



Arthritis Ireland: Minutes of the AGM of the Board
7th October 2010
Health Sciences Building, UCD, Dublin 4

Attendees- Board:

Ms. Ann Allen, Ms. Bridget Aylmer, Dr. Suzanne Donnelly, Prof. Oliver FitzGerald, Ms Anne-Marie Healy, Mr Michael Kelly, Ms. Claire Kinneavy, Mr. Jerry O'Dwyer, Mr. Paul O'Connell, Mr John O'Flynn, Mr Seoirse Smith,

Branch committee members and ordinary members attendance – Recorded on the day

In Attendance: Mr. John Church, CEO

Apologies: Prof. Gaye Cunnane, Mr. Philip Gleeson, Prof. Geraldine McCarthy, Mr Stephen O'Byrnes

1. Notice of Annual General Meeting

The notice convening the meeting had been circulated and the meeting duly called.

2. Minutes of AGM, 29th October 2009

The minutes of the previous meeting were taken as a true and accurate record with no issues raised. They were signed by Prof. Oliver FitzGerald.

3. Matters Arising

None

4. Report of the Directors and Statement of Accounts and Balance Sheet of Company

Prof. Oliver FitzGerald formally thanked the staff of Arthritis Ireland for their efforts throughout the year. He highlighted some of the successes including the National Helpline, the new Carers Programme and the launch of the Easy to Use programme.

Prof. FitzGerald commended the work of our network of volunteers and the difference they made this year in the community. Finally, he updated the group on the Chairs of Rheumatology and the HSE's creation of a National Clinical Lead programme for rheumatology of which he is chair, and of which Arthritis Ireland is represented.

Key Points on 2009 accounts:

- Overall increase in income of 14% versus 2008. However when you remove the income that is restricted to our Chair funds, funding for patients supports reduced by 25%. 2009 saw the first significant drop in income driven by the economic downturn and experienced by many charities.
- Despite this, services increased during 2009. Costs were reduced by 20% through greater efficiencies.
- A significant decrease in funds from wills and bequests was one factor for the reduced funding. Other reductions were in grants with the HSE grant towards our Self-Management program reduced and an expected decrease in the grant from The Atlantic Philanthropies.

John Church informed members that despite growth in income and services, Arthritis Ireland has reached a glass ceiling in terms of engagement with the public and the business community for funding. He communicated that the board initiated a formal review process in 2010 which is being conducted by Genesis Marketing & Communications Ltd. The key issue we are looking to address is the lack of awareness of the disease and the engagement or interest as a "cause worth supporting".

The 2009 accounts were proposed by Ms. Bridget Aylmer and seconded by Dr Paul O'Connell.

5. To Reappoint the Auditors Ernst & Young for 2010

Prof. Oliver FitzGerald looked to the floor to seek proposals in relation to re-electing Ernst & Young as auditors of Arthritis Ireland. Ernst & Young conduct the audit on a pro-bono basis for which Prof Fitzgerald thanked them on behalf of the board. Mr. John O'Flynn proposed and Mr. Jerry O'Dwyer seconded.

6. The Resignation and Election of Board Directors

Prof. Oliver Fitzgerald informed members that there were a number of movements off and onto the board this year in the following areas;

Retiring off the Board

- Elected Members; 3 members are due to retire, as per our articles of association, after serving 2 terms on the board. They are Ms. Claire Kinneavy, Ms Bridget Aylmer and Ms. Ann Allen.
- Society members; Dr Paul O'Connell after 6 years on the board, Ms. Shona Lee will step down at end of 2010 and be replaced by Ms. Miriam Molloy, President of IRHPS
- Co-Opted Members; Mr. Jerry O'Dwyer after 7 years service.

Prof Fitzgerald personally thanked Jerry and all other members for their contribution to the board over the years.

Elected or Re-elected to the Board

- Dr. Suzanne Donnelly was nominated by the ISR for a 2nd term
- Prof. Geraldine McCarthy will serve one more year as ISR nominee
- Prof. Gaye Cunnane joins as President of the ISR
- Mr. Michael Kelly, former Secretary General of the DOHC and outgoing Chair of the HEA
- Mr. Seoirse Smith, President of the ASAI
- Ms. Anne Plunkett, Ms Anne-Marie Healy and Mr. John O'Flynn all join as elected members without a vote as there were 3 places available and no more than 3 candidates proposed by members.

Prof. FitzGerald informed the members that it is increasingly apparent that the organization should engage more with the Orthopaedic community and to this end informed members that he has written to the Irish Institute of Trauma and Orthopaedic Surgery seeking a nominee.

OFFICIAL AGENDA CONCLUDED

CLOSE OF BUSINESS

Signed _____ Date _____