



ICA News

Irish Countrywomen's Association ~ Bantracht na Tuaithe February 2020

Dear Members,

It is time to think about the AGM for 2020. It seems like it has come around very quickly.

Annual Report

Firstly let me remind all Guilds that in the last mailing you received a copy of a form that we asked all Guilds to complete and return to Central Office with information about all the work and activities that you have undertaken in the last year. This information is used to compile the Annual Report. It would be most appreciated if you could return it before **Monday 2nd March**. If you require a new form you can find it in the Member's Area of the website or you can call Central Office on 01 6680002 to request one.



AGM

Also in this mailing is the draft agenda for the AGM to be held in my home county of Galway on Saturday 23rd May in the Galway Bay Hotel. More information about the accommodation packages is to be found overleaf. Please book your accommodation directly with the hotel by calling **091 520520**.

Garden Party

Time is flying that fast that we are now only 4 months away from the Garden Party which will take place in An Grianán on Friday June 26th June. Tickets for the Garden Party cost €60 and bookings for this and the accommodation packages are now being taken. Please contact An Grianán on 041 9822119.

Yours in friendship and fellowship,



National President ICA.



Irish Countrywomen's Association
Bantracht na Tuaithe

Preliminary Agenda

Annual General Meeting

Galway Bay Hotel, Salthill, Galway

Saturday – 23rd May 2020 at 10.30am

Morning Session – Chaired by National President Josephine Helly

Welcome by National President Josephine Helly

Prayer and verse of My Land

Welcome by President of Galway Federation Carmel Garrett

Votes of Sympathy

Adoption of Standing Orders by Chair of Procedures Committee June Lawless

Minutes of AGM 2019 held in Midlands Park Hotel Portlaoise on 23rd November 2019

Matters Arising on the Minutes

Report on Annual Accounts by National Treasurer Helen Rutter

Matters Arising of the Annual Accounts 2019

Adoption of Audited Accounts 2019

Appointment of ICA Auditors

Annual Report of National Executive Board by National Secretary Eleanor Calnan

Adoption of NEB Annual Report

Motions & Voting by Chair of Procedures Committee June Lawless

Address by National President Josephine Helly

Afternoon Session – Chaired by Chair of the National Advisory Committee Hilda Roche

Welcome back by National President Josephine Helly

Roll Call of Federations

Reports by Regional Presidents

Reports by Chairs of Arts, Produce, Crafts and Contests Committees

Presentation of Competition Prizes

Raffle Results

Vote of thanks and closing remarks by National President Josephine Helly

Close of AGM



AGM SATURDAY 23RD MAY 2020 GALWAY BAY HOTEL

Accommodation packages:

Friday 22nd May and/or Saturday 23rd May 2020

Rate of €177 per single room per night Bed & Breakfast

Rate of €92 per person sharing per night Bed & Breakfast

Rate of €211 per single room per night Dinner, Bed & Breakfast

Rate of €126 per person sharing per night Dinner, Bed & Breakfast

Two-night package: (Friday & Saturday)

€207 per person sharing for 2 nights Bed & Breakfast and 1 Dinner

€360 per single room for 2 nights Bed & Breakfast and 1 Dinner.

Lunch on the day:

Soup and Sandwiches with Tea/Coffee @ €13.50

Main Course, dessert with Tea / Coffee @ € 26.95

Please call the Galway Bay Hotel directly on **091 520520** to book your accommodation.

Parking: Above ground and underground parking available free of charge.

MOTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION AT AGM 2020

BALLYMUN GUILD DUBLIN FEDERATION

Motion No. 1

That the ICA Constitution be amended at Clause 60 by deletion of Sub-Clause 60(g):

~~(g) The outgoing National President for a period of one year immediately following completion of her term of office as National President as a non-voting / non-executive member.~~

Amended Clause 60 – Structure of National Executive Board

“The National Executive Board shall consist of in accordance with clause 64 below”

Motion No. 2

That the ICA Constitution be amended at Clause 75 to provide for the appointment of a Vice-Chairperson of the National Advisory Committee and consequent amendment of the related Clause 77.

Clause 75 to be amended by:

insertion after the words “*Chairperson of the National Advisory Committee*” in the title to Clause 75 and in Sub-Clauses 75(a), 75(b), 75(d) and 75(e) the words
“and Vice-Chairperson of the National Advisory Committee”.

Amended Clause 75 - Chairperson of the National Advisory Committee and Vice-Chairperson of the National Advisory Committee.

- (a) The National Advisory Committee shall elect at its June meeting each year from among the Federation Presidents a Chairperson of the National Advisory Committee and a Vice-Chairperson of the National Advisory Committee, whose terms of office shall commence as and from the conclusion of the meeting of the National Advisory Committee.
- (b) The term of office of the Chairperson of the National Advisory Committee and Vice-Chairperson of the National Advisory Committee shall be one year.
- (c) [as is]

MOTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION AT AGM 2020

Motion No. 2 continued

(d) The Chairperson of the National Advisory Committee and the Vice-Chairperson of the National Advisory Committee elected at the June Meeting of the National Advisory Committee shall serve until the next June meeting of the National Advisory Committee, and shall be eligible to stand for re-election in accordance with this clause.

(e) [as is]

Clause 77 to be amended by:

replacing the words “*National President*” with the words “*Vice-Chairperson of the National Advisory Committee*”

Amended Clause 77 - Chairperson of Meetings

The Chairperson of the National Advisory Committee shall preside as Chairperson of all meeting of the National Advisory Committee and in her absence the Vice-Chairperson of the National Advisory Committee shall preside, or if neither is present another member of the National Advisory Committee elected from those present may act as Chairperson. The Chairperson shall be entitled to vote and in the event of an equality of votes shall have a casting vote at all meetings of the National Advisory Committee.

BARNA GUILD GALWAY FEDERATION

Proposals from Barna Guild Galway Federation 14th February 2020.

Motion No. 1

We propose that the ICA increase the age for Members from 16 years to 18 years.

Motion No. 2

We propose that the ICA as a concerned National Organisation of almost 8,000 members support the fight against global warming and climate change in the following way:

- (a) Contact retail outlets, food producers and distributors to request that they introduce plastic-free, compostable containers.**
- (b) Lobby our politicians to introduce a plastic bottle levy.**

MOTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION AT AGM 2020

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD MOTIONS

Motion No. 1. Section IV – Guilds, pages 6 - 13

That the ICA Constitution be amended at Clauses 09, 10, 11, 14, 17 to give Guilds the flexibility to structure the Guild Committee to suit their own circumstances using as guidance the information contained in the ICA Handbook; to remove prescriptive clauses from the Constitution (and transfer it to the Handbook) to allow Guilds more autonomy with fewer Constitutional rules to adhere to, and to streamline Guild registration under the remit of the National Representative Body (NAC) and not the National Executive Board as at present. This motion will become effective immediately upon its adoption by the AGM.

Constitutional Amendments arising from adoption of this Motion:

Clauses 09 (b), Clause 09 (c), 09 (d): Delete the words “National Executive Board” where they occur and insert in their place the words “*National Representative Body*” (currently referred to as the National Advisory Committee).

Clause 11 (c) iv: Delete the current wording in its entirety and insert in their place the words “*election of Officers and Committee Members for the following twelve months.*”

Clause 11 (c) vi: Delete in its entirety.

Clause 14: Delete the wording in its entirety and insert in their place the words “*The Guild Committee shall consist of Officers and Committee Members as the Guild deems required for the effective running of the Guild and its activities.*”

Clause 17 (a): Delete the words “The election of the Guild President and Guild Vice President from among those nominated shall be by secret ballot of the members “ and insert in their place the words “*The election of the Guild Officers from among those nominated shall in a manner decided by the Guild members. Officers so elected are eligible to stand for election at the end of their term of office, with the exception that no person may serve as an officer for a period exceeding six consecutive years. Guild members will consult the ICA Handbook for guidance*”.

MOTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION AT AGM 2020

Motion No. 2 Section VIII - National Advisory Committee, pages 30 - 33

That the ICA Constitution be amended at Section VIII, and Clauses 72, 74, 75, 77, 78, 79 to change the name and role of the National Advisory Committee in order to strengthen and make clear its representative role on behalf of ICA members generally, and to provide for it to assume a central role within ICA in formulating policies and undertaking activities on behalf of the members. The National Advisory Committee to be renamed the National Representative Body. If this Motion is passed by AGM 2020 it will come into effect at AGM 2021 in its entirety.

Constitutional Amendments arising from adoption of this Motion:

The ICA Constitution to be generally amended by deleting the words National Advisory Committee wherever they occur and inserting in their place the words *"National Representative Body"*.

Clause VIII Title, page 30, Delete the title "National Advisory Committee" and insert in their place the words *"National Representative Body."*

Clause 72 (a) Delete the wording "the advisory body to the National Executive Board between Annual General Meetings, and shall be consulted by the National Executive Board on policy, strategy and the general development of the Association" and insert in their place the words *"Is the primary body representing the members between Annual General Meetings and will consult and direct the Board with regard to policy and activities directed towards members, and on strategy and the general development of the Association"*

Clause 74(a) Delete the wording in its entirety and insert in their place the words *"The National Representative Body shall meet at least six times in each year- and at any other time(s) as it shall determine or at the request of at least 75% of the members of the National Representative Body."*

Clause 75(a) Delete the wording in its entirety and insert in their place the words *"The National President shall be the Chairperson of the National Representative Body and shall take up this role from the date of her election until completion of her term of office"*.

Clauses 75(b), 75(c), 75(d), 75(e): delete in their entirety

Clause 77. Chairperson of Meetings: Delete the wording in its entirety and insert in their place the words *"The National President shall preside as Chairperson of all meetings of the National Representative Body and in her absence the Representative of the Federation Presidents shall preside, or if neither is present another member of the National Representative Body elected from among those present may act as Chairperson. The Chairperson of the National Representative Committee shall be entitled to vote and in the event of an equality of votes shall have a casting vote at all meetings of the National Representative Body"*.

Clause 78: delete in its entirety.

Clause 79: Delete the words "shall be fifteen members which must include" and insert in their place the words *"shall be one third of the number of members of the National Representative Body plus one"*

Clause 79(a), 79(b): delete in their entirety.

Clause 80. Remuneration: delete in its entirety.

MOTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION AT AGM 2020

Motion No. 3 Section VII - National Executive Board, pages 24 - 30

That the ICA Constitution be amended at Section VII and Clauses 60, 62 & 64. This will provide for a change in the Structure of the NEB by reducing the number of Directors overall and allowing for a representative of the Federation Presidents to be a Director. This amendment will also facilitate the co-option of Directors, as required, up to a limit of two from among ICA members who possess skills deemed necessary for the good governance of ICA. It will also shorten the election process.

The National Executive Board is a Company Board in Law and its name should be changed from National Executive Board to The ICA Board. In law, the Board does not have a representative function and should select the skills it requires. If this Motion is passed by AGM 2020 it will come into effect at AGM 2021 in its entirety.

Constitutional Amendments passed by adopting this Motion:

The ICA Constitution to be generally amended by deleting the words "National Executive Board" wherever they occur and inserting in their place the words "ICA Board".

Clause 60 (f): Delete the wording of clause 60(f) in its entirety and insert the words *"Up to two Directors co-opted from among ICA members, who possess skills deemed conducive at that time to the good governance of ICA."*

Clause 60(d): Delete the wording of Clause 60(d) in its entirety and insert in its place the words *"A representative of the Federation Presidents, elected by them from among their number."*

Clause 60(g): delete in its entirety

Clause 61 (d): Delete the words "90 days in advance of the Annual General Meeting, and details of all nominations shall be furnished to all Guilds at least 60 days in advance" and insert the words *"60 days in advance of the Annual General Meeting, and details of all nominations shall be furnished to all Guilds at least 45 days in advance"*

Clause 61 (f): Delete the words "not later than 30 days" and insert the words *"not later than 10 working days"*

Clause 62: delete in its entirety (see motion 2 to amend Clause VIII –The National Advisory Committee)

Clause 64: delete in its entirety

Clause 69: Delete the words "Chairperson of the National Advisory Committee" and insert in their place the words *"Representative of the Federation Presidents"*

Clause 70: Delete the wording in its entirety and insert the wording *"The quorum for a meeting of the ICA Board shall be one third of the number of board members at that time plus one."*

Clause 71: Inserting the word "solely" so that the clause reads *"No member of the ICA Board shall be entitled to receive any remuneration solely for serving in such a capacity"*

Appendix : Amended Clause 60 Structure of ICA Board.

The ICA Board shall consist of up to 10 members to include the Honorary Officers of the Association, namely:

The National President;

The National Secretary;

The National Treasurer; and

The Representative of the Federation Presidents, together with:

Four Regional Presidents; and

Up to two Directors co-opted from among ICA members, who possess skills deemed conducive at that time to the good governance of ICA.