

**SOCIAL CARE ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND CLG
MEETING OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

HELD VIA ZOOM

ON FRIDAY, 18TH SEPTEMBER 2020 AT 2.30 PM

PRESENT: David Durney (IASCM SIG) (DD) (*Chairperson*)
Carlos Kelly (IASCM SIG) (CK)
Paula Byrne (IASCW WAG) (PB)
Fiona Murray (FM)
Leon Ledwidge (IASCW WAG) (LL)
Louis O'Moore (LO'M)
Teresa Brown (TB)
Toby Haslam Hopwood (THH)
Noreen Dunne (ND)
Christine Barretto (CBa)
Martin Power (MP)

IN ATTENDANCE: Charlotte Burke – CPD Coordinator (CB)
Suzanne Hannon – Secretary (SH)
Claire Colfer - L&P Trustee Services Limited as Company Secretary

1. WELCOME, QUORUM AND APOLOGIES

In accordance with Regulation 38.2 of the Constitution of the Company, DD chaired the meeting and declared that there was a quorum present.

2. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of conflicts of interest.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on 9th May 2019 had been circulated in advance of the meeting and were taken as read. On the proposal of the CK, seconded by CBa, the Minutes were **APPROVED** as a true record of the meeting and the Chairperson was authorised to sign same in due course.

4. OPENING ADDRESS

The Chairperson welcomed everyone to the meeting. It was noted that it had been an interesting and challenging year due to the COVID-19 crisis and the following points were highlighted and noted:

- Particular thanks were extended to the Board who had continued to work and meet virtually throughout the lockdown. It was noted that CK and JW were

stepping down from their roles as Directors and the Chairperson thanked them for all of their time and commitment to the organisation.

- Thanks were also extended to all the Working Groups and Significant Interest Groups for all their hard work throughout the last year.
- CB, CPD Co-Ordinator was thanked her for her creative efforts in her role and her continued promotion of the agenda of Social Care Ireland.
- Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the 2020 Annual Conference had been cancelled. An Annual Conference had been scheduled for 2021, however in light of ongoing COVID-19 restrictions the matter would be reviewed by the Conference Committee shortly.
- The Chairperson noted that Social Care Workers are generally very creative people and he was confident that they would continue to find creative ways of managing the challenges of the next few months. He noted that people tend to forget that essential workers also include Social Care Workers, as the work that they do in the community on a day to day basis is essential. This is something that needs to be acknowledged, not just by Social Care Ireland but more widely.
- The Chairperson reported that the Annual Report to the Charities Regulator Authority had been submitted the previous day. He expressed thanks to SH, for all of her assistance and support, particularly in ensuring that the ongoing compliance with the Charities Regulator and various regulatory legal requirements was maintained.

LO'M as Chair of the IASCM SIG gave a report to the meeting and the following was noted:

- it had been a busy and productive year despite the challenges with quarterly meetings being maintained through Zoom and Teams.
- They had continued to have a wide inclusive representation of management professionals on the Committee.
- Garda Vetting was going very well and there had been an increase in applications due to a number of new affiliates coming on board and also with organisations ramping up for the anticipated introduction of Section 20 of the Vulnerable Persons Act.
- There had been a reduction in the number of Training Grant applications received due to COVID-19 and although they were starting to come in again for various online courses there were still a number of grants available that people were encouraged to apply for.
- It was noted that some funds had been ring-fenced to hold an event for social care professionals and it was not yet certain what format this event would take.
- It was noted that the Group still sits on the HIQA Advisory Group. The Group will continue to advocate and represent the views of managers throughout the coming year.

PB as Chair of the IASCW WAG gave a report to the meeting and the following was noted:

- It was noted that there was excellent work ongoing with the Advisory Group and the two Special Interest Groups i.e. the Disability and CAMHS Groups despite the challenges of COVID-19, with Groups continuing to meet and work through Zoom.

- They were currently looking at a number of issues impacting on workers and were now focusing on how to capture that and to support that. Work on this is ongoing with a meeting scheduled for next week.
- It was noted that the Group had had some new members however it had lost some long-standing members and the Group was always looking for new members.
- It was noted that both Special Interest Groups had had successfully conferences at the end of last year.
- It was further noted that the Group was still represented on the HIQA Steering Group on Safeguarding for Vulnerable Adults.

The Chairperson noted the importance and value that the various Groups attached to Social Care Ireland had in continuing the work of the organization.

6. TO APPOINT DIRECTORS IN PLACE OF THOSE RETIRING

It was noted that three Directors were due to retire in November and the process had been ongoing over the last few weeks with regard to nominations and elections of their replacements. The Chairperson reported the result of those elections as follows:

- (i) Paula Byrne had been elected to continue for a further term of office.
- (ii) Louis O'Moore had been elected to fill the position held by Carlos Kelly
- (iii) Emmet Tuite had been elected to fill the position held by Jim Walsh.

It was noted that these new terms of office would commence in November 2020.

7. TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2019 AND A REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS AND AUDITORS THEREON

The Financial Statements were presented to the meeting by CK and the following points were noted:

- A lot of work had been done throughout the year in bedding down important systems and developing guidance and policies to build in an oversight on accountability
- CK commended the work of his fellow Finance Committee members CB and CBa who had put in a lot of work in ensuring that there were very robust systems in place. All the accounts are managed on-line by CB.
- The assistance of the Auditors Greely & Co. was acknowledged.
- Overall it had been a good year financially. The organisation had come into 2019 with a deficit of approximately €4,500.00 and ended up with a surplus of approximately €6,800.00.
- The financial activity had been very similar to the previous year, although it was noted that the conference had been more financially successful than previous years.
- It was noted that they had received funding from the National Health and Social Care Professions Office for CPD for the next twelve months and a meeting would soon be taking place with the Health and Social Care Unit of the HSE to see what funding would be available over the next 12 to 24 months.

- It was noted that an abridged version of the accounts would be published on the website. Members were invited to submit any further queries that they may have in relation to the accounts to DD.

7. TO REAPPOINT THE COMPANY'S AUDITORS AND TO AUTHORISE THE DIRECTORS TO DETERMINE THEIR REMUNERATION

On the proposal of DD, seconded by CK, it was unanimously resolved to reappoint Greely & Co as Company Auditors and the Directors were duly authorised to determine their remuneration.

8. Q&A AND CLOSING REMARKS

It was noted that CB had been updating the website with details of upcoming events with regard to CPD. CB thanked those who had contributed videos over the last few months which had been appreciated by their members.

It was noted that as the on-line training facilitators were covered by the HSE grant, it may be possible to allow members of SIGs to access these trainings and members were asked to circulate out information on any upcoming trainings to the members of those Groups. It was noted generally that various on-line CPD options including virtual classrooms and webinars were being examined at the moment.

It was noted that the training needs analysis would be very important in the context of looking for funding for next year and this would be sent around shortly. Members were also encouraged to apply for the various training grants which were available.

The Chairperson noted that it would be a difficult few months ahead and it would be very important to ensure that the organization continued to promote the work of social care workers and provide as much support as possible to them.

The Chairperson thanked those present for attending the meeting.

9. AOB

There was no AOB.

There being no further business the meeting then concluded.

SIGNED: _____
CHAIRPERSON

DATE: _____