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Four Peaks Irish Arts
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Membership Renewals

This is just a reminder that we have changed our procedures for membership applications. In an effort to simplify the bookkeeping aspects of the organization, we will be observing similar practices to those we have seen in effect within our sister branches. This means that membership will be open for new members and existing member renewal **once per year**. To start this off we will be extending all 2009 memberships and membership renewals until January of 2011 in order to get everyone on the same cycle. Anyone who has paid their dues this year will be considered a member until the renewal period in January 2011. Keep an eye out for your renewal package that will be mailed shortly.

Since we are constantly growing the organization through outreach we will still be welcoming new memberships to FPIA at any time. This means that a new member will receive all of the benefits that FPIA membership has to offer up until the new membership year and for one year after that, however you will not be on the Comhaltas books until that first membership period starts.

If you have any questions about this subject please do not hesitate to contact us through the website.



About Our Mission

It has come to our attention that some of our members and community are still confused about the purpose for having a Comhaltas branch in Arizona. We would like to take a moment to discuss this briefly and welcome you, should you still have any questions, to contact any one of our officers and we would be happy to chat with you in further detail.

The first and foremost goal of Comhaltas, and therefore FPIA, is to **promote** traditional Irish culture, music, dance and language. Each Comhaltas branch has a unique identity and focus while still abiding by the bylaws and overall mission of Comhaltas. Since the bulk of our local community is made up of musicians our branch has had a heavy focus on traditional music. However if the day comes that we have enough members and resources who can fill in the dance and language pieces of the Comhaltas mission, we will be extremely delighted.

As a member of FPIA your membership dues go towards creating opportunities and events that will help to promote traditional music. This could be in the form of sending musicians to an elementary school to share the music with children, or it could mean using our resources and funds to bring an established traditional artist to the Valley for a concert or workshop to the benefit of our many musicians. In some ways our members will be **giving** to promote the culture, and in some ways they will be **receiving** the culture passed on by those whom we are fortunate enough to bring among us. We are not just another Irish club and we hope that our members will see the difference between a club and an organization that works hard to promote and preserve a wonderful culture which we all have in common, be it either by heritage or hobby.

We are very pleased in the work that our organization has accomplished in a short year and we thank each and every member for their contributions that have made it possible. If you have any questions or would like to find out how you can become more involved in the organization, or to give us some feedback, we'd love to hear from you. Our officers can always be reached via e-mail through the "Contact" page on the website.



Playing Opportunities

You should have recently received a separate release regarding playing opportunities for local members who are musicians. If you did not receive this notice please contact a branch officer and we will make sure you are up to speed on the system we are developing for outreach. If you have received the notice and have any questions or feedback, please feel free to contact us anytime.



Condolences

We want to take a moment and recognize Patty Boyle-McCrossan for everything she has been and everything she has done within our community. Many of us knew her smiling face from her shop, Ireland's Own, which stood on the corner of the I-17 and Dunlap for many years before relocating to the Irish Cultural Center in downtown Phoenix. We offer our sincere condolences to Pat McCrossan and his family as they say goodbye to Patty.



PRO Position Open

The Public Relations Officer position is still open. If you are interested or have any questions please contact Chairperson Mary Hill-Connor.

WHO'S WHO?

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