

## Minister's Junior Cycle plans to dominate Annual Convention

The ASTI's opposition to the Minister's proposals to abolish the State Junior Certificate and replace it with school-based assessment, graded by students' own teachers, will dominate Annual Convention at Easter.

More than 500 members of the ASTI will gather in Wexford to discuss the union's opposition to key aspects of the Minister for Education and Skills' Framework for Junior Cycle, which is due to be implemented in all second-level schools from September 2014.

Delegates will be asked to adopt firm policy on the Minister's proposals, including that ASTI members do not assess their own pupils for award or certification purposes at Junior Cycle level.

Convention will also hear the results of the ASTI's recent survey of members on the impact of education cutbacks on teacher workload and on the capacity of schools to implement Junior Cycle reform.

Other key issues for this year's Annual Convention include the treatment of new teachers, the axing of ex-quota guidance on student mental health, and the need for the Irish trade unions to act together to force a repeal of the Financial Emergency Measures in the Public Interest Act (2013).

**For a full list of Convention motions see inside.**

**This year's Annual Convention takes place in Whites Hotel, Wexford on April 22nd, 23rd and 24th.**

For live coverage of the ASTI President's Convention Address and the Minister for Education and Skills' Address to Convention visit [www.asti.ie](http://www.asti.ie) on Tuesday April 22 from 4.20pm

You can also keep up with what's happening at Convention on Facebook and Twitter and on the ASTI website.

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### News from Convention

ASTI Annual Convention takes place from 22 - 24 April. As well as attracting media coverage, reports from Convention will be available at [www.asti.ie](http://www.asti.ie), on [Facebook](#) and on [Twitter](#).

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# Convention 2014

Convention 2014 will be held in Wexford from Tuesday April 22 - Thursday April 24. More than 500 delegates will attend the event in Whites Hotel, Wexford.

## Key events

### Tuesday April 22

Election of President and Vice-President 2014-2015

Address by ASTI President

Address by Minister for Education and Skills

Debate on motions

### Wednesday April 23

Election of Honorary Treasurer

General Secretary's report

Debate on motions

### Thursday April 24

Debate on motions

## Candidates for election

Each year delegates elect a new ASTI President and Vice-President.  
This year's candidates are:

### Candidate for President

#### Philip Irwin

##### Nominating branches:

Athlone, Carbery, Carlow, Carrick-on-Shannon, Cavan, Clare, Cork North, Cork South Paddy Mulcahy, Desmond, Drogheda Sean Higgins, Dublin North 1, Dublin North East, Dublin North West, Dublin South 1, Dublin South 2, Dublin South Central, Dublin South County, Dublin South West, Dungarvan, East Cork, East Galway, East Mayo, Fermoy, Fingal, Galway, Iar Thuaisceart Thir Chonaill, Kerry, Kildare, Laois, Longford, Monaghan, Mullingar, New Ross, Roscrea, Stillorgan, Tipperary, Waterford, West Waterford, Wexford Tony Boland, Wicklow.



### Candidates for Vice-President

#### Michael Barry

##### Nominating Branches

Bray, Carlow, Carrick-on-Shannon, Desmond, Dublin North Central, Dundalk, East Cork, East Mayo, Kerry, Kildare, Kilkenny, Laois, Limerick South, Mullingar, New Ross, Roscrea, Tipperary, West Waterford

#### Máire G Ní Chiarba

##### Nominating Branches

Athlone, Carbery, Cavan, Cork North, Cork South Paddy Mulcahy, Dublin North 1, Dublin North East, Dublin North West, Dublin South 1, Dublin South 2, Dublin South Central, Dublin South County, Dublin South West, Dungarvan, East Galway, Fermoy, Fingal, Iar Thuaisceart Thir Chonaill, Longford, Waterford, West Limerick, Wexford Tony Boland.

# Profiles of the candidates for Vice-President



**Michael Barry**

Candidate for Vice-President

## Michael Barry

### Personal Profile

- Born Shanagarry, Co. Cork
- Educated Midleton C.B.S.
- Degree in History and Greek and Roman Civilization, U.C.C.
- Currently teaching in St. Patrick's College, Gardiner's Hill, Cork (1982-present)
- Member of Cork North Branch since 1982
- School Steward
- Held various Branch Officer positions including Honorary Branch Equality Officer, Honorary Branch Secretary and Honorary Branch Chairperson
- Member of CEC
- Member of CEC Appeals Sub-Committee
- ASTI representative on NCCA (Classics)
- Former Chairperson of Equal Opportunities Committee
- Former Honorary National Organiser
- ASTI Nominee to Teaching Council
- Former Standing Committee Representative, Region 7

### My Aims are:

- To continue the fight against the Minister's Junior Certificate proposals
- To achieve the deferral of the implementation of the Framework for Junior Cycle so that teachers' concerns can be fully addressed
- To campaign against the increased workload and administrative burden on second level teachers
- To highlight the effects of student disruption in our classrooms
- To insist that all elements of the Haddington Road Agreement are strictly adhered to in full and implemented in a fair manner
- To fight for the restoration of Guidance Counselling and other services
- To end the moratorium on Posts of Responsibility, which has stripped schools of middle management and put an end to promotional opportunities for the vast majority of teachers
- To ensure better job security for casual and contract teachers
- To insist on full transparency with regard to the redeployment scheme
- To oppose the revised Sick-Leave Scheme and especially its extension into the area of maternity leave
- To secure a One-Salary Scale for all teachers
- To continue to highlight the positive impact of teachers in Ireland
- To increase ASTI visibility at grassroots level
- To challenge misrepresentation and negative commentary about teachers in the media
- To pursue the establishment of a group insurance scheme to cover all areas such as personal accident and malicious damage for ASTI members
- To accurately represent your views

### The Future

It's time to reclaim our role as educators and control of our profession once again.

It's time to re-establish our union so that all members feel represented and so that our position is strengthened at the negotiating table and on the national agenda.

# Profiles of the candidates for Vice-President

## Máire G Ní Chiarba

### Personal Profile

- I am a native of Limerick but have been residing in Glanmire, Co. Cork for many years.
- Primary education: F.C.J. Convent, Laurel Hill, Limerick
- Secondary education: Laurel Hill Coláiste, F.C.J. Convent, Limerick
- Third level: University College Galway, Sorbonne University, Paris, Université de Nice
- Periods of study in Germany and study and teaching in Spain
- Assistant Principal and Senior Modern Language Teacher at Coláiste an Phiarsaigh, Gleann Maghair, Co. Chorcaí – teaching French, Spanish & German through the medium of Irish
- Examiner for many years at both oral & written State Exams
- Have given in-service on behalf of Dept. of Ed & Skills
- Former Chairperson of French Teachers' Association, Cork Branch
- Former member of National Executive of French Teachers' Association of Ireland
- Founder member of Cumann Céimithe na Gaillimhe (University College Galway Graduates' Association) Cork & Southern Branch
- Nominated to National Committee for European Year of Languages 2000
- Nominated by Dept. of Education & Science to attend International Conference on Multilingualism in Scotland
- Ministerial appointment to Bórd na Gaeilge 1998
- Ministerial appointment to Coimisiún na Logainmneacha 2007

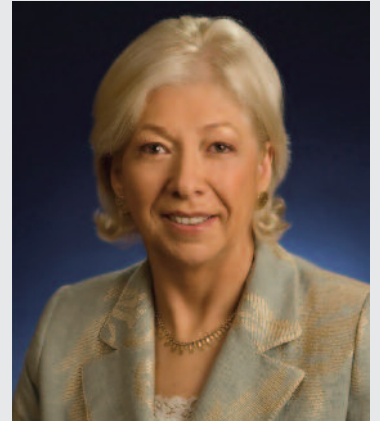
### ASTI Experience

- Member since 1978
- Served as School Steward for many years
- Served Cork North Branch as Hon. Sec, Hon. Treasurer, Vice-Chairperson, Chairperson, Delegate to Annual & Special Conventions, C.E.C representative over a period of more than thirty years
- 1997 – Elected first female Chairperson of Cork North Branch
- Current Chairperson Cork North Branch

- Serving ASTI nationally as:
  - Standing Committee Rep Region 7
  - Spanish & French Convenor
  - ASTI Rep on NCCA Spanish & French Junior Cycle & Senior Cycle Course Committees
  - ASTI Nominee to NCCA Board of Studies for Languages
- Have served as:
  - Regional Organiser – Region 7
  - Trainer of School Stewards Region 7
  - Member of Awards Committee
  - Member of Sub-committee on Discipline
  - Member & Chairperson of Education Committee
  - Member of Steering Committee

### Priorities

- The teaching contract
- Teachers' working conditions
- Improvements for non-permanent teachers
- Unacceptable casualisation of the profession
- Support structures for teachers
- Constructive use of Croke Park hours
- Pensions
- Junior Cycle
  - I am extremely concerned about the proposed Framework for Junior Cycle and its implications for education and student motivation
  - It is a matter of great concern that the focus would be diverted from teaching and learning to assessing and grading
  - We need to stand firm against assessment as proposed in the Framework for Junior Cycle
  - We need to further question the validity of proposed short courses & assess implications for non-permanent teachers & established subject teachers
  - I have voiced reservations re Framework through letters, articles and interviews in national & local media
- Promoting our professionalism
  - Resist attempts to undermine the professional work of teachers
  - Expose change imposed for financial savings
  - Focus on right of teachers to teach in safe & supportive environment
  - Pursue the requisite of a structured teaching career



**Máire G Ní Chiarba**

Candidate for Vice-President

# Convention motions 2014

## Committees for election 2014

**Sickness Benefit Committee**  
5 members

**Steering Committee**  
5 members

**Investment Committee**  
4 members

**Standing Committee Regional  
Election Committee**  
5 members

**Rules Committee**  
5 Members

**Pensions Sub-Committee**  
5 members

**Business of CEC  
Sub-Committee**  
3 members

**Convention 2014 will also  
elect:**

**ASTI President  
ASTI Vice-President  
ASTI Honorary Treasurer**

## Convention Dinner

A dinner for delegates will be held on the night of Tuesday, 22nd April in Whites Hotel. Tickets are priced at €45 and will be on sale in the Main Foyer, Whites Hotel from 2.30 pm to 3.30 pm on Tuesday 22nd April. If your branch reserves a table of 10 before April 11 it will cost only €350 - a saving of €100. Contact info@asti.ie, reference 'Annual Convention Dinner'.

## COMMON BASIC SCALE - MOTION 1 - COMPOSITE MOTION

That the ASTI enter negotiations with the Department of Education and Skills in order to seek the immediate restoration of a single common basic salary scale for all teachers including new entrant teachers. (Carbery, Dublin South Central, Waterford) AP

## FEMPI - MOTION 6 - COMPOSITE MOTION

That, in conjunction with other public service unions, the ASTI seeks the immediate repeal of the Financial Emergency Measures in the Public Interest Act (2013) and organises a robust campaign to achieve this. (Cork North, Dublin North East, Waterford)

## POSTS OF RESPONSIBILITY MORATORIUM - MOTION 9

That the number of Assistant Principals and Posts of Responsibility be restored to the level they were at in 2008. (Fermoy)

## GUIDANCE AND MENTAL HEALTH - MOTION 56

That the ASTI negotiate for the restoration of the ex-quota guidance provision and posts of responsibility so that new anti-bullying guidelines and mental health initiatives may be successfully implemented. (Carbery)

## CONTRACTS OF INDEFINITE DURATION - MOTION 14

That the ASTI seeks to reassess eligibility criteria for CIDs. Teaching time served should be added cumulatively, regardless of the work completed in different school settings to allow for the achievement of CID. (Mullingar)

## REJECTION OF ASSESSMENT - MOTION 46

That the ASTI vehemently rejects the proposal that teachers assess their own students for certification purposes. (Dublin South Central)

### Amendment:

Amend by addition of the words 'or award' after the word 'certification'. (Bray)

## POLICY ON ASSESSMENT - MOTION 45

That the ASTI adopt a policy of not assessing students for school certification purposes. (Nenagh)

### Amendment No. 1

Amend by deletion of the word 'school' and substitute it with 'JCSA'. (Mullingar)

### Amendment No. 2

Amend by addition of the words 'or award' after the word 'certification'. (Bray)

# Convention motions 2014

## **JUNIOR CYCLE FRAMEWORK CAMPAIGN - MOTION 52- COMPOSITE MOTION**

That the ASTI undertakes a public and media campaign to inform parents of the many issues and consequences surrounding the proposed implementation of the new Junior Cycle Framework and that the focus of this campaign should centre around school based assessment and certification, short courses and non-preparation of students for the Leaving Certificate which will become their first state examination. (Tuam, Galway)

## **ASSESSMENT DIRECTIVE - MOTION 50**

ASTI instructs its members not to assess their own pupils for school certification in the new Junior Cert Cycle framework. (Limerick South)

## **INCIDENTAL INSPECTIONS - MOTION 23**

That the ASTI seek a minimum notice period of one week for what are termed incidental inspections as a mark of courtesy and respect for teachers. (Dublin South 1)

## **CONDITIONS OF WORK - MOTION 25**

The ASTI demands a review by the Department of Education and Skills, of the administrative duties and workload, now carried out by teachers under recent Department initiatives, and how they impact on teaching and lesson planning (Dublin South County)

## **TEACHER REGISTRATION - MOTION 38**

That the ASTI demand that the Teaching Council provides an alternative route towards full registration for probationary teachers who cannot secure the necessary 300 teaching hours during their probationary period. (Dublin South 2)

## **TEACHING COUNCIL FEE- MOTION 39 - COMPOSITE MOTION**

That the ASTI seeks a further reduction in the annual Teaching Council registration fee to €30. (Galway, Wexford Tony Boland)

## **SUPERANNUATION - MOTION 11**

That the ASTI negotiates with the DES a 'winding down scheme' for teachers. Any such scheme should enable teachers approaching retirement to scale back their work while continuing to accrue full pensionable service and benefits. (Fermoy)

## **SENIOR CYCLE - MOTION 59 - COMPOSITE MOTION**

That ASTI appoints a Committee (a) to review the Senior Cycle, (b) to conduct research on this amongst parents, students, teachers and a wide range of experts, (c) to devise union strategies in this regard and (d) to produce a comprehensive report to be debated at Convention 2015. (Dublin South County, Tipperary)

## **Keep up with news from Convention**

Keep up with debate on the motions at [www.asti.ie](http://www.asti.ie), on Facebook and on Twitter.