

Northern Health Branch AGM Newsletter 2023

Industrial Action

As you receive this newsletter, we will have already embarked on Industrial Action which began in December 2022. Our aim is to deliver safer levels of staffing and a decent pay rise. The backdrop of a cost-of-living crisis has exasperated how strongly you feel that a pay increase is vital.

We have been trying to ensure that we highlight that a pay rise is core to retaining staff and recruiting staff within the NHS. We have stood on the picket lines with you, we have given interviews to many media outlets including national press and we have been lobbying both your MLAs and the Westminster Government strongly and passionately on your behalf. We have already delivered the £1400 which should have been awarded last year to bring about pay parity with England, however this is not nearly enough.

We Want You!

As the largest branch in Northern Ireland, we need to grow to support you, and we are seeking likeminded individuals who believe they could help their colleagues.

Are you kind minded? If so, we need you! Full training and all details can be explained by attending your AGM or calling one of the branch officers listed on this newsletter.

You will receive extensive training, support and ongoing mentorship with a branch development officer.

AGM MEETING DATES

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 2023.

Some branch committee members will be out and about from the middle of February with some vouchers for various retail outlets. You just need to tell them the dates of your AGMs to win a voucher.

Monday 13th March

Zoom meeting

11am, 1pm, 3pm and 5pm Via Zoom see link below

Physical meeting

9am Meeting room Mid Ulster

Wednesday 15th March

All Physical Meetings

9am Meeting Room 1 Braid Valley

12 30 pm Ewart Room, Holywell

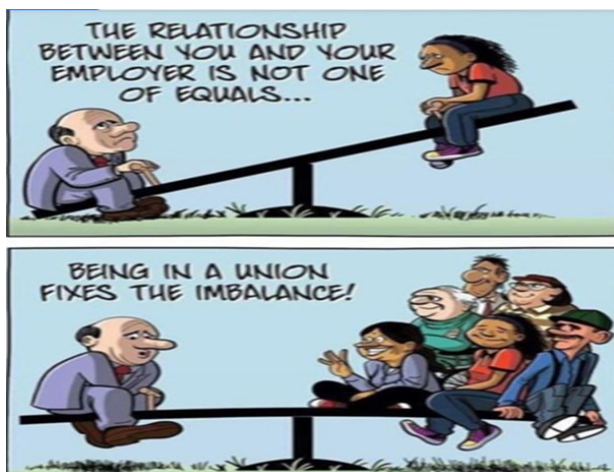
3pm Board Room, Whiteabbey

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

1. Click here: <https://bit.ly/3WhfLDx>
2. Scan the QR Code on a mobile or tablet
3. Access the Zoom website: <https://zoom.us/>
ID code 839 987 9781
Password agm2023



SCAN ME



NOT YET A UNISON MEMBER? JOIN TODAY!

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

Our Priorities for 2023 are:

- Protect our NHS Services.
- Secure a decent pay rise for all (leaving no-one behind).
- Enforce the correct AFC process and therefore improve outcomes for our members.
- To ensure our members' terms and conditions are implemented and enforced.
- Build our Steward base.
- Give back to our Branch members.

Job Evaluation Scheme

This is the nationally agreed, in partnership with NHS trusts and trade unions. UNISON Northern health has a number of trained practitioners within this specialism and also hold the Job Evaluation leads chair position for NHSCT trade union side. Your Branch is aware of current legacy issues and is working hard to get these issues resolved with senior management. We may need to take a trade dispute against the employer if these failings are not rectified soon.

Our allocation of these specific issues and requests are now streamlined and we have a trained, passionate and dedicated senior officer within our branch who will help, advise and intervene if needed. The aim of the JE scheme is to ensure proper pay for the work and responsibilities carried out. UNISON Northern Health is dedicated to fix all the problems we are aware of within this scheme and ensure we get this process back on track.

Trust Policies

The Branch would like all our members to note that a raft of new or updated policies have been added to the Trust Intranet page such as a new disciplinary policy, updated flexible working policy, updated special leave policy. We ask you to further note that the capability policy and the sickness absence management policy are currently being reviewed.

We urge all our members to make themselves familiar with the policies outlined above and we urge caution if you are asked to attend a meeting with management in relation to any of the aforementioned policies or procedures. Please be aware you should know what meeting you're going in to, what the discussion topic or terms of reference are for the meeting. It should be held in a confidential space and it is vitally important to remember that you have the right to be accompanied by a Trade Union representative.

WASPI Update

The aim of the WASPI Campaign which UNISON has been heavily involved in is to call on the government to agree fair and fast compensation for all women effected by the lack of notice regarding the changes to their pension age.

The ombudsman is currently reviewing thousands of pages of evidence, this should conclude in late March 2023, thereafter he will advise the Department of Working Pensions their findings. WASPI are planning a rally for early 2023. Please watch our UNISON Northern Health Facebook page for any updates on this event.

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 9027 0190**.

Did you know?

It's UNISON's 30th Birthday on the 1st of July (1993). 3 Unions – NUPE, NALGO and COHSE came together to form UNISON. Today we are the UK's biggest health union. Keep an eye on our social media page for celebratory events which will coincide with UNISON's Birthday.



Membership Services

Pensions

The branch will continue with the pension clinics provided in conjunction with Lighthouse Financial Services. Please watch our Facebook page for details and dates, or contact Lighthouse directly Gillian McGrath **07887788935** or email gillian.mcgrath@lighthousefa.co.uk

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/

Legal Advice

Thompson's NI - our specialist employment solicitors. For free legal advice and support contact **0800 0857 857**.

UNISON College

College offers over 700 different course topics to our members each year. Ranging from in person accredited learning to virtual and eLearning CPD modules. We offer E learning modules through the skills academy and Nursing times CPD Zone. These are fully funded for all UNISON members.

Additionally, we offer learning grants, funded places on K102 Open University modules, in person and virtual sessions.

Our sessions can be booked via our app or by emailing educationni@unison.co.uk You can access our education grants; eLearning modules and application forms and pre-recorded on our website www.unison-ni.org.uk

Branch Referral Line

For any new enquiries contact the Northern Health Branch Referral Number 07825411218. Please leave your Name, Number and Issue in a voicemail if the call is not answered and our Admin Support will call you back to gather more details.

Branch Officers

Chairpersons - *Stephanie Greenwood and Paul McGuckin*

Joint Branch Secretary - *Jean Getty, Fiona Kelly, Nicholas Shaw, Alison McConaghie*

Regional Staff

Regional Organiser – *Louise O'Hara - 07939107877*

Area Organiser - *Marianne Buick 07761750743*