

WALES ASSOCIATION OF SACREs

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 25th JUNE, 2015

REPORT BY: Treasurer

SUBJECT: Report for 2014/2015 Financial Year

REPORT FOR: Information and Decision

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2014/2015

Attached as an Appendix to this report is the audited Statement of Accounts for the 2014/2015 financial year. Members will note that, during the year, income exceeded expenditure by £5525.45. At the end of the financial year, subscriptions from two SACREs had not been received but the accounts include the three subscriptions from the 2013/2014 financial year that had been received after the end of that financial year. For the previous two years, expenditure has exceeded income and it is pleasing to report that, in 2014/2015, the position has been reversed and income has exceeded expenditure. The financial year commenced with a balance of £14511.77 and ended with a balance of £20037.22. This means that the finances of WASACRE remain in a healthy condition and the level of funds available to WASACRE to fund its planned activities, is encouraging.

a) **Receipts**

As in previous years, the main source of income for WASACRE during 2014/2015 has been the annual subscriptions paid by member SACREs. Members will recall that, at the 2001 Annual General Meeting of WASACRE, it was decided to raise the level of subscriptions by the level of inflation on an annual basis. The annual subscription, therefore, for 2014/2015 was £422.00 which has resulted in an income of £8862.00. This figure represents 21 subscriptions but only 20 SACREs as 1 SACRE paid twice. Unfortunately, the money had been paid directly into the WASACRE Account before the error was identified. A cheque has, therefore, been drawn to return the money. 2 SACREs had not paid their subscriptions by 31st March, 2015, but it is pleasing to report that these subscriptions have now been paid and the late subscriptions will be recorded in the 2015/2016 accounts. Members will note that, in addition to the 2014/2015 annual subscriptions, three subscriptions for 2013/2014, at £417.00 each, were also included in these accounts as their payments were actually received in the current financial year, rather than 2013/2014. In addition to the above SACRE, which paid its subscription twice into the WASACRE Account, a further two SACREs also paid their subscriptions twice. These payments have been made by cheque and the cheques have been returned.

The other annual source of income for WASACRE has been bank interest and this amounted to £3.80 in 2014/2015, a decrease of 7 pence on the amount

received in 2013/2014. It is hoped that the interest paid on the WASACRE accounts will improve again in the future but it will be some time before significant income is received through bank interest.

b) **Expenditure**

During 2014/2015, the main areas of expenditure were as follows:-

The sum of £366.10 has been paid for support of the WASACRE website. Members will agree that the WASACRE website is an excellent resource and has been valuable in raising the profile of the organisation and as a source of information in relation to Religious Education and Collective Worship.

Payment of an honorarium to the Secretary amounted to £1500. Members will recall that the secretary is entitled to receive an honorarium of £1500 per year and this payment was again made in 2014/2015. No secretarial costs were claimed during 2014/2015, so it is possible that a more significant sum will be claimed during 2015/2016. Costs, however, have been reduced through the electronic circulation of papers for meetings and placement of papers and documents on the website.

A further expense, during the year, related to the costs of convening meetings of WASACRE. This amounted to £607.17, compared with £1874.69 in 2013/2014, and it reflects the termly meetings of WASACRE and its Executive Committee. Although costs of holding meetings are rising, the costs are not so high this year because there have been no requests for re-imburement for the costs of presenters' travel expenses and supply cover to release presenters from schools. In addition, the costs of simultaneous translation at the termly meetings have all been met by the local authorities that were hosting the meetings, which is much appreciated. The cost of room hire amounted to £210.60, compared with £43.00 in 2013/2014, while the cost of translation of documents amounted to £396.57, compared with £912.91, in 2013/2014.

The amount spent on Officers' travel/accommodation in 2014/2015 amounted to £1195.55 compared with £2764.70 in 2013/2014. This represents a significant decrease and reflects either a reduced level of travel or there may be some claims that have not yet been received. It again includes attendance of the WASACRE representative at the European Forum for Teachers of Religious Education Board Meeting, but this was held in Dublin this year, compared with Vienna last year.

In addition to the above, WASACRE has paid a total of £500.53 in subscriptions. This represents payment of the subscription to the RE Council for 2014/2015, subscriptions for 2014 and 2015, paid to the Interfaith Network, and the payment of the subscription to the European Forum for Teachers of Religious Education for the period January to December, 2015.

Members are invited to receive and adopt the attached statement of accounts.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS 2015/2016

In considering an appropriate annual subscription per SACRE for membership of WASACRE during the 2015/2016 financial year, members will recall that the decision was taken at the 2001 Annual General Meeting of WASACRE that, in future, the subscription to WASACRE would be increased in line with inflation.

It is important for WASACRE to follow this practice in order to ensure that sufficient resources are available to meet the ongoing costs of WASACRE activities, including meeting expenses, secretarial costs, officers' expenses, officers' honoraria and subscriptions. In addition, WASACRE needs to have sufficient resources available to meet the costs of further All Wales events, such as the National Conference, held in October, 2013, and to enable it to become involved in other initiatives for the support of Religious Education and Collective Worship across Wales such as the provision of further training. Although the WASACRE finances are currently in a healthy state, it is important that a substantial balance is maintained if WASACRE is to be able to, with confidence, arrange further national events.

In the light of the above and the decision at the 2001 Annual General Meeting, that, in future, the subscription to WASACRE be increased in line with inflation, it is

RECOMMENDED that the annual subscription per SACRE for membership of WASACRE during the 2015/2016 financial year, be set at £433.00, which represents an uplift of 2.5% on the 2014/2015 subscription.

PAYMENT OF EXPENSES

Members will recall that the following arrangements for the payment of expenses were agreed at the 2014 Annual General Meeting of WASACRE for 2014/2015:-

- I. Payment of 45 pence per mile to officers undertaking business on behalf of WASACRE where they are unable to claim from their local SACREs and reimbursement at the same level for speakers contributing to WASACRE meetings;
- II. reimbursement to officers of actual parking costs, where incurred, in relation to the conduct of WASACRE business;
- III. where public transport is used rather than private car, reimbursement of actual rail/coach fares up to the level of standard fare on the understanding that advantage of saver arrangements would be taken wherever possible;
- IV. reimbursement of subsistence costs in respect of officers of WASACRE and speakers at WASACRE meetings at the following levels:-
 - breakfast - £4.50 (to qualify for a breakfast allowance, an officer must have left home before 7.00 am);
 - lunch - £6.00 (to qualify for a lunch allowance, an officer must be away from home before noon and after 2.00 pm);
 - tea - £2.50 (to qualify for a tea allowance, an officer must be away from home until after 6.30 pm);

- evening meal - £7.50 (to qualify for an evening meal allowance, an officer must be away from home until after 8.30 pm);
- V. reimbursement of actual costs of overnight accommodation on the understanding that reasonable costs are incurred; and
- VI in relation to teachers being released from school to make presentations at meetings of WASACRE, WASACRE will fund up to one full day's supply cover. In the event of this proving inadequate, early contact must be made with the Treasurer, who will be given discretion to agree a higher level of supply cover in consultation with either the Chairman or Vice Chairman.

It is

RECOMMENDED that the above arrangements, agreed for 2014/2015, be maintained for 2015/2016.