



The Hibernian Catholic Benefit Society

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2015 SPECIAL MEETING **NOTICE OF MEETING**

Notice is hereby given that a Special Meeting of The Hibernian Catholic Benefit Society will be held at Connolly Hall, Guildford Terrace, (off Hill St), Thorndon, Wellington, on Saturday 28th November 2015 at 1.30pm.

ORDER PAPER (Rule 6.3)

1. Opening Prayer
2. Roll Call and Preliminary Matters
3. To consider the following Motion put forward by the Board of Management.

Motion for Special Meeting

That the Board of the Hibernian Catholic Benefit Society takes the necessary steps to wind up all funds of the National Body, except the Society's Benevolent Fund, and cease undertaking all non-essential management and administrative activities by 31 March 2016.

Explanation

At the Society's Annual Meeting your Board signaled a need to rationalise the Society at a National level. With the closure of the Society's two major funds (funeral and insurance), and the gradual payment of members transitional fund balances, the Society's investment base has been reduced dramatically. In addition to this, the need to maintain more funds in short term investments, to meet the needs of the transitional fund, along with the New Zealand's low interest rates, has resulted in our income reducing significantly.

In the paper issued for the 2015 Annual Meeting we outlined both the historic and current costs per member for running the Society. As many members are aware, the current quarterly Management charge of \$7.50per member paid by Branches does not meet the true cost of managing our organisation. Currently, this shortfall is being met primarily by investment income. With investment income in rapid decline we will get to the stage in a year or two where members funds will be reduced by increasing deficits.

The Boards original recommendation at this year's Annual Meeting was to dissolve the Society's National Body and close all funds. Funds would be distributed either

- (a) to the members of individual funds (Transitional, Retraining, and Tertiary Bursary Funds) or
- (b) Distributed to branches on a pro rata basis (e.g. Timeshare, Benevolent etc.).

After further investigation the Board has established that the Society would need the individual written agreement of 75% of current members to dissolve the Society's National Body. Your Board has identified that this would be impractical and so has modified the original motion to allow for the continuation of the Society by leaving the Benevolent fund in position. All other funds of the Society would be closed and distributed as outlined above.

As a result of closing all but the benevolent fund, the major portion of current national administrative and management activities would become unnecessary. We acknowledge that some of these functions (e.g. central billing, preparation of Branch Accounts, Annual Returns), are an important way the Society assists members to manage their Branch. However, the costs involved are forecast to continue to increase and, without the investment income, will result in branches needing to pay higher management fees, even if the scale of services were reduced. Therefore, it is proposed that all activities not directly related to the ongoing function of either the benevolent fund or the Society's Board would cease. The date stated has been selected to match when the Boards current financial service provider stops providing services to the Society.

Branches would be free to enter into their own arrangements with third parties for these services and the Board would be prepared to assist with arranging this. It is also of particular significance that this reduction in costs would result in a major reduction in the management charges the Society would charge branches.

Jocelyn Delaney
Secretary,
The Hibernian Catholic Benefit Society
7th November 2015
secretary@hibernian.org.nz

To assist with organisational details, would Branches please advise the Secretary of numbers and names of Branch delegates who will be in attendance. Those Branches unable to attend in person may nominate a proxy in the normal manner.

Names of delegates to be with the Secretary by 21st November 2015.