

# Mater Hospital Branch AGM Newsletter

## **Denis Keatings** **A True Gentleman**



On 15<sup>th</sup> May 2020 our Branch was filled with immense sadness when we learned of the passing of our friend and comrade Denis Keatings after a brief illness. Denis was a lifelong trade unionist, challenging injustice fearlessly

where he saw it right across the Health Service locally, regionally and nationally. He was Branch Secretary of the Mater branch for over 20 years before becoming Regional Joint Convenor. However, he was never very far away from his beloved Mater Hospital. To our branch officers he was a mentor and comrade, but to every member of our branch he was seen as a gentleman with a big heart who would take on any issue big or small. We all miss him deeply.

To acknowledge the huge contribution Denis made to the Mater Hospital and celebrate his life the branch has commissioned a memorial bench which will be placed in the Atrium garden and unveiled in a gathering of the branch when restrictions are relaxed.

## **Thank You**

We want to say thank you to all our members who have given so much during this pandemic. We have lost colleagues, family and friends during these incredible times however despite this, you our members still continue to give your all. When this awful period in our collective lives ends, which it will! We will reflect, rest and care for each other and our mental health. We will rebuild our NHS even stronger to meet the needs of our population. What we must not do, is return to so called normal. This would be an insult to those who have given up so much.



## **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 2021. This year the AGMs will take place online due to Covid 19 restrictions.

It will still 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 your union please contact your branch.

## **Branch AGM Dates**

**Thursday 25th March 2021**

**10.30am - 11.30am**

**2.30pm - 3.30pm**

**6.30pm - 7.30pm**

Our AGM will be held via the **Zoom** online platform. **Zoom** is free to download on tablet or smartphone, or can be accessed at <https://zoom.us/>.

You can join the AGM on Zoom in a number of ways:

1. Click here: <https://bit.ly/2YqJr7C>
2. Join via the Zoom app (free to download)
3. Access the Zoom website: <https://zoom.us/>.

Join a Meeting

**Meeting ID: 835 9182 2757**  
**Passcode: AGM2021**



UNISON College have 550 Free E-learning courses available for

UNISON members. Check out the full list of courses here: <https://bit.ly/2KzKJXA>



NHS staff are giving their all.

They deserve a proper pay rise.

## **NHS Pay Rise - 2 Days for 2K**

UNISON, the biggest union in the NHS is calling for an immediate pay rise for all NHS workers. We have submitted a pay claim to the UK Government at Westminster calling for **all workers** to receive an increase of at least £2,000 before the end of the year. This is the equivalent of around £1 an hour for all staff. When we surveyed our members, 70% of our members said that a **£2,000** pay lift would make a 'substantial difference'. Your branch is playing a key role in advancing this campaign both at a regional level and at UK level. **Watch this space!**



For more information on **your pay** and our **No Going Back To Normal Campaign** join the AGM.

## **Free School Meals For All**

UNISON is campaigning for the delivery of universal nutritious free school meals for all children.

Regardless of household income. We know our members working in school catering do incredible work and we want to ensure they are both recognised and valued for the work they do. Food poverty is a real problem in our society and our politicians cannot talk about an anti-poverty strategy if we don't have free school meals for ALL school children.

We have started a petition calling on the NI Executive to provide universal free school meals.

Link to the online petition is here:

<http://chnq.it/ycDBDYHJ>



## **Branch News**

Since March 2020 the Mater Hospital has been designated as a Covid site resulting in relocation of some of our services and departments. UNISON has been given reassurances from the Trust that any such moves are on a temporary basis and will return when it is safe to do so.

UNISON reps have continued to represent members in disciplinary, grievance and sickness absence meetings. We have also been addressing issues coming from the Covid 19 pandemic such as safe staffing, redeployment, childcare and annual leave.

### **Atrium ATM**

UNISON members have contacted the Branch regarding the charge of fee for transactions when using the ATM in the Atrium. We have contacted the Trust who have told us they will liaise with the providers to have this changed in the near future. We look forward to this!

### **Support services migration to Band 2**

UNISON knows only too well that our industrial action last year remains incomplete. The branch has ensured that the removal of Band 1 and the migration of all Band 1 staff onto Band 2 remains a top priority. Our members in support services have been inspirational during this pandemic and we will ensure our members get pay justice for their commitment to the NHS and the job they do.

Log on to the **AGM** to get more information on these issues and more.

## **Membership Services**



UNISON members are entitled to a range of exclusive deals and discounts that we have negotiated with a number of suppliers.

[unison-ni.org.uk/membership-services](http://unison-ni.org.uk/membership-services)

## **BRANCH CONTACTS**

Branch Office:	02895041006
Branch Secretaries:	
Aine Brennan	07763583353
Tommy O'Halloran	07714393397
Regional Organiser:	Joe McCusker
J.mccusker@unison.co.uk	07775856286
Area Organiser:	Susan Neill
s.neill@unison.co.uk	07341563467
UNISON Direct -	0800 0857 857



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