

## 1993 – National Association of SACREs - 2018

### AGM 2018: Secretary's Report

*In 2017-18, our NASACRE Executive comprised:*

*Officers: Paul Smalley (Chair), Michael Metcalf (Treasurer), Sue Holmes (Secretary) and Lesley Prior (Executive Assistant)*

*Members: Denise Chaplin, Claire Clinton, Nasr Moussa Emam, Roy Galley, Elizabeth Jenkerson, Emily Norman, and Sushma Sahajpal*

*Co-opted: Philip Davies (Assistant Treasurer)*

Newly elected Exec members have brought fresh skills to the table this year and Marie Cooper, has provided the most excellent and efficient Admin support in her first full year in post. Though we rarely see her, she beavers away quietly in the background enabling everything to flow smoothly, especially when it comes to *Briefing* time!! We have learnt our lesson though – don't attempt to prepare the *Briefing* over the Christmas holidays! Some people do resent having to proof-read on Boxing Day, as some of us had to do last year... good luck to Emily who takes over the Editor's role from Denise.

Two of the Executive - Nasr and Denise - step down from their duties this year and we thank them both for their contributions. Denise has had a particularly difficult year in her personal life, after many, many years dedicated to NASACRE, and being a previous Chair to boot! We are grateful to both and delighted that they will continue as co-opted members – Nasr to the Westhill Awards Panel and Denise will continue to support communications through *SACRE Briefing*.

A brief Executive meeting took place immediately after the 2017 AGM in York last May. Since then, we've met five times, following the pattern of the previous year in July, September, November, February and April. In addition, we managed to meet for an extra conversation with Dr Joyce Miller, CoRE Commissioner, so that we could give due attention to the important and crucial discussions that have been going on around RE in this academic year. We await the outcomes of the final report with bated breath... how will the final recommendations impact on the work of SACREs, the profile of SACREs and then ripple through to NASACRE? As ever, we shall of course, try to keep our SACRE membership well advised and updated, whatever happens next.

Our patron, the Rt Hon Charles Clarke PC, joins us when he can, and we're really pleased to see him with us again at the AGM, where he values his informal conversations with members.

Linda Rudge from the REQM, came along to the Spring Exec meeting to appraise us of the next steps in the highly successful Quality Mark story. We have invited the HMIs responsible for RE to join us on more than one occasion, but unfortunately busy diaries have not allowed them to come along as they did last year. However, Deborah Weston (NATRE) was able to be with us in September and we had a very useful discussion about her research into non-compliance and ways of dealing with it, amongst other contentious issues. We have used information gleaned in such discussions to good effect, to pass on to SACREs, thus allowing them to better challenge their schools and local authorities.

Once again, we partnered with AREIAC, to offer a day in Birmingham to discuss and reflect on the interim report from the Commission on RE. There was an excellent attendance to hear a bevy of varied speakers' views - all to add to the mix to take back to SACREs.

This year, Elizabeth is ably supported by Claire in her new Exec role in making preparations for our annual conference ***Stronger Together - Celebrating the power of Community***. We should express the thanks of the membership to everyone on the NASACRE Exec for all the duties they have carried out this year on behalf of SACREs across the country. Paul, our Chair, has had an especially busy year travelling down and up the country from NW to SE, making sure that we are represented at all the important meetings that go on in the name of RE, whilst proclaiming the excellent work that SACREs are doing across the length and breadth of the land.

Next year we'll know more about the potential future of SACREs. We have been around for 25 years already! We should pay tribute to all those - some of whom are with us at the AGM, and others like the late John Hull - who did the pioneering work in founding NASACRE and paving the way for where we are today. Some, like Julie Grove, who can't be with us at the AGM, send their greetings to all who remember the part they had to play in days past.

Who can say where we'll be in another 25 years' time? There are many of us here that will not be around to see it, but we hope, for now at least, that you feel we have a future together, and that our association will play a part in shaping the teaching and learning in RE for a long time to come.

Sue Holmes