

Junior Chamber Dublin Alumni

For past members one of the newest initiatives that may be of interest to them is the founding of the Junior Chamber Dublin - Alumni.

The Alumni was started by the 1994 President Ross MacMahon as a means of recognising the past members of Junior Chamber Dublin. It is dedicated to the memory of Jim Leeson the founder member of Junior Chamber Dublin.

Its objectives are:

- To recognize members of Junior Chamber Dublin who have made an outstanding contribution to the Chapter over a sustained period.
- To retain the interest and advice of outstanding members of former years.
- To assist the Chapter in networking
- To provide a source of funds for development initiatives

Past Presidents of Dublin and Senators (Conferred by Dublin) qualify ex-officio. All long standing members can be nominated by a member of the Alumni and then approved by the "Keepers of the Role". Those eligible must fulfil the following.

- Active member for a minimum of 3 full calendar years.
- Chaired at least two major projects
- Have served on Council for one full term.

The "Keepers of the Role" are the Current President, Immediate Past President (who is President of the Alumni) and Deputy President. Nomination forms are available from the I.P.P.

It is intended that the Alumni will retain their association with Junior Chamber Dublin through the following.

- The Alumni Dinner held once a year. A distinguished guest will be invited to speak.
- The Annual Dinner hosted by the Chapter President in December.

During the years 1994 and 1995 scrolls were presented to a representative group of Past Presidents and Senators and as well as others members being enrolled to the Alumni.

In June 1996 the inaugural Alumni Dinner was held at the Stephen's Green Club. The guest speaker on the night was Brian Patterson Chief Executive of Waterford Wedgewood.

32 members, past members and friends gathered to hear a very informative speech by Mr. Brian Patterson about **COMPETITIVENESS AND THE NEED FOR LEADERSHIP**. He talked about the experience in Waterford Glass and praised the work force for their co operation in a very tough reorganisation. He also spoke about competitiveness in the European market.

JCD Alumni Membership - A personal View

In early June of this year I received an invitation from my Jaycee friend of many years, Donal De Buitleur to attend the Junior Chamber Dublin Alumni dinner to be held in the St. Stephens Green Club on the 27th of June.

As I had not been a member of Dublin for a number of years I had not heard of the Alumni before. I accepted his kind invitation and said that I would be delighted to attend and learn more of what the Alumni was about, hoping that Donal would fill me in at this point so that I would not flounder at the dinner. However, my subtle endeavours to gain more information fell, as I thought, on deaf ears, but was later to find why Donal had chosen to ignore my efforts to extract more information from him.

I was a little apprehensive on my arrival, as I was guilty of not being actively involved for some time. However, once I met the friendly face of Martha Downey who was first to greet me, I relaxed and the evening progressed to be a most memorable event. It was good to meet the many friends I had know and worked with during my years in Junior Chamber. I felt it had only been months, instead of years since we last met.

However, while the opportunity to meet my old friends was a pleasant experience, one I hope to repeat soon again, the surprise of the evening was yet to come. I sat and chatted during the evening, and came to attention when the traditional tapping of glass indicated the speechmaking was about to begin. Mr. Brian Patterson, CEO Waterford Wedgewood, gave a fluent and interesting talk on Competition in Business today. This was followed by Yvonne Rohan, Chapter President outlining the purpose of the evening and how the Alumni was a new venture for the Chapter, and that she was taking this opportunity to welcome some new members to the Alumni.

To my greatest surprise, Yvonne began to mention projects from the past, projects which I had been involved with. My initial thoughts were, "these projects can't still be running with the same titles", then the penny

dropped, only seconds before my name was called as being the first new member of the evening to accept the certificate of admittance to the Alumni in acknowledgement for past contributions. I was very much taken aback. Donal had not hinted once what the evening would hold. Flushed from embarrassment and pleasure, I accepted the ribboned parchment with pride.

I am very honoured to have received the membership to the Alumni. It brought back the many days of hard work, long hours, much fun and many friendships I had during my years in Junior Chamber. It revitalised me too, as once that dreaded age creeps up and you automatically excluded from an organisation which was part of your life, it is nice to know I now have an "official" excuse to be involved again.

My last words are to thank those who thought me worthy of the membership and to say that I look forward to meeting those who also received membership on the evening, and indeed future members of Alumni.

My congratulations to Yvonne Rohan and to Ross Mc Mahon for this innovative venture.

Susan Browne-Feldman
(Alumni Conferred June 1996)