

iatse *Update*

AUTUMN UPDATE

AUTUMN 10

NEW HONORARY MEMBER Autumn 2010



Paul O'Mahony (third from left) was conferred with an honorary membership of IATSE at our annual conference in June. Other honorary members also in the picture include Sean Griffin, Ann Jackson and Pat O'Keeffe.

IATSE Annual Award 2010/2011

IATSE has, in recent years, established an annual award to give recognition to good practice in Irish schools in the area of Special Education. All practising teachers involved in Special Education are eligible to apply. This also includes teachers of mainstream classes where pupils with Special Needs are included.

Submissions may describe:

- A piece of work carried out with a particular pupil/group/class
- A programme of staff development established e.g. school based induction programme for new staff i.e. Teachers, SNAs
- A curricular programme or innovation

A submission may be in the form of a case study/project which would describe the practical application, methodologies and outcomes of the innovation. It may also take the form of a narrative through which the story is told. It should be between 1,000 and 3,000 words in length. Submissions may be made by an individual or group of teachers. Up to four prizes of €500 each will be awarded each year. Only one award will be made for each winning submission.

Adjudication

Winning submissions will be selected by a panel of adjudicators, comprising members of the IATSE CEC, representatives and members selected from a panel of readers. The CEC of IATSE will be the final arbiter in relation to the award.

Applications should be made to Annual Award, IATSE, Drumcondra Education Centre, Drumcondra, Dublin 9. Closing date for submissions is March 31st 2011.

DATE for your Diary

IATSE AGM 2010

The AGM for the Irish Association of Teachers in Special Education will take place on:

Saturday November 20th

Venue: The Teachers' Club, Parnell Square, Dublin 1.

Time: 11am -1pm

Teas and Coffees will be served from 10.30am

IATSE Conference 2010

Sustaining Quality in Schools Creativity, Innovation & Best Practice

The 22nd Annual Conference of the Irish Association of Teachers in Special Education was held in St. Patrick's College Drumcondra on the 10th, 11th and 12th of June. For yet another year, we had a diverse, stimulating conference with a range of topics that enabled teachers and other professionals, working in the field to learn, develop their skills and to network with colleagues. The conference was officially opened by David Norris who gave a keynote speech that addressed the theme of the conference "Sustaining quality in schools; Creativity innovation and best practice". He spoke of the importance of sustaining the quality of education even though schools and budgets are now more stretched than ever before. He thanked and praised IATSE for their work and the contribution the organisation continues to make to special education.

Dr. Anne Lodge gave the keynote address which focused on the theme of conference and the inclusive school. This is a topic that is keenly debated at present in educational circles. It is relevant in the context of pupils with special educational needs but also of pupils from diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds in Ireland. Dr. Pauric Travers, President of St. Patrick's College, hosted a reception in the College after the Opening formalities. At the event the CEC awarded Honorary membership to Paul O'Mahony, who recently retired as Principal of St Michaels House Special School in Ballymun. Lisa White presented Paul with his membership and he acknowledged how proud he was to be numbered with those who have served both the association and special education with distinction over the years.

The conference programme contained over forty presentations and workshops which focused on a range of aspects of special educational needs - visual impairment, autism, dyslexia, high and low incidence learning disabilities and so on. Other presentations focused on matters of professional interest such as psychiatric disorders, professional learning communities, curriculum, pedagogy and assessment. Many of our delegates were particularly interested in the report on the recent research on

the contribution of special schools and classes and the symposium which reported on 'Project Iris' and inclusive practices in Ireland. As ever, we also had an international dimension to the conference and we would like to thank those speakers and delegates who joined us from abroad.

On the Friday night of conference the CEC hosted a reception in the beautiful James Joyce Centre on North Great Georges Street. Delegates had the opportunity to socialise with a glass of wine while listening to live Irish music. The highlight of the evening was CEC member Denis Mc Carthy serenading everyone present with "Nora" to mark the James Joyce Bloomsday celebrations which were happening all over Dublin that week.

Our plenary session on the Saturday discussed the future of special education and what each panel member thought were the issues that needed to be prioritised over the coming years. The panel consisted of representatives of different areas of special education- Mary Mc Kenna, Colin Mc Elroy, Anne Higgins and Bernie Smith. The session was thought provoking and lively and each of the four presenters had a unique outlook on what the futures holds for us as educators working with pupils with special needs.

The continued success of the annual conference is due to the dedication, hard work and creativity of the Conference Committee and CEC members over the school year coming up to conference. The two conference directors Lisa White and Rosemary Fahey are especially to be congratulated on giving so generously of their time and energy to get the conference from planning stages to successful completion. Sincere thanks are due to St Patrick's College for their on-going support to the organization during the year and especially at conference time. Finally thanks to presenters, chairpersons and delegates who helped make IATSE's 2010 conference a great success.

21st IATSE Annual Conference 2010



Maureen Costelloe, Anita Prunty and Deirdre Corcoran at the opening evening of Conference 2010.



Dr. Pauric Travers, President of St. Patricks College, Drumcondra with Anna Lombard, President of IATSE just before the opening of the conference.



Senator David Norris who gave a stimulating Opening address is featured with Anna Lombard, President of IATSE.