

**UNISON COMMUNITY AND
VOLUNTARY SECTOR
BRANCH NI**

Welcome to the UNISON Community and Voluntary Branch NI Newsletter 2024.

The current Branch Committee sends you this newsletter with warm wishes, expressing unity whilst reaching out in a culture of solidarity. Across the community sector, the influence and power of your trade union branch continues to deliver real change on your behalf. Providing you and other community workers with an amplified voice, which challenges any employer who chooses to undervalue your work. Standing up against all forms of inequality and discrimination - strengthening your rights as Essential Frontline Workers - with our core value and focus being the delivery of social justice for all communities across our region. A radical collective organising approach, across the many and varied workplaces of our members and one which we view as fundamental to our very existence.

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 will be 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 wider solidarity campaigns, please contact your branch.

Its about You, Your branch, Your workplace, Your job, Your say and Your vote. Your branch AGMs are the most important meetings of the year.



UNISON Community & Voluntary Branch Committee during our visit to the Save Our Sperrins Campaign Headquarters, Greencastle, Co Tyrone.

Online AGM Meeting Dates March 2024

Tuesday 26th March at 7pm via Zoom
Meeting ID: 830 1022 8878 Passcode: 112336

Wednesday 27th March at 1pm via Zoom
Meeting ID: 826 1462 5709 Passcode: 221633

Thursday 28th March at 7pm via Zoom
Meeting ID: 819 7153 6591 Passcode: 759516

Once all AGMs have been completed any member who attended an AGM, will be entered into a prize draw.

The prize draw will be held live via Zoom on
Tuesday 2nd April at 7pm—
Zoom ID and passcode below

Meeting ID: 83530625503
Passcode: 370715

4 x £500 vouchers of member's choice
4x £250 vouchers of member's choice
10 x £100 vouchers of member's choice



UNISON Community & Voluntary Branch Committee at GLOBAL SOLIDARITY Belfast

NOT YET A UNISON MEMBER? JOIN TODAY! Call Membership on 028 90270190 or
Join Online <http://www.joinunison.org/>

BRANCH CONTACTS

Joint Branch Secretaries -
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SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook - UNISON Community & Voluntary Branch NI

Instagram - unisoncvbni

Twitter - @unisoncvbni

Please Like, Follow & Share



MEMBERSHIP SERVICES

Legal Advice: As a UNISON member, you receive free legal advice and assistance for:

- Employment law (accessed via your UNISON branch or regional office)
 - Person injury – at or away from work, on holiday or on the roads
 - Serious injury at work – including brain injuries and spinal cord injuries
 - industrial disease or illness
 - Basic will writing and reduced rates for more complex wills and conveyance
 - Defending work related criminal allegations
 - Free initial legal advice on any non-employment issue from UNISON's lawyers
- UNISON members' families are also covered for personal injury and reduced rates for wills and conveyance. For further information contact 0800 0857 857.

BRANCH NEWS 2024

THE MORE THINGS CHANGE THE MORE THEY STAY THE SAME

2024 - must be the year for the long overdue Recognition of Community & Voluntary Sector workers and for the immense contribution you make to supporting those at risk and in need of guidance and support, to be valued.

This Recognition though - will only come through UNISON being formally Recognised within your employer.

This requires 50% plus 1 of the workforce in any community based employer to be UNISON members.

UNISON already have several Recognition Agreements in place – and this is what we have delivered for our members who work in these employers where we have Recognition Agreements.

How can I get involved in the union? Workplace stewards and reps are the foundation of the union. In your workplace, get together, elect your steward or UNISON rep for the coming year and let us know the result. Please contact us for assistance.

What is involved in the branch posts? We have a wide range of branch posts and you can find short descriptions of them on our website at www.unison-ni.org.uk/branch-agms. If you believe in trade union values and have a particular interest in any of the posts listed in the attached form then get 2 other current UNISON members in your branch to counter- sign and return it by freepost by 4pm—Friday 17th February 2023

When do we meet? All elected reps and Branch Officers have monthly Branch Committee meetings. Elected Reps from different employers arrange meetings with members in workplace as and when required.

- 20% Pay Awards
- Enhanced Sick Pay – up to 3 months full pay
- Double Time Payments for Bank Holidays
- Increased Overtime Rates
- Enhanced Maternity Pay
- Health & Well-being Policies :
- Endometriosis
- Menopause
- Parental Bereavement Leave
- Domestic Abuse
- Adoption Leave
- £500 Cost of Living Payments
- Job Evaluations – to reflect the significant & complex changes in our member's roles & responsibilities.
- Improved Workplace Rotas – our members know the shifts they will be working up to 8 weeks in advance
- Enhanced Work life Balance

The only way this will become a reality for you is if we work together in 2024.

UNISON Community & Voluntary Branch want to deliver these and other improvements for you – we need you to get involved.

TIME TO RECOGNISE COMMUNITY & VOLUNTARY SECTOR WORKERS



Saoirse Fanning Joint Branch Secretary speaking as an NEC member at 2023 National Delegate Conference