

## **Minutes of 38<sup>th</sup> NALA AGM**

Saturday, 6 April 2019 – Ashling Hotel, Parkgate Street, Dublin 8, 10.30am – 1.30pm

Attendance: 61

### **Opening Address:**

Nuala Glanton, Chairperson of NALA's Board welcomed everybody. Introduction to the day and the Opening Address reflected on:

- The significant variety of activities NALA was engaged in over the past year
- The governance framework which underpins the work of the Board
- Thanked the outgoing Board members for their contributions
- Applauded the large numbers of members who bravely put themselves forward for election to the Board

### **Standing Orders Committee:**

The Standing Orders Committee was elected:

- Chris Potts
- Rose Brownen
- Frances Ward

The committee was proposed by Patrick Hallinan and seconded by Maria O'Gorman

### **Minutes AGM 2018:**

Sonia Weafer, Honorary Secretary, presented the minutes of the 2018 AGM to the meeting. The minutes were proposed by Pat Ayton and seconded by Anna Touhy Halligan.

(No Questions were asked)

### **Financial Report 2018:**

David Heylin, NALA Treasurer, introduced the Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2018, outlining the Director's responsibilities as regards the financial statements highlighting how seriously the directors take their responsibilities.

David introduced Jon Byrne of Browne, Murphy and Hughes, Chartered Accountants and Auditors to NALA to take the meeting through the audited accounts. Jon detailed how the Annual Report is again presented voluntarily in compliance with the Charities SORP (Statement of Recommended Practice). Jon then went through the Auditor's Report.

The following resolution was proposed and seconded:

- The adoption of the 2018 Audited Accounts. Proposed by Maria O’Gorman and seconded by Laura Foley.

### **Changes to the NALA Board:**

The following positions on the Board of NALA were filled:

- **Chairperson:** Ms Mary Bambrick (proposed by Sonia Weafer and seconded by David Heylin - *As the number of candidates was not more than the number of positions vacant there was no election for Chairperson*)
- **Honorary Secretary:** Ms Sinead Ryan (proposed by Mary Bambrick and seconded by Nuala Glanton - *As the number of candidates was not more than the number of positions vacant there was no election for Chairperson*)
- **Ordinary Members on the Board:** As the number of candidates was more than the positions vacant, an election was held. From 54 votes the following individuals were nominated to the Board:
  - Pat Ayton
  - Michael Duffy
  - Lee Mitchell
  - Maria O’Gorman
  - Liz O’Sullivan

### **Our Year & Our Work - Overview of the work of NALA in 2018**

Dr Inez Bailey, CEO of NALA, gave a review of the activities and highlights of the year.

To follow is a summary of the presentation:

Overview of the work of NALA in 2018 and launch of NALA’s Summary Annual Report for 2018

Inez Bailey, CEO of NALA, gave a review of the activities and highlights of the year.

To follow is a summary of the presentation:

Our achievements in 2018 – a summary

Individuals

We raised awareness of adult education services and helped people improve their literacy and numeracy.

- 1000 people got QQI accreditation through our Distance Learning Service

2,800 Level 2 minor awards

### 550 Level 3 minor awards

- Our information helpline staff referred 1000 callers to ETB adult education services, NALA's distance learning service and WriteOn.ie
- We sent 750 information packs about adult education services to members of the public
- 144 ETB adult literacy centres or services received 1,600 promotional posters during our awareness campaign
- An evaluation of our awareness campaign showed that three in four people who have literacy or numeracy difficulties saw or heard our campaign
- We did interviews and raised awareness about literacy on 13 national and regional radio shows, two TV shows and in 50 national and regional newspapers
- The media coverage we received in 2018 was worth the equivalent of €241,000 in advertising value
- Our social media followers liked, reacted, commented on or shared our stories about literacy 470,000 times

### Further Education and Training (FET) tutors

We helped to improve the quality of teaching.

- 600 people attended our 13 professional development events
- 300 FET practitioners took part in our integrating literacy workshops
- 340 people took part in our literacy awareness training sessions
- New online videos were produced to help students with maths and grammar skills
- We published 2 new pieces of research and produced 6 resource worksheets for tutors
- 140 tutors from 37 adult education centres received training on how to use WriteOn.ie
- We produced 10 distance learning worksheets and they were downloaded 600 times
- Our professional development event videos were watched 1,100 times

### Students

We represented the views of adult literacy students and supported their learning.

- 250 learners received 2,270 learning sessions with our distance learning tutors
- 1,840 students took part in learning activities funded by our Student Development Fund
- 83 adult education centres received grants from our Student Development Fund
- 160 people attended our Student Days in Dublin and Galway
- 13 students contributed to our student subcommittee, a national committee of adult literacy students. The subcommittee held 7 meetings during the year
- 25 students were involved as learner representatives in awareness raising events and activities
- Over 95,000 people watched our promotional videos of students talking about the benefits of improving their literacy skills during our awareness week

## Parents

We helped parents support their children's literacy and numeracy development.

- 200,000 people used our website [helpmykidlearn.ie](http://helpmykidlearn.ie)
- 1,800 people received our monthly [helpmykidlearn](http://helpmykidlearn.ie) e-zine
- We got 17,000 clicks, reactions, comments or shares on our Facebook page for [helpmykidlearn.ie](http://helpmykidlearn.ie)

## Organisations

We worked with organisations to help make their services more accessible to people with literacy needs.

- 1,400 people took our plain English training and improved their communications skills
- 120 organisations used our Plain English Editing and Training Service
- 80 pharmacies and 5 general practices now have the Crystal Clear mark
- We delivered 3 health literacy workshops to healthcare professionals and spoke at 4 conferences about health literacy
- We spoke about health literacy at 3 events in Dublin City libraries

- We received 75 entries from 50 organisations to our Plain English Awards. The launch of the awards resulted in media coverage worth €54,000 in public relations activity

## Policy makers

We worked to make sure the views of adults with literacy and numeracy needs are heard by policy makers.

During 2018 we met with 42 TDs and Senators to advocate for increased investment in literacy

We made 8 written submissions to the government in 2018.

In our submissions we recommended:

- A whole of Government approach to addressing adult, young people and children's literacy, numeracy and digital skills
- the development of the public library service's role in promoting and supporting digital, health, family and library literacy
- that the National Training Fund prioritise adults with low basic skills and qualifications, both those in employment and those who wish to acquire skills so they can take up employment
- that career and guidance services prioritise and proactively engage people with the lowest levels of educational attainment
- the development of flexible and innovative digital learning options where adults can access "just enough, just in time" learning about using technology and going online

## Membership

NALA had 2,000 members in 2018 and the income from membership fees was €22,800.

## Keynote address:

Vice President of the European Parliament, Mairead McGuinness MEP, made a keynote address.

## Future Thinking

Looking ahead to NALA's new strategic plan.

## Closing Comments

Mary Bambrick, Chairperson, paid tribute to the outgoing members of the Board and invited everyone to lunch.