



“Camaraderie Through Service”

2021 Annual General Meeting

The Association’s 27th AGM took place, in virtual format by means of electronic communications technology (Zoom), on 01 October, 2021.

Reports

Reports were presented by the President: Brig Gen Paul Pakenham (Retd), the Secretary: Col Brendan McAndrew (Retd), the Treasurer: Col Brian Monahan (Retd), and the Membership Secretary: Col Des Bergin (Retd). All reports, included the audited accounts for the period ended 31 July 2021, were unanimously adopted.

Appointments

October 2021 – September 2022	
Officers	
President	Brig Gen Séamus Ó Giolláin
Vice President	Capt David Barry (NS)
Secretary	Col Brendan McAndrew
Treasurer	Col Brian Monahan
Membership Secretary	Col Des Bergin
Immediate Past President	Brig Gen Paul Pakenham
Regional Representatives	
Eastern Region	Col George Kerton & Capt Philip Quinlan
Southern Region	Capt Tony Doonan & Capt Oonagh Maher
Western Region	Brig Gen Peter O’Halloran & Col Eamon Caulfield
Curragh Region	Lt Col Seamus Rouine & Capt Paul Amoroso
Naval Service Region	Cdr Gerard O’ Flynn (NS) & Capt David Barry (NS)
Air Corps Region	Brig Gen Paul Fry & Lt Col John Kirke



“Camaraderie Through Service”

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 during its November meeting 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 Regional Representatives Col Eamon Caulfield (West), Capt Oonagh (South) and Lt Col John Kirke (Air Corps). He paid tribute to Col Gerry McNamara who retired in November and Capt Ray Bonar who retired at the AGM..

The election of eight new members of the EXCOM at the 2020 AGM and three new members at the 2021 AGM including a female member, represents a 64% turn-over of the committee, and reflects one of the primary outcomes arising from ARCO’s 2019 Relevance Workshop.

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. Whilst advancing our relevance with its evolving membership cohort, ARCO’s focus for the short to medium term, is:

- The advancement of members’ interests and needs,
- Advocating and Lobbying
- Enhancing mentoring support, networking activities, and military transitional programmes,
- Actively engaged with the Alliance of Retired Public Servants in advancing ARCO’s Pension Strategy, including pension parity and negotiation rights for public servants,
- The reform of the Disability Pension Process,
- Extending its membership base,
- Advancing the Combined Veterans’ Strategy along with ONE and IUNVA:
 - The appointment of a Commissioner for Veterans,
 - The Establishment of a Joint Office for Veterans’ Affairs, and
 - The preparation of a framework for the elaboration of a Veterans’ Policy.



“Camaraderie Through Service”

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. The future augurs well for ARCO.

End