ulster Teachers Union, to address us briefly on current developments within the teaching profession. Chairperson, Mary Sands, thanked Geraldine and Leigh for their updates and presented them with engraved Belfast Crystal Plaques to mark the occasion.
- Brian Rowan* Chair, Mary Sands, invited Brian Rowan to address us. Brian's PowerPoint Presentation was facilitated by Kate Turner. Following a Question & Answer spot, Mary thanked Brian for his excellent address. He, in turn, thanked the association for the invitation and received an unprecedented standing ovation.
- A.O.B.* There being no further business, Chairperson, Mary Sands announced that the date for the 83<sup>rd</sup> AGM & Lunch was set for Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> October 2025.
- Announcements* Mary thanked Brian Rowan for his address and complimentary copies of his book, the Executive Committee for organising the event, Eugene Magill for his dedicated service of over twenty years to the association, Ronnie Strong for leading us in Grace, the members and their guests, representatives from INTO and UTU, John O'Brien, General Secretary, Retired Teachers Association, Ireland and hoped that everyone had an enjoyable and memorable day. The meeting closed at 3.50pm.