

Board of Director's Update

Since our last update to members there have been a number of changes to your Board, Supervisory Committee and Dubco staff.

Vincent Healy, former Dubco Chairperson, and Monica Murphy, former Secretary, both stepped down in October 2012. Vincent was elected to the Board of Directors in 2004 and he served as Chairperson from 2010 to 2012, having held the position of Vice Chairperson from 2007 to 2009. During his time as a Director Vincent also served as a member of the Nominating & Membership, Credit Control and Special Projects Committees.



Prior to her resignation Monica was the longest serving member of the Board having first become involved in Dubco volunteering in 1977 and first elected a Director in 1979. Over the years Monica served on numerous committees, most recently as Chairperson of the Special Projects Committee, and as Assistant Treasurer from 1994 to 1998, Treasurer from 1998 to 2001, Vice Chairperson from 2001 to 2003, Assistant Secretary in 2004 and Secretary from 2008 to 2012.

Seamus Lea, former Chairperson of the Dubco Supervisory Committee, was co-opted to fill a vacancy on the Board and was subsequently elected by the Board to the position of Chairperson. The vacancy created by the departure of Seamus from the Supervisory Committee was filled by Michelle Henshaw, who had previously been a volunteer on both the Audit and Special Projects Committees. Michelle currently works in the Law Department of Dublin City Council. William (Tony) Harnett was elected as the new Chairperson of the Supervisory Committee.

We also marked the retirement of Martina Kennedy at the end of November, after twenty three years of service. Martina joined the Dubco team initially on a temporary part time basis in 1989 and the following year a May 1990 Newsletter to members highlighted her move into a permanent position of Clerical Officer. Since joining the team Martina has been an integral part of the fabric of Dubco, having carried out numerous roles across the organisation. Initially working as a Clerical Officer at a member facing level, Martina was provided with an in depth knowledge and understanding of our members from the beginning of her service. This understanding filtered through to the various functions she has since carried out in Dubco, helping to ensure that all aspects of the organisation have the interests of the members in mind at all times. Having held the position of Projects Co-Ordinator since 2008 Martina has most recently been heavily involved in the numerous technological advancements Dubco has made since then.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Vincent, Monica and Martina for their service to Dubco. The success of Dubco over the past 35 years is a testament to the significant input to Dubco's development over the years by the dedicated staff and volunteers, past and present, who continue to work for and on behalf of the members.

The Annual General Meeting of the Credit Union, for the Year Ended 30/09/2012, has been postponed. The Board wish to advise that while an interim audit review was conducted in the same manner as in previous years the preparation of the Management Accounts for the Year Ended 30/09/2012 was delayed, these items are currently being prepared for final audit.

In addition the Board wishes to advise that Dubco currently has to abide by certain restrictions. We understand these restrictions to be in place for a limited period, pending the completion of certain projects and with further review of the circumstances thereafter. These restrictions are as follows:

- No commercial or property related lending is to be granted;
- The maximum size of loan to any one member, or connected members, must not exceed €25,000 (net exposure) or a term exceeding 10 years
- Maximum savings balances (combined shares and deposits) of €100,000

We would like to offer our apologies in respect of any inconvenience caused by these restrictions and would also like to reassure members that despite the restrictions put in place we continue to trade successfully, fully conscious of the best interests of all of our members.

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DFB Pipe Band Supporting SOS

Dublin Fire Brigade Pipe Band released their first CD in December 2012 after 27 years playing pipes and drums together. The CD, called 'Dublin Fire Brigade Pipe Band and Friends - Monday Nights in Marino', was produced with the support of Dubco, together with a number of other sponsors, and all proceeds from the sale of the CD were donated to Suicide or Survive (SOS).

SOS, a recipient of Dubco's 2012 Annual Charity Scheme, is an Irish charity that focus on breaking down the stigma associated with mental health issues. The organisation is working to build a society where people embrace their mental health wellness and those with difficulties are treated with dignity and respect.

Dubco would like to congratulate all involved, in particular to the Committee, formed under fire fighter Mark Toner (A Watch Kilbarrack) who led the project, and to the many friends of the Band who were invited to record the CD, which includes 11 tracks. Among others, friends featured on the CD included the Dublin City Council Choir, which Dubco's own Miss Bronagh Maguire is a member of, well done to everyone who took part in the project.



Members of the Dublin Fire Brigade Pipe Band (Mark Toner, pipes, Alan Corcoran, Treasurer and drums, and Drum Major Damien Fynes) pictured with Dubco staff and joined by Olivia Hunt of Suicide or Survive.

Movember Madness

The Dubco Team had a special addition during the month of November past when staff member Paul Corscadden took part in Movember, fundraising for prostate cancer initiatives, and looking cool at the same time. Paul raised a total of €715.00 for charity and looked like he was a member of the Tom Selleck Fan Club while doing so! But seriously, even though Paul didn't need much encouragement to help out with his endeavour, everyone at Dubco rallied around and he got it anyway. Every day we ensured Paul was reminded of his likeliness to other moustache heroes, Freddie Mercury, Hulk Hogan and his personal hero Burt Reynolds.



Volunteers got into the spirit too, sporting a combination of real and not so real tashes for a few photographs and to let Paul know that his dedication to the cause was noticed by all (especially when he was extremely itchy, or when he had food stuck in his flavour saver). We are all very proud of the money Paul raised for this great cause, and even more proud of his tribute to his hero. Well done Burt.



Quarterly Members Draw Winners

Once again this quarter there were prizes totalling a massive **€93,000!** The 20 cash prizes every month equate to a total of 60 lucky members delighted to share in winnings between €500 and €15,000 during the last quarter.

Special congratulations to the latest big winners this past quarter, who were Joanne Scannell, Dublin Institute of Technology, (October), Sharon Cramer, Family Member (November) and Lynda Finnerty, Family Member (December).



Withdrawal of Cheque Cashing Facility

During the month of December 2012 AIB Capel Street withdrew the cheque cashing facility for Dubco cheques issued to members.

Please be aware that Dubco were advised by AIB that:

- All crossed and third party cheques must be lodged, where the individual is an AIB customer
- Cheques presented by non AIB customers will not be accepted

We would recommend that members use the electronic funds transfer (EFT) facility to withdraw from Share/Deposit Accounts, or for the issuing of loan funds, as it is the fastest method to get access to your money.

We apologise to our members for any inconvenience caused however the circumstances around the withdrawal of the facility are entirely outside of the control of the Credit Union.

Member Reminder – Photo Identification

The credit union makes every effort to ensure that your money and your private data remain safe and secure. Members are reminded that it is for this reason that photo identification (valid passport or drivers licence) is required when making a withdrawal or collecting a loan.

In order to protect our members Staff working in the Member Services Team have to be satisfied that they are giving the right payment to the right person.

Matthew Dawson Bursary Winners

Congratulations to the two recent winners of the Matthew Dawson Bursary draw, Andrew McGuinness who is studying Science in Computing in IT Tallaght and Steven Maguire who is studying Arts in NUI Maynooth.

Established in 2004 following the death of our valued friend, colleague and Director, Matthew Dawson, Dubco has granted bursaries to a total of eighteen students, to the total value of almost €70,000. Previous winners of the bursary draw continue to receive their funding while continuing in their chosen course, subject to terms and conditions.





Time to renew your family's health insurance?

Then it's time to talk to BuyHealthInsurance.ie and Aviva

Here's how Dubco members are better off with Health Insurance from Aviva:

- Fast access to more hospitals and scan centres than any other insurer
- Access to high tech hospitals, such as the Mater Private, for listed cardiac procedures and some of the latest advances in cancer care
- Excellent cover for MRI, CT, PET-CT scans & health screens in the market
- Access to unique maternity benefits
- 24 hour access to nurse-on-call service
- Access to Back up service on all plans – new innovative back pain clinical case management service for members with back or spinal problems

Dubco members can find out more about how you could benefit by joining Aviva Health Insurance.

Telephone BuyHealthInsurance.ie on **01 484 5120**

or visit www.buyhealthinsurance.ie/dubco

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Dublin City Council Safety Awards – Sponsored by Dubco

The Dublin City Council Safety Person of the Year Award has been sponsored by Dubco since its inception in 2009. The competition aims to encourage and promote good health and safety practices throughout Dublin City Council through the recognition and reward of exceptional efforts and ideas by any Dublin City Council employee in the area of health and safety. The winner's prize and perpetual trophy are sponsored by Dubco.

We would like to congratulate the winner of the Safety Awards 2012 Bright Ideas Competition Winner, Stephen Wynne, who is currently working in Dublin City Council's Finance Department. Stephen's winning idea was to have an 'aide memoire' placed on each desk beside the computer monitor, advising the user of the importance of sitting properly to avoid back or neck strain and of properly adjusted chairs and monitors to avoid strain when using computers.

Photographed receiving his award at the Safety Representatives Briefing held in October 2010 in Croke Park is (left to right) Stephen Wynne, Kevin McConnell, Health & Safety Officer, Dublin City Council Corporate Health & Safety Office, Nicole Egan, Marketing & Services Development Manager and Bronagh Maguire, Marketing & Communications Team.



Spend valuable time (not loads of money)!

With most of us feeling the pinch in the New Year we thought we'd share our top five nifty and thrifty ways to battle boredom while keeping your spending to a minimum.

The next time you're feeling bored why not try one of our suggestions on a valuable way to spend your time, rather than spending your money.

1. Catch up with Friends & Family

If you have good company, you'll never be bored. Contact a good friend or family member and spend some time catching up. Day-to-day life can often get in the way of relationships, if you've been thinking of someone, make time to give that person a call and find out how they're doing.

If you have friends and family away from home there's no need for expensive long distance charges, Skype is the cheapest way to make long distance phone calls – it's so cheap it's free! For those who aren't familiar with the service, Skype is a software application that allows users make voice and video calls over the Internet. Check out skype.com for more information.

2. Cook a Feast

Recipe books and cooking shows can inspire the chef in us, but many of the recipes can take hours to prepare (at least on the first try!). If you have time on your hands it's a great opportunity to put together the kind of meal you'd find at a fancy restaurant — for less than you'd pay for a take away. Cooking together can be a great family activity too so don't be afraid to ask for kitchen helpers!

3. Be a Tourist at Home

If you have time to kill and feel like getting out, go for a drive, a walk or ride your bike to an area you're unfamiliar with. The city is filled with great unknown spots, if you're lucky you'll find a new favourite spot that you can make plans to visit again.

Think like a tourist – check out www.visitdublin.com for a listing of free events throughout the city. Dublin City Council's website has information on lots more free events across the city (in the parks, libraries and even City Hall). There's something for everyone.

4. Play at the Park

You don't need an event for a good reason to check out one of the many lovely parks in the country. Whether it's for a walk with the dog, a good game of tag or a push on the swings, play time at the park is a great way of enjoying the city (and getting some fresh air and exercise). If you think you're too old for the park (which I don't think ever happens really!), bring some kids — they'll provide encouragement.

5. Learn an Old-Time Skill

It's getting tougher for many people to imagine, but there was a time before TV (and an even more recent time before video games and the internet and so on)! These are often the way we pass time due to convenience, but don't neglect all the other options to do something you enjoy (which might require a little more planning).

Try taking up an old-time hobby such as knitting or patchwork. If you're already an expert why not share your skillset with the younger generation – teach your kids or grandkids! If you're new to the old-time hobby why not ask a relative or friend to show you how, it can be exciting and rewarding learning a new skill – and it might provide your friend or family member the opportunity to share their skills and time in an enjoyable way for you both.



This year communities all across Ireland will share the very best of Irish culture, tradition, spirit and the sense of fun – will you be involved?

Most of us have family and friends abroad – which makes sense when you consider that over 70 million people worldwide claim Irish roots! The Gathering Ireland 2013 provides a great excuse to reach out to those who have moved away, relatives, friends, even the distant descendants, and invite them home.

We've put together a list of ways to spend your time without costing a fortune, why not invite some of those abroad to join in too. Having a gathering doesn't need to cost a fortune, remember, it isn't the money you spend that makes an event special – it's the people involved who make the memories.

If you decide to plan your own gathering, the first thing you should do is sit down with your family and discuss a budget. Once you know how much you can afford to spend create a budget planner to help you keep track of the on-going expenses. The planner should include any item you will spend money on and will help you to figure out if your plans are within your overall budget. If not, you can reduce your spending in certain areas until you have an overall plan that's affordable.

be part of it.

Congratulations 2012 Graduates!

During 2012 ten Dubco Officers achieved designations, certificates and diplomas as part of Dubco's Officer Development Programme.

The most popular course during the year was the Professional Certificate in Credit Union Management, Control & Supervision, which is a single module qualification leading to the designation CUG (Credit Union Governance). This designation was achieved by five members of staff and two volunteers, congratulations to Lee Dowling, Ben Gillick, Kevin Healy, Michelle Henshaw, Seamus Lea, Carol Walsh and Caroline Wilkinson. A number of these Officers are continuing to build upon their studies to date working towards the next level qualification, noting that the sole module of this course, Credit Union Practices, can be combined with the QFA Regulation module to attain the Credit Union Adviser designation, which can be progressed further to attain the Professional Diploma in Credit Union Advice.

Congratulations to Gerard Lonergan who received his CUA designation during the year and is continuing work towards the Professional Diploma. Well done to Janice Carter who doubled up on qualifications during the year having completed both the Professional Diploma in Credit Union Advice and the Professional Diploma in Financial Advice with the QFA designation and to Nicole Egan who achieved a Professional Certificate in Compliance during 2012.

At Dubco we are committed to providing the highest possible level of service to our members and as such the development programme is on-going. We believe that our members are entitled to the highest standards of proficiency and competency from all Credit Union personnel, including elected representatives, volunteers, staff and management.

Debt problems following a Christmas overspend?

If you've overspent this holiday season, using credit or store cards to get you through the holiday period, you could be facing high interest charges and repayments every month. Why not consider taking out a short term loan from Dubco and clear your Christmas debt over a one year period?

The interest rate on credit cards is usually well above rates charged on credit union personal loans and usually ranges from 11% to 19%. Credit cards are one of the most expensive ways to borrow money, and store cards can present an even more expensive option.

... sort the problem
for as little as

€19.87
per week for
€1,000

Loan: €1,000
Rate: 6.49% (6.70% APR)*
Repayment Period: 1 year
Repayment Amount: €19.87 per week
Total Repayment: €1,033.24
Total Interest: €33.24



*Annual percentage rate (APR) is based on the example provided. Subject to loan approval and related terms and conditions.