

It has indeed been a pleasure to work with Niamh Kelly, Marie McManamon and Elaine Glynn as active, enthusiastic members of the National Executive team. They have lightened my load in the past year, and have done Junior Chamber Dublin proud.

Junior Chamber Dublin has a wonderful past, and an exciting and bright future. My wish for you today, however, is that you celebrate, cherish and remember this year.

Le gach dea-ghnii,



Domini Hearne,
National President
Junior Chamber Ireland 1996

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HISTORY OF JUNIOR CHAMBER

Junior Chamber was initiated in the United States in 1915, in St. Louis, Missouri: A group of young men led by Henry Giessenbier, horrified by the destruction of World War I, formed an association to promote understanding, leadership and co-operation among nations with the ultimate aim of achieving a peaceful world.

Assisted by the Chamber of Commerce, it took the name of "Junior Chamber of Commerce". It rapidly spread throughout the U.S., then outside its borders; Junior Chamber International (JCI) was created in 1944.

The principle on which Junior Chamber was founded remains the development of young people of all races, encouraged to seek challenges, and many have succeeded in becoming leaders in the community and in business.

Some of the more well known include: Warren Burger, ex-Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court - Jacques Chirac, President de la République in France - Sir Edward Ducann, influential English M.P. - Gerard Ford, U.S. President - Dejiro Hattori, President of Seiko Ltd - Charles Lindberg, American Aviator - Richard Nixon, U.S. President - Kim Santos, Miss World 1980 - Paul Schuler, Prime Minister of Denmark.

Nowadays, the movement exists in over 100 countries, including the newly formed republics of Eastern Europe. It has over 400,000 members. Junior Chamber International hosts a World Congress each year. In 1995, 4000 members attended World Congress in Glasgow. 80 members from Junior Chamber Ireland attended this Congress. Ireland Inc. was promoted at the Limerick Trade Stand in the Exhibition Hall for the week of Congress. On a personal level, these 80 members from Ireland acted as ambassadors for their country at the many social and training functions which were an integral part of the week. One of the social functions presented an opportunity for Junior Chamber Dublin to promote 'Baileys' Irish Cream Liqueur, where the Chapter funded and manned a stand.

Soon Dublin and Ireland were honoured by the election of our first international representative in the person of John Hegarty as World Vice President of JCI. The territorial posting including African dark and his resultant digestive malfunctions could certainly never have been attributed to any prior domestic consumption of the Black Brew so without doubt the inadequacy of the local Nigerian product as described by John was heard loud and clear in ST James Gate with the inevitable result - a new brewing outpost for the Guinness Empire.

I think it appropriate at this point to pay tribute to Guinness and also the Power and Jamieson companies who ultimately linked with others to become Irish Distillers who never failed to support the Chamber most generously in our promotional events at home and abroad most particularly in the successful bid to host the World Congress in Dublin in 1970.

This was the culmination of 5 years hard lobbying by a most dedicated tea led by Senator Douglas Thornton.

Going back to the first 10 years it should be said that Council elections were strongly contested and often 10-15 candidates offered themselves for the vacancies arising - usually 3 or 4. Many excellent candidates fell once or even twice before success but in the intervening years showed their mettle by chairing project groups on either one off or continuing activity.

Projects such as the Olympic Standard Swimming Pool for Dublin which failed to get local authority support - surprise, surprise - but well done Michelle anyway, the Office Production Exhibition at the RDS, the Series of Effective Speaking (not speaking) Courses and many other worthy undertakings started to attract overall support from both Government and Commercial sources and we were now starting to be recognised as a potent force which could be utilised for the greater good of the Community. Committee Chairpersons of that era such as Douglas Thornton, David Corrigan, Margaret McGivern and many others laid down the foundations of a trusting, vibrant organisation with a strong leadership overtone. It would be ungracious not to recall one external commercial supporter who helped so much in those early years namely double Senator (Seanad Eireann and JCI) Gordon Lambert who was unswerving in his commitments to our cause and we all owe him a great debt of gratitude. Thank you.

On a note of sadness we recall some wonderful early Presidents or Officers who are no longer with us - Jim Leeson, Jim McNally, Jack Fallon, Michael O'Reilly, Owen Coyle and sadly the list goes on.

However in Junior Chamber one mustn't look back without looking forward and I would hope that the members of 1996 should strive to achieve the membership levels of the earlier years which were over 200 and of that number 75% were active on one or more projects. The need for leadership development was serious then, it is critical now.

Over to you Madam President and your Officers. Please don't forget one tiny important thing it must be done before your 40th birthday and time won't stand still!

Declan L Lennon
President 1966