**Policy Motions at AGM 30 May 2019**

**The following 24 motions were PASSED:**

**Taxation**

**1.**The AGM directs Council to write to Revenue and ask that a Customer Service function, staffed by Revenue personnel, be restored in Counties Donegal, Sligo and Mayo, even on a limited basis. This is to facilitate older members of the community who may be losing out on tax credits due to the operation of time limits and difficulties with interactive technology.

**Donegal/North West Branch**

**Communications**

**3**.This AGM recognises that certain Departments provide a very good communication service to retired staff. As this is not as widely known as it might be the AGM directs Council to include a very visible notification advising retired Revenue/DSP members of the existence of the internal email system they access in a Newsletter and request members retired from other departments that have a similar facility advise the Secretary so that retires/pensioners from those departments can be updated also. **Donegal/North West Branch**

**4.**This AGM calls on the Council and the Alliance if appropriate to produce and distribute an information leaflet similar to that issued prior to the General Election in 2016 outlining issues affecting Public Service Pensioners. This document can then be used to raise appropriate issues with local politicians at election times. **Dublin Branch**

**6.** This AGM instructs the incoming Council to engage with PMG Pensions and the relevant payroll shared services in order to provide members with twice yearly hard copies of payslips, and in the interim to make access to online payslips easier and more user friendly for all members.  **Athlone/Midlands Branch**

**8.** This AGM directs the incoming Council to enter into discussions with the Official side to put in place a formal mechanism to facilitate the engagement of retired State employees with Government on matters affecting pensions and any other issues that impact on our status as retirees. While the RCPSA has recourse to meetings of an informal nature with the official side such arrangements are now no longer acceptable or satisfactory. **Limerick Branch**

**9.** This AGM directs the Council to liaise with the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform to ensure that all retired civil servants are given access to the services of the restructured Civil Service Employee Assistance Service and that they are made aware of how to access the Service via the Central point of Contact. **Council**

**Payment of Pensions**

**10.** This AGM notes with concern that some Public Service Pensioners have not received their increases due in 2018, strongly condemns the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform for its failure to ensure that increases are paid on time, and calls on the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform to expedite these payments as soon as possible.

 **Dublin Branch**

**11.** That this AGM asks the Council of the Association to express its concern to the Minister for Finance and Public Expenditure and Reform about delays in making agreed payments under the Publi**c** Service Stability Agreement to members and asks the Council to urge the Minister to provide the necessary resources in his Department and offices to ensure that future payments are made on the due dates. **Dublin Branch**

**12.**This AGM notes that pensioners in receipt of Social Welfare State Pensions and also a private pension of €13,000 do not pay USC. However Public Service Pensioners who were recruited prior to 6th April 1995 pay USC on the total amount of their pension. This treatment of Public Service Pensioners is grossly unjust and unfair and calls on theMinister for Finance and Public Expenditure and Reform to rectify this anomaly immediately. **Dublin Branch**

**13.** This AGM strongly encourages Council to re-double their efforts to re-establish and pursue the maintenance of parity of pay with serving civil and public servants. **North East Branch**

**14.**This AGM supports and encourages the Council to pursue with vigour, equity for members regarding the USC and the Households Benefits Package. **North East Branch**

**16.** This AGM asks the incoming Council to work with other groups representing retired public servants to press for the elimination of the USC anomaly. **Mayo Branch**

**18.** This AGM directs the incoming Council to seek to ensure that the parity based framework, whereby pensions increased in line with pay, is restored and maintained. **Limerick Branch**

**19.** This AGM directs the incoming Council to seek to secure the restoration of pensions reduced under Financial Emergency Measures in the Public Interest (FEMPI) Acts before the Governments proposed date of 2021. **Limerick Branch**

**20.** This AGM requests written clarification from Council with regard to linkage between Public Service Pensions and pay increases of serving grades in the next issue of the RCPSA Newsletter. **Member**

**23.** This AGM mandates Council to seek clarification from An Post with regard to linkage between the pay of their Public Service Pensioners and the recent (2017) general pay increase of 2.5% in the Irish Postal Service. **Member**

**24**.This AGM directs the Council to liaise with the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform to ensure that all retired civil servants are informed about changes to services which may be of relevance to them. **Council**

**25.**This AGM notes the impact of the pension levy 2009 to 2015 on the pension funds of Eircom, Telecom and an Post pensioner members and the consequent loss of capacity of those funds to provide for pension increases to maintain their income. Accordingly this AGM calls for the refund of levies to the funds concerned and the removal of the double taxation on the pensions concerned with the imposition of the levy involved. **Council**

**26.** This AGM calls for the immediate removal of the remaining FEMPI cuts on service pensioners and the full restoration of parity for pension increases with ongoing salary increases. **Council**

**27.**This AGM calls on the incoming Council to vigorously oppose the extension or reversion to FEMPI terms in the case of Brexit, Brexit related or other economic events which may arise in the coming months. **Council**

**Benefits**

**28.**This AGM instructsthe incoming Council to campaign for the restoration of full medical cards to everyone aged seventy or more. **Mayo Branch**

**30.** This AGM urges the Minister for Finance to restore the exemption that was removed at the start of the financial emergency in 2010/2011, from fees for Passport applications for those aged 66 years and over. **Galway Branch**

**Association**

**34.**This AGM directs Council to provide each Branch Secretary with a list of persons in membership of the Branch. Mindful of GDPR this should be names only. This facilitates approaching non-members with a view to recruitment **Donegal/North West Branch**

**35.** This AGM proposes that the Council explore with similar organisations the possibility of merging all Public Service retirement bodies, organisations, associations or groups into a single association. **Dublin Branch**

**The following 7 motions were REMITTED TO COUNCIL:**

**Communications**

**2.** The AGM directs Council to ask shared services to include a “flyer” or some other notation which is highly visible advising members who have retired since 1/1/2015, to check the calculation of their lump sum to determine if there was a deduction for arrears of superannuation (Spouses and Dependants scheme). If there is such a deduction that retirees be advised to contact Revenue as there may be a tax refund due.

 **Donegal/North West Branch**

**5.** This AGM asks the Council of the Association to request the Minister for Finance and Public Expenditure and Reform to issue an individual certificate to every member stating the amount withheld from the member’s pension and if relevant from their salary and gratuity for each year for the period up to 31December 2018 as a result of the Financial Emergency Measures in the Public Interest (FEMPI) and where relevant to issue such annual certificates thereafter.

 **Dublin Branch**

**7.** This AGM notes that in the interest of economy and the environment, the number of Booklets issued throughout the year should not exceed 3. **Galway Branch**

**Payment of Pensions**

**15.**This AGM directs the incoming Council, in the interest of equity with State pensions, to seek the granting of credit, equivalent to homemakers credit, to retired civil and public servants where they have gaps in service arising from career breaks or other unpaid leave in respect of child rearing or care for other family members. **Athlone/Midlands Branch**

**17.** This AGM instructs Council to negotiate the removal of USC for all pensioners.

 **Cork Branch**

**Benefits**

**29.** This AGM asks Council to seek the removal of VAT on service bills for pensioners.

**Cork Branch**

*Amendment 1:*

*Add: ‘in their next pre-budget submission.’ Amended motion to read:*

*“This AGM asks Council to seek the removal of VAT on service bills for pensioners in their next pre-budget submission.”* ***Member***

*Amendment 2:*

*Delete ‘removal’. Insert ‘repayment’* *Amended motion to read:*

*“This AGM asks Council to seek the repayment of VAT on service bills for pensioners”*

***Dublin Branch***

**Corporate Purchasing Power**

**32.** This AGM instructs Council to negotiate with private health insurers:

i. The reduction of the waiting period from two years where individuals are over 70 years of age.

ii. Flexibility for spouses / partners to opt for different cover. **Cork Branch**

**The following 1 motion was REJECTED:**

**Corporate Purchasing Power**

**31.**This AGM directs Council to appoint a person to approach insurers to determine if competitive rates of Travel Insurance, Medical Insurance, Car Insurance and Home Insurance can be secured through group schemes. Mindful of the demands on officer /council members time, the AGM authorises Council to outsource this is if required.

**Donegal/North West Branch**

**The following 3 motions were WITHDRAWN:**

**Payment of Pensions**

**21.** This AGMmandates Council to seek clarification between the pay of their public service pensioners and the recent general pay increases of 2.5% in the Irish Postal Service.

 **Member**

**22.** This AGM directs the Council to provide written clarification with regard to linkage between Public service Pensions and pay increases of grades in a future issue of RCPSA Report. **Member**

**Corporate Purchasing Power**

**33.** This AGM instructs the incoming Council to explore with providers of insurance services the feasibility of providing less costly insurance products (car, house buildings and contents, and travel) for RCPSA members as part of a group scheme. **Athlone/Midlands Branch**