

UNISON 2025 AGM NEWSLETTER

ORCHARD BRANCH

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It's about You, Your Branch, Your Say and Your Vote

Our Branch AGM is the single most important meeting of the year. Every year UNISON requires its branch officers and stewards to stand for re-election. The AGM is your opportunity to have a say in how the branch is run and who will represent you in 2025.

It is also a great opportunity to meet with other members and UNISON stewards and to find out how UNISON has been active on your behalf during the year.

If you would like to become more active in UNISON: Representing your colleagues or becoming involved in solidarity or welfare work, please contact your branch.



Pay Campaign

The return of our devolved government in February 2024 laid bare the funding and staffing crisis across the public service with the health and social care system, in particular, facing the biggest problems in its history.

Throughout the period of suspension UNISON has kept the spotlight on our services and the treatment of staff. The impact of the cost-of-living crisis, high inflation, unfair pay and the reduction in service to the people has been at the forefront of UNISON industrial action, public demonstrations and political lobbying.

From late 2023 to February 2024 we continued our campaign focusing on the UK Secretary of State for NI. We demanded that he release funding for the 2023 AfC pay deal in his budget preparation for NI. We pursued these arguments while also sticking to the UNISON demand for an inflation busting pay uplift.

The Executive returned in February 2024 and shortly afterwards UNISON secured the pay award which was overdue by at least 12 months. Our members resilience and determination and ability to sustain struggle against political collapse has been remarkable.



AGM MEETING DATES 2025

Tuesday 25th February
The Junction 12 Beech Valley Way,
Dungannon
1pm-3pm

Tuesday 4th March
Banbridge Health Care Centre
1pm-3pm

Wednesday 5th March
UNISON Office St Lukes Armagh
10am-11pm & 12pm-2pm



Not yet a member? JOIN UNISON TODAY!
Call 02890270190 or go to www.unison-ni.org.uk/join



Our UNISON 'Free School Meals for All' campaign is a further important intervention aimed at reducing poverty for our members and their families.

We are increasingly concerned by the lack of visible progress on an Anti-Poverty Strategy. Despite the Executive having been restored in February, a draft Anti-Poverty has yet to be published, consulted upon and adopted.

UNISON has continued to work alongside our allies across civic society to press for an Anti-Poverty Strategy to be put in place without further delay, including through the launch of the report of the seminar held at Stormont in June 2023 on development of the Anti-Poverty strategy that we reported on last year. UNISON was part of a delegation that gave evidence to the Committee for Communities at the NI Assembly in April regarding the urgent need for an Anti-Poverty Strategy.



Check out the full list of over 500 UNISON College courses at this URL: bit.ly/2KzKJXA

Membership Services



Members experiencing financial and emotional difficulties can contact UNISON Welfare (There for You), which provides confidential advice and support services for members and their dependants.

<https://www.unison.org.uk/get-help/services-support/there-for-you/>



THOMPSONS
SOLICITORS

Receive free legal advice and support on non employment matters from Thompsons, our specialist employment solicitors

<https://www.unison.org.uk/get-help/services-support/legal-services/>



Request free expert financial advice from Quilter Financial Advisers, UNISON's financial services partner

<https://benefits.unison.org.uk/home/money/lighthouse-financial-advice/>



AbbeyAutoline offers discount for UNISON members.

<https://www.abbeyautoline.co.uk/>



BRANCH NEWS

Agenda for Change

As part of our 'AfC Pay Max'/Refresh strategy, UNISON negotiators have secured bargaining successes in the Southern HSC Trust around 40 Band 5 nurses, including nurses working in ICU and theatres at Craigavon Hospital were upgraded to Band 6. This also included nurses working on a bank contract.

UNISON has continued to participate on a project oversight board on agency spend that has been established by the Department. Significant progress has been achieved in reducing reliance on off-contract agency and that is to be welcomed. However, the high level of vacancies across the workforce continues to sustain reliance on contract agency workers. We are determined to turn the situation round and to press for the growth of the direct workforce. Our regional lay bargaining teams throughout the Trusts are focusing strongly on this key task. We remain vigilant on the issue of on-contract agency spend.

Tackling these issues remains a key priority for UNISON. Another key goal is to reinstate safe staffing levels based on a sustainable and stable permanent workforce. To date we have secured:

- preparation and completion of new procurement frameworks for the use of agency – nursing, medical and dental;
- a continuing commitment by corporate health leaders to engage with trade unions in each organisation to achieve this aim.

Update your Details

Changed name, moved house or have a new number?
Update your details using our online form at:
<https://www.unison-ni.org.uk/update-your-details> or
contact membership services on 028 90270190.

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