

# North and West Belfast Health Branch AGM Newsletter 2024

## **Annual General Meeting 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. Please come along and bring a work colleague.

- Elect your representatives for another year
- Have your say in important work matters
- Hear what has been happening in your Branch
- Find out how you can become more

## **AGM Meeting Dates**

**Monday 4th March 2024**

**Beechhall HWBC, Conference Room 1  
11.00am - 1.30pm**

**Wednesday 6th March 2024**

**New Life Café Northumberland Street  
2.00pm - 4.00pm**

**Wednesday 6th March**

**7.00pm, On line via Zoom**



**Friday 8th March**

**Beechhall HWBC, Conference Room 1  
1.30pm - 4.00pm**

*Light refreshments will be available, and all attendees will be entered into a prize draw!*

## **OFFICIAL PICKET**

This has been a busy year for UNISON members who once again, have had to take strike action over their pay. 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 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.



## **AGM - Joining Online**

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/4aDv6pV>
2. Scan the QR code on a mobile or tablet
3. Access the Zoom website: <https://zoom.us/>.



Join a Meeting

**Meeting ID:** 842 0880 8990  
**Passcode:** AGM2024



UNISON College has 550 Free E-learning courses available for UNISON members. Check out the full list of courses here: <https://bit.ly/2KzKJXA>

## **Branch News**

Over the past year we have continued to meet with management raising concerns around safe staffing, health and safety, and modernisation of services. We have represented members at meetings including, grievances, disciplinaries and term-time applications. We attended rallies and demos throughout the year including International Women's Day, International Nurses Day and NHS Birthday.

Our membership within the private sector continues to grow. We've held members meetings and information stalls. We have been negotiating and advocating on behalf of members who have been treated unfairly.



We have been successful in getting members banding reviewed and pay upgraded through our Pay Max Campaign. More information on our **Agenda for Change Pay Max Campaign** will be available at the AGM.

Some of our priorities during 2024 are:

- **Pay - Continue with our Pay Campaign to ensure pay parity for our members.**
- **Protect the NHS and the services we provide.**
- **Enforce the correct AFC process and therefore improve outcomes for our members.**
- **Build our Steward base.**
- **Challenge any employer where our members rights are under attack.**

## **Update Your Details**

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. Please contact membership services on 028 90270190 to update your details or go to <https://www.unison-ni.org.uk/update-your-details>

## **Branch Contacts**

### **Branch Secretaries:**

Sarah Crossett 07432 679679  
Robert Ireland 07988 089730

### **Area Organiser**

Susan Neill 07341 563467

### **Regional Organiser**

Joe McCusker 07775 856286



**UNISON Nw-Belfast**

## **BECOME A UNISON REP**

- Challenge workplace issues
- Make your voice heard
- Offer advice and support

### **Interested in becoming a rep?**

To get more information and register your interest go to:

[www.unison-ni.org.uk/get-active-become-rep](http://www.unison-ni.org.uk/get-active-become-rep)

**UNISON**  
Northern Ireland



## **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)



## **Black and Migrant Workers**

UNISON has a dedicated network for Black and Migrant Workers. Please see *UNISON NI Migrant Workers page on Facebook* or contact [n.donnelly@unison.co.uk](mailto:n.donnelly@unison.co.uk) for further information.

Our group holds on-line monthly meetings and sends out regular e-bulletins to all Black & Migrant Worker members in our region. We offer free weekly English preparation classes in the Belfast office (IELTS and OET) and provide access to immigration advice via UNISON Direct (phone helpline 0800 0857857); or through monthly face-to-face appointments locally ([n.donnelly@unison.co.uk](mailto:n.donnelly@unison.co.uk))



## **LGBT+ Committee**

UNISON's LGBT+ committee has been busy this year attending Pride events across Northern Ireland including the 1st ever Pride in Causeway and the 30th Anniversary of Foyle Pride. Next year marks the year of the LGBT+ worker, if you would like to get involved or find out more information

## **Free School Meals For All**

Our Free School Meals For All campaign remains a priority for our branch. If you would like more information on the campaign or to get more involved, contact the branch.

