



# Orchard Health Branch AGM Newsletter 2024

## **Orchard Health Branch AGM 2024**

### **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 2024.

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.

## **AGM Meeting Dates**

**Wednesday 6th March @ 2pm,**

Hill of The O'Neill at Ranfurley House,  
26 Market Square, Tyrone, Dungannon,  
BT70 1AB

**Monday 11th March @ 10am and 2pm,**

Training Room, St Luke's Hospital, Loughgall  
Road, Armagh

**Wednesday 13th March @ 2pm,**

Banbridge Health and Social Care Centre



On Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> and Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September, during a period of 48 hours, ambulance crews, nurses, health care assistants, pharmacists, radiographers, porters, admin and technical staff, cleaners and catering staff took strike action. Payroll staff took action for a shorter period to ensure their co-workers received their pay on time - a decision highly commended by their union colleagues.

UNISON members in the health service are fed up with the current impasse in their just pursuit of pay parity. They have decided not to remain silent as politicians dither and delay a resolution of their political differences. They have resolved to continue demanding that the Secretary of State use his powers of economic governance to include funding for the restoration of pay parity.

NHS workers in England and Wales had their pay uplift since from April this year. Why should health staff in Northern Ireland have to wait? No amount of finger pointing at local politicians justifies this appalling situation. UNISON members have no intention of staying silent or just putting up with it.



## **Update Your Details**

Check your membership status by checking your pay slip for deductions or your bank for direct debit. If this is not up to date, then you may **NOT** be a UNISON member. Please contact membership services on 028 90270190 to update your details.

Changed your name, moved house or have a new number? You can update your details using our online form. Go to <https://www.unison-ni.org.uk/update-your-details>



For branch news follow our Facebook Page.  
Search: **Unison Orchard Branch**

**NOT YET A UNISON MEMBER? JOIN TODAY!**

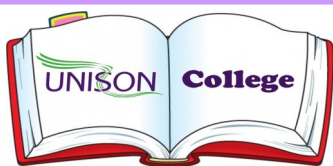
**Call Membership on 028 9027 0190 or join online <https://join.unison.org.uk>**



The UNISON Free School meals campaign objectives are:

- to seek universal, nutritious, free schools meals for all pupils to both reduce poverty and improve public health;
- to safeguard and promote the vital work of our members within schools catering. School meals services should be publicly provided;
- as a response to the Covid-19 pandemic, to build support for the implementation of a public health model across Government that is aimed at dealing with health and educational inequalities that have been exacerbated during the pandemic.

## UNISON COLLEGE



UNISON offers a wide range of free courses for members and reps to support you in your professional, personal and community life.

Ask your Line Manager today and see if you can link into our professional courses.

Topics include dementia, autism, palliative care, anaphylaxis, as well as communicating effectively, mindfulness, interview skills, stress, dealing with bullying, managing challenging conversations, mental health, menopause awareness and resilience.

Our Trade Union programme includes topics such as equality, employment rights and health & safety. We also fund the Open University K102 module and support progression onto the OU nursing programme. Find out more at: <https://unisoncollegeni.org.uk>

## Membership Services

### UNISON Welfare – 'There For You'

Use this service which is FREE to all UNISON members and is there for you at times of difficulty and crisis. For full details please see UNISON's website.

[www.unison.org.uk/get-help/](http://www.unison.org.uk/get-help/)Legal Advice

Thompsons NI are our specialist employment solicitors. For free legal advice and support on non employment matters, contact 0800 0857 857.

## A NEW YEAR MESSAGE



The Orchard Branch Stewards and Officers wish all our members a very Healthy and Prosperous New Year. We would like to say thank you to all our members who continue to work over and above expectations, against the backdrop of ever-changing working conditions .

Your union reps continue to work harder than ever on your behalf. We will continue to protect our NHS services and negotiate to secure a decent pay rise for all, leaving no-one behind and also to ensure your safety, health and well-being.

## Branch News

UNISON has been successful in moving agency workers in support services to Trust permanent contracts over the last year, and will continue to secure these contracts.

UNISON was the only union which addressed the Southern Trust Board in June 2023, following the Trust decision to reduce services in DHH.

All three UNISON Southern Trust branches, attended the huge rally in Newry to 'Save Daisy Hill' at the end of July. Extensive meetings with the Trust CEO and senior management have taken place regarding the reduction of services.

### NHS 75th Birthday



### May Day Rally



## BRANCH CONTACTS

### Office Number:

**0283756695 / 02837566794**

### Branch Chair:

Grainne Lappin

Contact no: 028 3756 4316

Email: [grainne.lappin@southerntrust.hscni.net](mailto:grainne.lappin@southerntrust.hscni.net)

### Branch Secretary:

Deborah Yapicioz

Contact no: 028 3756 4316

Email: [Deborah.yapicioz@southerntrust.hscni.net](mailto:Deborah.yapicioz@southerntrust.hscni.net)

### Regional Organiser:

Nuala Conlon

Contact no: 028 90270 190

Email: [n.conlon@unison.co.uk](mailto:n.conlon@unison.co.uk)

### Area Organiser: Danielle McCusker

Contact no: 028 9027 0190

Email: [d.mccusker@unison.co.uk](mailto:d.mccusker@unison.co.uk)

**UNISON Direct - 0800 0857 857**