ICA News

Irish Countrywomen's Association ~ Bantracht na Tuaithe March 2018

Dear Members



Delighted to see so many of you attend the recent election rallies and by now the new voting papers, together with accompanying letter, will have reached your Guilds. Please use your democratic right to vote.

The Competitions Weekend will take place at An Grianan 6th-8th April and we wish all the competitors every success. Handcraft week takes place Monday, 9th to Friday, 13th April, this is where the serious crafters have their annual craftfest.

The Board and I wish you all a very Happy Easter.

Marie O'Toole

Marie O'Toole
National President

National ICA Prize Draw

Tickets, €5, prizes of €1000, €500 & €200. Proceeds will be divided between all Federations for trips to An Grianán. Draw will be held at National AGM in Athlone on 26th May 2018.

Tickets are being distributed as Promoters register. Pease return completed registration forms to An Grianán, Termonfeckin, Co Louth. Tel: 041 9822119

If you haven't registered, do it now! For more information contact, Helen Rutter, Regional President BMW, Tel 087 7741058.

International Women's Day 2018

The ICA way!



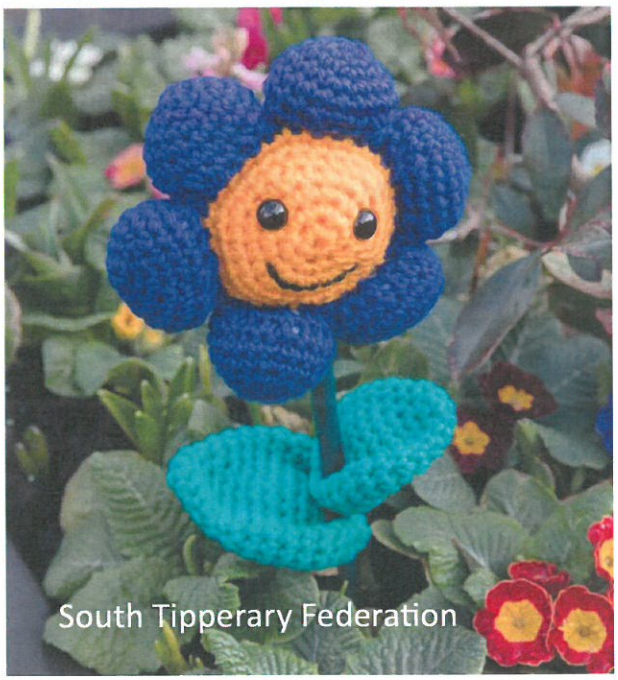
Clare Federation



Mayo Federation



Kerry Federation



South Tipperary Federation



Louth Federation



Central Office Open Morning with Dublin Federation

NCBI
Working for People with Sight Loss

THE NCBI AND ME

When I was diagnosed with Macular Degeneration I really felt that I was in a black hole and that my life had ended. However when I made contact with the NCBI in Limerick all that changed".

"They gave me confidence, hope, information and support and my attitude changed completely . I learned about all the gizmos and gadgets the NCBI has to make life easier and I have never looked back. It is now fifteen years since my diagnosis and I have to say I have managed very well. The NCBI is a fantastic resource and I shudder when I think of what life would be without it. The NCBI needs funds to continue its wonderful work and so I would really encourage the women of Ireland to get involved in this year's Women's Mini Marathon and raise what they can for the organisation. If you have a few hours to spare , ***volunteer*** for the charity, they really need your help. You never know when you might need them yourself".

Every day, as Ireland's national charity working for the rising numbers of people with sight loss, NCBI helps and supports people like Noreen.

Our practical and emotional advice and expertise helps 8,000 people and their families face their futures with confidence every year . We are there to help at all stages of the journey.

Did you know that sight loss is on the rise in Ireland?

Did you know that AMD (age-related macular degeneration) is the biggest cause of sight loss in the over 50's?

Did you know that most cases of sight loss are preventable?

For further information on NCBI's services please go to www.ncbi.ie

Why not also visit one of our 98 charity shops nationwide. Thank you for your support.

Noreen McDonagh...Limerick

Competition Corner

The National final of the Battenburg cake competition, sponsored by Gem Pack and the Creative Writing competition, sponsored by Competitions Committee, was held in An Grianan on 10th March last. Lillie Byrne, of Horace Plunkett guild, Meath Federation was the winner with Patricia Lavelle, Castlebar, guild, Mayo Federation 2nd and Roma Hennessy, Delgany guild, Wicklow Federation 3rd. There were 21 competitors with winners and all competitors receiving prizes of Paul Maloney pottery.

The six finalists in the Creative Writing competition read their stories and held us all spellbound. Mairead Moriarty, Mainistir na Feile guild, Limerick Federation was the winner with Margot Hennessy, Ballyloughan guild, Carlow Federation 2nd, and Adrienne Barlow-Small of Rathkeevin guild, South Tipperary 3rd. We will be publishing a Creative Writing Short Story Booklet, it will be on sale at the National AGM but all competitors will receive a complimentary booklet in the post. Gabriel McSharry, Chef Extraordinaire, provided a very professional cookery demo during the morning and certainly was a huge hit with all present. Results of Photography, Gael Linn, Art and Reporting should be ready for next issue.

The Table Quiz, Set Dancing and Choirs will be held in An Grianan on weekend 7/8th April. Could I encourage guild members to partake in the Set Dancing Competitions, thus allowing us to have a competition on Sunday morning 8th at 10.30am. Choirs will commence at 2pm also on Sun.8th and the Quiz will be held on Sat. 7th with 2pm starting time.

Remember to get your Tea Cosies, Coasters and Redwork Embroidered Wall Hangings to me ASAP, closing dates are in Competitions programme.

Breda Banville, Contests Secretary.

Operational Matters

Dear Members,
By way of an update, please note the following:

General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)
ICA members will be aware that the GDPR will come into effect on the 26th May 2018. Data Protection legislation already exists in Ireland, i.e. Data Protection Acts 1988 and 2003, and ICA already has obligations under these Acts. The new GDPR merely increases these organisational obligations.
I am enclosing a guideline "Preparing for the GDPR" and you might take a little time to read this document. ICA Central Office will be considered the Data Protection Controller and responsible for the organisation's obligations. Members will be considered to be compliant with the new Regulations once:

1. You are a fully paid-up member; and
2. Each member must operate within the ICA Constitution and ICA guidelines.

Two policy documents, namely Data Protection Policy and Privacy Policy, have now been posted in the Member's Area of the ICA website under General Documents and members should familiarise themselves with same.
http://www.ica.ie/Members-Area/General-Documents.579.1.aspx

ICA Property Register
The Property Register held in Central Office must be updated annually. Accordingly, I would ask each Guild to complete the Form which is included in this mailing and return to me – by email to operations@ica.ie or by post to Central Office, 58 Merrion Road, Dublin 4 or or before Wednesday, 25th April 2018.

Card Payment Machine
I am pleased to advise that a card payment machine is now installed in Central Office. I would urge all Federations and Guilds to obtain a bank debit / credit card in order to avail of this new service. This will make the payment of registration fees much more efficient.
It will also be an easier method of payment for those members who wish to buy books or purchase tickets, say for the Knit and Stitch Show, from Central Office.

Women's Mental Health – "Conversation" Groups
In conjunction with the NWCI, the ICA is holding the first "Conversation" group (8-10 people) on Women's Mental Health in Central Office on Wednesday, 11th April at 11.00am. There are a few places left to be filled so if anyone is interested in joining us on the 11th April, please let me know as soon as possible.
I have already asked our Federation Presidents to communicate this matter amongst their Guilds. If there is a keen interest, we could then organise a "Conversation" group in your county.

An ICA "Day at the Kilbeggan Races", Kilbeggan, Co Westmeath
We are pleased to announce that we will be having an ICA "Day at the Kilbeggan Races" commencing at 2.00pm on Sunday, 3rd June 2018. Kilbeggan Racecourse refers to this race meeting as its *Summer Sunday Festival* and it is very much a family-oriented day. This will be a great opportunity for members to get together to network and socialise. Hopefully, we can attract lots of new members on the day.
The Manager of Kilbeggan Racecourse has generously offered the ICA a Summer Party Pack which will include:
Cost of Admission is €20 per person for groups of 10 more (its real value is €28) and includes:
Free Racecard
€5 Food Voucher
€5 Drink Voucher
Booking details etc will be provided in the April mailing..

Members Benefits
We have added some new partners to our Members Benefits Programme.
If you are aware of a local business who would like to partner with the ICA, please send their contact details to Central Office and we will liaise with them.

Would you like to receive the ICA News / Mailing?
If so, please send your email address to admin@ica.ie.

Continued .....

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Social Media

We live in an age where everyone seems to be online so it is important that the ICA's brand is seen. A strong social media presence builds brand loyalty and social networking is a powerful communications and marketing tool. So please consider engaging on Twitter and Facebook. Twitter's strength is real time and, arguably, no other social platform comes close to it in terms of up-to-date news and events.

For those of our members who are not currently engaging on social media, I would encourage you to do so. Many of ICA members have Smart phones - it is very easy to access social media via Smart phones.

State Pension Campaign

We requested a meeting with the Minister to discuss how we might work together to address the injustice inflicted on the thousands of pensioners who have, and who will, lose out because of the 2012 cuts and who will not benefit from the Homecaring Credit.

I am pleased to advise that the Minister has agreed to meet with the ICA and others at the end of April 2018.

Loneliness Taskforce

ALONE, the charity that supports older people to age at home, has formed a Loneliness Taskforce in collaboration with Senator Keith Swanick. It aims to increase awareness of loneliness and social isolation in Irish society, and come up with recommendations for the Government, state agencies and policy makers on how to tackle this.

If any member would like to make a submission to the Loneliness Taskforce, you can do so by sending your submissions or suggestions via www.lonelinesstaskforce.com or by post to Senator Keith Swanick, Chair, Loneliness Taskforce, Seanad Eireann, Kildare Street, Dublin 2.

Please note that the closing date for submissions or suggestions is the 9th April 2018.

If you, our members, have any suggestions or ideas for an event or a campaign, please contact me in Central Office.

Happy Easter,

Grainne Ferris
Operations Manager

A TRIBUTE TO MABEL HAYES, RIP:

Mungret St Paul's guild in Limerick Federation regrets to announce the death of their beloved member Mabel Hayes at the age of 103 years on Friday 16th of March

Mabel was born in Wales in 1915 and qualified as nurse, she drove an ambulance in London during the 2nd World War and could tell many stories of those eventful times .She and her husband John Hayes made Limerick their family home some years after they married. They reared a wonderful family of seven daughters and two sons. Her family cared for her at her home until her death on March 16th.

Mabel was a proud ICA member for well over 60 years and had also been an active member of Country Markets. She grew and sold vegetables and flowers as well as baking for the markets. She saw this as an invaluable way of providing for her family.

Mabel was first a member of Limerick City guild and in 1969 she was approached by a local priest in Mungret Parish to form a guild in Mungret. Mabel took on the challenge and formed a very active guild. She became the guild's first president and served in many roles in the Guild over the years. The guild became known as Mungret /St Paul's in later years.

In 1977 she was elected Limerick Federation President and served in that position until 1980. She was instrumental in setting up some guilds in Limerick. She visited Aras An Uachtarain in 1995 on the 85th anniversary of the founding of the organisation. While she was Federation President she was nominated by the Minister of Health to the be one of the first non medical women appointed onto the Medical Council and served in that position for five years

She attended many of the ICA Centenary celebrations in 2010 and was very proud of the fact Limerick Lady Anne Marie Dennison was National President at that time. On a visit to Limerick in 2015 National President Liz Wall took time to visit her at her home to congratulate her on her 100th birthday.

Mabel was wonderful crafts person and was very generous in sharing her knowledge with other members. She had a great interest in the Craft section of Limerick Show and presented The Mabel Hayes Trophy for best overall adult baking which is still competed for. For many years she attended the Show to present the trophy in person.

In the past number of years she very kindly welcomed the guild to meet in her home. Mabel had her last meeting on March 6th, just two weeks ago. She was interested in all ICA activites and loved to read the National and Federation newsletters She is remembered with great warmth and affection by all ICA members in her guild and in Limerick Federation. Many members including Federation President Mary Moloney attended her funeral and provided a guard of honour.

Anne Gabbett
Guild Secretary Mungrett/ St Paul's

The Irish Countrywomen's Association Annual General Meeting

Date: Saturday, 26th May, 2018 **Time:** 10.30a.m. .
Venue: Athlone Springs Hotel, Co. Roscommon **Telephone: 090 6444444**

AGM 2018 Preliminary Agenda

Morning Session

* Meeting opened by President Marie O'Toole with Prayer & Verse of My Land
* Votes of Sympathy - Susan Potts, Chair of the NAC
* Welcome of Delegates by Monica Beegan - President of Roscommon Federation
* Adoption of Standing Orders - Mairéad O'Carroll, Chair of Procedures
* Minutes of AGM 2017 held in the Sheraton Hotel, Athlone 20th May, 2017
* Matters Arising
* Results of National Elections 2018 for President, Secretary, Treasurer and 4 Regional Presidents
* Report on Annual Accounts - National Treasurer, Mary MacNamara
  Adoption of Audited Accounts & Appointment of ICA Auditors
* Report of the National Executive Board - National Secretary, Shirley Power
  Adoption of NEB Report
* Report of the NAC by Chair of the NAC, Susan Potts
* Central Office Report – Operations Manager, Grainne Ferris
* An Grianán Report - Manager of An Grianán, Niamh Donegan
* Motions & Voting - Mairéad O'Carroll, Chair of Procedures
* Address by National President, Marie O'Toole
* Questions & Answers

Afternoon Session

* *Welcome Back*
  Welcome to the new the Incoming President
* Roll Call of Federations
* Incoming President – Presentation of Chain of Office & Incoming Speech
* Greetings from WI
* Report from the Competitions Committee (Wexford Federation)
* Raffle Results & Prizes
* Presentation of Oak Leaf to Outgoing President
* Vote of thanks & close of National AGM 2018

Accommodation Package

Athlone Springs Hotel, FREE PARKING

Friday 25th May
BB-Double/Twin €60 pps, Total €120
BB-Single €110

2 Night Package Fri 25th & Sat 26th May
including dinner €155pps or €265 Single

This offer is subject to availability and must be booked prior to 28th April 2018.

Lunch Can be booked on the day.

Main Course & Dessert with Tea & Coffee €16.95
Soup & Sandwiches, Tea & Coffee €9.95

IMPORTANT

ICA MEMBERSHIP YEAR

From 2019, the membership year will run from 1st January to 31st December each year. This change was ratified by the membership at the 2017 AGM in Athlone.

To implement this change there will be a transition period in 2018 when the annual membership fee from 31st May, 2018 to 31st December, 2018 will be €25 (7 months for the price of 6). After this period Annual Membership will run from the 1st January to the 31st December each year and the fee will resume to the annual amount of €50 (full year).

This change will not effect anything else. The Officers and committee members at National, Federation and Guild levels will be in office from AGM to AGM as it always was.

Your Guild Annual Report Form is included in this mailing. Contact your Federation Treasurer for additional forms.



Cavan Fedweration



Laois Federation





Most charities are constantly looking for help, for the past 3 years **Maynooth Guild** with friends have made what we call dignity bags. They consist of toiletries, socks, scarves etc for those who come into hostels from the street. In these pictures they are putting together 140 such bags for the Simon Community.



Longford promoting ICA at the St Patrick's Day Parade. They preformed a line dance at the viewing stand, and won best new entry in the parade. Well done to President Mary Carty, May Campbell, Ann Marie Casey, Anne Marie Edgely, Margaret OHara, Angela McKeon, Teresa Dooner, Anne Devlin, Ursula Burke, Kathleen Dowler and Olive Quinn



Three monthers with their daughters and National President Marie O'Toole at Friends of An Grianán



Ballyhooly:Back L to R Mary Murphy, Collette O'Keeffe Treasurer, Mary O 'Shea.. Front Left to Rgt ,Judy O Leary North Cork Vice President ,Shelia O Connor President, Eileen Fitzgerald , Theresa Tiernan Secretary

Cailin Selection, Cork Federation had a fantastic event in the Oriel House Hotel Ballincollig to select a cailin to represent Cork Federation at the Cork Heat of the Rose of Tralee in June . 15 girls represented 15 Guilds and entertained all with their stories ,wit and party pieces . Additional entertainment was by Champagne Cork and Ballinora Guild . The National President was the chair of the voting panel



First in National Creative Writing Competition ,Mairéad Moriarty, Mainistir na Féile Guild, Limerick Federation ICA with Marie O'Toole, National President and Deirdre Connery National Competition's Chairperson



Lilly Byrne from Horace Plunkett Guild, Meath Federation, winner of the Gem Pack baking competition at An Grianan.

Abbeyknockmoy Guild, Galway Federation



B/R Elizabeth Potter, Teresa Furey, Ann Fahy, Mary Curley, Phil Forde, Annette Murray, Brigid Langan, Phil Forde, Imelda Rushe, Patty O'Brien, Kathleen Rushe, Winnie Laheen. Front row : Elizabeth Curran. Mary Skehill (Hon Pres) Marian Geraghty (Hon Sec) Martha Dunne (Treasurer).

Abbeyknockmoy Guild has 16 members and had a very busy year. We have completed a Gardening course which was funded by GRETB, we learned about crop rotation and the benefit of sowing bee friendly plants. We also learned the importance of organic weed control and much more.

We participated in 121 Digital programme in our Local Archbishop McHale college, Tuam where the transition students taught us how to make better use our lap tops and smart phones etc, This was a one to one training which was done in an easy and friendly manner. Our members found it so helpful and beneficial.

For further information contact fintan.mulligan@121digital.ie

Members also attended An Grianan and enjoyed Leisure time and Arts and Crafts. We have gone on days out shopping to Dublin and Athlone. We also attended cluster meeting in our group and attend our local Galway Federation meetings. Other interests and hobbies include knitting, crochet, patchwork, bridge and baking.

We love our time together where we share good times and support each other in the bad times.