



Craobh Úll Mór Nua Eabhrac *Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann*

Annual Branch Report, October 1st 2016

A chairde:

I am pleased to present the Annual Branch report for the period October 2015 through September 2016. Our membership has remained stable, currently at 63 paid memberships, which include 72 individuals.

Our activities during the past year were similar as in the past few years:

* In March, the Branch supported the **5th Annual Sober St. Patrick's Day® NYC** event at the New York Irish Centre.

* The Branch awarded its **5th Annual Scholarship to the CIAW** (Full Term / \$400) in memory of musician and long-time Branch member Jack Coen (RIP).

* In September, the Branch held the eighth annual **"Friends of Úll Mór Awards"** reception and céilí, where we honored Christine Goodwin, our Branch Treasurer of eight years, and Branch musician extraordinaire, Don Meade. An informal reception was held at 7pm, with appetizers and finger foods served. The awards were presented during the céilí, which was well attended.

Our **seisiún cheoil** continues to thrive on the third Sunday of each month, September through June, thanks to the efforts of Cathy Hornberger and her committee. We host a featured musician each month, and donations are solicited to help offset expenses.

The Branch continues to host a monthly céilí and social on the fourth Saturday of each month from September through May, featuring music by Ceol na gCroí Céilí Band. At 7:00 we offer a set dance lesson, primarily for newcomers, now led by Kate Foster and / or Steph Lutz. We hope to soon renew our Irish language lessons on that evening, as well.

Financially, the Branch continues to operate "in the black." There was a planned fundraiser scheduled for April 2016, but it was canceled due to scheduling conflicts, as well as the positive financial outlook at that time.

Operationally, the Branch Board / Committee remained unchanged from the prior year. However, we now have one vacancy to fill, as Linda Kavanagh stepped down as our Branch Auditor after five years. At this time, a candidate has been selected, and the position will be filled at our AGM, to be held on October 22nd. Linda will work with this person to audit the Fiscal 2016 Report.

I am pleased to be able to say that Irish music, dance, song, language, and storytelling are flourishing in New York City.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maureen Donachie

Cathaoirleach agus Oifigeach Caidrimh Poiblí

Craobh Úll Mór CCÉ

1 October, 2016