

The Federation of Women's Institutes of Northern Ireland



AGM 2024

Thursday, 28th March 2024

Europa Hotel, Belfast

Minutes

The Annual General Meeting of the Federation took place in the Europa Hotel, Belfast on Thursday, 28th March 2024. In the absence of President Lady Anthony Hamilton, Margaret Broome welcomed everyone to the morning session. The guests were introduced and the platform party included: Federation Chairman Margaret Broome, Federation Vice-Chairman Kathleen Verner, Federation Treasurer Sheelagh McRandal and FWINI Operations Manager Mary McManus.

Apologies

Lady Anthony Hamilton (Federation President)

Minutes

Minutes of the 2023 AGM had been circulated and as no amendments were received, Federation Chairman Margaret Broome signed the Minutes. Margaret Broome introduced the new Executive Committee 2024-27 and presented their Executive badges. New Executive Members included: Valerie McConnell (Abercorn), Hazel McKee (Gosford), Elizabeth McKinty (Inver), Ada Elliott (Iveagh), Anne Hunter (Lisnagarvey), Janet Kells (Moyallen), Judith Wainwright (Quoile), Janette Graham (Riada), Jeanette Smyth (Roe Valley) and Margaret Munro (Scrabo).

Margaret Broome then presented badges to the outgoing 2021-24 Executive Members: Joan Beattie (Abercorn), Lynd Roper (Gosford), Heather Adamson (Inver), Sandra Ledlie (Iveagh), Marie Daragh (Lisnagarvey), Kathleen Verner (Moyallen), Lorna McClure (Riada), Rosemary Savage (Roe Valley), Lesley Dowds (Scrabo).

Sub-Committee Reports

The latest reports from the Federation's six Sub-Committees had been printed and attached to the AGM Agenda.

1. Increase in Federation Fees

After careful consideration, the Executive Committee proposes that Federation fees be increased from £20.00 to £25.00 with effect from September 2024. FWINI has been operating at a deficit for the past two years as the fees have not kept pace with the rate of inflation. This increase is required to ensure that the organisation’s income is sufficient to meet its expenditure.

Proposed by Federation Treasurer Sheelagh McRandal

Seconded by Christine Rankin (Ards Peninsula Area Executive Member)

The Resolution was carried.

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2. Limited Company

Andrew Talbott (Managing Partner, Collaboration Ireland) gave an informative presentation as to why we should change our legal status. He then answered lots of questions from the floor.

The Executive Committee proposes that the Federation changes its legal status and becomes a Limited Company. This would ensure that the Trustees are not personally liable if something goes wrong , provided they have acted within the law and reasonably, and comply with the requirements of some funders.

Proposed by Sheelagh McRandal (Federation Treasurer)

Seconded by Brenda Richardson (Rowallane Area Executive Member)

The Resolution was carried.

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3. Prescriptions

In light of the cost and availability of prescription drugs, Ballywalter WI proposes that when a patient is prescribed a new long-term drug, only a small amount should be issued to the patient in case of reaction. The remainder to be held by the pharmacy as unused drugs cannot be returned for future use.

Proposed by: Angela Martin (Ballywalter WI)

Seconded by: Ina Watson (Maghaberry WI)

The Resolution was carried.

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**Lunch
12:30pm –2:15 pm**

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Afternoon Session
2:15pm – 4:15pm

Federation Chairman Margaret Broome welcomed everyone back after the lunch to the afternoon session of the AGM, including the guests who had joined us for lunch.

Greetings from the invited guests

Guest Speaker Anne Harper – ‘*Women in Myth and Music*’

Musician and storyteller Anne Harper explored Ireland’s rich heritage and folklore through storytelling with a magical presentation centred around ‘Women in Myth and Music’. A multi-instrumentalist and composer, Anne’s presentation was interspersed with the evocative, soothing sounds of the harp and other instruments.

Presentation of Awards Margaret Broome (Federation Chairman)
Kathleen Verner (Federation Vice-Chairman)

Vote of Thanks Lynd Roper (Gosford Area Executive Member)

Flowers Lorna McClure (Riada Area Executive Member)

Closing Remarks Margaret Broome (Federation Chairman)

The meeting closed with the singing of A Country Women’s Song.

AGM 2024 – Awards presented on the day:

<u>Homecraft:</u>	
Doreen Dawson Cup (Team entry of 3 different crafts)	Ballymoney WI (Joanne Campbell, Tanya Everett & Florence Gregg)
Greenisland Cup (Institute gaining the greatest number of grade A awards in proportion to the number of members during the year)	Ballymoney WI
Etta Stewart Cup (Best entry of craftwork exclusive of cup winning entries)	Tanya Everett, Ballymoney WI
Emily Bossence Tray (Gold Award holders)	Tanya Everett, Ballymoney WI
Peggy Adams Memorial Trophy (White embroidery)	Tanya Everett, Ballymoney WI
Burnside Trophy (Irish crochet, tatting or knitted lace)	Florence Gregg, Ballymoney WI
Hilda Stewart Trophy (Limerick, Carrickmacross or bobbin lace)	Florence Gregg, Ballymoney WI
Isobel Lusk Cup (Knitting)	Florence Gregg, Ballymoney WI
Janet Jones Trophy (Modern or unusual craft not included in the Homecraft Syllabus)	Anne Martin, Ballievey WI
Brookeborough Trophy (Novice team entry of 3 different crafts)	Crumlin WI (Eilish Grant, Pat Parkes & Joan Ward)
Clanabogan Cup (Team knitting)	Crumlin WI (Eilish Grant, Pat Parkes & Joan Ward)
Olive Kane Cup (Wool embroidery)	Kate Kenndy, Cullybackey WI
Coey II Cup (Embroidery on linen, canvas or similar fabric)	Anne Hunter, Maghaberry WI
Thelma Goldring Trophy (Best individual item)	Anne Hunter, Maghaberry WI
Roe Valley Trophy (Full Circle holders)	Davida Irvine, Moira WI
Emily Blair Trophy (For restricted ability)	Jane Laverick, Newtownbreda WI
<u>Full Circle Award:</u>	
Diana Thompson, Ballyclare WI	

<u>Gold Spinning Wheel Award:</u>	
Pamela Spiers, Ballievey WI	
Kerrie Mumford, Ballyblack WI	
Tanya Everett, Ballymoney WI	
Lorraine McGaughey, Kilrea WI	

<u>INTERNATIONAL:</u>	
Mary Boyd Trophy (Mary Boyd Competition 2023 – ‘Create a shoe bag for travelling purposes’ – 1st Place)	Christine Rankin, Donaghadee WI
Margaret McMillan Bowl – (Mary Boyd Competition 2023 – 2nd Place)	Ann Eccleston, Jerrettspass WI
<u>MAGAZINE AND LEISURE:</u>	
Mourne Cup (Best poem written by a WI member published in the <i>Ulster Countrywoman</i> magazine during the previous calendar year)	Hazel Campbell, Crumlin WI
Quoile Trophy (Best overall <i>Ulster Countrywoman</i> magazine cover photograph published during the previous calendar year)	Heather Freestone, Portglenone WI
Phyllis Gailey Trophy (Literary Competition – 1st Place)	Jennifer Gardiner, Kilrea WI
Waringstown Cup (Scrapbook Competition – <i>Open</i> class – 1st Place)	Broughshane WI
Carryduff Cup (Scrapbook Competition – <i>Novice</i> class – 1st Place)	Spa WI
Crystal Cup (Scrapbook Competition – <i>Front Cover</i> class – 1st Place)	Spa WI
Crystal Cup (Scrapbook Competition – <i>Single Page</i> class – 1st Place)	Spa WI