



“Camaraderie Through Service”

2019 Annual General Meeting

The Association's 25th AGM took place in McKee Barracks, Dublin on 04 October, with the kind permission of the military authorities. The draft minutes will be circulated, in due course.

Reports

Reports were presented by the President: Brig Gen Paul Pakenham (Retd), the Hon Secretary: Lt Col Joe Ahern (Retd), the Hon Treasurer: Lt Col Richard Cummins (Retd) and the Hon Membership Secretary: Col Richard Heaslip (Retd). All reports, included the audited accounts for the period ended 31 July 2019, were unanimously adopted.

Appointments

October 2019 – September 2020	
Officers	
President	Brig Gen Paul Pakenham
Vice President	Col George Kerton
Honorary Secretary	Lt Col Joe Ahern
Honorary Treasurer	Lt Col Richard Cummins
Honorary Membership Secretary	Col Richard Heaslip
Immediate Past President	Cmdr Gerry O'Flynn (NS)
Regional Representatives	
Eastern Region	Col George Kerton & Comdt Billy Campbell
Southern Region	Col William Harrington & Lt Col Michael Baston
Western Region	Brig Gen Gerry McNamara & Col Senan Downes
Curragh Region	Col Con McNamara & Lt Col Seamus Rouine
Naval Service Region	Cmdr Gerry Flynn (NS) & Capt David Berry (NS)
Air Corps Region	Brig Gen Paul Fry & Capt Ray Bonar



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Comdt Pat Casey (Retd) was elected as Hon Auditor, and Col Bill Nott (Retd), Comdt Pat Godfry (Retd) and Comdt Ray Murphy (Retd) were duly elected as Trustees. Pursuant to paragraph 16 of the Association’s Rules, the incoming EXCOM will co-opt members to perform the following specific functions:

- Representative on the Executive Committee of the Board of DF Benevolent Fund: Brig Gen Liam McNamee (Retd),
- Representative on CAOGA’s Board of Management: Lt Col Sean Scanlon (Retd), and
- Editor of ARCO’s Newsletter: Col Declan Carbery (Retd).
- The EXCOM is exploring two possible new appointments: a Public Relations Officer & a Communications and Social Media Officer.

Executive Committee Motions

Arising from the 2018 AGM, the EXCOM revisited the Tenure of Office of Officers and Elective Representatives. In parallel, following a review of ARCO’s prescribed objectives, the EXCOM drafted an Aim and revised objectives for the Association. In addition, the EXCOM conducted a financial analysis resulting in a proposal to recommend an increase in the annual subscription. These motions were duly endorsed by the EXCOM on 08 August and circulated by post to the membership. The following motions were unanimously adopted:

Motion 1 – Aim and Objectives: *Within ARCO’s Rules, insert a new Rule 2A titled Aim, and replace the existing Rule 2 titled Objectives, with new Rule 2 titled Objectives.*

Motion 2 – Subscription: *The annual subscription will be increased by €5 from €25 to €30.*

Motion 3 – Tenure of Office: *Within ARCO’s Rules, delete the final sub paragraph in Rule 13 and insert a new Rule 14A titled Tenure of Office.*

Aim and Revised Objectives

Arising from a comprehensive review of the existing objectives, which took place during the months of June and July, the EXCOM endorsed the proposed Aim and revised Objectives at its August meeting.

Building on its ethos, values and accomplishments, and with a willingness to change, the Aim and revised Objectives allow ARCO to substantially change its posture, whilst remaining representative, relevant, and viable, in order to safeguard its future.



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The Internal and External Objectives which are progressive in nature, retain the centre of gravity of the Association, namely protecting the memberships’ interests and quality of life, whilst formalising outputs such as monitoring change, provision of advice, communications, external interfaces, networking, professional excellence, and an advocate for Óglaigh na hÉireann.

Rules

The Rules now incorporate a new paragraph 2A Aims, an amended paragraph 2 Objectives, and a new paragraph 14A Tenure of Office, as adopted by the 25th AGM convened in McKee Barracks, on 04 October 2019.

Any Other Business

Colonel Bill Gibson (Retd) updated the attendees on his experiences with the subject of Foreign Births Registration.

President’s Closing Remarks

Serving the Defence Community for 25 years, ARCO’s priorities derive from its specified objectives as prescribed in the Association’s Rules. In the coming 12 months, the EXCOM’s focus will be on the following six issues:

- Addressing the implementation of the aim and objectives adopted during its 2019 AGM,
- Actively engaged with the Alliance of Retired Public Servants in advancing the repeal of FEMPI legislation, pension parity and negotiation rights for public servants,
- Extending its membership base,
- Advancing the Combined Veterans’ Strategy along with ONE and IUNVA,
- Reviewing its existing Rules which were adopted in 2013, and
- Preparing a framework for the elaboration of a Veterans’ Policy.

Finally, the President encouraged all Members to maintain a practical and positive interest in advancing ARCO’s ethos and objectives, thereby promoting, safeguarding and protecting the interests of members, and spouses or civil partners of deceased members.

Lunch

Following the AGM, the EXCOM hosted a lunch in the Officers’ Mess for the attendees and invited guests which included the Assistant Chief of Staff: Brig Gen Peter Halloran, OC DFHQ Officers’ Mess: Col Matthew Byrne, Fr Séamus Madigan HCF, and representatives of RACO,



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PDFORRA, IUNVA, ONE and the Alliance of Retired Public Servants. Brig Gen O'Halloran addressed the attendees, covering a wide range of Defence Forces issues.

End



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Proposal Motion 1: Aim and Objectives – Paul Pakenham

Proposal Motion 2: Subscriptions – Richard Cummins

The ARCO Excom took the decision to seek an increase in the annual subscription paid by members following a review of our finances over the past nine years. What that review showed us is that there has been a gradual increase in costs over that period, due in part to the activities of ARCO but also due to costs beyond our control. During the period ARCO has carried out a survey of its members, introduced a texting service, completely revamped its website and this is due another revamp in the period ahead, rented an office that obliges us to pay rent and insurance, taken out directors insurance. Major expenditures were the purchase of poniards for the Cadet School and the Air Corps Flying School to be presented to the winners of the ARCO sword in both these institutions on commissioning as keepsakes. These will be recurring costs in the future and the next tranche will have to be purchased for the Cadet School in 2026 and for the Air Corps in 2031 at a cost in the region of £500 per poniard. The same applies to the purchase of telescopes for the best Naval cadets. Costs beyond our control include postage where cost of posting one edition of the newsletter have almost doubled rising from £475 in 2012 to £845 in 2018. AGM costs have risen steadily during the period from £1,329 in 2013 to £1,852 in 2018. As ARCO continues to expand its activities and run events there will be an increased draw on money. While this year may show a healthy income over expenditure situation, due to only issuing one copy of the newsletter in the period and reduced donations, ARCO has had an excess of expenditure over income in two of the last five years. The Excom therefore believe it is now prudent to look for a small increase in the annual subscription from £25 to £30 to take effect at the start of the next financial year on the 1st August 2020. I therefore propose that we increase the annual subscription by £5.

Proposal Motion 3: Tenure of Office – George Kerton