

# North Eastern Education Branch AGM Newsletter 2021

## **NEEB Annual General Meeting**

*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 solidarity or welfare work, please contact your branch.

## **AGM Online Meeting Dates**

At each AGM there will be a raffle for anyone who joins the AGM online. Prizes—£100, £50 & £25 gift cards of your choice.

**Monday 8th February**

3.30pm-4.30pm

**Tuesday 9th February**

2.30pm-3.30pm & 7pm-8pm

**Wednesday 10th February**

3.30pm-4.30pm

**Thursday 11th February**

3.15pm-4.15pm & 7pm-8pm

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/36XyKNT>
2. Join via the Zoom app (free to download)
3. Access the Zoom website - <https://zoom.us/>

Join a Meeting

Meeting ID: 833 6155 5324  
Passcode: AGM2021

## **The NJC Pay Award for 2020-2021**

UNISON undertook a ballot of our members in Education and Local Government on the employers pay offer of an increase of 2.75% on all NJC pay points from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020. An increase of one day to the minimal annual leave entitlement and to begin discussions on “comprehensive joint national review of the workplace causes of stress and mental health”. The majority of our members balloted voted to accept the pay offer.

The 2021 NJC pay claim has been published and UNISON branches will consult with their membership.

We are also currently negotiating pay protection for all workers redeployed as a result of the new EA structures.

## **Free School Meals 4 All**



UNISON has established a Working Group comprised of reps from across health and education to take forward the development of a new campaign calling for universal free school meal provision for all children and young people.

**The campaign's objectives are:**

- Seeking universal nutritious free school 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 Covid-19 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.

We have started a petition calling on the NI Executive to provide universal free school meals. Further actions will follow before the New Year. Link to the online petition is here <http://chnq.it/ycDBDYHJ>

Not yet a UNISON Member? Join Today

Call membership on 028 9027 0190 or join online: [www.joinunison.org](http://www.joinunison.org)

## Mid & East Antrim Council

We have concluded negotiations with Mid & East Antrim Council on the standardisation and harmonisation of the terms and conditions of staff from the 3 legacy councils that now comprise M&EA Council.

Following months of negotiation, we have ensured that staff remain protected on the NJC Greenbook terms and conditions of employment. Negotiations are ongoing with Council on a redundancy policy.

## UNISON College



UNISON College have 550 Free E-learning courses available for UNISON members.

Check out the full list of courses here:

<https://bit.ly/2VtXPI6>

## Update Your Details/Draw

Check your membership status by checking your payslip for deductions or your bank for direct debit. If this is not up to date, then you may **NOT** be a UNISON member and you may miss out on branch draws which take place during the year.

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>

SCAN ME



## Response to Covid-19

As schools began to return in August after the lockdown and summer break, our key focus was ensuring that the return to school was done in a way that protected pupils and workers from harm. At times this has required us to publicly challenge the EA and Department of Education on inadequate guidance, poor consultation, and a failure to put in place measures to protect your health and safety with the necessary speed.

The *New School Day* Guidance published by the Department of Education in August (following the decision to reopen schools full-time, rather than part-time) raised more questions than answers for our members in catering, cleaning, transport and for classroom assistants. The Department gave trade unions less than 24 hours to respond to this draft guidance before its publication, showing complete disregard for their legal duties to consult.

It's been a tough few months for all our members. UNISON want to thank you sincerely for the work you've done. In the meantime we'll continue to push for improvements to government guidance to help make your workplace safer.

## North Eastern Education Branch Supporting our Members

Over the past year the North Eastern Branch has:

- Provided guidance to members on Health & Safety, Risk Assessments, PPE an much more.
- Held online meetings for members working in the Private Day Care Sector & Workplace members meeting.
- Provided ongoing advice and representation to members during Covid 19 restrictions facing disciplinarys and workplace issues.
- Resolved a number of issues raised by our membership working within the education sector such as cleaning, catering, transport, classroom support and admin.
- Represented our members at all Education Authority, voluntary grammars and integrated schools.

A full report on branch activity will be given at the AGM.

## Membership Services

### UNISON Welfare – 'There For You'

The Branch want to remind you to 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

Thompson's NI our specialist employment solicitors. For free legal advice and support on Personal injury and non-employment matters, contact: **0800 0857 857**

## Successful Branch Draws



10 Weeks of Summer

Gift Card Draws!



Covid Appreciation Draw  
within all workplaces!

## Have you been lucky this Year?

### Tough times don't last but tough teams do!

UNISON Members in Castletower Special School held a feel good Friday event.

Covid has brought so much anxiety and worries. Our stewards decided to remind colleagues that tough times don't last but tough teams do!



## NE Education Branch Contacts

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