



## THE LIVING TRADITION

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### **COMHALTAS - CORONAVIRUS**

#### **Communication No. 30**

- Yes, we have reached Communication No. 30. Since last March, it has been a long, challenging and interesting journey. In Comhaltas there have been hundreds of stories of resilience, creativity, support for the vulnerable, and action for 'the honour of the little village'. [Is buaine an buinneán maoith ná crann brománta](#). A tender twig is stronger than a stubborn tree.
- **RESURGENCE**  
The Buanchóiste are inspired by the many stories coming to us of Branches going that extra mile to get their AGMs over the line or should we say on line! It is a matter of not asking others what they can do for us but what we can do for ourselves. The Branch leadership are embracing the 'new normal'. They are discovering social media skills to hold their meetings on line. The extension of the registration date for branches has been well received. They are cultivating the seed to ensure an abundant harvest in the future. This too was the motivation for those legendary founders of Comhaltas 70 years ago. [Faigheann rún daingean an chraobh](#). The steadfast purpose wins the laurels.
- **NÍ NEART GO TEACHT LE CHÉILE**  
There is no strength until we come together. The Department of Culture, Heritage, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media together with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade have proved the wisdom of that seanfhocal through their financial subvention to Comhaltas. This has made it possible for us to assist all 18 Cultural Centres; to provide support for 'struggling' branches; to strengthen our MEITHEAL operations; to sustain our Diaspora network; and to maintain our lines of communication. [Is maol gualainn gan bhráthar](#). A shoulder is bare without a brother. Gabhaimíd buíochas le Rialtas na hÉireann. We express our appreciation to the Irish Government.
- Each County has a story to tell and has a strong sense of pride in themselves. We see this in Croke Park on All-Ireland day. We also see it when a County is represented among the qualifiers and winners at Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann. **FleadhFest** will harvest and encapsulate the County story and pride.

Likewise among the Irish diaspora, the story of the contribution the Irish made to the countries of their adoption will be celebrated with pride in their **FleadhFest**.

**Mura mbeadh agat ach gabhar bí i lár an aonaigh leis.** If you only have a goat, be in the middle of the fair with it! We know that we are not depending on goats! We have a story of pedigree. **Nuair a thosnaíonn an ceol toснаíonn an rince.** When the music starts so does the dancing.

- **Tarraingíonn scéal scéal eile.** One story certainly does attract another story. There are many stories in the current issue of TREOIR. It reaches parishes throughout Ireland and many far away places. Obviously these include the UK, America, Australia but also Brazil, South America, Tokyo – 18 countries in total. Many stories come back from the 35,000 readers. It is also available on line.

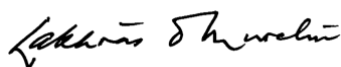
**Castar na daoine ar a chéile.** People meet one another through TREOIR for over 50 years.

- **FOCAL SCOIR**

As we approach the last weeks of 2020 and look forward with renewed confidence to 2021, the Buanchoiste are ever-conscious of what people have endured in these difficult times. We know that there are many personal stories of hurt, grief and isolation which will not dissipate easily. Our thoughts and prayers are with our friends. We assure them that the Comhaltas family will, as in the past, be there for them. **Is giorra cabhair Dé ná an doras.** God's help is closer than the door.

Slán go fóill.

Le mór-mheas,



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Labhrás Ó Murchú  
Ardstiúrthóir CCÉ

<p>1951 - 2020</p> 	 <p><b>COMHALTAS</b></p> <p>6 Greenbriar Lane, Pt. Washington NY 11050          email: Mccormickfip@aol.com          Frankie McCormick          North American Provincial Chair          Phone: 917-612-8721</p>	
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**To my North American Comhaltas Family. November 2020**

A chara,

I cannot speak for all of you but I believe that the Fall (or Autumn) is the most endearing season of the year, even heartwarming. It seems to grant us a moment to take a deep breath and look around us, at nature's beauty, at our own humanity and even frailty. It is a time of family, of reaching out to folks we haven't seen in a while, especially given the World's current circumstance. We indeed seem to have to go into the dark one more time before we all see the light but we have it within ourselves to be that light, to be that beacon for someone else who doesn't realize that they need our help. This is the season of the dark mornings and dark evenings where once we had light, be that light for your neighbor. Call, text, even email those within your own family, within our own Comhaltas family and just let them know that they crossed your mind, "that they were in your mind's eye" (to quote my wife)

Never has it been so important to reach out and check on people. The darkness of day of the season, the holidays of the season can be a lonely time for some. Go to your local store and pick up a few cards so you can send a little note. Tomorrow is never promised, my friends, so don't have any regrets as we approach Thanksgiving and Christmas. Be the light in someone else's life without them realizing it. Call them, even though you could say to yourself, "well they never call me" ..... be the bigger person, you never know, you just might save a life yourself.

By now all Branches should have had their AGM's, documented new membership, welcomed new Officers and gone through the realization that not too much is currently happening. While this may be true we should not take that laying down. Understood is the fact that our Fleadhanna have been cancelled for 2021 and that we cannot Ceili every month like we used to before, but we cannot sit back. I will go out on a limb here and say that most people, (now somewhat familiar with the Zoom Meetings format), have not thought about using the same format to reach out to three or four friends or more to chew the fat. Many people can sing, can play an instrument, recite a poem but they don't because they're not "getting out and about" so I challenge you to set up your small Zoom Meetings, play a couple of tunes, sing a couple of songs, it's not going to hurt anyone and it should give you all a laugh and create memories in a time such as this.

Now getting back to business. If your Branch has had any difficulty with the technical or business end of your Branches' dealings, please reach out to your Regional Secretary and they may direct you to your Provincial Secretary, Mike Hoke, at [naprovincialsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:naprovincialsecretary@gmail.com) and let him know of any queries with sending your payments to the Region or about filling out your online membership Form in general.

My friends, I will sign off wishing you and your families a Happy Thanksgiving and please, without sounding repetitive, please reach out to your loved ones and your extended families within Comhaltas

Is mise, le meas,

*Frank McCormick*