

Northern Health Branch AGM Newsletter 2022

Thank You!

First and foremost we want to say a big thank you to all our members – not only have all of you given so much during the ongoing Covid Pandemic, worked tirelessly and sacrificed so much but you have done this willingly as Public Servants for the sake of your patients, clients and our families.

You have given more and more against a backdrop of ever- changing working conditions, ever changing PPE guidelines, social distancing regulations, working from home, additional and excessive hours, low pay and as services return – excessive workloads. You have been troubled by redeployments and we have been working with you to ensure you do not work outside your registration or are pressurised into working in areas you feel are unsafe for you. You have went above and beyond.

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 Online 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 2022.

Some branch committee members will be out and about from the 1st of March with some vouchers for various retail outlets. You just need to tell them the dates of your AGMs to win a voucher.

Monday 28th of March – 10am, 1pm and 7pm.

Tuesday 29th of March – 10am, 1pm and 7pm.

3 Meetings Daily

For those who register and attend you will be entered into a draw for £250!

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

1. Click here : <https://bit.ly/3AGogOR>
2. Scan the QR code on a mobile or tablet
3. Access the Zoom website: <https://zoom.us/>



SCAN ME

Join a Meeting

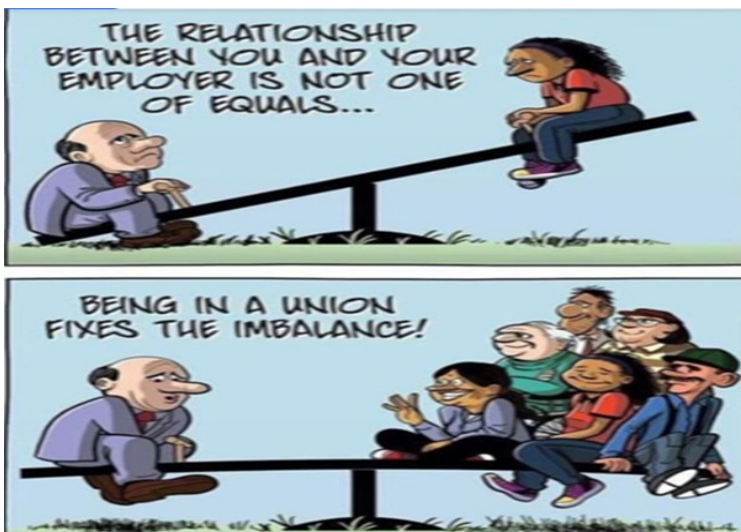
Meeting ID: 6211435269
Passcode: AGM2022

Regional Pay Campaign

At the time of this newsletter going to print, you will have received a 3% uplift which has been imposed on you from the government. In addition you will have been made aware that another uplift will be imposed on you.

This will depend on your grade and this is a non-consolidated payment. This means that this is 1 off payment. The Regional Healthcare Service Group which some of your officers sit on will be meeting to discuss this further, we also await the outcome of the UNISON consultative ballot. Your views must be incorporated into the actions going forward, this is why we encouraged you to complete your ballot paper and return it.

Your branches views are that the pay review body are out of touch with the reality of the cost of living and as they are currently a vital cog in the wheel that the government put too much reliance on before deciding what you are offered. We believe this structure must be removed. We would like to see a move to direct negotiations with unions and a three year funded pay structure progressed.



Not yet a UNISON Member? Join Today

Call membership on 028 9027 0190 or join online: www.joinunison.org

Our Priorities for 2022 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.
- Too ensure our members terms and conditions are implemented and enforced.
- Build our Steward base.
- Give back to our branch members.

AFC

Agenda for Change is also commonly known as Job Evaluation. This is the process you would use if you felt your job had changed significantly. Your UNISON Branch is aware of a number of challenges, issues and concerns that you have raised in relation to this process.

This is supported by a high number of grievances that our members have had to submit. It is our intention this year to make all of you aware of the correct process, in the coming months we will be issuing a copy of the JE Handbook. We want to promote a higher awareness to ensure a strong and robust and equitable process is adhered to.

Strengthening our NHS

Across the entire NHS approximately 1.7 billion pounds have been spent in the ¾ of 2020/2021 Financial year. UNISON, your union are engaging with Health Trusts to fill these vacancies on a permanent basis to bolster and strengthen our beloved NHS. Our NHS is temporary staff, UNISON feel agency members need transferred to NHS contracts now!

We continue to fight to secure permanent contracts for all our members and we are in discussions locally and regional at safe staff levels and workforce planning which has sadly been a miss, which is why you feel the pressures on your wards and departments.

WASPI

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 has ruled that it is maladministration so we await the government decision. For our members in UNISON Northern Health our Branch secretaries will continue to lobby on your behalf and keep you updated.

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** to update your details.

Membership Participation – Rainbow Kindness Campaign

Each month from March to September is represented by each colour of the rainbow we will be organising events that we want you our members to partake in. Each will have a theme related to your health and wellbeing, to supporting a charity, to give back to the elderly, lonely, our families or to give back to our communities.

We want all of you to join in. If you partake in any of events you go into a draw for the pot of gold (£1000) so join the fun and give back at the same time. We need you to watch notice boards, press, and our Facebook page and attend our AGM for more details.

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

UNISON offers a wide range of free courses for members and reps to support you in your professional, personal and community life. We also fund the Open University K102 module and support progression onto the OU nursing programme. OT students can join BAOT which gives you automatic membership of UNISON and access to all our services and education programme. Find out more at:

www.unison-ni.org.uk/education-and-training

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

Chairperson - *Stephanie Greenwood*
Joint Branch Secretary - *Lynn McGookin*
Joint Branch Secretary - *Jean Getty*
Joint Branch Secretary - *Fiona Kelly*
Joint Branch Secretary - *Nicholas Shaw*

Regional Staff

Regional Organiser Louise O'Hara 07939107877
Area Organiser Marianne Buick 07761750743