

Send a message to the Government - Vote YES in the ASTI ballot

Anger and dismay at pension levy, loss of teaching jobs and government handling of economic crisis

Ballot of Members



Dear Colleague

Unanimous decision by Standing Committee

Following the anger and dismay expressed by members at the pension levy and the Government's handling of the economic crisis, the ASTI Standing Committee unanimously decided to ballot members on industrial action. The Standing Committee decision was taken after a meeting of the ICTU Public Services Committee, attended by John White, ASTI General Secretary

It is vital that all members vote YES in this ballot.

ASTI / TUI / INTO common ballot paper

CEC has stated that action against the Government's handling of the economic crisis should be co-ordinated with the other teacher unions and public sector unions. It has been agreed that a common ballot paper will be issued by the ASTI, INTO and TUI and that this will give a mandate to the three unions to take industrial action including:

- ◆ work to rule, non co-operation/ withdrawal from various initiatives, etc
- ◆ up to two days strike action

in co-operation with the other teacher unions.

It is necessary to ballot members on issues such as non-cooperation and withdrawal from various initiatives in order to conform with the legislation on taking industrial action. The decision to have a common ballot paper represents a major advance in cooperation between the teacher unions.

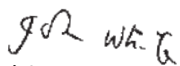
Teachers willing to play their part

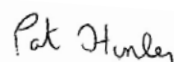
Teachers are part of their communities and recognise that there is an economic crisis which must be dealt with. It is untrue to say that teachers and other public servants are unwilling to play their part in addressing this crisis. What teachers oppose is the Government's unfair and inequitable response. We are already in a campaign of opposition to the education cutbacks and increase in pupil-teacher ratio. In common with our colleagues in other unions, the ASTI believes the Irish Congress of Trade Unions assertion that "There is a Better, Fairer Way". Workers did not create the problem and the wealthy must be seen to contribute. There must be a more progressive taxation system, a cap on top executive pay in the banks, an end to unvouched expenses for members of the Oireachtas and a total emphasis on job protection and creation.

ASTI, INTO, TUI and IFUT support the Irish Congress of Trade Union's 10 point plan to address the major problems faced by the country. In particular, we support the call to "Protect Jobs and Tackle Unemployment". Up to 1,000 temporary or part-time second-level teachers will face job losses or having their hours greatly reduced next September as a result of the recent education cuts.

It is our hope that the Government will see the light and the necessity to implement industrial action will not occur. This can only be possible if the Government clearly recognises that the burdens must be shared equally.

We urge you to send a message to the Government by voting YES in this ballot.


John White
General Secretary ASTI


Pat Hurley
President ASTI

Ballot Arrangements

Ballot papers are being posted to members at their home addresses on Monday, February 23rd and Tuesday, February 24th.

The closing date for return of ballot papers is 5.30p.m. on Thursday, March 5th.

**Send a message to
the Government -**

**Vote YES in this
ballot**



ICTU plan for "a better fairer way"

ASTI Centenary Scholarship

In celebration of its centenary year, the ASTI has inaugurated an annual scholarship of €4,000 for ASTI members to assist them in undertaking further third-level studies.

The closing date for applications for this scholarship is Friday February 27th. For more information or to download an application form, visit www.asti.ie.

In responding to the economic crisis, the Government has resorted to a narrow focus on public finances without seeking a contribution from the wealthy, according to the Irish Congress of Trade Unions.

The Congress 10-point plan for recovery seeks to address the major problems facing working families in the following areas:

1. Protect Jobs and Tackle Unemployment
2. The Banks and the Public Interest
3. Competitiveness
4. The Pay Agreement
5. Fairness and Taxation
6. Restoring Consumer Confidence
7. The Public Service 'Pension Levy'
8. Pensions
9. Employment Rights Legislation
10. National Recovery Bond

The Irish Congress of Trade Unions 10-point plan for recovery is available at www.asti.ie.

School Steward contact details

The ASTI has the facility to communicate with School Stewards via text messaging as well as email. This facility can assist the ASTI in campaigns - such as the campaign against the Government's handling of the economic crisis. Standing Committee is requesting all School Stewards who haven't already done so, to submit mobile phone numbers and / or email addresses to head office. Details should be forwarded in an email to info@asti.ie. Please place the words "School Steward Contact Details" in the subject box.

Regional meetings on education cuts, pension levy

ASTI regional meetings on the education cuts and pension levy are continuing around the country:

Monday, Feb 23: Cork South, Carbery meeting at 7p.m. in Oriel House Hotel, Ballincollig.

Tuesday, Feb 24: Dublin North 1, Dublin North Central meeting at 7p.m. in the Regency Hotel, Whitehall, Dublin 9.

Wednesday, Feb 25: Wexford, New Ross, Enniscorthy meeting at 7p.m. in the Brandon Park Hotel, New Ross.

Monday, March 2: Galway, Tuam, East Galway meeting at 7p.m. in the Claregalway Hotel, Claregalway.

Tuesday, March 3: Dublin South West, Dublin North West meeting at 7p.m. in the West County Hotel, Chapelizod, Dublin.

Wednesday, March 4: Clare, Limerick South, Limerick North, Nenagh meeting at 7p.m. in the South Court Hotel, Limerick.

For more information visit www.asti.ie (Education Cuts).