

## Talks on Impact of Recession Taking Place

At the time of going to print, discussions are ongoing between the Irish Congress of Trade Unions and the Government in relation to the economic crisis and the recession.

No formal proposals have been put forward, but the position of Congress is that the economic crisis must be addressed in a fair and equitable manner. The ASTI Standing Committee and Central Executive Council have stated that the ASTI will engage in a co-ordinated response by teacher unions and the other public sector trade unions to attempts to make the public sector pay for the current economic crisis.

ASTI's Central Executive Council (CEC) last Saturday (January 24th) adopted the following motion: "That CEC demands that working conditions, salaries, and pensions of teachers are not further eroded, by cut or levy, and that the ASTI works with the other teacher unions and public service unions to achieve this aim".

Speaking to the 180-member CEC, John White, General Secretary stated: "I want to assure our 18,000 members that in co-operation with our colleague teacher unions, and the broader public service, we will fight to the very best of our ability for our members in the unprecedented circumstances in which we find ourselves."

Mr White gave CEC an update on public sector pay. He said the terms of the national agreement Towards 2016 Transitional Agreement provided for the following salary increase for all public

servants including teachers: 3.5% on September 1st 2009; 2.5% on June 1st 2010.

On January 9th, the Taoiseach asked the Irish Congress of Trade Unions to submit proposals to the government for dealing with the impact of the recession. The government has informed the EU that it proposes addressing the deficit in government finances by cutbacks of €2 billion in 2009, €4 billion in 2010, and €4 billion in 2011, €3 billion in 2012 and €3 billion in 2013.

In response, the Congress stated to the government in a submission that: "if it is the intention of government to engage only in an exercise to cut public services, pay and numbers, then we cannot engage on this basis". Congress has also stated that "we are experiencing the most profound global economic crisis in 70 years". And we are experiencing this without the safety valve of emigration to the US or England who are experiencing their own profound problems.

### Discussions

The Irish Congress of Trade Unions has agreed to enter discussions with the government on the basis that there is a social solidarity pact whereby: jobs are protected; those least able to bear financial cutbacks are protected, and its corollary, those best able to bear the burden should bear it; the promotion of technological development and state supports for new innovative industries; moderation of executive remuneration; tax increases. ♦

### ASTI Scholarship

In celebration of its centenary year, the ASTI has established an annual scholarship for ASTI members wishing to pursue academic studies. See page 11 for details.

### Inside this issue:

Teaching Council Elections	2
Campaign against Budget Cuts	7
Measúnacht sa Ghaeilge don Teastas Sóisearach	10

# ASTI Endorses Candidates for Teaching Council Seats

The term of the current Teaching Council ends on March 27th and, in advance of that date, elections will be held in February to elect primary and second-level teachers to the new Council.

The ASTI has endorsed a number of teachers who are members of the ASTI to run in the Teaching Council elections.

The Teaching Council, which was established in 2006, will play a vital role in promoting the teaching profession and the professional development of teachers over the coming years. It is made up of 37 members acting in a voluntary capacity as non-executive members of the Council. There are 22 places on the Council reserved for registered teachers. Six of these are nominated by the teacher unions (see page 3). Of the remaining 16, seven are elected by second-level teachers. As three of the ASTI-endorsed candidates are unopposed, they are deemed elected. The remaining four ASTI-endorsed candidates are running for the constituencies and electoral categories highlighted in bold below:

ASTI-endorsed candidates will contest the Teaching Council elections in the following constituencies / electoral categories:

Voluntary Secondary Schools (Male)  
Leinster Constituency

Voluntary Secondary Schools (Female)  
Connaught, Munster, Ulster Constituency

Category and constituency	Candidate
Community and Comprehensive Schools Leinster, Connaught, Munster, Ulster Constituency	Susie Hall (uncontested)
<b>Voluntary Secondary Schools (Male) Leinster Constituency</b>	<b>Christy Maginn Dermot Quish</b>
Voluntary Secondary Schools (Female) Leinster Constituency	Bernadine O’Sullivan (uncontested)
Voluntary Secondary Schools (Male) Connaught, Munster, Ulster Constituency	Noel Buckley (uncontested)
<b>Voluntary Secondary Schools (Female) Connaught, Munster, Ulster Constituency</b>	<b>Lily Cronin Máire Ní Laoire</b>

## About the Teaching Council

The Teaching Council is the statutory agency responsible for the regulating the teaching profession, including the registration of primary and second-level teachers.

**The specific functions of the Teaching Council are:**

- To promote teaching as a profession;
- To promote the continuing professional development of teachers;
- To establish and maintain a register of teachers;
- To establish, publish, review and maintain Codes of Professional Conduct for Teachers which include teaching knowledge, skill and competence;
- To regulate the teaching profession; and
- To maintain and improve standards of teaching, knowledge, skill and competence.

The Teaching Council plays no role in negotiating the terms and conditions of employment of teachers such as salary, which must be processed through the Teachers Conciliation Council.

# Teaching Council Elections

Eleven second-level teachers will serve on the new Teaching Council as follows:

	No. of seats	Total
<b>ASTI Nominees</b>	2	2
<b>TUI Nominees</b>	2	2
<b>Community and Comprehensive:</b> Connaught, Munster, Ulster and Leinster	1	1
<b>Voluntary Secondary</b> Connaught, Munster & Ulster	2 (1 male, 1 female)	4
Leinster	2 (1 male, 1 female)	
<b>VEC</b> Connaught, Munster & Ulster	1	2
Leinster	1	

## ASTI Teaching Council Nominees

The ASTI is entitled to nominate two teachers, employed to work in or qualified to teach in registered second-level schools, to the Teaching Council. The two ASTI representatives on the Teaching Council nominated by Standing Committee are:

### Elaine Devlin

Elaine is a teacher in De La Salle College in Dundalk. She is a member of the Dundalk Branch and is the Standing Committee Representative for Region 12 (Dundalk, Monaghan, Cavan, Drogheda).

### Jack Keane

Jack Keane is a teacher in Rice College in Ennis. He is a member of the Clare Branch. Jack was elected to and served on the first Teaching Council.



Elaine Devlin



Jack Keane

## Voluntary Secondary Schools Constituency: Leinster - Male Panel

Candidates: Christy Maginn & Dermot Quish



Christy Maginn

### Christy Maginn

School: St. Declan's CBS, Cabra, Dublin 7  
Branch: Dublin North West

Christy is a full-time serving teacher and an active teacher trade unionist. He is just completing six years on Standing Committee and his first term on the Teaching Council.

Following the hugely successful and massive demonstration last month, Christy argues that teachers' leaders must now demand that education funding be ring-fenced.

No to teacher redundancies! No to pay cuts or pay freezes!

The Teaching Council needs to recognise that teaching is the hardest job in education.

The new Council must connect directly and in relevant ways with the teachers who fund it.

To develop confidence from classroom teachers, it has to distinguish itself from the DES and assert its independence.

Christy has represented ASTI interests on Standing Committee, CEC, the NCCA, the Teaching Council, in appeals, and in disputes. In each forum, Christy has always been unafraid to stand alongside teachers and defend their interests.

*Your support for Christy, this time, will ensure that a strong voice for teachers remains at the heart of the new Council.*



Dermot Quish

### Dermot Quish

School: Santa Sabina, Sutton, Dublin  
Branch: Dublin North East

I am a teacher of geography in Santa Sabina where I have responsibility for school development planning. I have served at every rank of the ASTI. I am a former President of the ASTI, a member of the Credit Union and current School Steward in Santa Sabina.

I have always operated on the principle that the conditions of teaching are the conditions of learning. The present cutbacks in undermining the conditions of teaching subvert the conditions of learning.

I have played a very active role on the Council in particular as a member of the Education Committee where I played a central role in formulating The Codes of Professional Practice and Conduct.

I hold an MA in Curriculum and Assessment and am currently studying for a Doctorate (Ed.Doc) at St Patrick's College DCU in the area of interculturalism and its challenges and implications for post primary education in Ireland.

I hope to persuade the Council to recommend an in-built sabbatical year in every teacher's career after six years service.

*Votáil ar son ceardcumannaí gníomhach agus fíor oideachasóir.*

## Voluntary Secondary Schools Constituency: Connaught, Munster & Ulster - Female Panel

Candidates: Lily Cronin & Maire Ni Laoire

### Lily Cronin

School: Mercy Mount Hawk, Tralee, Co. Kerry  
Branch: Kerry

#### Profile:

- Bsc HDip (University College Cork)
- Biology & science teacher
- ASTI involvement for 30 years
- School Steward
- Kerry Branch Chair
- Former National Honorary Organiser
- Former Standing Committee Representative (Kerry, Desmond & West Limerick)
- Former Education Committee member
- Member of Steering Committee
- ASTI Convenor of biology & Chair of Biology Course Committee
- ASTI Representative on Board of Studies for Science
- The Elected Teacher Representative on the Teacher Council for the Female Panel, Constituency of Connaught, Munster and Ulster. 2006 - Present

Your vote for me will ensure that ASTI Policy will always be upheld at Council. The new Council will continue to review teacher education across initial induction and continuing professional development. As a practising classroom teacher since 1975 I have the commitment and experience to serve you and the teaching profession into the future.

We all need to raise the status and morale of the teaching profession and teachers are pivotal in our present economic climate. Vote for me and your voice will be heard on the Council.

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### Máire Ní Laoire

School: Scoil Mhuire Gan Smál, An Bhlárna, Corcaigh  
Branch: Corcaigh Thuaidh / Cork North

#### Profile:

ASTI and educational involvement:

I have an active interest in educational and union matters, e.g., classroom methodology and the status of non-permanent teachers. This is reflected in previous roles: Honorary National Organiser, Standing Committee, Education Committee, Registration Council and Subject Convenor, Gaeilge. I am currently Chairperson of Cork North, member of CEC, Steering Committee, Chairperson of LC Gaeilge Course Committee and Joint Editor of TnaG 9. As an experienced Teaching Council Member, I am on the Registration, Applications, Investigating and Irish Committees.

#### Goals:

- To continue articulating ASTI policy.
- To continue voicing the concerns of the classroom teacher.
- Since important matters such as induction, probation and Part 5 (fitness to teach) of the Teaching Council Act remain to be enacted, I feel it is vital to continue on the Council and use the expertise gained over 3 years on your behalf.

I believe that the Teaching Council can help to raise the status and morale of the teaching profession. Your vote will allow me to continue working for you. Bheinn fíor-bhuíoch as do thacaíocht.



Lily Cronin



Máire Ní Laoire



Susie Hall



Bernadine O'Sullivan



Noel Buckley

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#### Date for Your Diary

The closing date for receipt of ballots in the 2009 Teaching Council elections is February 26 2009. Please ensure your ballot is returned on time.

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The following ASTI members are also ASTI-endorsed candidates for the 2009 Teaching Council elections. However, as these candidates are unopposed, they are deemed elected to the Teaching Council.

#### **Community and Comprehensive Schools Constituency: Leinster, Connaught, Munster & Ulster**

##### **Susie Hall**

Susie Hall teaches in Malahide Community School in Dublin and is a member of the Dublin North East Branch of the ASTI. She is a former ASTI President and is currently a member of the Central Executive Council. Susie served on the first Teaching Council following her election to the Community and Comprehensive Schools Panel in 2004.

#### **Voluntary Secondary Schools Constituency: Leinster - Female Panel**

##### **Bernadine O'Sullivan**

Bernadine O'Sullivan teaches in St Mary's School for Hearing Impaired Girls in Cabra, Dublin and is a member of the Dublin North West Branch. She is a former ASTI President and is currently Chair of the ASTI Pensions Sub-Committee. Bernadine served on the first Teaching Council following her election to the Voluntary Secondary Schools Leinster Female Panel in 2004.

#### **Voluntary Secondary Schools Constituency: Connaught, Munster & Ulster - Male Panel**

##### **Noel Buckley**

Noel is a teacher at Presentation Secondary School in Clonmel and a member of Tipperary Branch. He is a former Honorary National Organiser of the ASTI and is currently a member of the Central Executive and the ASTI's Education Committee.

### Teaching Council Elections Frequently Asked Questions

#### **Who can vote?**

All registered teachers who were on the Teaching Council Register of Teachers on September 30th 2008.

A final Electoral Roll was compiled on November 13, 2008 and is now available for inspection at the Council offices during office hours.

#### **How will the elections take place?**

The elections will take place by means of postal ballot. Ballot papers will be sent to every elector on January 30th 2009 at his or her correspondence address as recorded on the Register of Teachers. The ballot documentation will include the names of the nominated candidates, a declaration of identity form, a ballot paper envelope, a covering envelope, and details of the deadline for receipt of completed ballot papers (February 26, 2009).

#### **What voting system will be used?**

Voting will take place using a single transferable vote system.

#### **Will teachers be permitted to vote for any candidate they wish?**

Teachers who are electors may vote only in respect of the candidates nominated in the electoral category and geographical constituency in which he/she is entered in the electoral roll. ♦

# Education Vital to Economic Recovery

The ASTI recognises that the government finances are in dire straits and believes that the social partners should be involved with the Government in seeking a solution.

However, ASTI General Secretary John White has stated that "cutting basic education is short-sighted because it is only through education that we can build the smart economy that is essential for sustainable economic renewal."

"Damaging and false statements about the public service are being bandied about in a reckless manner," added Mr White. "The Irish second-level sector is not bloated. Any IBEC representative or right wing economist who believes it is should spend some weeks in a second-level school taking eight or nine different classes per day of 30 vibrant adolescents and endeavouring to impart education and keep order and discipline in the classroom."

Mr White added that the Budget announcements last October have left second-level schools reeling. "The system will lose over 1,000 teachers with the increase in the pupil-teacher ratio. The income of temporary and part-time teachers has been slashed by the changes in the supervision and

substitution scheme and this is particularly devastating because only 6% of newly qualified second-level teachers obtain a permanent post and must spend a number of years in temporary and part-time work. Schools are in the process of abandoning subjects and of abandoning valuable programmes such as the Leaving Certificate Applied, the Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme and the Transition Year. Higher and Ordinary Level classes will have to be taught together. Book grants are being removed from the most needy pupils. Any further cutbacks will leave us with a Third World second-level education system.

"We as teachers have shown extraordinary engagement with reform - where this matters - in our classrooms. We have achieved high standards in international comparisons: right at the top in literacy, above average in science, average in maths."

The ASTI has given a number of media interviews on the threat to teachers' pay and pensions including RTE Six One News, TV3 News and Today FM The Last Word. For more information and links to these interviews visit [www.asti.ie](http://www.asti.ie). ♦

## Thinking of a Career Break/ Job Sharing?

The deadline date for teachers wishing to apply for a career break or job sharing in the 2009/2010 school year is March 1, 2009. Interested teachers should apply in the normal manner by writing to the Board of Management stating the reason/s they wish to take a career break/ job share.

More information is available on the ASTI website [www.asti.ie](http://www.asti.ie)

## Education Cuts - Make Your Voice Heard

The ASTI is preparing case studies from individual schools on the effects of the cutbacks. If you feel your school has been badly affected by the cuts please let us know how. Contact Kate Fitzgerald, Communications Office. Tel: 01/6040172; Email: [kfitzgerald@asti.ie](mailto:kfitzgerald@asti.ie).

## Education Cuts and Your School

As part of the ASTI's campaign against the cuts, Standing Committee is asking all schools to regularly inform the Department of Education and Science and their local constituency politicians about the impact of the cuts on their schools.

### Other campaign activities:

- ♦ Regional information meetings for ASTI members are being organised around the country.
- ♦ 29 ASTI representatives are working alongside parents and school managements on Post-Primary Education Forum regional committees to highlight the effects of the education cuts at local level.
- ♦ A political lobby campaign on the cutbacks is underway.
- ♦ Case studies from individual schools on the effects of the cutbacks are being prepared for the media.
- ♦ ASTI committees will examine and report on the effects of the cuts on areas such as equality, the curriculum etc.

For a full list of campaign activities visit [www.asti.ie](http://www.asti.ie)

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### AVC Report

The annual report prepared by the Trustees of the ASTI AVC scheme for the year ending 31st March 2008 is now available. Any member may obtain a copy by writing to the Honorary Treasurer or alternatively by writing to Cornmarket as administrators of the scheme.

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## ASTI Membership Grows Across all Sectors

As it enters its 100th year of service to second-level teachers, the ASTI has reached its highest number of members in its history. Last year the ASTI grew by more than 1,000 members.

Membership in the community and comprehensive sector has grown from 3,162 members to 3,404 in the last year. ASTI membership in the community and comprehensive sector has seen overall growth of 48% over the last 10 years.

ASTI General Secretary said the increase in union membership has occurred against a backdrop of incessant attacks on trade unions and the public sector by neo-liberal economists who believe in reducing everything, including individual schools and students, to a market value. "Despite this, the ASTI and its members remain committed to a public education service which values the human dignity of every pupil," said John White. ♦

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## A Teacher's Guide to PISA Science

A Teacher's Guide to PISA Science is a new report from the Educational Research Centre which can be downloaded from [www.erc.ie](http://www.erc.ie).

PISA, which takes place every three years, assesses the scientific, reading and mathematical skills of 15-year-old students. In the most recent PISA survey, almost 400,000 students in 57 countries (including 4,585 Irish students) were examined on their scientific literacy, their attitudes to science and their engagement in scientific activities. Ireland's average score in science was significantly above the OECD average and ranked 20th out of the 57 countries.

The ERC report details the main outcomes in PISA Science and their relevance for science teachers. It also compares how science is assessed in PISA and in the Junior Certificate. ♦

Right: Pictured at a Civic Reception hosted by Cork City Council to celebrate the centenary of the ASTI's foundation are: (left to right) Micheál Martin TD, Minister for Foreign Affairs; Councillor Brian Bermingham, Lord Mayor of Cork; Pat Hurley, ASTI President; and John White, ASTI General Secretary.





# Tax Credits and Reliefs - Are You Claiming Yours?

## Tax credits

Depending on personal circumstances, you may be entitled to claim tax credits such as rent credit, one-parent family credit and credit on pension contributions. A full list of claimable credits is available on [www.revenue.ie](http://www.revenue.ie).

## Flat rate expenses

The Minister for Finance sets a flat rate sum for expenses incurred by teachers, which may be deducted from annual income for the purposes of determining tax liability. The following rates apply for 2009:

School principals: €608

Other teachers: €518

Part-time teacher (on full-time hours) €518

Part time teacher (not on full-time hours) €279

Guidance counsellors:

(a) Employed full-time in second level schools: €518

(b) Engaged mainly in teaching general subjects, but also doing part-time guidance counselling (additional allowance) €126

## Medical expenses

You may also claim a tax repayment in respect of certain medical expenses incurred. These include, amongst other things, doctors and consultants fees; diagnostic procedures and prescribed medicines/drugs.

Relief can be claimed for expenses paid in each tax year, or for the year in which the expenses were incurred and is given by way of repayment at the end of the year.

## Trade Union membership

An annual flat rate allowance of €350 at the standard rate of tax 20% (working out at €70) is due for trade union subscriptions paid in 2008 and 2009. The full allowance is available annually regardless of the actual amount of the subscription paid.

ASTI does not offer financial advice. For more information and a full list of reliefs and credits available, contact your local revenue office or visit [www.revenue.ie](http://www.revenue.ie). ♦

## ASTI Submission to Intercultural Policy

The ASTI made a comprehensive submission to the National Intercultural Strategy in December.

The full text of this submission is available on the ASTI website - [www.asti.ie](http://www.asti.ie).

## SLSS Professional Development

The Second Level Support Service (SLSS) is running professional development programmes in Gaeilge and English as an Additional Language (EAL) at various venues around the country throughout February and March. Substitution cover applies for these programmes. Contact [info@slss.ie](mailto:info@slss.ie), phone 01-2365021 or visit [www.slss.ie](http://www.slss.ie) for dates and venues in your area.



Left: Pictured at the Young Scientist Exhibition held in the RDS in January are ASTI President, Pat Hurley with Niall Sweetnam and students from St. Aloysius College, Carrigtwohill, Cork.

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The ASTI has just published a questions and answers leaflet on supervision and substitution. The leaflet is available in the Latest News section and the Pay and Conditions section of the ASTI site [www.asti.ie](http://www.asti.ie).

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The Bank of Ireland Millennium Scholars Trust helps students who face economic, social or other barriers to progress to third level education. Candidates are proposed by nominating bodies (such as schools) that are registered with the Trust. Applications to register as a nominating body may be made directly to the Trust. The deadline for the return of Scholarship Application Forms is the beginning of March. For more information, Tel: 01-4498500, or visit [www.bankofireland.com](http://www.bankofireland.com) or [www.ncirl.ie](http://www.ncirl.ie).

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Teachers who have retired or are retiring this year and who intend to do some teaching after retiring should note that they will still be required to pay the Teaching Council registration fee in order to be registered as registered teachers.

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## Which Branch will 'Have the Honour'?



Time is running out for entries to the ASTI Centenary Golf Competition to be held in picturesque Glasson Golf Club Athlone on 6th April. Each branch will be represented by a team of two in this fourball competition to find Ireland's most talented branch!

Contact your branch secretary or ASTI Head Office for further details.

## Measúnacht sa Ghaeilge don Teastas Sóisearach

Tús maith leath na hoibre! Faraoid nár ghlac an tAire Máire Ní hAinifín an dearcadh seo nuair a d'fhógair sí Ciorclán 42/07 maidir le hathraithe do rian na marcanna a bheadh ag dul do Labhairt na Gaeilge thiar i Mí Mean Fómhair 2007. Sa Teastas Sóisearach, d'ardaigh an Ciorclán seo luach na marcanna ó 25% go 40%, islíodh luach na marcanna don scríbhinn ó 55% go 50% ach an an t-athrú is mo a ghoilleann ar oidí agus ar shaineolaithe ná an t-íslíú a bhain don Chluastuisicint ó 18% go 10%.

Rinneadh cinneadh an Aire gan dul i gcomhairle leis an CNMC ná le múinteoirí na Gaeilge. Rinne sé neamhaird iomlán den chomhairle sa pháipéar polasaí de chuid an CNMC 2007 - Soláthar Curaclaim don Ghaeilge san Oideachas Iarbhunscolaíochta - a bronnadh ar an Aire níos luaithe sa bhliain! Cé go raibh an ceart ag an Aire cumarsáid cainte na ndaltaí a chur chun cinn, tá dearmad déanta aici maidir lena cinní. I measc na ngearán tá:

- ◆ Níl an chothromaíocht cuí idir na scileanna gabhchumais (léamh agus éisteacht) agus na scileanna ginchumais (scríobh agus caint) ag na luachanna nua.
- ◆ Is iad na scileanna labhartha an chuid is dushlánaí de fhoghlaim teanga: má thugtar breis marcanna don scil seo déanfar míbhuntáiste gear ar na daltaí laga
- ◆ Méadófar ar chumas éagoireachta nuair a bhaintear marcanna den chluastuisicint, an chuid den scrúdú ina ndéanann na daltaí laga go maith
- ◆ Sé an toradh a bhíonn ar an easpa comhairle agus comhoibre ná easpa pleanála don tacaíocht inseirbhíse agus easpa soiléireachta maidir le socrúithe scruduithe.

Ag an gcruinniú Comhairle a tharla i Mí na Nollag, léirigh an CNMC an-ímní maidir le na himpleachtaí a bhaineann le na hathraithe atá molta sna Ciorclán 42/07 maidir le scrúdú rithábhachtach na hArdteistiméireachta. Mhol Comhairle an CNMC athraithe don scéim mharcála a laghdódh deiseanna don agóireacht sa scrúdú agus a chinnteodh cothromaíocht chuí idir an mhúinteoireacht agus an mheasúnacht a dheantar ar an gceithre scil teanga. Impíonn an ASTI, cumann mEánmhúinteoirí na hEireann, ar an Aire Batt O' Keefe éisteacht leis an CNMC agus le gairm na múinteoirí agus na hathruithe cuí a dhéanamh ar an gCiorclán.



# ASTI Centenary Scholarship Award

In celebration of its centenary year, the ASTI has inaugurated an annual scholarship for ASTI members to assist them in undertaking third-level studies.

The annual scholarship of €4,000 will be awarded to an ASTI member, with preference given to members who do not hold any other scholarships or financial awards for study. This scholarship will be known as the ASTI Members' Scholarship.

## Who can apply?

Any ASTI member who is currently in service, or who is on paid study leave.

## What can I apply for?

The annual ASTI Members' Scholarship scheme will provide an annual scholarship of €4,000 to one member. €3,000 will be given at the commencement of the course of study (upon confirmation of receipt of a place on a course of study), and the remaining €1,000 upon the member's receipt of accreditation for their completed course of study.

## Can I apply for the scholarship if my course is part-time?

Yes. The scholarship is to assist an ASTI member to undertake further third-level education on a full-time or part-time basis.

## I am currently undertaking further studies, can I still apply?

Yes, you are entitled to apply.

## Does my course of study have to be at postgraduate level?

No, the scheme is to assist ASTI members to undertake further study in their chosen field.

## What are the criteria for a successful application?

Applications will be determined by a scholarship selection committee comprised of the ASTI Officers. The criteria for selection will include:

- ◆ relevance of proposed course to the professional lives of teachers and second-level education;
- ◆ potential for study to inform the ongoing policy agenda and work of the ASTI; and
- ◆ potential for research to enhance the quality of teaching and learning.

## Do I have to provide the ASTI with a copy of my research if I am successful?

No. You are required to provide an abstract of your work of not less than 500 words for consideration for publication by the ASTI.

## When do I have to apply?

The closing date for applications is Friday, February 27th, 2009.

## How do I apply?

Application forms for the scholarship are available for download from the ASTI website - [www.asti.ie](http://www.asti.ie).

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**Any ASTI member who is currently in service, or who is on paid study leave can apply for the ASTI annual scholarship**

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# CONVENTION 2009 WELCOME TO KILLARNEY



The Kerry Branch is very happy to host ASTI's Centenary Convention which will be held in Killarney on Tuesday 14th, Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th April, 2009.

## VENUE

Convention will be held in The Malton Hotel, Killarney, Co. Kerry.

## ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation will be provided at The Malton Hotel, Killarney, Co. Kerry. It will be allocated on a "first come, first served" basis. Delegates are asked to book in pairs or at least to indicate the person with whom they have agreed to share. A family room is €145.00 (up to two children under 12 years will be included at no extra charge sharing with parents). Please note that there are a limited number of single rooms available.

A non-refundable booking fee of €80.00 per delegate is required.

Further information relating to hotels, guesthouses and bed & breakfasts in the area can be found on our website [www.asti.ie](http://www.asti.ie).

## CRECHE

Facilities will be available each day during Convention hours in the crèche located on site. Parents are expected to collect children at the appointed times. Booking forms are available on request from Aylish Lyons on 086-8798750 or [aylishlyons@gmail.com](mailto:aylishlyons@gmail.com). Places must be reserved in advance by returning completed booking form no later than Friday 27th March, 2009.

## ADMINISTRATION FEE

There is a registration fee of €30 per person, for all delegates, CEC members and Standing Committee members. Branches will no longer be required to pay this registration fee directly, this will be set off against Branches' April quarterly cheque.

## BANQUET DINNER

The banquet dinner will take place on Tuesday 14th April in the Conference Hall. Tickets will be on sale from the Kerry Branch Information Desk, Conference Foyer, The Malton Hotel, Killarney from 1.00 pm - 3.00 pm on Tuesday 14th April.

The cost of a Banquet ticket is normally €45.00 but if your Branch books a table of ten before Wednesday 25th March, it will cost only €350 - a saving of €100. If your Branch wishes to join with another Branch for a table, please book under one Branch's name. Contact Kate Fitzgerald on 01-6040172 or email: [kfitzgerald@asti.ie](mailto:kfitzgerald@asti.ie).

Payment for tables must reach Head Office on or before Friday April 3rd. Book early to avoid disappointment.

## CENTENARY RECEPTION

A special reception for all Convention delegates to celebrate the centenary of the ASTI's foundation will be held on Wednesday 15th April in the Malton Hotel.

## BOOKING FORM FOR CONVENTION 2009

Arrival Date:

Departure Date:

Please tick whichever room you require

Double/Twin €145.00

Single €112.00

Family Room €145.00

(As outlined above)

Please reserve one room for:

Name/s

Address/es

  

Home Telephone No.

Email

Branch

PLEASE SEND COMPLETED BOOKING FORM WITH DEPOSIT TO ASTI ANNUAL CONVENTION, MALTON HOTEL, KILLARNEY, CO. KERRY, AND MAKE CHEQUE PAYABLE TO THE MALTON HOTEL.  
ALTERNATIVELY, PLEASE ENTER YOUR CREDIT CARD DETAILS BELOW.

### Credit Card Details:

Name of Holder:

Credit Card No.:

Expiry Date:

