
Monthly Mailshot Newsletter

March 2005

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Letter from the President

Dear all,

As I write this message I am taking a few minutes out from the JCI European President’s Summit and EDC meeting in Malta and yes, the sun is shining and yes I am sitting on the balcony of my hotel looking out at the Mediterranean sea, but please be assured that we are also working hard and hope to reach agreement by Saturday on the future shape of JCI in Europe. I am optimistic that JCI will soon be in a strong position to access EU funds and to lobby the EU Commission on issues of importance to young leaders and entrepreneurs. I will update you on the decisions made at Spring Conference in Galway.

I am also delighted to report that twenty four people graduated from PRIME on Sunday 20th of February last. Twenty two of the graduates are members of JCI Ireland and two are members of JCI Scotland. I was really pleased to see so many new, young and enthusiastic members participating in PRIME. It was an inspiring experience and I know that I certainly learnt many new and useful things about training and coaching. As a national organisation it was also very encouraging that one of the assistant trainers was our own past National President, MacDara Hosty. We are greatly indebted to MacDara, to the head coach Marianne Nordli, assistant coach Tony Brooke from JCI UK and to Director of Individual Development Tommy Nielson for all their hard work. I would encourage you all to think about and to discuss your training needs and then to approach the PRIME graduates and other JCI Ireland trainers with your ideas and suggestions. We are ready and waiting to meet your training needs. Congratulations again to my fellow PRIME graduates, I am very proud of you all.

I am delighted to announce that the total funds raised by JCI Ireland for Operation Hope (JCI International project to help the victims of the Tsunami disaster) is fast approaching €4,000. I would encourage you all to keep your fund raising efforts up so that we can reach our €10,000 target by Spring Conference. I would also encourage you to think about volunteering your skills to help those affected in a practical way. Any of you so interested should watch the JCI International website, or contact me for further information.

Congratulations to those chapters which have already held new members evenings and events. The success of the JCI Galway event which attracted 50 potential new members is very encouraging and to all of you I would say please keep up the good work.

Finally, building on our success at world level last year, I am delighted to be able to announce that former Debating and Public Speaking champion, past National President and JCI International Vice President, Graham Hanlon, has agreed to organise this year’s National Public Speaking Competition and to provide training in debating skills. Details of both to follow.

Remember, together we can make a difference.

James Corcoran
JCI Ireland
National President 2005
Opportunities to Serve and Learn

JCI Ireland still has a number of vacancies to serve at national level. Opportunities exist for:

Director of Community Activities
Director of Business Activities
East Region Director
South Region Director.

In addition we still need a chapter or individual to volunteer to organise

Best Business Plan project
The Outstanding Young Persons (TOYP) project.

These are excellent opportunities to develop your leadership skills and to put your thoughts into action. Anyone interested in any of the above should contact myself and your Local Chapter President. Fun and challenges guaranteed!!!!

Upcoming events:

NEC meeting – March 12th venue Prince of Wales Hotel Athlone 11am- 3.30pm

Your National Executive council will have a meeting in March to discuss all matters relating to JCI Ireland. In order to increase our profile in the Midlands, Rose will be taking a photo to issue with a press release on the meeting, so could the NEC dress appropriately please☺?

Spring Conference – Galway 8th -10th April

Spring Conference will be hosted by JCI Galway from the 8th to the 10th of April. The exact details have not been worked out at the time of going to press. The contacts for the event are Catherine Laffey (cat_laff@yahoo.co.uk) or Mairin O'Reilly (mairinor@gofree.indigo.ie).

It promises to be a great week-end, so mark it in your diaries☺!

European Convention – June 1st to 4th – Early Registration closes on 28th February

JCI European Conference 2005, is going to be taking place in Futuroscope Poitiers (France) from 1st to 4th June 2005. For further information please see the website <http://www.ec2005.com/> . The early registration price of €290 finishes on the 28th of February. After that the registration will cost €335.

JCI Conference of The Americas - TOURISM AND LEISURE – May 4th to 7th – Early Registration closes on 15th March

The 2005 JCI Conference of the Americas will take place in Sao Paulo, Brazil. For further information about the Conference visit: www.jcisp.org.br/saopaulo2005/ or send an e-mail to: conferencia2005@jcisp.org.br

JCI Ireland National Convention 2005 - 7th to 9th October

National Convention 2005 will be hosted by JCI Fingal. The Venue is Clontarf Castle hotel, Dublin 3. The overall price is €295 which includes accommodation, €195 without accommodation. Early registration (before 31st July 2005 is €250).

60th World Congress 2005 – October 24th to 29th

The 60th World Congress will take place in Vienna, Austria. For further details please see <http://www.vienna2005.com/> .

Update from the Chapters

(Chapters are listed in alphabetical order)

JCI Dun Laoghaire

JCI Dun Laoghaire ran a School Mock Interview Project on Saturday 29th January and Saturday 5th February in St.Laurence College, Loughlinstown. This project has been run for a number of years and it involves chapter members conducting mock interviews with 110-150 6th year & 7th year repeat Leaving Cert students over two or three Saturday mornings in January and/or February.

The students write an application letter for a college course and they are interviewed on the basis of this application and their CV. Each interview lasts about 10-15 mins with a further 10 mins allowed for feedback. The school provide us with lunch afterwards and this is a good opportunity for us to give feedback to each other and also to the teachers. The school have built the Mock Interview Project into their curriculum for 6th and 7th year students. This year, in addition to JCI Dun Laoghaire's own current and past members, members of the Castleknock and Dublin branches travelled over to Loughlinstown to participate in the project.

In conjunction with the project, JCI Dun Laoghaire ran an Interview Skills training evening. This was conducted by a past member with experience of both the project and of interviewing.

JCI Fingal

Fingal Junior Chamber are hosting a Table Quiz at 8:30 Sharp in the Harp Bar Swords on Tuesday March 15th. Tables of 4 are €20, and a bar will be open. All proceeds raised will be going towards Operation Hope (in aid of the Tsunami victims). There will also be a raffle with lots of fun prizes.

For further information please contact Ronan Leonard @ 086 3741785 or rleonard@eircom.net.

JCI Limerick

The Chapter held a successful New Members Evening on 23rd February,2005.

Junior Chamber Limerick joined forces with Ennis Chapter for a social evening in Limerick on 26th February.

The Chapter has been working with the Limerick Co-Ordination Office in staging the 2005 St.Patrick's Day Parade in the city. This year's theme is multi-culturalism and participants are being encouraged to dress up as characters from myths and legends worldwide. The post-parade activities in the afternoon will include story-telling, face-painting, etc. This promises to be a memorable day for participants and onlookers alike.

JCI Tullamore

Just a very short up date from Tullamore, we recently had a very successful and enjoyable training seminar hosted by McDara Hosty, on developing and improving leadership skills, almost all members attended a very enjoyable evening had by all, I do not think I will have a problem finding a replacement next year! We have plenty of well trained leaders now! Thanks to McDara

JCI Creates New Website for JCI Awards Program

Every year, JCI conducts a JCI Awards Program to recognize the outstanding achievements of National and Local Organizations, as well as of Individual Members. This year, Members are in for a pleasant experience when they register... They'll find a new website and more effective web tools.

This year, responding to Members' requests and to further improve electronic registration for JCI Awards, JCI has developed a whole new website, with revamped web tools, dedicated exclusively to the JCI Awards Program. Make sure you visit www.jci.cc/eawards. You'll find pertinent information, including JCI Awards registration deadlines:

JCI Conferences:

Europe: May 01

JCI World Congress: September 15

So, now you have the tools, I hope that a few of you will put together an award on the website to recognise the great projects that you are running in your chapters. If anyone needs guidance, please feel free to contact me at awards@jci-ireland.org or helen.flatley@gmit.ie. You have basically 2 months to get it done, so start early would be my advice as you will need to assemble material.

All the best,
Helen Flatley
E-Awards Manager 2005

Message from the JCI Ireland PRO

It's great to see news coming in from around the country, always good to read what is going on in the various branches or chapters. However, you know the phrase "paper never refuses ink" so I encourage you to keep the news coming! If it helps, I would be happy to draft an article for any branch/chapter once I get some material to start with – you just need to contact me, we can chat about your projects or plans and I will take it from there.

Better still, I have recently attended the JCI Media and Communications, hosted by JCI Greece in Athens and I am more than willing to share the skills of this workshop with chapters and branches. It is my vision to avail of as much publicity for JCI Ireland as is possible this year and together we can make this happen by increased coverage via the local and national media. I extend an invitation to all chapter/branch PRO's to contact me directly – I would be delighted to work with you in establishing links with local newspapers and media channels.

I very much look forward to hearing from you.

Gráinne Nolan
086 8037067
grainne.nolan@boimail.com

PRIME and me – a report on February’s PRIME training course

I have to admit I went into PRIME with mixed feelings. I was tired after a tough week, and I wasn’t even sure that PRIME was really for me. That said, I went in with an open mind, eager to learn and to see some old and new faces. But, I was in good company. No less than our National President and Deputy National President were in attendance along with some wonderful members that I have met at other JCI events, and some new members that I got to know briefly.

I had been warned beforehand, that PRIME is an intensive course, and some attendees come away having had very little sleep. And, it’s all true. I lost a lot of sleep, as did most of my fellow JC’s. The course is structured in such a way that each attendee will take from PRIME what he or she puts in. The tagline for PRIME is “Effective Training Skills”, but the content is not restricted to just that. There is a great deal of audience participation, and I have to say that without participation, we wouldn’t have learned as much, nor would we have had quite so much fun.

Without wishing to spoil the experience for those of you who have yet to attend, I will say that it was excellent. I heard no grumbles about the course at any point during the weekend. In fact the only grumbles I heard were about the lack of sleep, but the fun more than made up for that. In short, we all came away with 23 new friends and lots of ideas of how to improve our lives and JCI Local Branches. We all formed a bond as we shared a lot of common experiences. Each member was there for the others, offering physical or emotional support. I went into PRIME as a person who is relatively shy among people I don’t know. I came out as a man who is no longer afraid to be the first to offer an answer in a group session. With my confidence boosted, I can look forward to my future with JCI and hopefully a new professional life.

Andrew Shortall
JCI Fingal



Remember Me

**Dedicated to the victims who lost their lives
in the tsunami which struck SE Asia on December
26th 2004, a day we will never forget...**

*When I think back over my life,
I remember the joy, the sweet memories
of being with the people I love,
and now I am gone, the hurt starts,
and I think of how they all miss me,
but my days are gone, my life snuffed
out like a candle, gone are the fun times,
the happiness they say will live in their hearts
forever, now all they feel is pain.
I am a victim of circumstance, somebody in
the wrong place at the wrong time,
I wanted to live, yes I am a victim,
I had so much life left in me, so much to give,
I am sad though I am somewhere else,
I am sad that I can't still be there,
because memories fade, people get on with
their lives, they don't forget entirely but
my face will soon become hazy, much to their
sorrow, it will all become unreal, please let
my life mean something, don't forget me,
remember me for who I was, laugh with me,
cry with me, I am always there, but don't
be sad for me, I am happy now where I am,
and most of all look forward to the day,
when we'll all meet again, where there will be
no more pain, no more sorrow, just joy and love...*

*By Caroline Smyth
JCI Dun Laoghaire*

Fingal County Council Welcomes Junior Chamber

Members of Junior Chamber Ireland (JCI) Fingal and Castleknock were invited to meet with the Cathaoirleach and Councillors of Fingal County Council recently. Cathaoirleach, Peter Coyle extended a warm welcome to Presidents Aisling Murphy of JCI Fingal and Karen Sweeney of JCI Castleknock along with a group of Junior Chamber Fingal members to the meeting which was held at the County Offices in Swords.

Past President of Junior Chamber Fingal, Clr. Darragh O'Brien was instrumental in bringing the two groups together. The forum presented both groups with an opportunity to discuss how we could work together to form a successful business partnership.

Speaking at the meeting, the Cathaoirleach spoke of how Fingal County Council depends on business for its future development and how the Council needed to work with business leaders in the Fingal area. He sees Junior Chamber members being major contributors to the future of Fingal and for this reason he was particularly pleased to welcome Junior Chamber to the County offices now and in the future. He also noted the achievements of the JCI organisation in establishing community projects such as the Mentorship Programme with DCU and for involving itself in the development of students and their leadership skills. He was aware of the four areas of opportunity provided by JCI, Individual

Development, Community, Business and International and said that “Junior Chamber International provides an excellent way to meet new people, develop yourself as an individual and at the same time give something back to the community through the worthwhile projects the organisation engages in.”

Councillor Anne Devitt extended an invitation to members of the Junior Chamber organisation to provide a representation who would work with the Council in developing the Fingal area. Councillor Darragh O'Brien also saw this meeting as the beginnings of a new link between JCI Fingal and Castleknock. This is indeed good news for the Junior Chamber organisation whose objective is to provide better leaders who will automatically lead to a better society for all and whose vision is to be the voice of young leaders and entrepreneurs worldwide.



Photo shows Councillors Darragh O'Brien, Alan Farrell, Michael Kennedy and Anne Devitt with Cathaoirleach Peter Coyle of Fingal County Councillor with Aisling Murphy JCI Fingal

Your 2005 National Executive

National President: James Corcoran
Deputy National President: Suzanne Corcoran
Immediate Past President: Eugene Garvin
National Treasurer: Brian Egan
Director of International Affairs: Catherine Laffey
Director of Administration: Rose Ann O'Brien
Western Regional Development Officer: Rosemary Dolan
Director of Individual Development: Tommy Nielson
Public Relations Officer: Grainne Nolan
E-Awards Manager: Helen Flatley
Convention Directors: Aileen Madden & Melissa Dursley



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