



*“Camaraderie Through Service”*

## **2020 Annual General Meeting**

The Association’s 26<sup>th</sup> AGM took place, in virtual format by means of electronic communications technology (Zoom), on 02 October, 2020.

### **Reports**

Reports were presented by the President: Brig Gen Paul Pakenham (Retd), the Secretary: Lt Col Joe Ahern (Retd), the Treasurer: Lt Col Richard Cummins (Retd), and the Membership Secretary: Col Richard Heaslip (Retd). All reports, included the audited accounts for the period ended 31 July 2020, were unanimously adopted.

### **Appointments**

<b>October 2020 – September 2021</b>	
<b>Officers</b>	
<b>President</b>	Brig Gen Paul Pakenham
<b>Vice President</b>	Brig Gen Seamus Ó Giolláin
<b>Secretary</b>	Col Brendan McAndrew
<b>Treasurer</b>	Col Brian Monahan
<b>Membership Secretary</b>	Col Des Bergin
<b>Immediate Past President</b>	Cdr Gerard O’Flynn (NS)
<b>Regional Representatives</b>	
<b>Eastern Region</b>	Col George Kerton & Capt Philip Quinlan
<b>Southern Region</b>	Capt Tony Doonan
<b>Western Region</b>	Brig Gen Gerry McNamara & Brig Gen Peter O’Halloran
<b>Curragh Region</b>	Lt Col Seamus Rouine & Capt Paul Amoroso
<b>Naval Service Region</b>	Cdr Gerard O’ Flynn (NS) & Capt David Barry (NS)
<b>Air Corps Region</b>	Brig Gen Paul Fry & Capt Ray Bonar



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Comdt Pat Casey (Retd) was elected as Hon Auditor. Col Bill Nott (Retd), Comdt Pat Godfry (Retd) and Comdt Ray Murphy (Retd) were elected as Trustees.

Pursuant to paragraph 16 of the Association’s Rules, the incoming EXCOM will co-opt members to perform the following specific functions:

- Representative on the Executive Committee of the Board of the Defence Forces Benevolent Fund: Brig Gen Liam MacNamee (Retd),
- Representative on CAOGA’s Board of Management: Lt Col Sean Scanlon (Retd),
- Representative on the Council of the Alliance of Retired Public Sector Associations: Lt Col Joseph Ahern (Retd),
- ARCO’s Webmaster: Comdt Billy Campbell (Retd), and
- Editor of ARCO’s Newsletter: Col Declan Carbery (Retd).

The President welcomed the newly elected Officers: Brig Gen Seamus Ó Giolláin (Vice President), Col Brendan McAndrew (Secretary), Col Brian Monahan (Treasurer) and Col Des Bergin (Membership Secretary), and the newly elected Regional Representatives: Capt Philip Quinlan (East), Capt Tony Doonan (South), Brig Gen Peter O’Halloran (West) and Capt Paul Amoroso (Curragh).

The election of 8 new members to the EXCOM represents a 42% turn-over of the committee, and reflects one of the outcomes arising from ARCO’s 2019 Relevance Workshop.

The President formally acknowledge the guidance, advice and support which he personally received from the Vice President, Col George Kerton, who was stepping aside having served in the appointment for the last 5 years. Col Kerton was subsequently elected as a Representative for the Eastern Region.

On the occasion of the retirement of the following Officers and EXCOM members, on behalf of ARCO’s membership, the President conveyed his sincere appreciation of the commendable service and steadfast commitment provided by:

- Lt Col Joe Ahern - Eastern Regional Representative since 2006, and Secretary since 2009,
- Lt Col Richard Cummins - Air Corps Regional Representative since 2010, and Treasurer since 2011,
- Col Dick Heaslip - Curragh Regional Representative since 2006, and Membership Secretary since 2008,
- Col Senan Downes - Western Regional Representative since 2006,
- Col Con McNamara - Curragh Regional Representative since 2010,
- Col Billy Harrington - Southern Regional Representative 2016, and [www.arcoireland.com](http://www.arcoireland.com)

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- Lt Col Michael Baston - Southern Representative since 2015.

### **Executive Committee Motion**

Following the 2019 AGM, the EXCOM revisited and consolidated the Association’s Rules. Following this review process, an associated motion was formally endorsed by the EXCOM on 21 August. In accordance with ARCO’s Rules, on 30 August, the membership was informed by means of post, of the intent to table this motion at the AGM.

On 05 September, the membership was advised by text-a-message that the proposed revised Rules were posted on ARCO’s website. On 30 September, members participating in the virtual AGM received by email a PDF version of the proposed revised Rules. The following motion was unanimously adopted:

**Motion 1 – Rules:** *The revised Rules version 01 September be adopted.*

The Rules, as adopted by the AGM on 02 October, are now available on the Website.

### **Launch of Mentoring Support Project**

During the course of the AGM, ARCO’s support for the Defence Forces Mentoring Programme was formally launched. Reinforcing ARCO’s motto, and its outreach programme with serving officers, this mentoring initiative reciprocates the investment and experiences accruing from service in the Defence Forces.

ARCO members will shortly be invited to submit expressions of interest to participate, as mentors, on a voluntary basis, in the Defence Forces Mentoring Programme.

An orientation day will be conducted on Q2 of 2021, for those interested to participate in the programme. Thereafter, the Defence Forces will provide appropriate training to those ARCO members who have been selected for particular programmes. It is envisaged that the first of such programmes involving ARCO mentors will take place in Q3 of 2021.

### **President’s Closing Remarks**

Serving the Defence Community for three decades, ARCO’s priorities derive from its specified objectives as prescribed in the Association’s Rules. In the coming 12 months, the EXCOM’s focus will be on the following issues:



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- Addressing the payment of the MSA increase for those military pensions in payment on 03 July 2019.
- Actively engaged with the Alliance of Retired Public Sector Associations in advancing ARCO’s Pension Strategy, including the full repeal of FEMPI legislation, pension parity and negotiation rights for public servants,
- Reviewing the regulations and procedures associated with Disability Pensions,
- Participating in Defence Forces Mentoring Programmes,
- Hosting Networking Events, subject to the Covid-19 restrictions,
- Engaging with third parties in Military Transitional Programmes,
- Extending ARCO’s membership base,
- Advancing the Combined Veterans’ Strategy along with ONE and IUNVA, and
- Preparing a framework for the elaboration of a Veterans’ Policy.

Finally, the President encouraged all Members to maintain a practical and positive interest in advancing ARCO’s ethos and objectives, thereby promoting, safeguarding and protecting the interests of members, and spouses or civil partners of deceased members.

*End*