



# BIG News from Ireland Network Chicago!

It's been a busy few months behind the scenes of Ireland Network Chicago and we are thrilled to share an exciting update about the future of our organization.

In May, **Katie Fitzpatrick** announced she was stepping down as Executive Director. We are grateful to Katie for her service over the past ten years – first, as an Executive Committee member, then as a founding Advisory Board member, and finally as our inaugural Executive Director. She will remain active in the Network and looks forward to returning as a member once again.

Over the summer, our hiring committee led by President **Ruairi Barnwell** interviewed a number of highly qualified candidates for the role. The level of interest and high standard of candidates demonstrated the degree to which our organization has grown over the past few years.

It is our honor to introduce **Margaret Rose Keating** as the new Executive Director of Ireland Network Chicago! Margaret has been a member of INC for 10 years prior to her appointment as Executive Director. She is the second executive director in the 20-year history of the Chicago chapter.

Margaret is an executive support professional specializing in strategic communications, programming and thought leadership with proven success across public, private and non-profit sectors. Her career includes positions in Municipal Government, the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce and American Airlines. She holds a bachelor's degree in Fine Arts from the University of Illinois at Chicago. Margaret also represented Chicago in the 2012 International Rose of Tralee Festival. Margaret is married to her husband Nick and lives in the Chicagoland area with their two children, Rose and Nicholas, and is a proud first-generation Irish American.

## **Margaret takes the helm of Ireland Network Chicago at an exciting time:**

- Our strong slate of Fall events includes: First Friday on Nov. 3 at LGs in Old Town and an IN Conversation on Nov. 16 at The Dawson featuring journalist and former RTE presenter Eileen Dunne and WGN Reporter Bronagh Tumulty.
- Ireland's Department of Foreign Affairs has once again provided a significant grant to Ireland Network Chicago, demonstrating their continued support for our mission and ongoing partnership with the local Irish community.
- Our enormously talented Executive Committee is already discussing the 2024 IN Spirit Award and planning the Annual Ball on Saturday, Feb. 10 at The Drake.
- We continue to promote member and partner news and look forward to sharing member-driven initiatives in the weeks and months to come, including a membership directory, hospitality loyalty card, and much more!

Thank you for your patience during this transition over the past few months and be sure to connect with Margaret at the November First Friday! **Go raibh míle maith agat!**

