



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Held on Tuesday 30th June 2020 via broadcast from 22 Clyde Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4

Present at 22 Clyde Road:

Marguerite Sayers – President in the Chair
Maurice Buckley – President Elect
Peter Quinn – Past President
Orla Feely – Senior Vice President
John Power – Junior Vice President
John Jordan – Chair of Finance Committee
Caroline Spillane – Director General
Damien Owens - Registrar
Deirdre Foley – Finance & Operations Director
Michelle Hoctor – Communications Director

Present online:

Ivor Bowe
Kevin O'Rourke
Brian Campbell
Clare Duffy
Jamie Goggins
Fionn Murtagh
Sean Lenihan
Niall Martin Fitzgerald
Padraic Black
Murt Coleman
Seamus Mc Arevey
Aidan McGovern
Zedias Jaison
Sean McShera
Donal Hunt
Dermot Keane
Gerard McGreal
Peter O'Loughlen
William Breslin
Patrick O'Grady
Alan Larkin
Kevin Smith
Colm Shevlin
Peter Langford
Brendan Mullins

Aidan O'Flaherty
Sulagna Ghosh
Josette Galligan
Brian Fitzpatrick
Rob Healy
Michael Lyons
Declan Gibbons
Kim Featherstone
Richard Crowe
Joe Tapley
Patrick Fitzpatrick
Martin Hynes
Henry Poh
Paul Olaniyi
Eugene Murphy
Donal Power
Peter O'Sullivan
Kevin Hanley
Jane Grimson
Gerald Horkan
Stephen Walsh
Thalita Garcia do Nascimento
Arthur Macklin
Peter Mooney
Gearóid McMahon

Peter Power
Saravanan Moorthy
Adeola Adeyemo
George (Stuart) Jamieson
Shane Sorohan
Tom Tiernan
Diarmuid Ó Briain
George Chadda
Pat O'Leary
Karthik Egamparam
Aidan Smyth
Sylvia Kenna
Alan Costello
Orla Lonergan
Mel Brady
Killian O'Brien
Richard Lennon
Darren Dowling
Shirley McDonald
John Byrne
Liam Howlin
Will Mullins
James McHale
Hugh O'Brien
Colm Ennis

John McCarthy	Gavin McManus	George McMahon
<i>Aoife Ní Mhaoláin</i>	Martin McCarthy	Robert Eadie
Denis O'Neill	Kieran O'Neill	Paul Graham
Deirdre Beattie	Thomas Deely	Jimmy Flood
Rowan Austin	Alan Bruce	Eamon Corcoran
Alan Lowe	Sarah Ingle	George Gravanis
Dermot Slevin	John Curtin	Emlyn Lang
Enda McDonnell	Olatunji Taiwo	Allen Moran
Wei Haur Lam	Paul Deasy	William Grimson
John Garrett	Brendan Mulligan	Andrew Crowley
Frank Given	Aisling Davis	Caroline Stack
Enyioma Oporum	Adrian Nevin	Gerard Keenaghan
J.J. Canty	Clodagh Hayes	Breen Jackson
Kieran WalshLiam Bennett	John O'Sullivan	Sean Fitzpatrick
Alexander Griciunas	Richard James (Jim) O'Brien	Mark Keenan
Noel Rushe	Svetlana Katkevica	Gerald Caulfield
Eamonn Ballance	Conor Price	Jeffrey Roe
Stephen Smith	Rossana Camargo	Cian Hickey
David Fallon	Amit Naik	Kevin Ahern
<i>Dee Kehoe</i>	Mark Harper	Tony Sebastian
<i>David O'Riordan</i>	Daniel Moloney	Ndubuisi Emuchay
Onochie Onyeulor	Máirín Ní Aonghusa	Neil McManus
<i>Mary Byrne</i>	Seamus Hunt	Brian Fitzpatrick
Liam Brehon	Kieran Feighan	Richella Mulvihill
Victor Coe	Joe Herbert	Dermot Byrne
Deasún Ó Conchúir	Richard Manton	Noel O'Reilly
Cormac Bradley	<i>Hugh Ward</i>	Mark Freeman
Karl O'Leeffe	Mark Prendergast	Alando Bata
Sean T Guinan	Dave Denieffe	Liam Callanan
John Cunningham	Declan Monaghan	Tadhg Madden
Ciaran Spollen	Waldo Bornman	William Finnegan
Michael Dowling	Aileen Prendergast	Okechukwu Eze
<i>Suzanne Flynn</i>	Conall Boland	James Rogers
<i>Joe English</i>	Peter Monahan	Séamus Enright
Enda Cusack	Barry Mulvey	Declan McCabe
Fawzi Nashat	Keith Elliott	Paddy Sheridan
Kieran Fallon	David Kavanagh	Faustino Prado
Majella Henchion	Francis Murphy	John Bailey
Lukasz Berkowski	Michael Morgan	Barry Leach
Pat Healy	Eoin O'Sullivan	Pete Huben
David Boyle	Ciaran Finnerty	Kevin Barry
Thomas Folliard	Philip Gray	Rinnell Mendoza
Terry Kavanagh	Kevin Murray	Osman Ahmed
Declan Power	<i>Imelda Flattery</i>	Caitríona Uí Chúláin
Tom Murphy	Ronan Fitzmaurice	Oliver Cudden
John McArdle	Robert Druhan	<i>David Dunne</i>
Damien Grennan	Domhnall Blair	Akhil Alfons Kodian
Patrick Donnellan	Martin Machaba	Jim Browne
<i>Paul Kearns</i>	Michael John Bennett	Brian Cassidy
Mohammed Amjed Sharafudeen	Ronnie Bharaj	Sonja Basson
Barry Walsh	<i>Katie Daffy</i>	<i>Carrielee Holt</i>
Barry Hyland	Jim Dalton	Barry Lowe

Abdullahi Musa
Claire Hughes
Amin Ibrahim
Anne Kiernan
Kevin Pettit
Mary Cotter
Sharath Channabasappa
Damien Deasy
Bridget Nea
Sashant Rathore
Mary Sharp
Eugene McKeown
Sinead Sweeney
Richard McCormack
Luca Chiarelli

Barry Heverin
Michael Mackey
Amanda-Jane Gainford
Donal Moynihan
Damien Lynch
Paul Tyson
Duyilemi Olawale Agboola
Maire Lenihan
Suzanne O'Rourke
Paul Curran
Patrick de Feu
Amanda Gibney
Brian Cronly
Nomathemba Walsh

Qaisar Said-Shawqi
William Farrell
Aine Kenny
Ronan Keane
John O'Dea
Siobhán Kennedy
Eddie Phelan
John Coleman
Sean McBride
Adam Fredriksson
Anne Marie Clarke
Andrew Kevitt – Partner
WOBH
John O'Callaghan – Partner
BDO

** non-members in italics*

President Marguerite Sayers opened the meeting, welcoming everyone, especially those joining the AGM via webcast.

The President noted that, in line with Government guidance and HSE guidelines, and in order to protect our members and staff, Engineers Ireland's AGM 2020 would be a predominantly virtual event with only the Officers, the Chair of the Finance Committee and key members of staff physically in attendance at 22 Clyde Road. She welcomed the 280 people who had joined online for the event. The President reminded everyone that this AGM was conducted in accordance with the Bye Laws and the decisions made by the Council of Engineers Ireland on 9 May 2020. All documentation has been made available online in the weeks prior to the AGM. A voting system is in place which facilitates voting by all those in attendance in person and online. This was utilised for Item 4, the Auditor's Report and Financial Statements for the Calendar Year 2019, Item 5, the Proposal for the Setting of Membership Fees for the Coming Year, and Item 6, the Appointment of External Auditors.

The President thanked all volunteers over the past year. In particular, she thanked Peter Langford who recently retired from his role as Chair of the Appeal Board for his years of dedicated service.

The President called the meeting to order.

In remembrance of those of our colleagues who passed away during the year, a minute's silence was held.

- Mr. William A. Fitzgerald (Fellow & Former President)
- Mr. William Francis Fitzgerald (Fellow)
- Mr. John Fogarty (Fellow)
- Mr. Murty Hanly (Fellow)
- Dr. Thomas P. Hardiman (Fellow)
- Dr. Roy Johnston (Companion)
- Mr. Donal Lynch (Fellow)
- Dr. Thomas Moore (Fellow)
- Mr. Liam Murray (Fellow)
- Mr. Noel O'Riordan (Fellow)
- Mr. Fergus O'Tuama (Fellow)

Minutes of AGM held on Thursday 30th May 2019:

The President allowed some time to read the Minutes of the 2019 Annual General Meeting.

The President noted that the Minutes of the AGM held on Thursday 30th May 2019 had been circulated electronically to all Members of Engineers Ireland on Tuesday 16th June 2020 and were now, in accordance with the Bye-Laws, laid before the Annual General Meeting for approval.

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

The Minutes of the 2019 Annual General Meeting were adopted on the proposal of Orla Feely, seconded by John Power.

Annual Report and President's Review of the 2019-2020 Session:

The Annual Report had been circulated electronically to all Members of Engineers Ireland on Thursday 28th May 2020 and was, in accordance with the Bye-Laws, laid before the Annual General Meeting for approval.

President Marguerite Sayers' speech -

"At the start of any year, time seems to stretch out in front of you, but it always goes by very quickly. And the last number of months have certainly flown by. The Engineers Ireland calendar has an existence, a palpable life and pace of its own. There are a number of annual calendar fixtures, along with some events which are specific to the particular year. And that has been my experience this year too. Getting to attend events that I was previously unaware of, not to mind being invited to, has been a real privilege. Unfortunately, the calendar of events has been hugely disrupted because of Covid-19 restrictions for the past number of weeks. Hopefully, in a short period of time, we will be back again to the reliable schedule, but for now, our priority has to be keeping staff, members and their families as safe as possible.

The Covid-19 pandemic and the uncertainty around it, particularly in the early days of the outbreak on our island, has challenged us in many ways, to continue our work, be effective and to stay connected. I am pleased to say that our staff in Engineers Ireland initiated a proactive 5-week Member Engagement call and email campaign, from 27 April to 29 May. This involved contacting over 3800 of our members to see how they were managing during the pandemic and was there any way we could provide them with further support or if they had any recommendation to make to us as their professional body. The campaign was very successful, and the calls were positively received by our members. I think the staff's direct outreach was timely and very welcome. I know the organisation's Engage newsletter going out tomorrow Wednesday, will contain a link for any other member who may wish to provide such feedback.

A year ago, at the AGM, I mentioned some themes that I was keen to progress. One of those was in relation to increasing the understanding of what a professional engineer does. This has been a long-standing focus of the organisation, but we have made a lot of progress with the current group of second level students in demonstrating the link between helping society, solving the world's most challenging problems and working as an engineer. In addition to the work that the dedicated STEPS Team do year-in, year-out, I had the opportunity to participate in a number of allied events the past year, such as speaking at the Limerick-for-Engineering's Inspire event; opening our first Engineering Education Conference: Future skills, standards and mobility; attending the Tech Fest in the Convention Centre, Dublin; the ESB Science Blast at the RDS and the Inter-colleges debate final at the Irish Management Institute, and speaking at both the iWish event in Cork Institute of Technology and the Explorium event during STEPS Engineers Week.

In the past year, we have seen a 6% increase in applications for engineering courses in the CAO process, an increase in the number of female students who started engineering courses in 2019 and an increase in the number of students studying STEM subjects in both Junior and Leaving Certificate cycles. Another theme I had was that of modernisation and, along with our own views, we have gathered some intelligence this year from other organisations as to how they run their professional organisations – engineering or otherwise – and will feed that into the new strategy being developed at present. And finally, ensuring that the Institution continues to provide a recognised expert voice and opinion on important topics has continued to be a priority of the organisation throughout the year.

There have been many fruitful engagements with public figures and the year has seen the publication of quite a number of very sought-after documents such as the General Election Priorities, The State of Ireland 2019 and Barometer reports.

One of the truly special occasions that I had a chance to attend as President was the 2019 Anniversary dinner to mark 50 years since the introduction of the Chartered Engineer title. It was a

wonderful evening in the suitably historic Shelbourne Hotel, where we were treated to wonderful speeches by Professor Jane Grimson and past Director General, and President, Dr. Finbar Callanan, outlining the history of the title and the development of the organisation. The dinner was the brainchild of a special 50th Anniversary Committee, headed up by Dr. Ron Cox, ably supplemented by Dr. Callanan and current Council and Executive Board member, Orla Lonergan and Executive Board member, Murt Coleman.

The 2019 State of Ireland (SOI) report attracted a significant amount of both political and media attention, as it focused on the very topical and troubling topic of the adequacy and quality of our housing stock– or the lack thereof. As the Chair of the research workshops leading up to the production of the SOI, there was useful continuity in getting follow through to the launch and the associated media and stakeholder interactions. Having the opportunity to explain the content and recommendations of the report to public representatives and senior party advisors with Dr. Richard Manton, (Engineers Ireland’s Policy Officer) in Leinster House, as well as speaking about it on TV or radio, were great experiences. Though – I might not have agreed the evening before the official launch with the prospect of multiple media interviews ahead of me! On the day of the launch, we were also very fortunate to have Fr. Peter McVerry as part of our discussion panel in Clyde Road, and he brought some significant additional gravitas and profile to the launch.

Because we did not have a national conference in 2019, the Marketing and Communications Team, in conjunction with the relevant Regional branches, organised a number of regional fora, each focused on a specific topic. Two of the three held in 2019 were before the AGM, but we had the third regional forum in Sligo on the topic of Electric and Autonomic vehicles in September 2019. The presentations and discussion were truly fascinating and exposed all of the amazing work – some of it world-leading - that is happening in Ireland on the subject.

Carrying out research for my Presidential Address - which was on the topic of the inter-relationship between the engineering community, infrastructure and climate change - took some time, but I enjoyed it (mostly!) and learned a lot. The world is understandably focused right now on the coronavirus situation, almost to the exclusion of everything else. However, frightening as it is to consider, the impacts of climate change have the potential to have far greater consequences for the human race; they are just happening at a slower pace. When we get past the current Covid-19 crisis – and we will – as an engineering community, we need to get back to strengthening the focus on mitigating and adapting to climate change. The resolution at the February 2020 Council Meeting to declare a Climate and Biodiversity Emergency, also reflects the urgency and our role as engineers in that effort.

I was honoured to be asked to present the 2020 Sir Bernard Crossland lecture in Queen’s University and was lucky that the event took place just before Covid-19 reached our shores. Having spoken in public on a number of engineering topics during my year as President, which were not in my own area of expertise, there was an element of relief to present on my own area of energy and on ‘Switching on to the Energy Transition’. I also appreciated the opportunity to speak to some engineering students in Queen’s before the formal event. I am thankful to our Northern Region, Queen’s University, to those that attended the lecture, and to those who arranged the very enjoyable dinner afterwards.

The 2019 Excellence Awards in November was another of those nights which engendered significant feelings of pride in the profession, hearing about a myriad of wonderful and critical infrastructure, research and IT projects – as well as wonderful organisations investing in CPD – which are taking place around the country. It was also a great privilege to present the President’s Award to Tom Costello, Chartered Engineer and Head of Construction at IPUT to mark his incredible career to date, and also to witness Martin Naughton, another Chartered Engineer and founder of Glen Dimplex, receive the Outstanding Contribution to Engineering Award. The Excellence Awards followed on from

the MEETA Awards, another very enjoyable evening, marking true excellence in maintenance and asset management. Those events were topped off by the very successful 2020 Annual Ball in January, an opportunity for many to let their hair down and enjoy a night with their colleagues and friends.

Also in November, we had a fascinating panel discussion organised by our Young Engineers Society on the topic of addressing future environmental infrastructure challenges in Ireland with panellists Ian Lumley, Head of Advocacy, An Taisce, Catherine Sheridan, Communications Manager, Ervia and Conall Boland, Sustainability Services Manager, RPS. We had a lively – but respectful - debate which was enjoyed by everybody who attended in person or online.

It is impossible in a short passage to portray the true extent and variety of events that have come my direction in the past 10 months: from being a panellist at events like the CIF, IDA and British-Irish Chamber conferences, to opening the Roads and Transportation seminar; from attending formal dinners such as those held by the Irish Bar Association, the Civil Engineering Contractors Association, the British Ambassador, the Institution of Civil Engineers Northern Branch and the annual dinner of the Engineering Corps in McKee barracks, to the UCD Engineering Centenary; to fascinating industry visits from MSD in Swords, to the National Maritime College of Ireland, to UCD's Energy Institute and Boston Scientific in Cork - and many others.

I would like to record my thanks to the Regional and Sectoral Committees for all of the work that they do during the year, but also for their kind invitations to annual dinners, and for the warm welcome at those that I got to attend before the Covid-19 restrictions came into force (Midland Region and Cork). Unfortunately, due to the coronavirus, we have had to defer or cancel some regional conferrings and Presidential Addresses. That is a source of regret for me but is the only sensible approach at the moment.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank all members who serve on Council or on the Executive. It is always a source of fascination for me on Saturday mornings or Thursday evenings to see members travelling from the four corners of the country to represent their sector at the meeting in Clyde Road. It means many hours of travel for many of the attendees, and they take that on with enthusiasm and without complaint. Virtually everybody involved does that in addition to a very busy day-job. Thanks also to my colleagues on the Finance Committee who not only kept a roof over our heads financially – but put an actual roof over our heads in Clyde Road this year as well.

I am so grateful to the staff in Clyde Road and to the Senior Management Team (SMT) for all of their hard work and their support during the year. It is always dangerous to pick people out, but I have particularly relied on Michelle Hoctor, Anne Marie Clarke and Aoife Ní Mhaoláin, Richard Manton and Damien Owens to steer me in the right direction through many engagements.

The organisation is extremely lucky to have a Director General as talented, professional, eloquent and capable as Caroline Spillane. Over the past year, I have had to opportunity to see the truly amazing amount of work that is completed in the organisation every year, the dedication of the SMT, but also the skill with which Caroline directs the whole orchestra and also, her standing with external stakeholders. It has been both a pleasure and an honour to work in a small way with her for the past year, and I know she will continue to lead Engineers Ireland to be the best organisation that it can be.

My fellow Officers attended a myriad of meetings during the year and each brought a wealth of personal knowledge and common sense to help advise and guide the organisation. I want to sincerely thank Peter Quinn for his many years of service to the organisation as he finishes up his four-year term as an Officer, as well as circa a decade on Council, and wish him some well-earned

relaxation. And I want to wish Maurice Buckley all the very best as he begins what I'm sure will be a hugely successful year as President, and to assure him of my support during the year.

Finally, I want to thank you, the members, for the opportunity to be your President for the past year. It has truly been an honour, it has been a wonderful year and while a person always feels that they could have done more, I tried to represent the organisation to the best of my ability. The Covid-19 situation has unfortunately, significantly reduced my opportunity to meet with many of you, as would normally be the case through local events at this time of the year. Hopefully, we will get an opportunity at some other time to make up for the missed events. But – in the meantime, I hope you and your families stay safe and that we all emerge safely and successfully from the current situation when our professional skills will be extremely valuable to get the country back up and running again.”

The 2019-2020 Annual Report was approved on the proposal of John Jordan, seconded by Orla Feely.

Director General's Report:

The Director General Caroline Spillane presented her review of 2019, welcoming all those joining the AGM via the webcast.

“I am pleased to present this report on Engineers Ireland's activity in 2019, conducted under the outstanding leadership of our President, Marguerite Sayers. This report marks the third year of implementation of our strategy which aims to fulfil our mission for growth, relevance and impact. Work is currently underway to develop the new strategic plan from 2021 and I look forward to reporting the new strategy in 2021.

2019 saw us reach an overall membership of nearly 25,200 and a record-high level of non-student membership of over 18,500. Our newest members not only come from a wide range of disciplines but also locations; 38% of our new members are part of our ever-increasing community of worldwide engineers. During the year our Membership team held several Global Engineer events to respond to requests from our corporate partners to help them connect with talented international engineers seeking to establish themselves in Ireland. Furthermore, following feedback from members the Chartered Engineer application process was reviewed and subsequently streamlined by the Membership team. This development included the creation of new promotional videos and guidance documents - using real testimonials from members who have been through the process or interviewers. The result was a significant surge in the number of those applying for the July deadline.

Our role in advocating for engineers and engineering in public policy was further realised during the year with the 12 policy submissions we made to public consultations and Government. Our expert membership, who contribute to our advocacy with research and evidence, enabled us to partner with the World Bank for the Doing Business project, and formulate proposals such as: Engineers' priorities for the Local Elections and publish The State of Ireland 2019 – which focused on housing and infrastructure. Engagement with Government Ministers, opposition spokespersons, Oireachtas Committees and key policy makers continued during the year, and we were pleased to welcome Minister Joe McHugh TD to launch our Engineering 2019 barometer report. As a result of our submissions, civil, mechanical and electrical engineers were added to the Government's Critical Skills List and we were asked to Chair the Expert Group on Future Skills Needs, subgroup on Construction Skills.

Our coverage in the traditional media (print and broadcast) increased during the year, as did our presence on social media. Our LinkedIn network grew as did our Twitter followers which are up 10% on 2018. It is extremely encouraging to see this growth in our digital engagement. Our Engineers

Journal is a key member benefit and continues to grow from strength to strength. In 2019, www.engineersjournal.ie had 591,000 users (viewers), an increase of 41% on 2018 with the most read articles being 'The importance of feedback and why effective leaders will provide it and seek it' by David Kennedy and Dermot McCarthy; 'Vitamin D deficiency and poor muscle function', research from Trinity College Dublin and 'How an Irish electrician's simple but effective invention has gone viral and saved lives' by Kenneth Mitchell. A new Q and A series commenced within the Journal with the aim of profiling the Chairs of our Sectors. We were interviewed on 18 different national radio or tv programme slots over the 12 months, including on RTÉ Radio's Morning Ireland and Drivetime, RTÉ One's Primetime, Virgin Media's Ireland AM, Newstalk 106 and Today FM. Topics ranged from the quality and standards of housing and of our water infrastructure, to women in STEM and engineering as a career choice.

This was a year of celebration for the Institution; engineers from all sectors joined with us in November for the 10th anniversary of our Excellence Awards held in association with ESB; we congratulated our Registrar, Damien Owens, on his election as Chair of the International Engineering Alliance and we celebrated 50 years since the Institution was enabled, by an Act of the Oireachtas, to award the title of Chartered Engineer in Ireland. Our President hosted a gala dinner in the Shelbourne Hotel which saw a unique gathering of former Presidents and key stakeholders.

As we took time to consult on the future direction of our national conference, we ran a series of highly successful Regional Fora with 400 delegates sharing knowledge about topics from Applied Artificial Intelligence to the Future of Energy to Connected and Autonomous Vehicles. The Fora complemented the more than 300 high-quality Sectoral events organised by the committees of our Regional branches, Engineering divisions and Societies. Some 17,500 engineers attended these events.

A fundamental objective of our organisation is to support the continuing professional development of engineers – members and non-members. 3,457 delegates attended 245 CPD learning events, of which 57 were delivered as in-company training. By end of 2019, 116 engineering organisations had achieved our CPD Accredited Employer Standard.

A critical role for the institution is to quality assure engineering programmes in both Universities and Institutions of Technology. Our work with the schools of engineering, across all the Higher Education Institutions, continued at pace during the year with 52 engineering programmes accredited - double the 2018 figure. We are very grateful to the 85 volunteers from academia and industry whose expert contributions were invaluable in helping us to maintain our world-class standards.

In discussing professional standards, I would be remiss if I did not reference the new Appeal Board membership. We are indebted to the outgoing Appeal Board, former presidents Pat Lynch and Peter Langford, and SC Pat Hanratty and welcome the incoming Appeal Board, former presidents Jack Golder and Anne Butler, and SC Patricia Dillion.

The recognition of Chartered Engineer as a quality mark was at the centre of a major policy review conducted during the year. The question of whether the profession is appropriately regulated has been under discussion by Council for many years and so Council established a Working Group to advance a robust, evidence-based examination of the issue of regulation of the profession of engineering. An independent external Chairperson, former High Court Judge Raymond Fulham chaired the process and the final paper was tabled for Council consideration in May 2019. We are indebted to Mr Fulham for his assistance with this important project.

The scale and reach of our work is only possible through the enormous contribution of volunteer engineers who give so much to the organisation, whether through supporting our STEPS outreach

programme, our busy nationwide Engineers Week, through the Regional branches, Engineering divisions and Societies or conducting assessments for the title, Chartered Engineer. For example, 176,000 children, teachers and volunteers directly interacted with our STEPS programme - an achievement made possible because of the dedication and commitment of volunteers, whose efforts to raise interest in science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) in schools and colleges, encourage and support the engineers of tomorrow. A highlight of the year was STEPS Engineers Week which saw 826 events involving 99,693 people – a 29% increase in participation on 2018.

Supporting the professional development of our staff through developing a culture of leadership, learning and performance excellence was an important objective for us in 2019. We repeated and improved on our Gallup Q12 engagement survey and achieved a gold standard in our NSAI Excellence Through People accreditation. We were pleased to update our policies to ensure staff were offered flexible and remote working options.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to the President, Marguerite Sayers, for her inspired leadership this year; it has been a true pleasure working alongside her. I would also like to offer my gratitude to the Past President, Peter Quinn for his support, advice and guidance and to the Officers, Maurice Buckley and Professor Orla Feely, the members of Council, the Executive Board and the Committees who continue to encourage all of us with the commitment, energy and tireless work they do for the benefit of members.

I am privileged to work alongside a community of staff at Engineers Ireland whose drive and dedication has positioned our Institution as a leading professional development body. I want to thank you all for the dedication, hard work and warmth they show every day. This has been especially true over the last few months in dealing with the impact of Covid-19. I look forward to working with you all as we build on our success. So many of our members show extraordinary dedication to this organisation and it is my great pleasure to serve with this community of creative professionals who are committed to delivering sustainable solutions for society.”

Auditor’s Report and Financial Statement for the Calendar Year 2019:

The President Marguerite Sayers introduced Chair of the Finance Committee John Jordan and Finance and Operations Director Deirdre Foley to present the 2019 accounts, which were approved at the 9 May 2020 Joint Council and Executive Board Meeting.

Chair of the Finance Committee John Jordan reported that income stood at €5.68m with expenditure of €4.93m giving an operating surplus of €748,000 which was three times above the approved 2019 budget. Cash reserves are a healthy €4.91m. It was reported that Subscriptions fee income increased by 2.3%. CPD Training performed very strongly with an increase in overall profit on 2018 of €100k. There was an increase on investments of €77k and an increase in income from accreditation of academic courses by €31k. The operating surplus for the year is a very positive outcome and leaves the Institution in a good financial position.

Finance and Operations Director Deirdre Foley presented pertinent points from the balance sheet. The Capital expenditure program for the year totalled €328k with the major roof project at 22 Clyde Road, €165k, being the largest project undertaken. Bank balances were reported to be healthy at €4.91m. The Appian fund is valued at €576k Total debtors stand at €904k. Two thirds of the outstanding trade debtors amount of €794k at 31 December 2019 has been collected to date. Creditors due €1.5m and this includes deferred income €777k. The PAYE/PRSI liability is €71k, the P35 has been paid and a small corporation tax refund is due.

John Jordan was pleased to report a clean audit report from Engineers Ireland's auditors Walsh O'Brien Harnett Chartered Accountants. The financial statement had been discussed in detail and approved at the Joint Council and Executive Board Meeting on 9 May 2020. This concluded the report.

The year-end Balance Sheet is strong and stable. This has provided Engineers Ireland with a solid foundation given the challenges of the Covid-19 crisis. As the Director General indicated in her presentation, three task forces have been initiated to deal with the crisis: Member Engagement and Retention Strategy Task Force; Digital Strategy (website, online learning) Task Force; Financial Planning and Management Task Force. The Finance Committee is meeting regularly to monitor the Financial position and is working closely with the Senior Management Team with the objective to ensure good financial control measures are in place.

Marguerite Sayers thanked the Chair of the Finance Committee, John Jordan, and the Director of Finance and Operations, Deirdre Foley, Auditors Walsh O'Brien Harnett and the staff across the organisation for their work during the year to contribute to the organisation's financial position.

The Auditor's Report and Statement of Accounts for 2019 were adopted on the proposal of Peter Quinn, seconded by Orla Feely.

Appointment of Auditors:

It was noted that, following a robust tender process the Finance Committee proposed to appoint new external auditors, BDO, for a period of one year, and then subject to ratification at each AGM up to a term of 3 years. Walsh O'Brien Hartnett were thanked for their service to Engineers Ireland over the past decade.

The Appointment of the Auditors was adopted on proposal of Orla Feely, seconded by John Jordan.

Membership Subscriptions:

The proposal to delegate to Council the setting of membership subscriptions for the coming year was adopted on the proposal of Orla Feely, seconded by John Jordan.

Review of Questions Received:

The Director General reminded all present that all members of Engineers Ireland had been invited to submit questions in advance of the AGM. She thanked those who had submitted questions and clarified that these questions would be given priority. Attempts would be made to answer all questions submitted during the course of the AGM but that this may not be possible due to time restrictions. Below are the questions received and answered;

D. Fallon asked if there were plans to launch an official application for Engineers Ireland members on iOS or Android. The Director General confirmed that at present the organisation's focus is ensuring our organisational website, which was recently redeveloped and launched in February 2020. However, we are mindful of the benefits of apps i.e. they can offer great personalisation for the user and exclusive features and would be open in the future to considering an app use, perhaps for a specific work programme, if we felt it was the best channel.

C. Bradley asked if the new website came in under, on or over budget. The Director General confirmed that the full budget was utilised for the website and where additional development

features were identified requiring further budget this had been brought to and approved by Council in the normal way.

C. Miller asked whether, bearing in mind the negative financial implications of Covid-19, further consideration had been given to reducing or deferring membership subscription fees for 2020. The Director General affirmed that Engineers Ireland remains fully available and open for business throughout the Covid-19 crisis. We have expanded our range of online CPD courses many of which are provided at reduced rates and some are complimentary. We offer reduced rate fees for members experiencing financial difficulty and also support the Benevolent Fund in its work to support members in difficulty. The process of applying for reduced fees had been simplified and any member who is experiencing financial difficulty should contact the finance team at subscriptions@engineersireland.ie or phone the Finance hotline 01 665 1320 to avail of the reduced rate. We also offer direct debit facilities to enable members to spread the cost of membership over the course of the year.

F. Ryan and J. O'Brien asked for clarity on the research and evaluation Engineers Ireland conducted before declaring a Climate and Biodiversity Emergency in 2020. The Director General noted that the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has shown that limiting warming to 1.5°C will require global anthropogenic CO2 emissions to reach net zero around 2050. The IPCC and many other organisations have highlighted the challenges involved in achieving 'net zero' by 2050, including "*rapid and far-reaching transitions in land, energy, industry, buildings, transport, and cities*". Furthermore, on 22nd February 2020, following consultation with our Regions, Divisions and Societies, the Council of Engineers Ireland passed a motion to declare a Climate and Biodiversity Emergency, publicly recognising that climate breakdown and biodiversity collapse are the most serious issues of our time. The Council of Engineers Ireland acknowledged the considered opinion of the scientific community that transformational action is required to achieve meaningful outcomes. This declaration was made on 4th March 2020, World Engineering Day for Sustainable Development. Engineers Ireland is making a strategic commitment to sustainability through our vision, mission and core organisational purpose. We are currently consulting with members on a Sustainability Plan and all members are invited to contribute via a survey on our website.

G. McMahon asked for further clarity regarding the upcoming National Conference and how, being mindful of Covid-19 restrictions, it will likely proceed. Director General confirmed that the National Conference will take place on Wednesday 21st October 2020 and noted that further details on the conference will be disseminated to members in due course.

Appointment of the Vice-President:

The President introduced the new Vice-President, John Power, and read a brief resume of his career:

"John is an Engineering graduate from UCD, holding a Masters in Industrial Engineering and an MBA. Following graduation, he was a Technical Advisor with General Electric in the USA and in South America. He then joined the ESB where he held a large number of diverse roles in Sales, Marketing and Corporate Change before becoming HR Manager in ESB Networks, Executive Director International Services, Head of Supply and finally Head of ESB Corporate Affairs in 2004. He was also Secretary of the Irish Committee of the World Energy Council for 10 years.

A former Director General of Engineers Ireland, 2007 – 2015, he promoted the title of Chartered Engineer and assisting the introduction of the new Project Maths curriculum in Second Level Schools and lifted the profile and importance of the profession in Ireland through raising the reputation of Irish engineering qualifications internationally.

John is now a Senior Executive Coach with particular focus on Career Transition Management. The coaching experience is confidential, based on mutual trust and respect. Using the learning and experience he has gained during 45 years in business, John supports and encourages the coachee in raising his/her own self-awareness and to identify appropriate career and life choices leading to closing the gap between potential and performance.”

The President invited John Power to the podium and presented him with the Vice-Presidents’ medallion.

John Power thanked the President and the members. Conscious of the great honour bestowed upon him, he looked forward to working with his fellow Officers and pledged to do his best to serve the members of Engineers Ireland.

Result of the Ballot for new Council members:

The President presented the result of the 2020 Council Ballot.

There were five vacancies for Corporate Members of whom three hold the title of Chartered Engineer and two are either Associate Engineers or Engineering Technician Members. Nominations were open from 9th April to 1st May 2020, with six nominations received for the Chartered Engineers vacancies and one for the Associate Engineer/Engineering Technician vacancy, with two invalid responses for a total of nine.

The scrutineers were appointed at the meeting of Council on Saturday 9th May. These were Mr. Kieran Feighan, former President of Engineers Ireland, and Ms. Maeve McNally from the law firm Fieldfisher.

As in recent years the election was online and this year was hosted by Electoral Reform Services, a UK specialist provider of online voting services. The invitations to vote was issued to corporate members on Monday 15th June and closed on Monday 29th June (14 days inclusive as per section 3.7.5 of Bye Laws). 17,944 initial emails were despatched on Monday 15th June, with reminder emails despatched on Thursday 25th June. For the duration of the voting period, there was no access to the voting platform by staff or representatives from Engineers Ireland. 2,243 votes were cast, which was a 12.5% response.

The voting tallies were read out for the Chartered Engineers election with Siobhán Kennedy, Cormac Bradley and Diarmuid Ó Briain elected for a three-year period in this category. Aidan Smyth was elected for one of the two Associate Engineer/Engineering Technician positions unopposed.

Inauguration of President for 2019-2020:

The President introduced Maurice Buckley, incoming President for the 2020-2021 Session, and read a brief resume of his career.

“Maurice Buckley comes from an engineering family and his father Denis Buckley was President of the IEI Western Region in the 1970s. On graduating in Electrical Engineering from University College Dublin (UCD), Maurice worked with Inland Motors, Ennis, and completed his Masters by thesis there. From design, he moved on to a Product Management role, based in Germany, supplying the fast-growing robotics and automation markets. After completing an MBA at INSEAD, he became a strategy consultant with The Boston Consulting Group (BCG) in Munich.

Maurice returned to Ireland to establish a subsidiary of a German Printing Company, System Label (now MCC), in Roscommon town where he still lives today. In a move to the Public Sector, Maurice

became Chief Executive of the National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI), with responsibility for the country's standardisation, certification and metrology activities. This work brought him back into close contact with the wider engineering community and Engineers Ireland. Since 2017, as executive Chairman of the Office of Public Works (OPW), he has led large-scale capital investment and maintenance programmes to improve Ireland's flood defences and public buildings, both modern and heritage. The OPW has been associated with Engineers Ireland since the parallel formation of both organisations in 1835.

Maurice is a Fellow by Presidential invitation and became Vice-President in 2018."

Marguerite Sayers invited Maurice Buckley to accept the Presidency and formally presented him with the Chain of Office and Presidential Pin and invited him to take the Chair.

President's Inaugural Speech:

President Maurice Buckley's speech -

"To be nominated as President of Engineers Ireland is great honour. I feel very privileged to be here tonight. I am also very conscious that it is a big responsibility and a serious commitment.

I guess I was always going to accept this honour, but there were a few reasons that really swayed me. I'm very proud to revive a family link to Engineers Ireland as I remember, when I was small, my late father Denis Buckley spending what seemed to be hours on endless phone calls to fellow West Region committee members planning the next meeting, event, or big decision. I am also very proud to revive an even older link between the OPW and Engineers Ireland as both organisations were founded in the 1830s – not the 1930s, the 1830s! – and the first president of the fledgling Institution was the first Chairman of the OPW, John Fox Burgoyne. I don't believe there has been one since, so it is about time to revive that linkage.

The most important reason to say yes was my confidence in the quality of the organisation I would be leading. We have a vibrant network of volunteer members all over Ireland and a very high calibre of people in Caroline Spillane and her team. Engineers Ireland is in my opinion right up there as one of the strongest and best run organisations in Ireland.

We have a great system of two years' induction as Vice President before anyone takes on the Presidency itself. Watching, learning, thinking, planning with those who go before is invaluable. I will have the opportunity to thank Marguerite after this address, but I want to call out and thank Peter Quinn on this, his last official event as an Officer. He brought his strong personal values, honesty, and selfless hard work to the last 4 years. Members will not appreciate just how often Peter stayed late at meetings and events before heading up the long road to Tyrone and home. I was delighted (as Peter was too, I'll warrant) that his Presidential address got included as the last one in volume 2 of the 'Called to Serve' compendium by Dr. Ronald Cox on almost the very last page! Many thanks, Peter, on behalf of all of us, for everything you have done and – while hoping you will stay actively involved – I wish you and Ann a bit more free-time and travel to visit the new grandchild in New Zealand.

Strategy, Sustainability, Members, and Standards

The honour falls to me to set about implementing our new 3-year strategy with the Executive. I can promise you that I will continue the emphasis Marguerite placed on sustainability and climate action in that process.

As you see from the 2019 Annual Report, Engineers Ireland has a multitude of ongoing programmes, policy initiatives, and governance projects. These are all led by volunteers on Council, on Membership and CPD Committees and a myriad of other groups who give freely of their time and I want to thank them for their commitment to engineering. I assure you all that I will continue to drive these forward building on the momentum set by my predecessors.

I would like to add two additional themes for my Presidency, which I will just mention now but come back to more fully on other occasions. One is reaching out to qualified Engineers whose careers have brought them out of 'core' engineering work into other areas like general management. We have 25,000 members in Engineers Ireland which is an all-time high, but there are as many again working in Ireland who are not involved with us and we would like to encourage. For large parts of my own career I worked in marketing, management consulting, and general management of non-engineering businesses. At the time I felt that Engineers Ireland was not open to people in careers like mine. Now I know I was wrong and wish that I had been a member back then. I believe Engineers Ireland has a lot to offer to those in such careers and that such members would in turn further enrich our organisation.

The second theme is encouraging a greatly increased level of participation by Engineers Ireland members in Standards Development activities in Ireland and abroad. I have seen myself how companies and individuals could gain a tremendous knowledge and a first mover advantage through their engagement with such work. Other countries take better advantage of this opportunity – particularly engineers. 70% of the board of CEN, the European Standards body, are engineers. There are some 2000 active Irish experts – that is too few. 30% of new participants are engineers – that is also too few! There is scope to double our participation and a great advantage to be had by the individuals and companies who get involved. With only one percent of the population we have an equal voice to all of the 33 members of European Standardisations. Probably a greater voice as native English speakers – especially after Brexit.

Post-Covid Recovery, State of Ireland, Sectors

But now, let me come to the most immediate and most important challenge we face in the months ahead. That is Ireland's recovery from the economic devastation caused by the Covid pandemic coupled with mitigating the impact on our economy of a likely hard Brexit in December. I call on everyone here today, on screen, and in the wider membership to rally together. Let's activate our collective capacity in the Engineering Community to ensure that any financial stimulus the new Government can provide delivers the results needed in infrastructure and technology. Engineers Ireland is the conduit through which that can be done.

The Sectors are already working with me to gather the views of members to put to Council in July with the intention of developing a plan of action. This will be guided by our new strategy and what we see emerging in the Programme for Government. That Programme for Government is a clarion call for engineering solutions from start to finish. Apart altogether from the high level of investment in Project Ireland 2040 and the National Development Plan, the policy changes foreseen in Transport, in Housing, in Building Retrofit, in Energy, in Broadband and Communications, and in Regionalisation are all changes that require engineers and sustainable engineering solutions if they are to be delivered effectively.

Our Divisions, Societies, and Regions have a crucial role to play here as they are the channel through which individual members can best feed into this process. I had the pleasure of chairing the Liaison Committee of all our sectors for the last two years and saw clearly the potential – and sometimes the untapped potential – of these groupings. I fully support John Byrne in his current review of our Divisions and Societies to make sure we are aligned as well as we possibly can be to the professional areas and personal interests of the engineering community. Our sectors are the life blood of our

organisation today and we can make them even more inclusive and more satisfying to participate in. If you are not involved already, please do so now and get involved in Engineers Ireland support of a National Economic Recovery.

We have already changed the planned focus of our State of Ireland report this year to this topic and it will be called 'Engineering a Sustainable Recovery'. The work has started and will pick up on proposals coming out of our Sectors as well as an expert group. Meetings with Government Departments are already planned, and we will submit on the review of the National Development Plan next month.

To support all of this there is a role for Engineers Ireland to work with third level institutions to ensure an adequate pipeline of graduates with the right skills mix and use our international links to best advantage. We are members of FEANI and President of IEA and ENAFE this year through our Registrar, Damien Owens. Our CPD programmes can provide the new skills in areas like digital and ICT, materials, advanced logistics, and many more evolving requirements.

Thank You

Ladies and Gentlemen, I have presented you tonight with a big agenda for the year ahead. It is not my agenda but our agenda. Engineers Ireland is the conduit through which your individual energy and ideas can be collated and directed to be more effective and powerful.

As I come to the end, there are a few people and groups I want to highlight. There are two social clubs within Engineers Ireland that I want to give a call out to tonight. The Engineers Bridge Club is one of our oldest and meets here in Clyde Road every Monday night (viruses and pandemics allowing). I am proud to have been a member for many years and my name is there, somewhere, engraved on the Cumann Cup! Richard Crowe, new Chairman of our Membership and Qualifications Board (MQB) is also a member, and a much better Bridge player. It is always looking for new members so if 3 No-Trump, Stayman, and Blackwood are words that mean anything to you, please get involved. What I did not know until I read the 2019 Annual Report was that we also have an Engineers Toastmasters Club that meets here every second and fourth Tuesday. They will pick up again next September either in Clyde Road or online. As this is a Tuesday night, the club has kindly agreed to let me submit this speech as part of my induction!

I want to thank Caroline Spillane, her Senior Management Team, and all the staff for their hard work and dedication. I look forward to working more closely with them this year. I want to thank my wife, Mary, my daughter Barbara, daughter Susan and her fiancée Mark here tonight who I suspect are just realising how busy the year ahead will be.

I want to thank the OPW Commissioners and Management Board for their support in my taking on this role. Finally, I want to thank my fellow Officers, Peter Quinn, President two years ago on his last official role tonight, Marguerite Sayers, our outgoing President, Professor Orla Feely, now senior Vice-President, and incoming Vice-President, John Power, who I look forward to working with.

I am greatly honoured to accept your nomination as President and the responsibility that comes with it. I promise you all I will give of my best to ensure that I represent you and this wonderful organisation to the very best of my abilities. Thank you all very much for being here tonight.

Thank you."

President Maurice Buckley presented Marguerite Sayers with a bound copy of the Annual Report and a framed print of the Keating painting "The Key Men" as mementos of her year of office.

Any Other Business:

There was no other business.

Close of Meeting:

President Maurice Buckley thanked everyone for attending the Annual General Meeting and brought the meeting to a close.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.