

National Gazette

January 2005

National Executive Council Meeting held at Church Street Chambers, 8-10 Church Street, Newent, Glos on Saturday/ Sunday 15-16th January

Francis Wallington is preparing this National Gazette. Francis took the minutes of the NEC meeting 15th and 16th January 2005. Donna Verrall has recently changed her job and was unavailable this weekend. We wish her well in her career. The principle aim of this NEC meeting was to discuss and confirm the proposals for reorganising the Federation to be put forward to the membership at the ANC. Secondly to review planning for national events and to elect honorary officials in preparation for the ANC.

Restructuring the Federation

The restructuring process was taken to final session where three proposals were put forward with a late addition that was later rejected. However thanks were given to the hard work put into this fourth proposal.

The three proposals left were in brief as follows and will be sent out in full to all members of the Federation. The proposals will no longer be called option A, B & C as this gives the appearance of order placing, so names will be devised for each of the three proposals.

Nationally Lead Option (name to be confirmed) - National Committee with addition of Web Manager, Area Representatives with no committees or area funds only a liaison, with the Groups to report back to the NEC, Group Committee - with a Group Representative and Treasurer only other committee positions as required. Less committee etherises.

Direct Membership Option (name to be confirmed) - No Area or Groups (groups optional) members of the Federation are all direct, with National operating the activities with sub committees.

Area Lead Option (name to be confirmed) - Areas and Groups to run the Federation's membership with national as a supporting function of the Federation, Additional Web Manager and the national office to close. Committee lead Federation.

Please note that this is just a brief glimpse but more detailed document will be sent out to the Groups. To try and make it as fair as possible the proposals will be drawn out of a hat for the order of presentation on the ANC day.

Timetable (all times approximately)

Saturday - 1:00pm - 2:00pm - General Business

- 2:00pm - 2:30pm - First Option Presented

- 2:30pm - 2:45pm - Questions and Clarification only (no debate till Sunday)

- 2:45pm - 3:15pm - COFFEE/TEA BREAK - Rest your mind

- 3:15pm - 3:45pm - Second Option Presented

- 3:45pm - 4:00pm - Questions and Clarification only (no debate till Sunday)

- 4:00pm - 4:15pm - Rest you Mind Break

- 4:15pm - 4:45pm - Third Option Presented

- 4:45pm - 5:00pm - Questions and Clarification only (no debate till Sunday)

Break till Sunday Morning for Debating the Proposals

Annual National Conference 16th to 17th April 2005

Booking forms for attendance to the ANC at being distributed by bulk posting and from National Website. Please begin the process of selecting delegates as well as preparing the nominations for trophies and elections.

ANC Chairman, Kirsty von Lieshout outlined plans for the ANC and the evening entertainment - Plus stars. The evening will be fund raising for the Mayor of Coventry's nominated charity. Kirsty seeks documented nominations from members for Plus Stars.

External funding for delegates

Eighteen Plus Groups have gained financial support to cover the cost of sending delegates to the ANC from Metropolitan Councils or County Councils. This involves contacting the Youth Services department of your authority and inquiring about registration and financial support for youth or community groups that meet in the locality. Such a process will enable an Eighteen Plus Group to gain access to other facilities and services.

If your Group requires financial assistance then please contact your Area Chairman and or Francis Wallington, National Training Co-Ordinator.

Timetable for nominations, motions and trophies

18th March 2005 is the deadline for the following;

a] Nominations for the election of National Officers such as HGS, NFO and NTO

B] Group Motions and Items for National Debate

C] Nominations for Trophies

11th April 2005 Nominations for Norbury and Charities Trophy,

Documents and materials for printing and distribution at ANC.

Please ensure that any questions to the NEC and its' officers are sent in advance to enable a considered researched answer.

ANC Training

If your members wish to understand their role as a delegate and observer in discussing motions and the running of a conference then please encourage them to participate in an ANC Training Day. These are open to all members and will assist you in group running

Midland and Northern Areas - 13th March, Community Lounge, Brownhills Community School, Deakin Avenue, Brownhills, Walsall, West Midlands. WS8.7QG [subject to confirmation]

East Anglia Area- 3rd April, Crown Public House, 260, London Road, Romford. RM7. 9NA.

Inspire 2005

The financial accounts for 2004 and budget for 2005 event were accepted. Inspire will be held 2/3/4th September 2005 at Alsager Campus, Crewe and Alsager Campus, MMU, Alsager, Cheshire.ST7 2HL. The National Training Co-ordinator would welcome suggestions from members as to the topics they would like to receive training on.

GPC

A] Means of Payment

With the adoption of alternative means of rapid payment by merchants, we have been carrying out an experiment in using PayPal to transmit payment for membership and Plus Products. The experiment has yet to be completed and evaluated

B] Replacement of Photocopier

The photocopier utilised in Newent was reaching the point of no return in terms of repair or breakdown and this threaten operation, external business and income for the Office. The National Chairman and National Finance Officer negotiated the purchase of a copier - printer. This printer has the capability of reproducing documents by scanning and from computer. It will possible for an emailed document to be reproduced in large quantities for internal and external publicity directly from the office network.

C] Archive

Two members of Gloucester Record Office Claire Collins and Karen Cooke visited Newent office on 14th January to assess the archive and its suitability to be taken under the care of the Gloucestershire County Archive. Some fifty boxes of material were identified for future cataloguing.

Material from groups outside the county will be forwarded to their respective record office and large objects will be past onto a district museum.

In order to maintain due diligence for legal and financial reasons, NEC and Accounting records up to seven years in age will be retained on site. Further discussion is required to explore the detail and legalities concerning Ownership, Data Protection and Freedom of Information to enable the transport and cataloguing of this resource.

It is hoped that this will become a permanent memorial of the achievements of members past and present.

If fellow members are storing records and materials that they wish to see retained, please consult Francis Wallington [francis.wallington@btinternet.com]. Francis is in contact with a former member who is a trained archivist.

Website

As you will be aware Adam Redshaw National Development Officer and a project team have constructed a new national website -www.meetnewfriends.org.uk - to introduce the public to the Federation. The NDO seeks your feedback on this matter and can be contacted by email development@18plus.org.uk or adam.redshaw@btinternet.com

Development

The NDO was tasked with providing information and costings on the following items a low cost telephone number that can be utilised in marketing materials and a data projector to enable the use of Presentation software.

The next NEC meetings will be held on 16th April at the Britannia Hotel, Coventry and 16th July 2005, at Church Street Chambers, Newent.