

ONE UNISON VOICE



Newsletter of Salisbury Health Branch

February 2019

Your Branch, Your Say

You are cordially invited to the Annual General Meeting of Salisbury Health Branch of UNISON which will be taking place on:

Wednesday 20th February 2019

In Meeting Room One, Salisbury Methodist Church (enter through the front glass doors), St Edmund's Church Street, Salisbury, SP1 1EF

Starting at 6.15pm, finishing no later than 7.30pm

If you cannot make the above meeting, there are also meetings that you can come to in Meeting Room 2, Admin Block 24 (at the end of the old south corridor), Salisbury District Hospital at **12.30pm** on -

Wednesday 20th February
and
Thursday 21st February

What is the Annual General Meeting?

The AGM is your opportunity to elect your branch officers for the coming year.

Your branch officers are the senior representatives of your local group of members of our union and when elected they have a responsibility to work on your behalf on the Branch Committee for the following

year.

The branch officer positions that are up for election this year are:

Chair & Vice Chair
Secretary & Assistant Secretary
Treasurer
Health and Safety
Education Co-ordinator (union activist training)
Lifelong Learning Co-ordinator
Welfare
Equalities—
*Lesbian & Gay & Transgender**,
*Black**,
Disabled, Women**,
Communications
International
Membership
Environmental
*Young members**

*Retired members **

*Labour Link **

Auditors

** Please note that those posts marked with*



(Continued from page 1)

an asterisk have some restrictions about eligibility for nomination.

You can apply to become a branch officer by submitting a nomination form, signed by two other branch members, at least a week in advance of the meeting (please contact the Branch Secretary for a form). Where no advance nominations are received for a post they are then invited from the floor at the meeting. An election will be held for any contested positions at the AGM meeting or by membership ballot.

The AGM is your opportunity to hold your officers to account for what they have done since they were last elected and to set the priorities and policy for your branch for the year ahead.

The AGM also receives a report on how the Branch Committee has used its share of our union's finances over the last year and gives updates on activity and recruitment and organisation.

Access

If you need any assistance in getting to, or accessing, the AGM please contact the Branch

Secretary in advance of the meeting. There is free parking after 6pm in the nearby Salt Lane Car Park and the church is walkable distance from bus stops in the city centre.

Please note that if you are attending either of the additional meetings in Admin Block 24 at SDH that you will need to use the access key pad next to the main doors to gain access to the block, the meeting room is then at the bottom of the corridor on the right.

Motions

Please do submit a motion if there is a collective issue or policy that you feel strongly about or if you wish the union to take up and any campaigns that you think we should run. You are encouraged to submit motions for debate and discussion at the meeting. A good union branch is one which has an active and healthy democracy.

Do please be aware that for individual case matters you should raise them in the normal fashion via your accredited local representative, or if you have any issues or complaints about specific representation issues

from the branch or our representatives then you should raise them in accordance with UNISON's complaints procedure (please contact the Branch Secretary for information).

Branch rules

Copies of the existing branch rules are available on request from the Branch Secretary, or are posted on UNISON's hospital intranet page.

Important deadlines

The deadline for receipt of advance nominations for Branch Officer posts and submission of motions or rule amendments is **13th February 19.**

Conduct at the AGM

We want the AGM to be a friendly and comradely experience and all members attending the meeting will be asked to conduct themselves according to UNISON's 'Working Together Guidelines', copies of which are available from the Branch Secretary in advance.

I look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

Mark Wareham,
Branch Secretary

The Fight Against the Subco Proposal Continues

From Mark Wareham, Senior Steward

As highlighted in the last branch newsletter in October last year, our branch continues to lead opposition to the NHS Trust proposal to set up a subsidiary company for its Estates, Procurement and Facilities services. In November last year Trust management agreed to pause their work on plans to set up a new subco following advice from NHS Improvement who then issued new Regulations that Trusts must pass to set up such companies in future.

Since the new Regulations were introduced, Trust management have informed us that they are not in a position to either drop their plans or to progress them and in order for us to delay having to launch a formal strike ballot (which members instructed us to do in a ballot of 96% in favour on a 70% turnout) so we have agreed that the Trust will give us at least 12 weeks notice if they do eventually decide to set up a subco. I have impressed on management the need for them to have either dropped the proposal, or agreed to additional protections of pay and conditions, to avoid us going deeper into dispute on this matter and I have called on them to launch new consultation on the basis of more detailed proposals that would be needed to meet the expectations of the NHSI Regulations in due course.

So for now we await developments and in the meantime I have been keeping members in the relevant services at the hospital up to date via e-mail and local departmental stewards.

Branch of the Year 2019



nothing worries him more than the concept of moving cleaning, catering and portering staff out of direct NHS control and into a separate organisation. He said that such workers are integral to any NHS hospital and are not 'subsidiary' in any way. He said that despite this though, he said UNISON comes into its

Your branch, UNISON Salisbury Health, was presented with the South West Region Branch of the Year award at the Get Active Event on 25th January at Somerset cricket Club in Taunton. Branch Chair, Zara Salisbury, and Branch Secretary, Mark Wareham are pictured above receiving the award from UNISON's Regional Secretary, Joanne Kaye.

In giving the award Joanne made reference to the branch's extraordinary success in growing by about 14% in 2018 and the brilliant campaign against the proposed NHS Trust subsidiary company (which continues—see page 2). She noted that it was one of the union's smaller branches in the region, but despite that fact it maintains an excellent presence both locally and in regional and national democracy, participating in most conferences and supporting campaigns and events. Joanne also made reference to the hard work of branch members in the events in Salisbury in 2018 in what was a challenging year at the hospital and in the community.

Receiving the award Zara thanked region for the accolade and paid special tribute to Branch Secretary,

Mark Wareham without whom, she said, the branch couldn't do most of the things that it does.

Mark also spoke and thanked all his fellow branch activists and paid special tribute to long serving stalwarts of the branch who he said give him great support including Zara Salisbury, Sheila McQueen and Anne Marie Fitton. He went on to speak of the challenges that UNISON activists face in organising in south Wiltshire, but he said that 2018 gave activists like him added incentive to fight on for justice in the workplace particularly in the face of the NHS Trust's appalling subco proposal. He said that

own when campaigning and that he had tongue in cheek told management that he thanked them for boosting our membership and organisation at the hospital and that has now helped us win the branch of the year award.



WHO'S WHO IN THE BRANCH

Chair & Young members—
Zara Salisbury

Secretary & membership—
Mark Wareham

*Treasurer—*Sheila McQueen

*Vice Chair & Lifelong
Learning—*Anne Marie Fitton

*Women members & Labour
Link—*Caroline Corbin

*Equality & Disabled
members—*Mehdi Belbahi

*Black members & Health and
safety—* Denis Bangura

*Retired members—*Dianne
Bartlam

UNISON, Staff Side Office,
Admin Block 25, Salisbury
District Hospital, Salisbury,
Wiltshire, SP2 8BJ

Tel—01722 336262 x 2452
or 07503 448318

e-mail—

[mark.wareham@
salisbury.nhs.uk](mailto:mark.wareham@salisbury.nhs.uk)

UNISON's website -

<http://www.unison.org.uk/>

Demanding Fair Treatment for our EU Colleagues

Branch Secretary, Mark Wareham, took time at the UNISON membership and campaign stall at Salisbury District Hospital in November last year to highlight the work that UNISON is doing to support the '3 Million' campaign that is fighting to protect the rights of EU citizens living in the UK as a result of our exit from the EU. Mark (on the right) is pictured with Stephane Guegan, who is active in the 'Love our EU staff' campaign at the hospital, holding a copy of the advice leaflet that UNISON has produced for members about the government's Settled Status status that citizens of the EU will have to have applied for before the end of 2021 to continue living and working in the UK.



Deadline date for next issue— end of May 2019

Edited by: Mark Wareham

This newsletter is published by SALISBURY HEALTH BRANCH UNISON

The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of UNISON, the branch or the editor.

It is in all our interests that we have a strong union. The more members we have the better job we can do. Why not encourage colleagues to join? Please do give them the slip below and advise them to drop us a line. Thank you.

Everyone needs a helping hand at work sometimes.

Joining UNISON — Britain's public service union— gives you a voice that's heard. So from negotiating better pay and conditions to supporting you in cases of grievance or disciplinary action, advice on health and safety or education and training, your UNISON branch is there to help. And it offers a great range of extra membership benefits too.

Join **UNISON** — altogether a better union.

To join contact your UNISON rep

See above

UNISON *direct*

Or call the UNISON recruitment hotline **0800 0 857 857**

UNISON
Salisbury Health Branch