



Message From the National Youth Committee

A Chara,

The Youth Committee, at its regular monthly meetings, concerns itself with all the many aspects of Ógra Fianna Fáil. We address the opportunities and problems facing Ógra on a National level and seek to see that the vast potential of Ógra is fulfilled. We try to give the organisation a focus, and direction which will enable members to pursue activities and policies which are of interest and are relevant to our communities and country.

In the following pages we have compiled a document which gives advice and ideas on recruitment and organisation. We make suggestions on how to have successful and enjoyable projects that various Ograi have carried through and even received awards for at the National Youth Conference. We hope this document will be of assistance in your development as an Ógra.

In the coming months the Environment Project gives us a major challenge and opportunity to have an effect in an area that is now of global significance. This project could be a focus for improving on organisation and is a worthwhile and interesting activity for members.

In conclusion the National Youth Committee has commenced work in a number of areas such as the Environment Project and the organisation of this years National Youth Conference. We ask you to give us your assistance, ideas and support in ensuring the continued success and progress of Ógra.

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ÓGRA FIANNA FÁIL

OGRA SECRETARIES

An All Day meeting of the National Youth Committee took place on Saturday 14th January 1989. At this meeting the issue of recruitment was discussed.

Following on from this discussion, it was decided that all Ograi should be issued with guidelines to instruct the Officer Board to initiate ways to attract new members to Ogra. The Youth Committee sees it as a matter of urgency that the active membership of Ogra should increase.

As Secretary you will be expected to put effort into a recruitment campaign. Later this year your representatives on the National Youth Committee will arrange to meet you to inquire as to your progress.

Recruitment can be divided into two areas :

1. Recruitment from within Fianna Fail.
2. Recruitment from outside the Party.

Recruitment from within Fianna Fail

Very often there are young people who are members of Cumainn and are not in Ogra. As well as this there are many senior members of Cumainn who would encourage their sons and daughters to join Ogra if they knew how to go about it. There are several steps that an Ogra can take to exploit this situation.

- a) Make sure to establish a good relationship with your Comhairle Officer Board, especially with the Youth Liason Officer.
- b) Show the Ogra video at Comhairle meetings.

- c) Always have the Ogra delegates at Comhairle meetings and one of them to give a comprehensive report on what is happening in Ogra. This report should always contain an appeal for new members.
- d) Find out who the Cumainn Youth Officers are in your area and put their home addresses on your mailing list for notice of meetings, activities etc.
- e) As far as possible attend a meeting of each Cumann over the coming months. Show the Ogra video and talk about your Ogra and again appeal for new members.
- f) As a matter of priority speak to each Cumann Youth Officer, informing him/her of the Duties of Youth Officers. Most Youth Officers will be very enthusiastic.

Recruitment from outside Fianna Fail

We realise that this is the more difficult side of recruitment. There are plenty of people outside who would like to join a political party. Its only a matter of us finding them, and, them finding us. Local publicity for Ogra is therefore the key.

- a) Make extensive use of the Ogra recruitment cards (available on application from Mary O'Shea in Headquarters). Deliver these to homes with contact members and addresses on them. Follow up with a visit.
- b) If you live in an urban area, design a poster to be used in shop windows etc containing contact details. With good planning this need not cost the earth!
- c) Use any local publications, newspapers, parish newsletters etc to publicise Ogra activities.

- d) Use the European Election campaign and the door to door canvassing as a way of identifying young people.
- e) When new members come to meetings, introduce them to the meeting and ask them to join in the after meeting drink/chat.
- f) Make new members feel welcome, give them priority to speak during discussions. Indeed the Chairman should deliberately ask them for their opinion.

While the above are suggestions you are instructed to act now. It is only through action of this sort that we will get results. We as the National Youth Committee expect and look forward to positive results.

REMEMBER :

1. It takes much to recruit every one new member.
2. New members will only stay in Ogra if meetings are interesting and relevant.
3. No member should leave Ogra because of boredom.
4. Put Cumainn Youth Officers to good use.
5. If transport to meetings is a problem ask the Youth Officers to give lifts.

We wish you luck in your Campaign.

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SAMPLE CLAR

1. Minutes
2. Matters Arising
3. Correspondence
4. Election of Assistant Secretary
5. National Ogra Quiz
6. Current Political Topics
7. Comhairle Report
8. Guest Speaker : "The Role of a County Councillor".
9. Any other Business

FUNDRAISING SUGGESTIONS

The major cost on any Ogra is to help subsidize Ogra members to the National Youth Conference.

The Ogra Treasurers in conjunction with the other officers should start now.

Other costs on an Ogra include general running and administration costs including - Room Hire, Photocopying etc.

Below are listed some suggested Fundraising ideas :

- * Table Quiz - for Cumainn teams/public
- * Race Night
- * Treasure Hunt
- * Disco/Barn Dance/Ballad Session/"Battle of the Bands"
- * 5/7 aside football
- * Raffle
- * Patrons - ask former members to contribute £X per month.

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SAMPLE CLAR

1. Miontuairisci
2. Nithe as na Miontuairisci
3. Litreacha
4. Tuairscail - Cisteoiri
5. Political Education Programme - an introduction to Dublin County Council
6. Tuairscail - Soiste Siamsa
7. Tuairscail - Oifigeach Caidreamh Poibli
8. National Youth Conference
9. Discussion Topic - Emigration
10. Gno eile

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P.R.O.

It is important to get to know local journalists. With the new local radio stations there will be more scope for local coverage.

An information document for P.R.O.'s is available on request.

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STARTING UP AN OGRA

It is crucial to have the backing and active support of the C.C. especially the Officer board.

If the C.C. Youth Officer could get each Cumann Youth Officer to recruit 2/3 members under 25 - either sons, daughters of members or new members.

An inaugural meeting should be held with an interesting Agenda, not dealing just with Organisation. Local Public Representatives could say a few words and have a question/answer session.

There is a ten minute Ogra information video - dealing with the structures/activities of Ogra.

An Ogra Officer Board should be elected - Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, 2 Treasurers and P.R.O.

N.B. Ogra registration forms are available from H.Q. Unless your Ogra is registered you will not be kept up to date on Ogra activities. There is no cost to register your Ogra.

Once an Officer Board is elected it is crucial that Ogra gets active. Having a nucleus of 10 people is enough to establish a vibrant unit.

See sample Clar for an Ogra meeting - it is crucial that meetings are interesting. Ogra meetings should be held once a month.

- Information meetings : Invite a guest speaker, local Councillor/T.D., Senator on a particular topic, or an outside speaker involved in an area of interest eg: Meeting on feasibility of "Start your own Business", guest speaker from local I.D.A. etc.
- Speakers Corner : Deal with general organisation business then have one member prepare 5/10 minutes on topic of their choice, followed by discussion. At next meeting have another member doing it.
- Do an activity that will heighten Ogra Fianna Fail's profile in your area.

N.B. Send Ogra notes to your local paper

1. Firstly - who was elected. Who to contact if people want to join.
2. If you are organising an activity get publicity before and after the event.

An Ogra that only meets for the sake of meeting will not be able to keep members.

Developing an active Ogra in your area over the next few months is very important with the European Elections in June. The votes of young people will be crucial.

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The Chairman of Ogra Fianna Fail is Tom Kitt, T.D. Dail Eireann, Leinster House, Dublin 2

There is a National Youth Committee made up of members from the 4 Euro Constituencies elected at the National Youth Conference, 3rd Level Rep. and some members of the Ard Comhairle.

National Youth Conference :

The Youth Conference for 1989 will be in October or November. Nomination forms for the Ard Comhairle and National Youth Committee will be sent to Ogra C.D.C. Secretaries at least eight weeks before the closing date. Candidates and delegates must be under 25 years of age at the time of the Conference.

Each constituency is entitled to 12 voting delegates and third level colleges have 4 delegates.

Mary O'Shea is a full time Youth Officer in H.Q., Aras de Valera, 13 Upper Mount Street, Dublin 2. Phone: 01/761551.

Activities :

Below are a range of ideas which units did during the last year. There are a number of National Activities, arranged by the National Youth Committee and these give a variety of events with a National dimension.

LAOIS OGRA C.D.C.

Emigration and Employment Seminar - May 1988.

Very well planned, large involvement in organising by Ogra members. Raised funds by limited Draw.

Excellent pre conference publicity, front page local coverage including photographs after the event.

1988 Youth Conference - Winner of Public Relations Award.

ATHLONE OGRA C.C.

Won the Most Outstanding Ogra Award 1988.

They participated in all National Activities at all times getting Local press coverage for their participation.

NATIONAL ACTIVITIES

National Secretaries and Youth Officers meeting.
National Ogra Quiz Competition.
Ogra Summer Activity in aid of Irish Paralympics Team.
National Buy Irish Campaign
National 'Toy Bank'
National Environmental Project :
- Clean up of swimming area of River Shannon

On an on going basis they held regular social functions and meetings and attended and participated in all senior C.C. functions.

From a situation two years ago, where the Ogra was in need of revitalisation there is now a very active and vibrant unit contributing to the Fianna Fail Organisation.

SOUTH LOUTH OGRA C.C.

The Ogra in South Louth took part in the NDC milk run in aid of the Irish Heart Foundation. This received local press coverage and was well received by the local community. The South Louth Ogra had a varied programme throughout the year and heightened their profile.

GREYSTONES OGRA C.C.

The Greystones Ogra won the "Most Improved Ogra Award" in 1988. Along with participating in National and Local events and organising local Ogra activities, the Greystones Ogra did trojan research on their policy document and produced a very worthwhile document on the "Decriminalisation of Suicide" which was sent to the Ministers for Justice and Health.

MULLINGAR OGRA C.C.

The Mullingar Ogra C.C. won the "Best Community Development Project Award" in 1988.

This Ogra did a number of activities putting Ogra Mullingar to the fore in their community.

They organised a seminar on local radio, they did a clean up of the area around Butlers Bridge, Lough Ennell and then held a seminar on Pollution. At all times they made sure to get local publicity before and after the events.

BRAY OGRA C.C.

Finally, the Best Fundraising Award 1988 went to Bray Ogra for their very innovative "Battle of the Bands". This function gave Ogra profile with local young people, gave young musicians an opportunity to play to an audience and raised funds.

This is just a sample of some of the Ogra units and their activities. It may give you some ideas and if you want further information on any of the above contact Mary O'Shea.

"Environment Awareness 1989"

The Environment Campaign was launched on 16th February 1989 by Padraig Flynn, T.D. Minister for the Environment. The target is that all units of Ogra will do an environment related project during March/April/May 1989 with a report to be completed by June.

Some activities to date range from Reseach on "Effects of Fish Farms on the Corrib" to tree planting, art competitions, or a week long community awareness campaign in your local area.

AIMS OF FIANNA FAIL

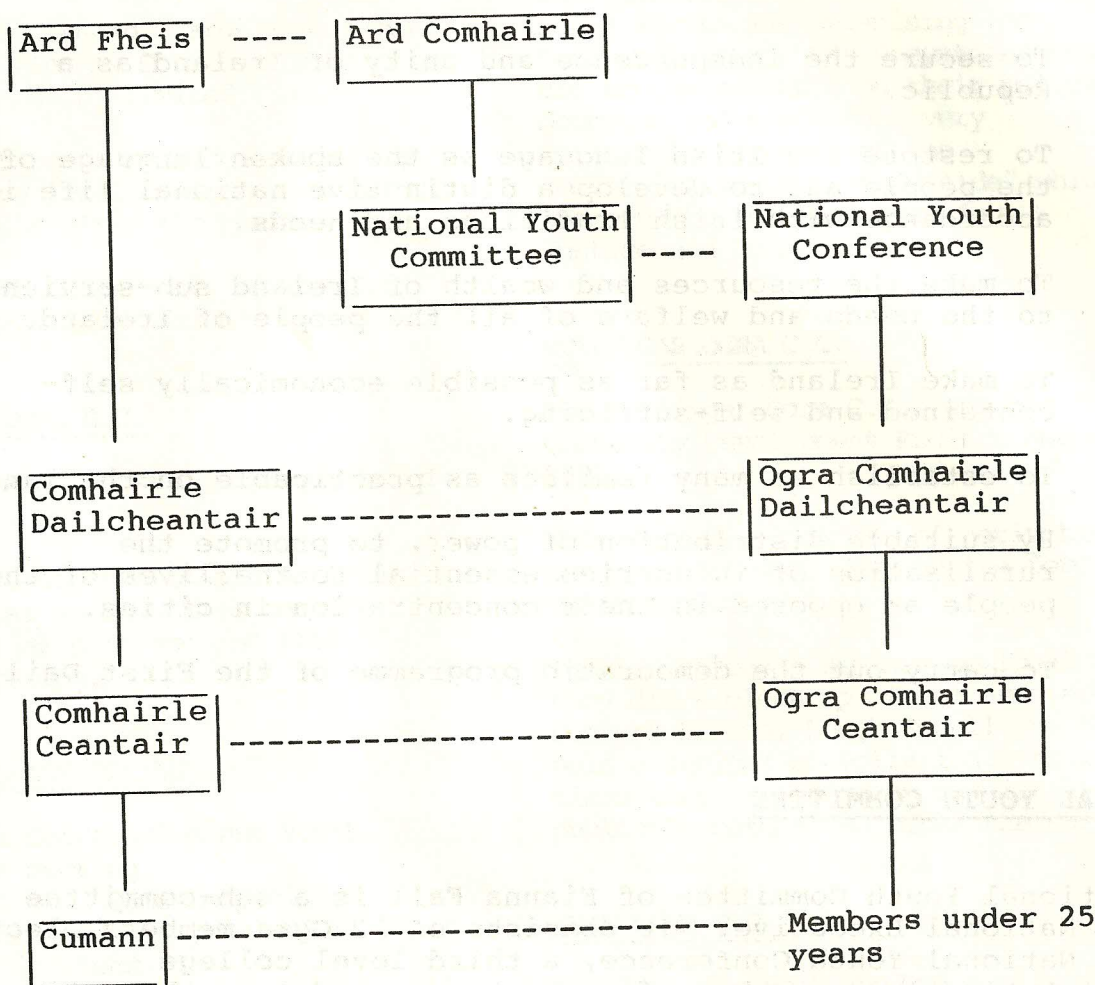
1. To secure the independence and unity of Ireland as a Republic.
2. To restore the Irish language as the spoken language of the people and to develop a distinctive national life in accordance with Irish traditions and needs.
3. To make the resources and wealth of Ireland sub-servient to the needs and welfare of all the people of Ireland.
4. To make Ireland as far as possible economically self-contained and self-sufficing.
5. To establish as many families as practicable on the land.
6. By suitable distribution of power, to promote the ruralisation of industries essential to the lives of the people as opposed in their concentration in cities.
7. To carry out the democratic programme of the First Dail.

NATIONAL YOUTH COMMITTEE

The National Youth Committee of Fianna Fail is a sub-committee of the National Executive. It consists of 12 Ogra members elected at the National Youth Conference, a third level college representative and a number of members co-opted from the National Executive.

Tom Kitt, T.D.	CHAIRMAN
Frank Fahey, T.D.	MINISTER FOR YOUTH AND SPORT
Feargal O'Rourke	DUBLIN SOUTH EAST
Caitriona Craddock	DUBLIN CENTRAL
Garrett Breen	DUBLIN NORTH
Mark Dalton	KILDARE
Austin Stack	LAOIS
Barbara Ann Murphy	WEXFORD
David Whyte	CORK NORTH CENTRAL
Padraig Treacy	CORK SOUTH CENTRAL
Siobhan Hassett	CORK NORTH CENTRAL
Gearoid Lohan	GALWAY WEST
Neale O'Hanlon	MONAGHAN
Diarmuid Wilson	CAVAN
Marty Lynch	MEATH (3RD LEVEL REP)
Micheal Martin	CORK SOUTH CENTRAL
Joe McPeake	DUBLIN NORTH
Seamus Cleere	KILDARE
Declan Breathnach	LOUTH
Peter Finnegan	MEATH
Colette Rooney	MEATH
Mary O'Shea	YOUTH EDUCATION OFFICER
	Fianna Fail Headquarters

FIANNA FAIL STRUCTURES



Cumann : Everyone in Fianna Fail must be a member of a Cumann.

Comhairle Ceantair : Delegates from All Cumainn in a local electoral area and 3 Ogra C.C. delegates.

Ogra Comhairle Ceantair : All 16/ under 25 year old. Cumainn members in local electoral area.

Comhairle Dailcheantair : Constituency Governing body made up delegates from each C.C. and Ogra C.D.C.

Ogra Comhairle Dailcheantair : Delegates from each Ogra C.C. in a constituency .

Ogra : There should be an Ogra report at all senior C.C. and senior C.D.C. meetings. Ogra C.C. and Ogra C.D.C. have 3 full delegates to C.C. and C.D.C.

Conventions : Ogra C.D.C. have two delegates to General Election Conventions. Ogra C.C. have two delegates to local electoral area conventions. Ogra C.D.C. have Euro Convention Delegate.

Ard Fheis : Ogra C.D.C. have 2 Ard Fheis delegates.