

# Council *Chamber*

by B Colvert

The supreme authority in Section Ireland is National Council; every third year it is titled National Congress and at that meeting elections to office take place and any proposed Rule changes are debated and finalised. Ireland has eleven Regions which send Delegates who with the current members of the Executive conduct the business of the Association. The meeting is also attended by non voting Observers who may perform various tasks as tellers or join in the workshops.



Andrew Curtin, Phyllis Nolan, Declan Healy, Neil Casley, Patricia Davey



P Ryan, M Devine, P McCabe, Tony O'halloran

Whilst all the formal duties are carried out the occasion is also very sociable; friends who meet may not have done so for the past 12 months. The exchange of ideas, the recounting of successes and the proposal of new challenges is really the life of the Association.

Each member of the Executive Committee and the Leader of each Region steps up to the lectern to render an account of stewardship; this year the delivery was enhanced by power-point presentation. Here are some of the interesting announcements.

- (1) President reported the publication of an IPA calendar in 2008; he also described the new A.3, laminated, promotion poster.
- (2) Secretary General reported nine meetings of the NEC and the half yearly meeting attended by the Chairmen & secretaries of eleven Regions. He advocated greater use of 'IPA notice boards'.
- (3) Treasurer described income and expenditure; he also described the wealth of real estate in possession of the Section.
- (4) Chairman of Social Commission outlined the workload borne by his committee and paid tribute to Garda Joe O'Donoghue, Ennistymon for securing a great venue for National Congress in 2009.
- (5) Travel Secretary reported a busy year and named the winners of the 'FRIENDSHIP



Eamonn McCarthy, Eugene O'Connor,  
Noel Power, Ann Liston



Seán Brennan, John Reilly, Joe O'Donoghue



Eamonn Breslin, Gerry Tiernan, Pat Niland, Tom Duffy

DRAW' for a trip to Moscow & St Petersburg in September 2008.

(Maurice Sheridan, Dun Laoghaire; Patrick Ambrose, Garda H Q; Ronan O'Grady, Monaghan; Anthony Fagan, Dun Laoghaire; Louise McGloughlin, Douglas, Co Cork)

- (6) Ass't Social Secretary represented Ireland in Warsaw and also was Observer in Balaton, Hungary; he administered the Sean O'Colmáin Scholarship.
- (7) Social Secretary presided over the Council arrangements and ran the golf and 5-aside competitions.
- (8) House Secretary administered properties in Dublin, Galway, Cork, Killarney, Sligo & Wexford. His must be the widest portfolio.
- (9) Chairman Cultural Commission supervises publications, supplies and hobbies; if that did not use up all his spare time he also administers the Gimborn Scholarships each year.
- (10) Editor described the co-operation received from contributors all over Ireland and in USA and New Zealand; with two new columns, gardening and pets.
- (11) Hobbies Secretary works in a rapidly expanding area of interest and with the complexities of IT there is never a dull moment
- (12) Supplies Secretary always has a busy year with delivery of retirement statuettes throughout the Section. This year there is also a new gift exchange souvenir mainly for international events
- (13) Ass't Secretary General described the progress in provision of a website and also of

the IPA Calendar 2008

(14) Development Secretary described the methods used to organise dormant Branches.

(15) The Enrolment Secretary made little of her duties; one can only gasp at the volume of work she performs

(16) Region One entertained so many foreign guests that it must resemble a perpetual meeting of the United Nations; it takes a lot of voluntary work to accomplish this.

(17) Golf Classics, charity fundraising, social events and even venturing as far as Beijing in China to compete in a soccer championship was reported by Region Two.

(18) Region Three had 16 teams in Cork's commemorative McIntyre/Rice Trophy. Kerry had the marvellous Dunloe Gap & Three Lakes tour

(19) Region Four is noted for Treasure Hunts, Table Quizzes in Clare which also lures visitors to the Burren, Cliffs of Moher and the caves. Next year National Congress will be staged in Ennistymon.

(20) Do b'é Réigiún a Cúig a thug an t-aon dreas de'n nGaeilge dúinn. Chuidh dream díobh go Nua Eabhrach ar Lá 'le Pádraig. Bhí bricfeást achu I John Jay College of Criminal Justice leGobherner Nua Eabhrach, le Ann,baintreach Jerry McCabe, Ambasadóir ó Eire agus an t-Aire Máire Coughlan. Nil áit fágtha chun na sonraí eile a lua.

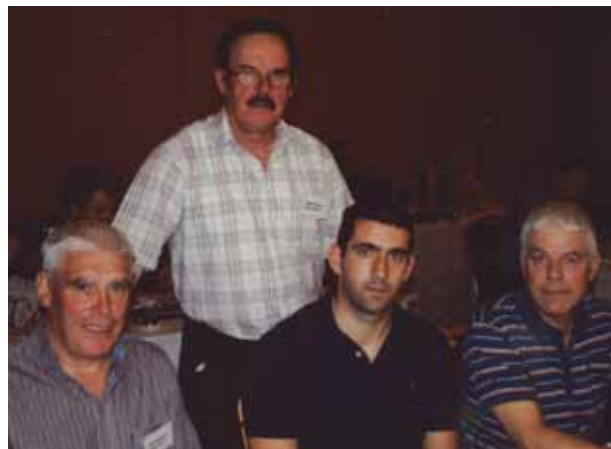
(21) Region Six is always to the fore in organising events; the principle adventure this past year was a visit to Berlin for the Christmas Markets by 41 members.



Michael Kearns, Joe Storey, Michael Kearns, Dave McEllin, Willie Maye, Joe Lynch



P J Galvin, Pat Trehy, Pat Donnelly, Tom Mulpeter, Declan Whelan, Mick Johnston



John Hopkins, David Scahill, Martin Dowd, Eddie Dooney



Kevin Corry, Coleman Hogan, Jerry Lynch, Paul White, Michael Morrissey



John Sheridan, Liam Niland, Brian O'Dea, Con O'Donovan



William Ryan, Michael Walsh, Brian Conway, Gene Burns, Niall O'Leary

(22) Seven they say is a lucky number. In 2003 & again in 2008 National Council was hosted by this Region. They also managed to raise €13,000 for the great missionary work of Fr Lawrence Boakye in Ankasse, Ejuratia, Ghana.

(23) The National Golf and the 5-aside competitions took place in Region Eight. Bowling, indoor soccer & Christmas parties were the main social encounters. Plans for fishing competitions & walks in the Slieve Bloom Mountains are well advanced.

(24) Region Nine is running an eleven aside soccer challenge, Waterford is running a tennis championship and South Tipperary organises walks in the Comeragh Mountains

(25) In Region Ten select any IPA Section you may wish to meet & greet and you can be assured of a hit in this Region of city, sea & mountain.

(26) In Region Eleven you better be fit, you may be chosen to run cross country in Poland or host police from Beijing. I cannot list all the activities which range from tag rugby & paintballing to Texas hold'em and table quiz. The Secretary reported support for seven (7) charities. I get tired just writing about it all.

Amazingly all these reports were offered in a bashful sort of way; no one thought it a big deal. If our IPA organisers were a boastful lot we would not have room in IPA Journal to cover everything. I suspect that when our annual reports reach the Permanent Executive Bureau the members must be impressed by our vibrant lifestyle. No wonder the organisation of the 33rd IEC was given to Section Ireland at short notice. The lyrics from the musical Annie Get Your Gun 'Doing What Comes Natur'lly' comes to mind.