

*REPORT FROM NATIONAL CONVENTION OF OPC
Held at Druids Glen Hotel November 8th/9th 2018*

The Convention was chaired by Mrs Mai Quaid Wicklow OPC ,Delegates were also welcomed by Cllr Pat Vance Wicklow County Council. A short visit by Minister Jim Daly followed at which he pledged his support to making Ireland a good and safe place to grow older in. Meeting was then addressed by Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council and C E of Meath County Council both appeared very involved in supporting their respective OPCs and Wicklow CC had detailed a member of staff to help full time organizing the Convention. New Chairperson of National OPC Mary Cronin was introduced. Three guest speakers gave interesting talks on Active age Active Mind, Entrepreneurship and Volunteering.

Free time before Dinner provided an excellent opportunity to Network of which I took full advantage. It was great to hear the different opinions of OPCs from all over the Country and levels of support by the various Councils, reoccurring theme was uncertainty of value placed on the work of volunteers and experience of same.

Day Two presentations were made by Fingal, Dublin and Wexford OPCs . Senator Marie Louise ODonnell spoke warmly about “Keep Going/ Keep Giving” also keep asking and pestering the Government to provide the best for older people NOW!. Convention closed by Minister Simon Harris(also in a hurry) who made many promises and suggested downsizing was ideal for us “empty nesters” and not “rattling” around in houses families could live in, (little applause) This Convention gave a great indication of the enthusiasm and commitment by Delegates to overcome obstacles and continue in the Quest to make life good for those lucky enough to live to enjoy older age. Thank you Kevin and John for giving me this opportunity, it was a learning experience and time well spent. Forgive delay submitting report ,matters beyond my control.

Kind Regards,

Susan OConnor, Waterford OPC.