



IFDCO News Sheet

15th July 2009

Dear IFDCO Members,

International Triennial Conference – UCC Cork Ireland

As we approach the Triennial Conference in University College Cork, Ireland, starting on Wednesday 22nd July, I would like to give you an update!

The conference is well supported and we expect 185 people in attendance, with delegates coming from Australia, Bahrain, Denmark, England, Germany, Israel, Japan, New Zealand, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Sweden and the United States of America. The Keynote speakers and Seminar presenters are also representative of many countries. It is a great honour for Ireland to welcome them all here for the conference and to enjoy a little time in our small country.

After the conference, where possible, we will post the notes from the presentations on www.ifdco.com so that many of you who are unable to be with us in Ireland will be able to read of recent developments in identifying quality and the uniqueness of family home-based childcare.

The Triennial General Meeting of IFDCO will also take place in University College Cork and I have attached the Agenda, Minutes of the last meeting in Orlando, Florida 2006, and a Draft Revised Constitution – and if you will not be at the meeting, I would ask you to read and provide feedback to me before midday, Monday 20th July (GMT.)

If you wish a particular item to be discussed at the open discussion forum at the meeting, then please let me know. I will raise it on your behalf.

The Constitution to govern IFDCO which was adopted in Orlando in 2006 was reviewed by the International Executive Committee when we met in Ireland in 2008. We considered that for practical reasons, some items needed updating. It is better to have a Constitution which reflects what the organisation has the capacity to do and to use electronic communication only, e-mailing Newsletters to members, keeping the

website up to date and creating a web-page for communication between members. Please take a half hour to look at the proposed changes which will be put for adoption at the meeting and let me have any suggestions or comments on the attached draft in good time.

IFDCO is very fortunate that my employers, *Childminding Ireland*, the National Association in the Republic of Ireland, have been supportive of Ireland holding the International Presidency 2006 – 2009. Our Board of Directors has taken a keen interest in the work of IFDCO and allowing us time to work on the preparations for the Triennial Conference in Cork. The Irish Government provided €30,000 and the Irish Tourism Board, Fáilte Ireland, provided funds for me to attend conferences in 2008, to promote the IFDCO Conference 2009 in Cork. I would like to express sincere appreciation for this support on behalf of IFDCO.

International Presidency 2009 - 2012

IFDCO is also very fortunate at this time to have a nomination and acceptance by Grace McDonald, Queensland, Australia, to the honour of the International Presidency of IFDCO 2009 – 2012, when, please God, strong delegations from many countries will travel to Australia for the next IFDCO Triennial Conference. Grace works with family day care providers and is committed to the IFDCO mission. She travelled to Ireland for the meeting of the International Executive Committee in April 2008 and contributed significantly to the work I have done over the past three years to promote contact between family day care providers and people who work with them. I will have the privilege of passing the IFDCO Presidential Medallion and Chain of Office at the closing of the conference in Cork next week.

Thank You !

As I come to the end of my term 2006 – 2009, I would like to thank all those who have helped me in this role, particularly Grace McDonald, Dr. Irene Kyle, Dr. Malene Karlsson, Blanche Steeples, Maggie Simpson and all the members of International Executive Committee. As special word of thanks is due to colleagues in *Childminding Ireland*, Bernie Griffiths, and former colleagues, Siobhan Mulford, Ann Howgego and Leslie Cleary who have worked closely with me on the IFDCO Presidency. A very special tribute is due to my current colleagues who have worked on the preparation for the conference, and who are looking forward to meeting you in Cork, Bernie Griffiths, Manager of *Childminding Ireland*, Anne McCartney, who maintained the IFDCO Euro Account, and Geraldine O'Donnell, Siobhan Kennedy, Fionnuala Curry, Jacqui Donnelly, Fiona Turner and Mary Heavey who have supported and inspired me with enthusiasm as well as hard work!

I will circulate the minutes of the General Meeting 2009 along with the Financial Report to each of you, and also pass on the membership data base to Grace McDonald.

I hope you will continue your membership of IFDCO – It is your organisation!

With every good wish, and blessings on your work for the betterment of the quality of care experienced by each child who is touched by members of IFDCO.

Patricia Murray, BA., Dip. Ed.,
Outgoing President IFDCO
Chief Executive,
Childminding Ireland