



RATHGAEL BRANCH AGM Newsletter 2022

Rathgael Branch AGM 2022

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 2022. 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 Meeting Date

Thursday 3rd March @ 2.30pm

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/3mWkMxp>
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: 81520533426
Passcode: AGM2022

Rathgael Branch Supporting our Members

Over the past year the branch has successfully:

- Raised numerous health & safety concerns around Covid-19
- Attended the joint health and safety committee
- Attended the local consultative committee
- Represented members in sickness, grievance and disciplinary matters
- A legal challenge has been mounted in regard to allowances which are lost when members take annual leave at weekends. Last year NICS made a slight adjustment to holiday payments however, we continue in pursuit of no detriment when taking annual leave.



Reps from the branch planning for the year ahead at the annual branch assessment

Update Your Details

Changed your name or moved house? Do we have your email address and current mobile number? If not you are missing out on important updates and information.

You can update your details using our online form by scanning the QR code below or by emailing:

NI-RMSTeam@unison.co.uk

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.

SCAN ME



For latest news follow our Facebook Page. Search: **Unison Northern Ireland**

NOT YET A UNISON MEMBER? JOIN TODAY!

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

Review of facilities for Children and Young People

UNISON submitted a detailed response to the consultation as part of the review. If you wish to see the document please ask a local rep. UNISON reps and officials met twice last year with the programme team overseeing the review. The meetings were constructive but there is still a lack of information on the workforce planning issues. We will continue to push for information and will ensure our members are fully supported and treated fairly through any change processes that might ensue.

Response to Covid-19

UNISON would like to thank all our members for their continued support and hard work as key workers during this very difficult time.

UNISON and the wider public recognise and appreciate the support and in some cases the comfort regularly provided by our members.

We send our sincere condolences to those who have suffered loss throughout the pandemic.

Once again thank you and remember please Stay Safe.

Membership Services

Pensions

Free pension advice is available to members. Contact Lighthouse directly Gillian McGrath **07887788935** or email gillian.mcgrath@lighthousefa.co.uk

UNISON Welfare – ‘There For You’

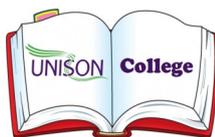
The Branch want to remind you to use this service which is free to all UNISON members and is there for you at times of difficulty and crisis. For full details please see UNISON's website www.unison.org.uk/get-help/

Legal Advice

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

UNISON College

Download our new Education App. Register an account at www.unisoncollegeni.org.uk and book and cancel courses with ease.



UNISON offers a range of free workshops for members including topics such as dementia, palliative care, autism, mindfulness, interview skills, wound care, clinical effectiveness, communication skills, medications, effective management and suicide awareness. We also offer the Open University K101 Introduction to Health and Social Care in partnership with the Trust and provide support to access the nursing programme. For those interested in studying outside of work, there are educational bursaries available. To find out more check out <https://www.unison-ni.org.uk/education-and-training> or contact EducationNI@unison.co.uk.

The Open University K102 Introduction to Health & Social Care & Pre-Reg Nursing Programme (Adult, Mental Health, Learning Disability & Children's)

UNISON is delighted to now be able to offer members in Rathgael branch the chance to apply for funded places on this program. This is by agreement with the employer and allows paid time out of work to complete the study skills part of the course. For further details:

<https://www.unison-ni.org.uk/education-and-training>



Free School Meals For 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;

In March 2021, UNISON NI launched the 'All We Need is Lunch' Art Competition as part of the wider Free School Meals campaign. Letters and materials were sent to every school and youth organisation in NI encouraging them to engage with children and young people on the issue of free schools meals, and asking them to support them to use the visual arts to explore what school meals means to them. It was a huge success with nearly 2000 entries. We now have a mountain of material from the entries to continue our campaign.

BRANCH CONTACTS

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Branch Secretary

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