

ESB Cork Retired Staff Association

Decor

Dear Member,

This year we are sending members a Christmas Newsletter to wish you a happy , Holy and safe Christmas to you and all your families. In these strange and dangerous times, I hope you are all keeping safe and well. Many of us who had looked forward to seeing our loved ones home for Christmas will unfortunately not have that pleasure this year.

At this stage each year we would have had various events, including our AGM, the summer RSA outing, The traditional trip to Mallow races, a chance to question the pensions management about our pension fund and by now their annual excuse for not giving a pension increase to pensioners. You will have noticed the annual fund return for 2019 in the recent pensions report which was almost 10%, they were reluctant to accept the remainder of the 591 Million outstanding from the 2010 agreement but still even though they seem to be a wash with money any consideration of a pension increase seems to be of least importance.

Ebenezer Scrooge seems to come to mind. However, be assured that the Retired Staff Association continues to pursue the rights of our members both retired and VSS, we constantly challenge the ESB Superannuation committee, to account for the shabby treatment of pensioners.

During the lockdown we all have had our way of lives disrupted, all the things we took for granted, we can no longer visit family and friends, take trips to the shops, our family holidays are no more. Coping with all of this is bad enough, however many of us have lost family and friends and this brings home the devastating effects of covid 19. And the continued importance of taking all the safety measures advised by the Health Authorities.

Since our last Newsletter circulation, I'm so sorry to report the death of our dear friend and former committee member Joe Kavanagh RIP, Joe was a lovely, man and former colleague and will be sorely missed by Brid and the family as well as his many friends. We attach an appreciation to Joe in this Newsletter.



It happened in times past ESB

The 50th. Anniversary of the Lee Dams in 2007

*see back page
for more ...*



Pension Scheme



In the current pandemic, the Trustees decided to make a video presentation on the 2019 Annual Pension Report in place of the “member event” meeting they have held annually in recent years. In the summary report for 2019 (Digest as the trustees refer to it), it was stated that a video presentation would be made in late October but no date was given. This did not happen and an RSA query to the pensions' office revealed that the pensions office would not be writing to pensioners to tell them of its availability since it was mentioned in the Digest. A gentle reminder of the absurdity of not telling its target audience of its date of publication was sent to the Pensions Manager. A further query brought the reply that it was expected available on 12th Nov. but no firm decision was yet made.

In the event it became available on that date and our national secretary so advised all GPC members, all NEC delegates, and all branch secretaries. It is unclear how long it will remain available but is still accessible today (19th Nov 2019). For members wishing to view it, it can be accessed by following the link

<https://www.esbstaffservices.com/pensions/2019-db-annual-report-event/>

The video is in 2 parts (1) a presentation by Tony

Donnelly, Chairman Trustee Board and James O'Loughlin, Pensions and Insurance Manager (15 minutes) and (2) a questions and answer section in which questions submitted in writing to the pensions office were categorised under various headings (19 minutes). Some were answered, some not and some answers were to questions but not as asked.

Medical Provident Fund

MPF AGM was held on line using Microsoft Teams video conferencing software. This was interactive and enabled MPF members to interact with the MPF trustees and put questions. It was much more satisfactory than the “broadcast” video approach adopted by the Pension Trustees. A review of the MPF by its trustees continues with no firm end date set.

GPC Meetings

There was an online GPC meeting in Sept by using Zoom and another is planned for late November.

Financial loss due to loss of traditional indexation

Lost Cash Value per Calendar Year for a Pensioner on a Pension of €26,000 / year due to refusal of traditional indexation in line with salary increases from 20/04/2015

2015	€ 363	2019	€ 2,808
2016	€ 1,067	2020	€ 3,528
2017	€ 1,562	2021	€ 4,078
2018	€ 2,156	Total Loss to end 2021	€ 15,561

On a Pension of €26,000 the total amount lost over the periods: 2015-2019 =
 € 7,955 = 30.6% of 2015 pension,
 2015-2020 = €11,483 = 44.2% of 2015 pension.
 2015-2021 = €15,561 = 59.9% of 2015 pension

Deceased Retired and former staff members Mass Celebrated at SMA Wilton

On Sat 28. November at SMA Wilton the annual Mass for Deceased members took place, unfortunately this year the mass was broadcast on line as advised and organized by Martina Mannix.

The Retired Staff Association would like to offer our sincere sympathies to the families of all those who have passed away over the last twelve months.

*May they
Rest in Peace*

Names of Deceased Members

John J Murphy
Michael Waters
Josephine Hayes
John Landers
Catherine Barrett
Mary Kiely
Denis Walsh
Josephine O'Connor
Florence McCarthy
Fanahan O'Leary
Jeremiah Allen
Sean McGrath
Kathleen Flaherty
Kathleen Bambury
Brendan Dowd

Elizabeth Carlile
Cornelius O'Mahony
Anne McMullen
Edward (Leo) McSweeney
Michael Maguire
David O'Neill
Joseph Kavanagh
Jerry Murray
Ellen (Eileen) Harrington
Margaret Moynihan
Kathleen Coakley
Mary Sexton
Pat Smith
Jerry Coffey

Joe Kavanagh

It was with great sadness that we heard of the death of our great colleague Joe Kavanagh, we extend our sincere sympathy to his wife Brid and his family. Joe began his career with ESB as an apprentice in October 1966. He worked in Major Metering section for many years including digitizing metering many of the large industries in Cork City and County. With his courteous manner, he was welcomed where ever went. He was one of the group who volunteered his expertise to electrify the homes on Cape Cleir Island in the early seventies. His interest in trade Union was also to



an Appreciation

the fore as a shop steward with NEETU for many years. Later in his career, he worked in Generation Section at Inniscarra Hydro Station as Shift Operations Supervisor, after 12 years here his health deteriorated and Joe retired.

Joe made loyal and lifetime friendships with so many of his colleagues wherever he worked.

His thoughtfulness was a gift we will always treasure.

Ar Dheis De go raibh a hanam dilis

Pat C Dromey

It happened in times past ESB

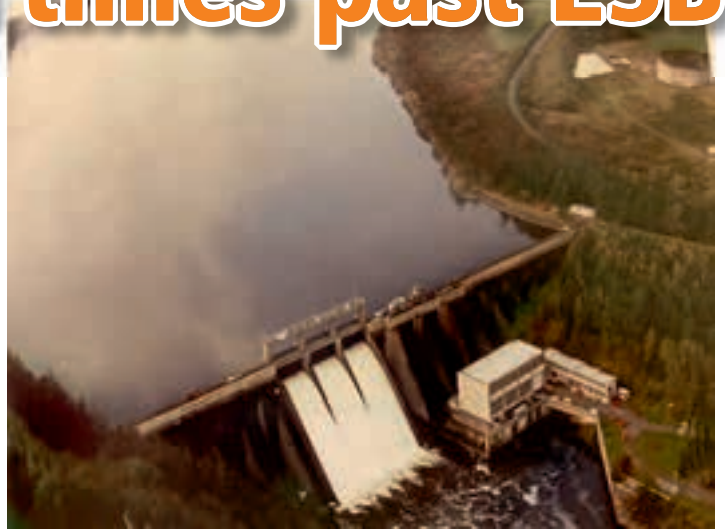
The 50th. Anniversary of the Lee Dams in 2007

Fifty years was an appropriate milestone to remember the people who put together the Lee Hydro Electric Scheme and who operated and maintained it over the years.

In 2007 we celebrated the 50th. Anniversary of, the commissioning of the Lee Hydro Electric Dams at Inniscarra and Carrigadrohid. We had a 50th. Anniversary committee set up in the station to plan the event. Former and current staff were all invited to record a few thoughts of their working life in the Dams for an Anniversary Presentation and Book called Generations. ESB Archives organized, the book by co authors Kieran McCarthy and Seamus O'Donoghue, this book is available to read on line in ESB Archives and is very useful for students doing school projects.

During one of our anniversary committee meetings we were looking for a suitable Hydro Power Theme that would be a remembrance of the celebration. While attending a meeting in Wilton one day I noticed that a lovely stainless steel water wheel they had on the grounds was taken down and was no longer on display. The following day I had a word with Joe Kavanagh RIP, and we thought if they no longer wanted the water wheel they might give it to us and

we could have it refurbished and erected in a purpose built monument for the Lee Stations 50th. Anniversary. In a matter of days Joe had chased down the waterwheel and came back to say, it was taken down and was no longer required so we could have it for Lee, at least it wouldn't end up in a scrap yard. So our committee set about



getting it refurbished after its delivery by Tommy Long RIP. A stone faced water tank and monument were arranged by our civil contracts and the mechanical and electrical staff arranged its erection and wiring on the Station grounds in a suitable location at Inniscarra. A plaque was inserted in the stone work for posterity. There's a button at the wheel that visitors can press and the water wheel will start to rotate when water is allowed into the wheel.

Attached are some photos of Lee Stations including the water wheel with Chief Executive Pat O'Doherty and Lord Mayor Clr Donal Counihan performing the unveiling ceremony. There's also a photo of the station staff installing the eighty five ton rotor to Unit 1 at Inniscarra during a plant overhaul.

The Lee Dams were a great development for their times and still provide green electricity to the system, it also provides Cork with a great asset of a suitable water supply, that feeds a large portion of the city and all the lower harbor industry from the Council pumping station up stream of the Dam at Inniscarra.



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Visit the RSA Website for loads of information www.esbrsa.ie