



ógra
FIANNA FÁIL
THE REPUBLICAN PARTY
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Fianna Fáil National Youth Conference 2007 - "A Fairer, Stronger Ireland"

Friday 16th February 2007

18.00 - 22.30

Hotel Reception Area
Delegate Registration and Banquet Ticket Collection

18.30 - 20.00

Connacht Suite (Main Conference Venue)
De Valera Cup Debating Competition First Round

20.00 - 23.00

Boardroom (First Floor)
Delegate List Changes

20.00 - 21.00

Election Candidate Hustings

21.00 - 21.30

Welcome and Official Opening

21.30

Glenarde Suite
Political Speed Dating

23.00

- Late Ceilí

Saturday 17th February 2007

09.00 – 10.30

Voting - Connacht Suite
All delegates must provide valid photo (proof of age)
Identification and Official College ID if requested

11.00 - 12.00

Workshop A - Glenarde Suite
Organisation - A Stronger Fianna Fáil and a Winning Campaign.

Chairperson: Anthony Kelly (Leas Cathaoirleach Ógra)
Speaker: Sean Dorgan (Fianna Fáil General Secretary)

12.00 - 13.30

Workshop B - Glenarde Suite
A Stronger Ireland (Motions Workshop)
Speakers: Ministers Mary Coughlan TD and Mary Hanafin TD

13.30 - 14.00

Lunch (Carvery available in Hotel Restaurant and Bar Food available throughout the day.

13.30 - 14.00

Counting of Votes - Tetrarch Room
Returning Officer: Sean Sherwin, Deputy General Secretary

13.30 - 14.45

Kilronan Suite
Young Councillors Group Meeting - (Closed Session – Invited Councillors and speakers only)

14.00 - 15.00

Workshop 3 – A Fairer Ireland
Speakers: Minister Seamus Brennan TD, Fr Peter Mc Verry SJ and Danny Maher Cricklewood Homeless Concern

14.30 - 18.30

Hotel reception Area
Delegate Registration and Banquet Ticket Collection

15.00 - 16.00

A Greener Ireland - Connacht Suite

Speaker: Professor Philip Walton

16.00 - 16.45

A Safer Ireland – Connacht Suite

Speaker: Micilín Feeney

16.45 - 17.30

Speech by
Cathaoirleach Ógra Fianna Fáil Barry Andrews TD

Conference Address by

An Taoiseach Bertie Ahern TD

17.30 - 17.40

Address by Leas Cathaoirleach Ógra Anthony Kelly

Close of Plenary Session

20.00

Ógra Fianna Fáil National Youth Conference

Valentines Banquet

- Presentation of Gobnait O'Connell Award for

Ógra of the Year 2006

- Entertainment provided by Erin's Fury

(followed by disco 'til late)

Other Confirmed Guests:

Minister Noel Dempsey, Minister Martin Cullen,
Minister Eamon Ó Cuív, Minister Dick Roche,
Minister Frank Fahey, Minister Sean Haughey,
Minister Noel Treacy, Sean Ó Neachtain MEP



A chairde,

Is cúis mhór áthais dom fáilte a chur romhaibh go dtí an Ghaillimh agus go dtí an tIarthar. Ar nós gach aon bhaile agus baile fearainn ar fud na tíre, tá borradh tagtha ar an nGaillimh le blianta beaga anuas.

Tugann an Comhdháil seo deis duinn díriú ar na dúshláin a thagann leis an mborradh seo agus na céimeanna a chaithfidimid a tógaint chun Éire glas, cóir, láidir a bhaint amach.

Building a greener, fairer, stronger Ireland has always been one of Ógra Fianna Fáil's aims. In Government we have worked with the Irish people to create a society and an economy which delivers real change. We have done this while remaining vigilant in our joint efforts to implement effective environmental policies.

There can be no doubt that climate change is the challenge for this generation. Each and every one of us has a central role in meeting this challenge. Individually, we can increase the amount we recycle, use energy sensibly, and alter our lifestyles to take help play our part to combat climate change.

Together as a nation we can make a real difference to our shared environment. Over the coming years, Fianna Fáil will ensure that Ireland:

- makes the switch to cleaner and greener energy sources;
- invests in developing public transport as committed to in the new NDP;
- continues to close the gap - and exceed - the levels of recycling of our European partners.

Through sustained and sustainable policies, Ireland can - and will - be to the forefront of battling the problem of climate change. Other pivotal areas which will rightly dominate the agenda at this Ógra Conference are the need to make housing more affordable for young people and ending the tragedy of deaths on our roads.

Along with my Cabinet colleagues, I look forward to participating in the discussions and listening to the debates amongst delegates during the weekend. Ultimately, I look forward to taking on board your valuable insights and reflecting them in the policies we will shortly be bringing forward for the next five years.

The coming months provide many challenges and opportunities for Ógra. Many of your members, past and present, are candidates in the upcoming election and will need your support to gain election.

I believe that loyal and energetic Ógra members are key to winning the people's support for our ongoing efforts to transform Ireland. This weekend gives us an opportunity to discuss the fairer, stronger Ireland we want to achieve, and more importantly, the central role that Ógra Fianna Fáil will play in securing that Ireland.

Is mise le meas,

Bertie Ahern TD

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Message from Barry Andrews TD, Chairman Ógra Fianna Fáil

You are very welcome to this year’s Ógra conference.

This year Ógra members will be called upon to bring their energy to bear in returning Fianna Fáil to Government. Fianna Fáil’s message is a good one and your efforts in delivering this door-to-door with your local candidate should be your sole focus over the next few months.

During the course of the year, we have worked on a number of important issues including mental health, road safety and child protection. At this year’s conference we are delighted to welcome a number of important guest speakers. Danny Maher from Cricklewood Homeless Concern in London will talk to us about Irish homeless in the UK – in a time of economic growth in Ireland, it is opportune to reflect that previous Irish generations were not so fortunate.

Fr Peter McVerry SJ has been a constant campaigner for equality in Ireland and his views will provoke thought and debate.

We will also be joined by a number of Ministers who will speak to the theme of a “Fairer and Stronger Ireland”.

Finally I would like to thank Anthony Kelly, Aidan O’Gorman, Maeve Donlan and all members of the National Youth Committee who made 2006 such a successful year for Ógra.

Message from Aidan O’Gorman, Youth Officer



The year since our last conference in Ennis has just flown by and the annual report published later in this booklet stands as a testament to the achievements of Ógra Fianna Fáil in 2006.

Thanks to all Ógra members for your hard work.

I would like to thank the members of the National Youth Committee. I want to say a very sincere thank you to Anthony Kelly and Barry Andrews who have been excellent ambassadors for our organisation

Sincere thanks to Maeve Donlon. Maeve has now moved on to new challenges in the Fianna Fáil press office. Catherine Ryan is now doing tremendous work supporting Ógra in the run up the election.

You hardly need me to tell you where Ógra’s focus for the next four months will be. I’m sure that all Ógra members will be actively canvassing for candidates throughout the country.

I was first elected to the Youth Committee in 1999. Four of my colleagues on that committee are now contesting the general election on behalf of Fianna Fáil as first time candidates. This shows Ógra’s value as a breeding ground for the next

generation of Public Representatives. There is no doubt that Ógra will play a key role in the election campaign. Following that the challenge for the incoming Youth Committee is to utilise the short space of time after the election to ensure Ógra is active in every part of the country and that we are prepared to really influence the Party’s strategy for the local elections in 2009 and beyond.

I hope you enjoy the weekend. Our hosts, Galway West Ógra and Cumann de Barra NUIG have put in huge effort so be sure to thank them when you meet them.

Ta súil agam go mbainfidh gach éinne taitneamh as an gcomhdáil agus go mbeidh deireadh seachtaine iontach ag gach éinne i nGallaimh , agus go mbeirimid beo an am seo arís.

Message from Seán Dorgan, General Secretary



I am pleased to welcome you to Galway for our National Youth Conference.

This year has been one of considerable achievement for Ógra Fianna Fáil, in excess of 2,400 third level students joined Ógra. This is a great achievement and ensures that

Ógra is the largest youth political organisation in Ireland. This year has also seen Ógra run an imaginative Road Safety campaign which focused on educating all road users on key risk areas when driving. Ógra also spear-headed a ‘register to vote’ initiative which resulted in the launch of www.registertovote.ie . I offer my congratulations to all those involved.

In the coming months Fianna Fáil will face into an important a general election. It is vital that you, the members of Ógra Fianna Fáil, bring your unique energy to this campaign. Ógra must be a campaigning unit of our organisation, it must continue the proud tradition of being challenging and relevant. I encourage you all to embrace the spirit of political activism for which Ógra Fianna Fáil has rightly earned a formidable reputation. Just under 25% of our candidates are first time Dáil candidates and will benefit greatly from the vitality Ógra can bring to their contests.

Election campaigns are challenging. However it is always rewarding and will constantly challenge you, both individually and collectively. It is an opportunity to get involved, be proud of your party and make the all important difference.

The theme of our conference this year is “A Fairer Stronger Ireland”. I urge you to listen and discuss the contributions made by our guest speakers and your fellow delegates.

I wish you all a successful and stimulating conference and I look forward to meeting you over the weekend.

A Fairer Ireland



Fr. Peter McVerry SJ

Born in Belfast in 1944, Fr Peter McVerry entered the Jesuit order in 1962 and received a BSc from UCD in 1968. Fr. McVerry has worked tirelessly with the

problem of homelessness in Dublin's inner city. In 1983 he founded the Arrupe Society, which works on providing care and accommodation for homeless boys. They have established hostels, aftercare houses and a drug detox house. In numerous articles and interviews, he has drawn attention to poor education, institutionalised inequality and exclusion and stigmatisation of the poor in Irish society.



Mr Danny Maher

is the Director of Cricklewood Homeless Concern.

This organisation provides advice and practical assistance to people who are homeless or living in inadequate accommodation, and who have a connection to the borough of Brent in London. They provide a range of services including: - Advice on issues such as welfare benefits, housing, medical and employment. They also have a Residential Alcohol Recover Project.

A Safer Ireland



Micilin Feeney

Micilin Feeney is 25 years of age from Lettermullen Co. Galway. On Halloween night 2004 Micilin was involved in a serious car accident.

He now campaigns on road safety awareness and speaks publicly about his personal experiences of the consequences of being involved in a Road accident.

A Greener Ireland

Philip W Walton

Philip W Walton is a retired Professor of Applied Physics at NUI Galway and a spokesperson for BENE (Better Environment with Nuclear Energy). This group aims to persuade Government, policy makers, industry and the public of the benefits of nuclear power. The group believes there are risks associated with nuclear power but claim they are manageable and acceptable. On the other hand, the group says, the risks associated with global warming are not manageable or acceptable.

ministers attending

In addition many Fianna Fáil Ministers and Tds will be present to take part in debates and meet with Ógra members.

These ministers are well known to us and surely need no introductions.

Here are some pictures of the Ministers attending this year's conference pictured at Ógra events in the recent past:

1- Ministers Eamon Ó Cuív, Frank Fahey, Pat The Cope Gallagher and Sean Ó Neachtain MEP launch the Cumann de Barra Road Safety Campaign.

2- Minister Noel Dempsey helps out at the Meath West Ógra Recruitment Stand.

3- Minister Martin Cullen discusses the Western Rail Corridor with Mayo Ógra members.

4- Minister Seamus Brennan.

5- Minister Dick Roche launches Ógra's No Vote No Voice Campaign.

6- An Taoiseach assists Cork North West Ógra's Recruitment Campaign.

7- Minister Mary Hanafin meets with Danvina and Evelyn Kingston of Cork South West Ógra.

8- Minister Mary Coughlan meets the UCD Ag Soc.



Workshop A - "A Stronger Fianna Fáil" 11am 17th February 2007

Organisation

1 This Youth Conference calls on the incoming National Youth Committee to undertake a revision of the National Youth Scheme of Ógra Fianna Fáil.

Proposed by: Meath West Ógra CDC.

2 That this Youth Conference calls for the Leas Cathaoirleach of Ógra Fianna Fáil, to be appointed as Leas Uachtarán Fhianna Fáil.

Proposed by: Meath West Ógra CDC.

3. Ógra calls for the immediate addition of a 6 county representative on the National Youth Committee (as voted for at Conference last year) and that Ard Chomhairle explain the delay in its appointment.

Proposed by: Kevin Barry Cumann UCD, Related Motion from: Donogh O'Malley Cumann UCC.

4. This conference calls for Ógra CDC's to be provided with more information and documentation to assist Ógra units with recruitment.

Proposed by: Cork North West Ógra CDC.

5. In the interest of the future of the Fianna Fáil Party, we demand that Fianna Fáil Headquarters respects the wishes of delegates at its selection conventions.

Proposed by: Cork North West Ógra CDC, Related Motion South Tipperary Ógra CDC.

6. This conference calls for the election of position of leas-Cathaoirleach of Ógra Fianna Fáil, to be open to all Ógra members of 12 months standing.

Proposed by: Carlow Ógra CDC.

7. After the National Youth Committee term is complete, members of the committee should be required to send out a description of the work they have done during their term.

Proposed by: South Tipperary Ógra CDC, similar motion proposed by: Donogh O'Malley Cumann UCC

8. That the Donogh O'Malley Cumann calls on the National Youth Committee to commence an active Ógra recruitment campaign in the colleges of the six counties, with a focus on individual membership.

Proposed by: Donogh O'Malley Cumann UCC.

9. That the Ógra Fianna Fáil calls on Ógra to work with other political youth organizations in creating summer workshops in regional areas in promoting electoral-registration, active citizenship and allowing the voices of the youth be heard.

Proposed by: Donogh O'Malley Cumann UCC.

10. This Conference calls on the Ard Chomhairle to keep its promise to adopt a one-in-five share of young candidates under the age of 30, by the 2009 local elections; and urges the Ard Chomhairle to outline its plans to implement this motion which was agreed on at the last Ard Fheis.

Proposed by: Donogh O'Malley Cumann UCC.

11. That the Donogh O'Malley Cumann calls on the National Youth Committee to expand the remits of the De Valera Cup competitions to include those not already in the Fianna Fáil organization.

Proposed by: Donogh O'Malley Cumann UCC.

12. This Conference supports the Taoiseach's unequivocal rejection of Sinn Féin as potential coalition partners.

Proposed by: Dublin South Central Ógra CDC.

Workshop B “A Fairer, Stronger Ireland” 12pm 17th February 2007

Education

1. Ógra welcomes the Minister for Education and Sciences setting up of a preliminary independent examination to comprehensively analyse the Waterford IT submission for University Status.
Proposed by Waterford Ógra CDC and Thomas Francis Meagher Cumann WIT.

2. That this Youth Conference calls on the Minister for Education to provide funding for After School Irish Comhrá classes, free of charge to pupils.
Proposed by: Meath West Ógra CDC.

3. Ógra calls on the Government to extend the free fees initiative to part-time 3rd Level Students.
Proposed by: Kevin Barry Cumann UCD.

4. Ógra calls on the Minister for Education to change the Third level Maintenance Grants application period to run concurrently with that of the CAO application period to ensure timely delivery of grants.
Proposed by Kevin Barry: Cumann UCD.

5. Ógra calls on the Minister for Education to ban private secondary schools.
Proposed by: Kevin Barry Cumann UCD similar motion proposed by Seán Lemass Cumann NUI Maynooth.

6. Ógra calls for the re-introduction of third level fees for those whose parents combined income is in excess of €120,000 and that this would supplement, rather than replace the current HEA funding to third level intuitions.

Proposed by: Kevin Barry Cumann UCD.

7. Ógra Fianna Fáil calls on the Government to increase the number of guidance counsellors in Irish secondary schools.

Proposed by: Padraig Pearse Cumann, DCU, Dublin North West.

8. That Ógra encourages the Minister of Education to resist calls on the publication of secondary school league tables, which would only have a detrimental impact on our education system.

Proposed by: Dublin South Central Ógra CDC.

9. That driver safety is thought in secondary schools with a provision for driving lessons being made available.

Proposed by: Cumann de Barra.

Environment

10. The phenomenon known a “Global Warming” is the greatest threat to our Islands future well being and our contribution to reducing its effect must act as an example to the bigger nations of the World.

Proposed by: Waterford Ógra CDC similar motion by Dublin South Central Ógra CDC.

11. Ógra calls for the introduction of compulsory voting in Ireland, including a referendum on it if deemed necessary.

Proposed by: Kevin Barry Cumann UCD.

12. Ógra calls on the Minister for Environment to establish an Independent Study group to carry out a feasibility study on whether Nuclear Power should continue to be prohibited in Ireland.

Proposed by: Kevin Barry Cumann UCD similar motion proposed by Donogh O'Malley Cumann UCC.

13. That this conference calls for legislation be amended in order to increase the bag tax (above 22c) as a matter of importance.

Proposed by: Roscommon Ógra CDC.

14. That Ógra calls on the Government to return to the original wording of part 5 of the Planning & Development Act to combat social stratification in affordable housing recognising the need for greater access to social and affordable housing.

Proposed by: Cumann Wolfe Tone TCD.

15. That the Government increase funding on a once off basis to Local Authorities so they can maintain estates and by doing this eliminating the “management fee” for residents.

Proposed by: Seán Lemass Cumann NUI Maynooth.

16. That Ógra calls on the Minister for the Environment to lobby for greater resources in the area of renewable resources. **Proposed by: Donogh O'Malley Cumann UCC similar motion proposed by Cumann Wolfe Tone TCD.**

17. Ar mhaithe ár dteanga agus cultúir agus mor tachaíocht don muinteoireacht trí Gaeilge, go gcuirfeadh an Aire Oideachas on Ionad Oideachais ar fail i mBaile Buirne gan a thuilleadh moill.
Proposed by: Cork North West Ógra CDC.

Finance

18. Ógra calls on the Minister for Finance to allow tax relief for rental accommodation to be claimed by parents of Full time third-level students living away from home.
Proposed by: Kevin Barry Cumann UCD.

19. Ógra calls for the abolition of VAT on hurleys.
Proposed by: Kevin Barry Cumann UCD.

20. Conference calls for the abolition of stamp duty on all houses bought by first-time buyers valued at under €400,000.
Proposed by: Dublin Mid West Ógra CDC.

21 This conference calls for the Independent Government funding for Youth wings of Political Parties.
Proposed by: Carlow Ógra CDC.

Health

22. That this conference feels that we need a National Children's Hospital now, not a row over its location. **Proposed by: Waterford CDC.**

23. That the Government ban smoking advertisements behind Shop counters
Proposed by: Seán Lemass Cumann NUI Maynooth.

24. This conference calls on the Government to provide more funding for the problem of depression, and for mental health awareness.
Proposed by: South Tipperary Ógra CDC, similar motion proposed by: Cumann de Barra.

25. That Ógra calls on the Government to remove the discriminative and outdated ban on all blood donations from homosexuals.
Proposed by: Donogh O'Malley Cumann UCC.

Social and Transport

26. That the Government provide grants to childcare providers and lower the levies which childcare providers have to pay councils.
Proposed by: Seán Lemass Cumann NUI Maynooth.

27. We request the Government to support the placing of extra penalty points on drivers during a Bank Holiday Weekend.
Proposed by: Waterford Ógra CDC.

28. That this Youth Conference thanks and congratulates the Minister for Transport, Martin Cullen TD for his tremendous commitment to the provision of the M3 Motorway through County Meath.
Proposed by: Meath West Ógra CDC.

29. Conference calls on the Minister for Transport to look at all options for improving service quality for bus users, including the opening of some routes to competition.
Proposed by: Dublin Mid West Ógra CDC, similar motion proposed by: Cumann Wolfe Tone TCD.

30. That tax credits should be available for "Advanced Driving Courses" to improve road safety.
Proposed by: Seán Lemass Cumann NUI Maynooth.

31. That Ógra calls on the Ministers for Transport and Education to co-ordinate resources in establishing a new road-safety campaign aimed at senior second level students.
Proposed by: Donogh O'Malley Cumann UCC.

motions - workshop b

Marine

32. That the Dept of Marine and Natural Resources conduct a study into allowing Fishermen to collect a social welfare payment when not allowed to fish in order to secure the long term sustainability of Irelands costal communities.

Proposed by: Waterford Ógra CDC.

Foreign Affairs

33. That Ógra congratulates PSNI ombudsman Nuala O'Loan for her investigation into RUC collusion with loyalist paramilitaries in recent years and calls on the British Government to compensate the victims of RUC acquiesce and co-operation with terrorism.

Proposed by: Cumann Wolfe Tone TCD.

Justice

34. Ógra FF demands that the Government reverse its decision to cease funding the research and work of the National Domestic Violence Intervention Agency.

Proposed by: Kevin Barry Cumann UCD.

35. Ógra Fianna Fáil proposes that the Government implements important aspects of the Competition Authority's report on the legal profession, particularly with regard to abolishing the monopoly in the provision of legal education.

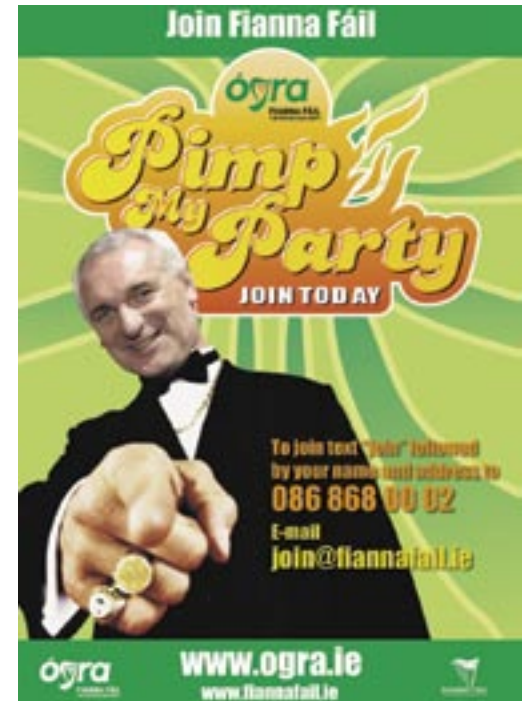
Proposed by: Padraig Pearse Cumann, DCU, Dublin North West.

36. That an independent regulatory body is set up to regulate the alcohol industry.

Proposed by: Cumann de Barra NUI Galway.

37. That Ógra calls on the Government to fulfill the commitments made to expand the system of restorative-justice across the state.

Proposed by: Donogh O'Malley Cumann UCC.





James Carroll

James Carroll is a 23 year old native of Monasterboice, Co. Louth. As the current chairperson of the Kevin Barry Cumann in UCD and vice-chairperson of Louth Ógra, he has seen both the strengths and weaknesses of Ógra Fianna Fáil and the National

Youth Committee. As last year's President of the UCD Students' Union, he has the experience and hard-work ethic to achieve real results. He knows what it takes to lead a dynamic, campaigning organization.

James has set out proactive, professional and above all, achievable plans to serve Ógra for the year ahead:

"I want to have a bi-monthly national Ógra campaign. For example, to tackle the issue of inaccessibility of buildings for people with disabilities, we should draw up a list of guilty premises, give them two months to initiate a plan of improvements and failing that, launch a full-scale local and national name and shame campaign.

We need to work to ensure the success of all out young candidates in the General Election and also for the local and European Elections of 2009.

Ógra must be to the forefront of Fianna Fáil establishing on an All-Ireland basis. I will be personally strive for a new approach to how Ógra and Fianna Fáil serve the 32 counties.

I am a firm believer in accountability within the National Youth Committee (NYC). All NYC officers should publish a monthly report, as well as each NYC member must publish a bi-monthly report on their area, which I will make available on Ógra.ie.

Ba mhaith liom an Ghaeilge a chur cinn in Ógra. Mar sin, ba cheart go mbeadh feachtas polaitiúil amháin ar a laghad as Ghaeilge gach bhliain. I would be honoured to serve as your Leas-Cathaoirleach and I would appreciate your No. 1.



Lorcan Price

Lorcan Price is a twenty-one year old native of Galway city. He has just completed a BA in UCG and is currently studying for an LLB (law). He is the current Chair of Galway West Ógra Fianna Fáil. He is also the current Third level Representative to the Ard Chomhairle, having served on the youth committee for over two years.

Lorcan has been involved in Ógra since joining as a first year in college, and has immensely enjoyed the experience of being actively involved in Fianna Fáil ever since.

"I am contesting the election for Leas Cathaoirleach because I feel Ógra is an excellent organisation with many strengths and much to offer its members, however I also feel its potential is not fully utilised."

"I have set out what I believe are achievable goals for the year ahead, I fully intend to establish Ógra in the Six Counties by the end of this year, and ensure successful recruitment in both colleges and constituencies across the Island"

"It is also my intention to ensure that the youth committee is more accountable to all members of Ógra, thus regular progress reports on all activities will be issued to members"

This is an important year for Fianna Fáil, if elected I will ensure that the youth committee works with Ógra activists across the country to help the party win a historic 3rd term in Government.

Tá súil agam go mbainfidh gach duinne uilig taitneamh as an gcomhdaíl agus go mbeidh deireadh seachtaine lan le sult ag gach éinne anseo i nGaillimh.

I hope you enjoy your weekend in the 'City of the Tribes' and I look forward to meeting you!

election candidates ard comhairle

Ard Chomhairle Representative



Darragh McShea

Darragh McShea is a 21 year old Student in NUI Galway. He has served as Honorary Secretary, and is the current Chairman of Cumann de Barra, NUI Galway. He has been actively involved in Ógra Fianna Fail for the last 5 years. Last year he was elected to the position of Connacht/Ulster Ard Chomhairle Representative. Connacht/Ulster has had a good year since the last National Youth Conference and all Ógra CDCs are fully registered. Also, several of the CDCs held recruitment days in an effort to make the organisation more accessible to all in this region.

Darragh is keen to continue working hard with the people in Connacht/Ulster to ensure this region continues to grow. If elected he would prioritise Activity and Accessibility for this region, ensuring that every unit gets the support it needs. To open up the organisation he would assist each CDC in the organising of recruitment days in the large towns across their county. Darragh would greatly appreciate your support in Galway

Ard Chomhairle Representative - Leinster



Catherine McNally

Catherine has been a member of Fianna Fail for over six years. During her time in Ógra she has held numerous officer board positions. She is currently the secretary of Meath West Ógra.

Catherine is also the Secretary of Navan Ógra CC and the PRO for her Cumann. Catherine works in the income department for Citigroup, a leading Financial Services Company in the I.F.S.C.

If elected to the position of Leinster Ard Chomhairle she will strive to develop better co-operation between ograí and encourage active recruitment. She asks for your number one vote.



Aimee Milne

Aimee Milne is 24 years old and is the current PRO of Ógra Fianna Fáil in Offaly and was a founding member of the 1st ever DIT Fianna Fáil Cumann. Aimee is a member of the outgoing youth committee representing Offaly, Laois, Westmeath and Longford.

Aimee, through her PR qualifications and her experience to date believes she has what it takes to represent Leinster Ógra effectively on the National Executive. Aimee is committed to a fresh approach to recruitment in Leinster and to co-ordinating the coming together of Ógra units to host events.

Aimee is currently employed as the National Brand Manager for the drinks brand Carpe Diem.

I would be honoured to serve as your representative for Leinster and I would very much appreciate your support. Bheadh áthas an domhain orm do thacaíocht a fháil. Tá súil agam go mbainfidh tú taitneamh as an deireadh seachtaine.

Ard Chomhairle Representative – Dublin



Peter Doris

Peter Doris is from Cabinteely in county Dublin. A final year Civil Engineering student at UCD, he is a former secretary and chairman of the Kevin Barry Cumann, UCD. Peter is an active member of Dún Laoghaire Fianna Fáil where has served as Membership officer of the senior party and serves as secretary of Clonkeen Cumann.

First elected to the National Youth Committee in 2004, Peter has been vocal in representing Ógra members' interests. With your support, Peter will continue to work to develop Ógra in the Capital and to facilitate as much participation as possible by Ógra members in developing Ógra policy and campaigns. In particular Peter will focus on securing further resources for constituency units to bring them on par with 3 rd level cumainn.

Peter would greatly appreciate your support this weekend.

Ard Chomhairle Representative – Munster



Niall Kelleher

A 21 year old from Carraig View, Rathmore, County Kerry, Niall is currently the secretary of Kerry South Ógra Chomhairle Dailcheantair and Gneevegullia Chomhairle Ceantair. He was involved in the revival of Ógra in Kerry. He is also serving his second term as Treasurer of the Senior Chomhairle Dailcheantair. Niall is currently running his own Auctioneering Practice 'Kelleher Nagle' and is CEO of Combined Legal Services Ltd a company he set up himself over three years ago. He was also appointed a Commissioner for Oaths by the Supreme Court. Niall has been heavily involved in Fianna Fail since he joined back in 2001 and would like to reinforce and promote Ógra at Cumann and Chomhairle Ceantair level. He now seeks your support for the position of Munster Ard Chomhairle representative, he not alone assures to recruit and develop Ógra but to strengthen the profile of Ógra in Munster and nationally.



David O'Connor

David has served on the National Youth Committee since 2004 and believes he has the experience to represent Munster efficiently and effectively at Ard Chomhairle level.

He is committed to building strong links between all the Ógraí in Munster and undertakes to update Ógra units on a regular basis on the progress of the Youth Committee.

He has served as Treasurer and Secretary of Waterford Ógra and also as Vice-Chair of the Theobald Wolfe Tone Cumann in Trinity College Dublin. A law graduate from TCD, he is currently studying in the Law Society of Ireland in Blackhall Place.

David would greatly appreciate your support this weekend.

election candidates ard comhairle

Ard Chomhairle Representative Munster



Eoin Ó Nialláin

Eoin Ó Nialláin is from Ennis, Co. Clare and is a 3rd year Civil Engineering student in NUIG.

Ever since he joined Fianna Fáil, Eoin has been hugely involved in Ógra both in college and in Clare. He is currently a member of the National Youth Committee whilst also serving as secretary of Cumann de Barra, NUIG and as P.R.O. with Clare Ógra. During the year Eoin was instrumental in the foundation of a new Ógra C.C. for Ennis, Peadar Clancy Ógra na hInse where he holds the position of secretary.

Eoin's main priorities for the year ahead include;

- Ógra's role in keeping Fianna Fáil in power
- Promote more Ógra social events for the region
- Organisation in the North
- Formation of more, regular policy documents from Ógra - Organisation of a viable year long recruitment campaign
- Promotion of the Irish language

Eoin would greatly appreciate the highest preference you can give him. Go raibh maith agat agus tá siúl agam go bhaint tú sult as an deireadh seachtaine.

Third Level Ard Chomhairle Representative



Oilbhe Brady

Oilbhe Brady is a 21 year old, science student in UCD. Home for her is Bundoran, Co. Donegal. She has been an active member of Fianna

fáil for over five years both in the Kevin Barry cumann, UCD and in her home constituency of Donegal South-West.

Oilbhe currently holds the positions of Cisteoir in the Kevin Barry Cumann and as Runaí of Donegal South-West, Ógra CDC. She has also served on the National Youth Committee for the past year as Donegal, Cavan, and Monaghan representative and External Liaison Officer.

If elected to the Ard Chomhairle as National Third Level Representative Oilbhe will work to:

- Set up a forum before each term to facilitate smaller colleges and IT's in organizing events.
- Channel funding from Headquarters into more attractive gifts for freshers packs.
- Fortnightly national third level updates of events on the Ógra website

Oilbhe would appreciate your No.1 vote!



Steven Dixon

Steven is a final year law student in Trinity College Dublin and has been active in the party since starting university, currently serving

as Chairperson of Cumann Wolfe Tone. "The previous recruitment campaign was the most successful on record for the party. However in order to maintain this momentum, it is important that each Third Level is given more resources.

It is also vital to achieving even greater numbers in Ógra, for us to ensure that Fianna Fáil has a presence at every recruitment day and that new cumainn are given particular help so that they can flourish. I am also strongly committed to establishing Fianna Fáil in all parts of this island. It is at Third Level where Ógra, can and should be taking the lead.

I fully intend for the Youth Committee to comply with its mandate to organise on a 32 county basis and if elected I commit to making this happen. I will work hard to make sure these objectives are achieved and be in contact with every unit, giving regular updates of my progress. I look forward to seeing everyone at the Youth Conference and I hope you will consider supporting me."

Munster Third Level Representative



Brian Fitzpatrick

Brian is a 20 year old student of Law and Accounting at the University of Limerick, currently on co-op in Dublin with William Fry, one of the

largest law firms in the state.

Brian is a Sligo native but has a great sense of loyalty and place in Munster. He has served 2 terms on the committee of the Con Colbert Cumann; initially as 1st Year Rep and subsequently on the cumann executive as PRO, a role at which he excelled.

Of initial concern is the registration of 3rd levels that are not represented here at conference this weekend, as opposed to increasing numbers with new cumainn. Without the burden of a committee position or study for the next 8 months and a central location in Dublin, Brian is ideally placed; close to headquarters and is genuinely the candidate to serve you best as Munster 3rd Level representative on the National Youth Committee.

“Put me on the NYC; you know it Fitz”



Brendan Hayes

Hi. My name is Brendan Hayes and I'm running for the position of Munster Third Level Representative this weekend. I am a second year Law student of UCC but I'm a born and bred West Cork man at heart. I am Treasurer of the Donogh O Malley cumann in the college, while also serving as Membership Development Officer for Cork South West CDC.

On being elected, I would hope to bring to the position would be efficiency, dedication, a commitment to improve communication channels within Ógra and a promise to enrich the party from grassroots upwards.

Let's build upon the successes of the outgoing NYC, forge new paths in to future and help form the future policy for the true Republican Party, as we head in to our third consecutive term in Government. Vote Hayes.

Connacht / Ulster Third Level Representative



Eoin O'Neill

(See profile in Munster Ard Chomhairle Section)

NYC - Connacht/Ulster - Donegal South West, Donegal North East, Cavan, Monaghan



Oilbhe Brady

(See profile in 3rd Level Ard Chomhairle Section)

Leinster Third Level Representative

No Nominees

election candidates national youth committee

Dublin Third Level Representative



Mark Duffy

Mark Duffy is a 20 year old Arts student in UCD. He currently serves as Special Events Officer for the Kevin Barry Cumann in UCD and recently brought a group of twenty to visit the European Parliament and meet Commissioner McCreevy in Brussels.

Mark is also a founding member of his local cumann where he serves as treasurer. Having been involved in various recruitment drives throughout the Dublin Colleges this September gone, he realises that with so many third level students in Dublin, third level cumainn should be holding regular joint policy meetings.

With your support, Mark will increase the number of Dublin third level cumainn and will initiate a scheme whereby large Dublin colleges are twinned with smaller ones. He also believes passionately that Fianna Fáil must organise within the six counties and will work tirelessly to achieve these aims. Go raibh maith agaibh.



Emer Lydon

Emer is a 2nd year student studying business and politics in Trinity College.

She has been an active member of Cumann Theobald Wolfe Tone, currently serving as Vice-Chair, after having been CDC representative in 1st year. "For years Ógra has promised to establish cumainn in all Dublin Third level institutes. While some have been set up, much more needs to be done to ensure that Fianna Fáil has representation in every centre in the Capital and that these new units grow into integral parts of the organisation.

I want to establish regular meetings in these cumainn which will foster the same sense of enthusiasm and purpose that is already alive in the older units."

Galway West, Galway East, Roscommon



Joseph O'Neill

Joe O'Neill is a twenty year old, Third arts student at NUI Galway studying legal science and History. From Co.Galway he became actively involved in Ógra when he entered university and currently serves as Treasurer on the officer Board of Cumann De Barra. Through his involvement with Ógra at Third Level, Joe became actively involved in Ógra in Galway East and serves as Secretary of that unit. He now seeks your support for the position of Galway East Galway West and Roscommon representative. If elected his priorities will be

- Providing a strong voice for the Ógra members in this region on the NYC
- Increasing the membership of these areas by holding regular recruitment days
- Highlight the deficiencies in the provision of sufficient youth infrastructure in this area.

If elected he promises to devote his energies to achieving these aims. Joe would appreciate your support this weekend.

National Youth Committee Mayo, Sligo, Leitrim



Pádraig McGuinness

Pádraig McGuinness has been an active member of Leitrim Ógra since 2005.

In the run up to the next election, possibly one of the most important for Fianna Fáil in Sligo, Leitrim and Mayo in recent times, Pádraig pledges to ensure that Ógra will play its role in ensuring the election of the Fianna Fáil candidates. Central to this is a rapid increase in the membership of Ógra, to ensure the young vote of these three counties is grasped and maintained. Ógra canvass teams can also play a vital role in this area, and if elected, Pádraig pledges to form canvass teams throughout the counties to ensure we do our part in securing our historic third term in Government.

Please give Pádraig your number one for the National Youth Committee.

Laois, Offaly, Longford, Westmeath

No Nominees

Meath E, Meath W, Louth, Kildare Nth, Kildare Sth



Donnacha Maguire

Dia Dhaoibh go leir, Is mise Donnacha Maguire. I have been nominated to contest the National Youth Committee Elections for the

North Leinster Region. Our region, although making progress lately, needs to be more active; this requires organisation and leadership. I will make it my priority to have all Ógra CDC's set up in this area before the General Election this summer.

As a member of the NYC, I want the focus to be put on the Constituency based units of Ógra. I will campaign for a radically increased funding system for recruitment projects in all Constituencies. I will endeavour to facilitate a regional forum for Ógra in this area as well as Canvass Days in each constituency in the area.

I would greatly appreciate your support at the National Youth Conference and I look forward to speaking with as many of you as possible in Galway.

Ar aghaidh le Fianna Fáil!!

Clare, Limerick E, Limerick W, Tipperary Nth & Sth



P.J. Fahey

My name is P.J. Fahey. I am 20 years of age and in my final year of studying History and Philosophy in U.C.C. I am currently the Chairperson of the Donogh O'Malley Cumann in U.C.C. At a local level I am the P.R.O. of South Tipperary Ógra and the Youth Officer of the Denis Lacy Cumann in Clonmel.

I have gained lots of experience within Fianna Fáil at all levels which I can use to the benefit of the area. I will firstly ensure that Ógra members help and support our candidates for the coming general election. If elected I will use my experience and drive to set up an Ógra in every Chomhairle Dáilcheantair and from there I will work with people to set up as many Ógra Chomhairle Ceantair as possible.

I want Ógra to get more media attention and to develop its potential more. If you want this to happen too, vote for me, and I guarantee it will happen. I'm looking forward to speaking to you all in Galway.

election candidates national youth committee

Carlow, Kilkenny, Wicklow, Wexford



Brian Doyle

Brian is an active member of both his local Ógra in Enniscorthy and the Kevin Barry Cumann in UCD where he is currently studying Commerce. As the current Education Officer and Vice-President of Students' Union in UCD he is well aware of the problems that affect young people today.

Some of Brian's main priorities for the NYC include:

- 1) Fostering better collaborative efforts between Ógraí both locally and between each of the four counties.
- 2) Making Ógra more relevant through purpose built meetings on real everyday topics
- 3) To make Ógra as relevant to young people as Fianna Fáil is to the older generations

With your support Brian can help to make these priorities a reality. Go raibh maith agaibh.



Stephen Proctor

I'm a native of Carlow and have been involved in Ógra for several years in both the Local Ógra and in the Institute of Technology Carlow where I did a degree in accountancy. I'm now working as a trainee accountant and studying for my professional exams with the CPA.

I have previously served on the National Youth Committee as the Third Level Representative for Leinster and I'd hope the experience I've gained I can put to the benefit of Ógra in the Leinster area. My goal would be the strengthening of Ógra in the area.

I look forward to meeting everyone at the conference, and that everyone has a good time. Go raibh maith agaibh.

Kerry South, Kerry North, Cork SW, Cork NW



Paul Keohane

My name is Paul Keohane from Baile Mhic Ire, Macroom, Co. Cork. I am a fourth year accounting student in CIT, I am actively involved in politics at a local level and I'm Vice Chair of Cork North West Ógra.

This year I set up Ógra Fianna Fáil in Cork Institute of Technology along with the help and support of the National Youth Committee without which it could not have occurred. I hope if elected that I can further develop more Ógra units throughout the Munster region, and give all of Ógra's support to Fianna Fáil in the general election.

I look forward to talking to you all at the next National Youth Conference, go raibh maith agus ar agaidh le Fianna Fáil ins on toghchán ginearálta.



Niall Kelleher

(See profile in Munster Ard Chomhairle Section)

Waterford, Cork North Central, Cork South Central, Cork East



Patrick Corkery

I am 21 years old and a final year Arts student in U.C.C., where I study History and Politics. I am a member of the U.C.C. Donogh O'Malley

Cumann and since joining I have served as its PRO and secretary and I am currently Vice-Chair. Outside of that I am involved in Cork South Central Fianna Fáil, largely in the Bishopstown area and I regularly attend C.D.C. meetings. For a long time the Ógra organisation had been dormant in this constituency and working with others I managed to re-establish it successfully.

If elected as area rep, I aim to establish Cork North Central and East Cork, while I hope to strengthen both Waterford and my own constituency of Cork South Central. This is an important year for the party with the election nearly upon us and I hope to invigorate Ógra in these constituencies to ensure that Fianna Fáil can maximise its vote and thus ensure it remains in Government for another five years. Thank you.



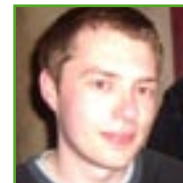
Eamon Quinlan

Hi, My name is Eamon Quinlan. I am twenty years old and I am currently attending the University of Limerick where I am doing

business studies.

I have been active in Fianna Fáil for three years now. I am the chairman of the Waterford county Ógra CDC and Treasurer for the Con Colbert Cumann U.L. It is with great pride that I call myself a member of this party and hope that the obtaining of the Waterford, Cork East, Cork South Central and North Central representative job on the National Youth Committee will allow me to work for and with a greater number of people in furthering Ógra's development. I wish everyone a very enjoyable conference.

Dublin Central, South Central, South East, Dunlaoghaire



Morgan Shelley

Morgan Shelley is a 23 year-old barrister from Blackrock in Co. Dublin.

He has been a member of Fianna Fáil since 1999, and is currently Youth Officer of Dun Laoghaire CDC and Secretary of the Booterstown Cumann.

Morgan is a graduate of UCD and King's Inns. He is a former winner of the Ógra Fianna Fáil DeValera Cup and was awarded the UCD President's Award for excellence in student activities in 2006.

election candidates national youth committee

Dublin South, South West, Midwest, West



Eoin McIntyre

Hi, I'm Eoin McIntyre and I am a final year Arts student in UCD. I am a member of the Kevin Barry Cumann where I am CDC representative and

I am also a member of Dublin South Ógra. Each year during our third level recruitment campaign thousands of young people join Ógra however, the transfer rate from university cumann to constituency units is far too low.

I wish to improve this by insuring that those who join Fianna Fáil in college be made aware of the local cumann in their home constituency. If elected I will make this my priority.

Dublin North, North West, North Central, North East



John Sheridan

John Sheridan is a 19-year-old final year student at DCU and is originally from Louth. He has been highly active in Fianna Fáil in Dublin North

West since he started in DCU. John is currently the Chair of Dublin North West Ógra and current area rep.

He is studying Economics, Politics and Law and is also Chair of the DCU Debating Society. With a strong record of leadership and enthusiasm, John wishes to continue moving North Dublin forward, and to serve the area for another year. "I have enjoyed working for the North Dublin Ógrai in the past 12 months and hope to continue this representation and build on the successes of this year. I ask you for your number 1 vote."

Youth Committee 2006 Attendance

In the past 12 months the National Youth Committee met on six occasions. On April 1st in Killarney Co. Kerry, May 27th in Dun Laoghaire, July 22nd in Porlaoise Co. Laois, September 9th in UCD, December 16th in NUIGalway and on January 27th 2007 in Ballina Co. Mayo.

Name	Attendance	Name	Attendance
Anthony Kelly	5	Gerard McHale	2
Darragh McShea	6	Catherine McNally	5
Peter Doris	5	Ciara O'Connor	2
Brian Nolan	5	Anthony Maloney	4
Domhnall Mehigan	3	David O'Connor	6
Lorcan Price	4	Niall Kelleher	5
Shane Quigley	2	Eoin Burke	4
Máire O'Donoghue	3	Steven Dixon	5
James Carroll	4	John Sheridan	3
Oilbhe Brady	4	Aimee Milne	6
Emma Brennan	3		
Enda Heslin	1 of 2 (resigned May 06)		
Eoin O'Niallain	4 of 4 (Co-opted July 06)		

Other Members

Barry Andrews	Cathaoirleach Ógra Fianna Fáil
Niamh Muldoon	Ard Chomhairle Cooption
Jennifer Allen	Ard Chomhairle Cooption
Tiernan Brady	Ard Chomhairle Cooption
Dara Calleary	Ard Chomhairle Cooption
Aidan O'Gorman	National Youth Officer



NYC recruiting in Portlaoise

National Youth Conference

The 2006 National Youth Conference took place on February 17th and 18th in the West County Hotel Ennis Co. Clare. The theme for the conference was “Investing in Ireland’s Future” and some of our guest speakers included Dr. Iggy Ó Muireachtaigh, President of NUI Galway and Pádraig Ó Céideigh, CEO of Aer Arann. The presence of An Taoiseach and many Ministers added considerably to the occasion. Cumann de Barra of NUI Galway were the deserving winners of the Gobnait O’Connell Award for best Ógra of the year.

National Youth Committee

The new Youth Committee met in Killarney at the beginning of April and set out their objectives for the term ahead including an activity based plan of action for the year. Minister for Arts, Sport and

Tourism John O’Donoghue T.D. addressed this meeting. It was agreed that the main focus of the year would be on implementing an ongoing recruitment campaign across all CDCs in the country.

The National Youth Committee moved their meetings around during the year. Meetings were held in Galway, Dublin, Laois, Mayo and Kerry. It was agreed that meetings would be held in support of our young candidates and the first of these took place in Galway in December where the youth committee promoted Michael Crowe’s Christmas drive safely campaign. On Saturday 27th January Ballina was canvassed with candidate and Youth Committee member Dara Calleary.

National Youth Committee members worked hard in their respective areas and I am delighted to report that there are more registered and active Ógra units attending this conference than any other in Ógra’s history. This year new units were established in Limerick West, Louth and Meath East among others.

80th Anniversary of Fianna Fáil

May saw Fianna Fáil celebrate its 80th Anniversary in style in the Mansion House. Mary Kennedy was MC and after excellent speeches by An Taoiseach Bertie Ahern TD and Minister Brian Lenihan TD the crowd were awed by the wonderful Celtic Tenors/Ógra members were present in large numbers for this historic event.



Barry and Anto launch new Ógra website

Summer Barbeque

Ógra held its annual BBQ on Friday evening June 30th in the Ocean Bar Charlottes Quay. A big crowd enjoyed the experience. Thanks to members of the Ard Chomhairle who supported this event but unfortunately though all were invited only two members of the Oireachtas attended. Ógra expressed its disappointment at the turnout from the Parliamentary Party to the Ard Chomhairle.

Ógra Website

This last term saw a major rebranding of Ógra including a complete overhaul of our website. There are many new features on this site, including giving members of the National Youth

Committee the ability to blog and a live news feed from the Fianna Fáil website. It has been long recognised that an active website leads to an active membership. This is proving true in terms of www.Ógra.ie.



Chairing the Ard Fheis Workshop on Active Citizenship

Ógra also has a new logo. We felt a new independently styled logo was needed to increase the success of our brand. The new concept for the logo is simple and elegant. The harp is now incorporated into the 'g' in ógra. A number of designs were considered, it was unanimously felt that this design was superior in every respect.

Death of former Taoiseach and *Iar Úachtarán* Fianna Fáil Charles J. Haughey

On 13th June 2006 our former Taoiseach and leader Charles J. Haughey passed away. A very large number of Ógra members attended

his funeral to pay their respects to Charlie. During his distinguished career he was strong supporter of Ógra Fianna Fáil. We can be proud in Ógra that it was our motion that prompted the 69ú Ard Fheis to give Charlie a standing ovation in sending its best wishes to him.

Campaigns



Launch of Voter Registration Campaign

This year Ógra was involved in more campaigns than in recent years. We put together and launched the hugely successful "No Vote, No Voice" campaign, which was timed to coincide with the national updating of the electoral register. This campaign comprised of literature advising people on how to get registered to vote and also included a new website: www.registertovote.ie.

Ógra has also been very vocal this year on Road Safety. This is a very serious issue of

great concern to all the people of the country, and most certainly young people. Cumann de Barra NUI Galway put together a week long campaign in November highlighting amongst other things car wreckages in the aftermath of accidents. They held a series of talks and invited representatives from the Road Safety Authority, the National Roads Authority and public representatives. The National Youth Committee decided to continue this focus on road safety at this year's Youth Conference and we will be proposing that driving theory and practice are taught in transition year.



Accident re-enactment NUI Galway

Ógra also made a very significant submission to the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Child Protection outlining our views on the issues involved in this complex area and what we feel are the solutions to some of the problems arising in the area of child protection.

There was a significant emphasis put on Irish this year in Ógra. The first Cruinniú Eamon de Valera was scheduled for 17th and 18th November. Unfortunately and very disappointingly due to poor take-up this event did not take place. It promised to be a brilliant weekend with Minister John O'Donoghue, Minister Eamon Ó Cuív, former Kerry football legends Páidí Ó Sé and Dara Ó Cinnéide due to attend and a commemoration to former Taoiseach Charles Haughey was planned. This event will be rescheduled after the election.

All Ireland Organisation

There was a huge advancement in Ógra's push to set up on a thirty-two county basis. We now have for the first time in the history of the party a situation where interested members in third level colleges can set up a Fianna Fáil society in their college. There has been an increase in Northern

The Ard Chomhairle, strongly lobbied by Ógra members, has also approved the motion from last year's youth conference that a representative attending a college in the six counties be co-opted onto the National Youth Committee to co-ordinate our efforts in that region. This will take place soon after this youth conference subject to final approval by the Northern Ireland Committee of the National Executive.

Recruitment



Pimp My Party 3rd Level Recruitment Campaign launched in UCD

This truly was the highlight and greatest success of this short term of the National Youth Committee. A huge emphasis was placed on recruitment this year and this bore fruit. The National Youth Committee conducted an experimental recruitment drive to see what was the most advantageous way of creating a Fianna Fáil presence in an urban area in terms of attracting new members. In July, the youth committee converged on Portlaoise and hit the streets with the Nation newspaper, Join Fianna Fáil leaflets and information on the success of Fianna Fáil in Government for the last nine years. This was set as an example for other units nationwide as to how to recruit new members in towns and villages. Other Ógra units held very

successful recruitment days and managed to attract a huge amount of new members, which will be hugely beneficial in the days, weeks and months ahead.

In 2004 Ógra Fianna Fáil recorded its best ever Third level recruitment campaign with over 2150 people joining nationally. I was delighted to report that during this year's campaign we in Ógra succeeded in recruiting an unprecedented 2400 new members to Fianna Fáil. This success was the result of an innovative recruitment campaign but more importantly due the hard work of Ógra members in colleges throughout the country. Special credit must go to the Kevin Barry Cumann UCD and Cumann de Barra in NUI Galway who each recruited over 500 new members. Representatives of the National Youth Committee travelled to colleges where we had no existing presence. I would like to thank all the Public Representative and



Picture: The youth committee in Killarney

review of 2006 - anthony kelly leas cathaoirleach ógra

especially Ministers who have taken the time to visit college Campuses so far in support of our efforts. We need to ensure that Oireachtas members continue to visit college Campuses and engage students in debate.

International Relations

Connacht/Ulster Ógra Ard Chomhairle Representative Darragh McShea and myself were invited to Switzerland to attend the Congress of LYMEC, which is the liberal Youth of Europe group. We were made very welcome by this group; however as guests, visiting to get to know LYMEC, and its constituent members, we had to defend Fianna Fáil in a motion proposed by the young PDs and supported by the British and Austrian Liberal Youth. I spoke on this motion and we garnered a huge swell of support from members as far apart as Sweden and Romania, Italy and Finland, Estonia and Catalonia. We defeated the motion submitted and ensured that if Ógra wishes to join Lymec at any point in the future we can. We learned that



Picture: The youth committee in Killarney

we shared the same views as other delegates on many issues.



Picture: Singing Rise and Follow Charlie?

Ógra needs to make contact with European youth groups as we are not aligned to one. We must continue bilateral relations with groups that we have met and have common links with i.e. Young Scots for Independence, Plaid Cymru, Joventut Nacionalista de Catalunya, SDLP Youth and others. While we don't have to commit ourselves to a larger euro youth group at present, developing relations with and garnering a greater understanding of a group such as LYMEC is of huge benefit to Ógra.

In July, Aimee Milne, Shane Quigley and myself attended the JNC Summer School "Escola d'Estiu" in Catalonia. I addressed a seminar on their chosen topic "the Irish Miracle" and we had an open discussion about Fianna Fáil, Ógra and our success in Government.

70ú Ard Fheis

The 70th Fianna Fáil Ard Fheis took place in CityWest Hotel in November. Several hundred members of Ógra were in attendance and we had an open style debate on the concept of volunteerism and active citizenship with some members advocating compulsory service to the State, while others were vehemently against this. Ógra's presence at the Ard Fheis was in no doubt with an excellently attended stand and distribution of the Ard Fheis special edition of Grassroots.



Picture: Erins Fury Rock the Youth Conference

A chairde,

This has been one of the shortest terms of any Youth Committee that I can remember, and the amount that has been achieved is considerable. The above report is a summary of only some of activities that have shaped this last term.

In advance of the Election, Ógra has solidified its position as Ireland's largest, most relevant and most successful youth political party. This is due in no small way to the hard work of all our members and officers throughout the country. The outgoing Youth Committee, through their efforts and giving of their time and energy, must also be thanked. This General Election is going to be tough, but to quote Minister for Finance Brian Cowen TD "... We have the bottle for the battle". We know what we have to do, so let's do it.

It was an honour of the highest order to serve for the past term as your Leas Chataoirleach. Since joining the Donogh O'Malley Cumann in U.C.C. in October 2001 and having served in many positions and on three youth committees, it was a privilege to represent Ógra on the national stage, a privilege I shall always treasure and never forget.

At the first Fianna Fáil Ard Fheis, Gerry Boland, the Party's first Honorary Secretary, maintained that the name Fianna Fáil had been chosen "to convey... the idea of an association of citizens,

banded together for the purpose of rendering voluntary service to their communities and the Irish nation." This is still true today and it is through this association of citizens that I have made friends for life, that I have met some of the most extraordinary and interesting people, people of great minds and ideals. This is one of the greatest reasons to join Fianna Fáil.

Ógra is now 31 years in existence. We must continue to debate policies and issues, to take on those who challenge our agenda and real republican ethos, to fight for economic freedom and social justice and to be the loudest and strongest voice possible for the young people of our island. Ní neart a chur le chéile.

Ar aghaidh le Fianna Fáil agus le Bertie!

Is mise le meas,

Anto



meeting some of our younger general election candidates

This summer's election will see some new candidates contesting election on behalf of Fianna Fáil. Nearly a quarter of the Party's candidates will be running for the First time. We asked a few of our new younger candidates some questions about their Political careers?



Dara Calleary

Mayo
Age: 33

Family Background in Politics? My grandfather and father have both represented Mayo in Dáil Eireann.

What was the first big current affairs item that had an impact on you? My first major impact memory would be the election of Charles Haughey as Taoiseach and his subsequent appointment of my dad as a minister of state. I remember the excitement and the pride of the homecoming in particular not just to us as his family but to friends and supporters also.

What political period you would most like to have lived through, and why? I would like to have lived through the time of the civil war and the foundation of the state. Politics is very simple now compared to then. The "personal costs" of politics today are petty compared to what was required from people then but those who served then have left us an enormous legacy,

the significance of which politicians today can only dream about. If you doubt any of that see "The Wind that Shakes the Barley".

What 'idealistic' issue are you passionate about? I believe very strongly in balanced regional development. I also believe that education is the foundation of everyone's development - it levels the playing pitch for all and it deserves every cent it gets and I want to see Mayo win an All-Ireland some day too!



Michael Crowe

Galway West
Age: 32

How would your friends describe you? I think my friends would describe me as a loyal guy who likes to work hard and who is committed to the community.

First big current affairs item that had an impact on you? I remember Pat Rabbitte saying that he had information that would, "Rock the State to its foundations". That was in the early nineties, but sometimes it feels like it was Ground Hog day...

Political period you would most like to have lived through? The 1980s in the Dáil – they were very exciting times!



Michael McGrath

Cork South Central
Age:30

Family Background in Politics? I am the first person in my family to become actively involved in politics.

Political period you would most like to have lived through? I would love to have lived through the political period of the 1960's when so many dramatic changes took place. From what I have read, Sean Lemass was a great Taoiseach.

Political crusade / idealistic aim? I would like to think that people will see the relentless pursuit of money for what it is, and will decide to give more time to their communities.



Lisa McDonald

Wexford
Age:32

How would your friends describe you? Mildly insane! I suppose they would also say that I am always very focused on the task in hand.

What was the first big current affairs item that had an impact on you? When Seamus Cullen got elected in 1989

What political period you would most like to have lived through? I think we are living through on of the best political periods right now, with the economy flourishing and peace in the North.

What 'idealistic' issue are you passionate about? I am very passionate about the role of community groups and their interaction with both young and old.



Thomas Byrne
Meath East
Age: 29

First big current affairs item had impact on you?
Tory/Ulster Unionist Enoch

Powell's defeat in South Down at the 1987 Westminster election by the SDLP's Eddie McGrady. My dad came up to my room to tell me; I think I was asleep.

Political period you would most like to have lived through? In Ireland, Eiri Amach na Casca 1916. I hope I would have been brave enough to take part. Those who gave up their lives 1916 are our heroes and they are very much modern heroes.

Political crusade/idealistic item?

That we would have sufficient public transport all over Ireland to allow us to choose to go, by public transport, to the pub, the church, the shops, whatever day to day activities and forget

about the car if possible – for those routine journeys.

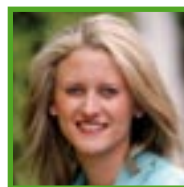


Niall Collins
Limerick West
Age: 34

Family involvement in Politics? He is from a strong Fianna Fáil background.

A grandson of Jimmy Collins TD, who served in Dáil Éireann from 1948 to 1966. His uncle is Gerry Collins, former Government Minister, T.D. and MEP. His uncle Michael is a T.D. and his cousin Michael J. Collins is a Councillor for Limerick West.

Political crusade/idealistic item? Niall feels his experience in the public and private sectors has equipped him with a realistic perception of all aspects of enterprise. This is something he is confident he can adapt to the benefit of his electorate. He enjoys public representation, especially helping the elderly."



Siobhán Ambrose
Tipperary South
Age: 31

What do friends say? Most of my friends think I'm very brave to sacrifice a good social life and loads of freedom for a life in

politics. But I know what I'm getting myself in to.

First big current affairs issue? The news was always on in my house when I was growing up, both radio and television, and I became fascinated with the big political stories and my interest over the years mainly concerned Troubles in the North.

What idealistic issue are you passionate about?
To give something back to the community to which you belong.



Darragh O'Brien
Dublin North
Age: 32

Family Background in Politics:

No elected Representatives but my family have been political since and including the 1916 rising.

What political period you would most like to have lived through, and why? Most certainly the foundation of the state. I would have relished the opportunity to support Cathal Brugha when he wanted to bin the treaty.

What 'idealistic' issue are you passionate about?
The issue of housing for first time buyers. I believe strongly that people should be afforded the opportunity to live close to the areas they've grown up in.

meeting some of our younger general election candidates



Niall Blaney TD
Donegal North East
Age:33

Family Background:

My family are steeped in politics with my grandfather being a founder member of Fianna Fáil in Donegal having been persuaded by Sean Lemass to stand for election in 1927. There has been a member of the Blaney family in the Oireachtas ever since.

Your friends describe you as? Game for a laugh!!

What was the first big current affairs item that had an impact on you? The election of my uncle Neil T Blaney to the European Parliament in 1979 taking a whopping 81,000 votes.

What political period you would most like to have lived through, and why? The lead up to 1916 and the lead up to the final decision to form the Fianna Fáil party. I find that period of Irish History fascinating and I consider it incredible that the signing of the treaty caused our nation to split to such an extent that even families split over the issue.

What 'idealistic' issue are you passionate about? A United Ireland. I believe that whilst it is idealistic, it is fast becoming realistic, with the National Development Plan setting the train in motion.

Upcoming Events

Ard-Fheis 2007, 23rd/24th March, City West

The Ard-Fheis is taking place on the 23rd & 24th March in City West Hotel, Saggart Co. Dublin. We would advise all members to return their application forms to the registration department in Fianna Fáil Headquarters as soon as possible. Registration for delegates €15 includes access to all entertainment at the event.

Free Ógra observer passes must be booked in advance through the National Youth Officer. No Ógra Observer Passes will be issued at the Conference (Observer Rate €15) City west are offering a special accommodation rate of €62.50 B&B per person sharing.

City west Hotel has limited availability in both the Golf Hotel and the main Hotel. If you wish to book accommodation please contact reservations immediately at 01-4010500. For more information please go to www.fiannafail.ie or contact Fianna Fáil Headquarters at 01 6761551.

Ógra Fianna Fáil will be running a number of Events at the Ard Fheis including a workshop celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome, The final of the DeValera Cup Debating Competition and a promotion of Fianna Fáil's young Generation Election Candidates.

Thanks

Thanks to all those who have supported the 2007 National Youth Conference

Our Sponsors include:

Galway West Fianna Fáil CDC and Public Representatives



Senator Mary White and Lir Chocolates

Colman Byrne and all in Foresight Communications.

Fianna Fáil MEPS:
Liam Alyward, Brian Crowley, Sean O'Neachtain and Eoin Ryan.



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Ógra Fianna Fáil Debating and Public Speaking Competitions



Four years ago the national Debating and Public Speaking Competitions for members of Ógra were reintroduced. In the past the competition has been won by people such as Ministers Mary Hanafin T.D. and Brian Lenihan T.D. The competition has three

elements; a Debating section for teams of two, a Public Speaking section for novice speakers and the Comórtas Óráid Poiblí, an Irish language competition for individual speakers.

These competitions have proved very popular since their reintroductions. Congratulations to the winners of the 2006 competition; James Carroll and Peter Doris of the Kevin Barry Cumann UCD. The Individual Public Speaking Competition was won by Susan Treacy of Cumann deBarra NUIG.

This year the Debating Competition will take a fresh new approach. The Finals will be held at the Fianna Fáil Ard Fheis in the City West Hotel on March 23rd. We will hold various rounds at the Youth Conference and in venues throughout the country over the coming weeks. It is expected that holding the final at the Ard Fheis will increase the recognition for this extremely entertaining event. Should your Ógra wish to participate please contact National Youth Officer Aidan O'Gorman ASAP.

Dara Calleary and Morgan Mc Carthy have sponsored the perpetual shields. The Fianna Fáil MEPS have generously sponsored a trip to Brussels for all the competition winners.

Gobnait O'Connell Memorial Award for Ógra Of The Year 2006

The presentation of the Gobnait O'Connell Memorial Award for Ógra of the Year 2006 will take place at the Youth Conference Banquet. The winner will receive the Gobnait O'Connell Perpetual trophy and a cheque for €700 for the further development of their Ógra unit.

The 'Ógra of the Year' is judged under seven headings; Membership, Events & Activities, Election Campaign Activities, Publicity/Media Relations, Policy Developments; Future Plans and a final statement entitled 'Why we are the best Ógra of 2005'. The prize will be awarded to the unit of Ógra which displays enthusiasm, effort and initiative in all of its activities.

The award is dedicated to the memory of Gobnait O'Connell, former Membership Development Officer and Youth Officer of Fianna Fáil. Gobnait was tragically killed in a car accident in September 2000. During her three years in Fianna Fáil Headquarters, Gobnait was a dynamic and enthusiastic force, who worked tirelessly for the Party and in particular gave her wholehearted support and passion to Ógra Fianna Fáil.



Picture: Cumann de Barra capture the best Ógra 2005 award.

standing orders

Procedures

The ruling of the Cathaoirleach of Ógra Fianna Fáil, or in his absence the Leas Cathaoirleach, on all matters of Youth Conference procedure will be final.

Motions

No motion may be moved which does not appear on the Clár. A motion may be moved only by a delegate from the Third Level Cumann or Ógra Chomhairle Dáilcheantair which has submitted it or a similar motion recognised on the Clár. If a qualified speaker does not rise to speak the Cathaoirleach of the workshop will move on to the remaining motions.

Amendments

An amendment may be moved only if notice of the proposed amendment has been given in writing to the Cathaoirleach of the workshop and it has been accepted as relevant. An amendment proposing a direct negative to a motion may not be moved.

Point Of Information

A Delegate may offer a Point of Information to a speaker on a motion. The Delegate must be acknowledged by the workshop Cathaoirleach before offering the Point of Information.

Special Motions

An application for the addition of a Special Motion, not appearing on the Clár must be signed by a representative or representatives of 25% of registered Third Level Cumainn or Ógra C. D. C before the terms of the motion are submitted to the Cathaoirleach. A Special Motion must be submitted to Cathaoirleach Ógra Fianna Fáil on the Friday night of Conference before 11.00pm. If the Special Motion is accepted by the Cathaoirleach, the Cathaoirleach will then inform the Conference that the Special Motion will be tabled at the start of the relevant Conference Workshop. The proposers should be present and ready to identify themselves when the motion is put.

Speakers

Only Delegates, National Youth Committee members and registered Ógra members may speak. The Cathaoirleach of a workshop will announce the time limit for speeches on each motion and Topic at the start of the workshop. Contributions must not exceed the time limit set by the Cathaoirleach.

Speakers may be required to register in advance. In this case only registered speakers will be called to speak. All speakers must take their place in the designated speaker's area at least five minutes before the commencement of the workshop.

Delegates must confine their remarks to the specific matter of the workshop ie. the motions in the Clár and specific matters relevant to the particular policy area.

A speaker must cease speaking at the sounding of the Cathaoirleach's bell.

A speaker must yield to the Cathaoirleach of the workshop at all times and the Cathaoirleach's decision will be final.

Voting

The Cathaoirleach will take a vote on motions in the Clár by way of a show of hands after each Motion.

In the event of the Cathaoirleach being unable to decide the outcome of any vote, a count will be made by the tellers.



Fianna Fáil, The Republican Party is in every community, in every county and in every corner of our country.
Please encourage your friends and neighbours to join Fianna Fáil.

Here are 5 easy ways to apply to join:

SMS Text "join" followed by your name and address to 086 8680002

Log on to the website: www.fiannafail.ie or www.Ógra.ie

Email: join@fiannafail.ie

Phone: 01 6761551

Write to: Membership Department, Fianna Fáil Head Quarters, 65\66 Lower Mount St. Dublin 2.

Phone: 01 6761551

www.ogra.ie