

# ONE UNISON VOICE



Newsletter of Salisbury Health Branch

February 2020

## Your Branch Annual General Meeting

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

**Wednesday 19th February 2020**

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**

### **What is the Annual General Meeting?**

The AGM is your opportunity to hear about what your branch has been doing on your behalf for the last year and to elect your local representatives, such as branch officers, for the coming year. Your branch officers are the senior representatives of your local part 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 & Bisexual and Transgender+\*, Black & Ethnic Minority\*, Disabled\*, Women\*, Communications  
International  
Membership  
Environmental  
Young members\*  
Retired members\*  
Labour Link\*  
Auditors*

*\* Please note that those posts marked with an asterisk have some restrictions about eligibility for nomination.*

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 then they are 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 receive reports from branch officers elected in 2019 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.

You will also receive a report on the Branch Committee

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You can apply to become a branch officer by submitting a nomination form, signed by

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proposals for workplace representation for the year ahead and to challenge anything that you disagree with.

We will also be electing our delegate to our national conference at this meeting, considering motions for that conference and considering the branch nomination for the upcoming Health Care Service Group Elections.

### **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.

### **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 **12th February 2020**.

### **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

## **Thank you Sheila**

At our Branch General Meeting in October, former steward and Treasurer Sheila McQueen



was presented with an engraved decanter set by the Branch Committee as a mark of thanks for her service to the branch and union. Sheila retired from her job as a Medical Records Assistant in September and therefore stepped down from her steward and Treasurer roles, functions that she has performed for a few years. Thankfully however Sheila is intending remaining active with the branch through our retired members section. Pictured with Sheila are Branch Officers Zara Salisbury (Chair) and Denis Bangura (Black Members), with Mark Wareham behind the camera (Branch Secretary).

# Report from the British Association of Occupational Therapists / UNISON stewards conference 2019

*BAOT are technically a separate union with a partnership arrangement with UNISON whereby BAOT members are also UNISON members and we work together on industrial matters. BAOT stewards are also UNISON stewards accredited by our local membership and this report from the conference late last year will be of interest to all members.*

By Mehdi Belbahi, delegate from UNISON Salisbury Health branch

This year our BA OT Unison seminar was held in Warwick University in November. The seminar provided an important forum for OT stewards to come together to participate in training, workshops, and to discuss employment and professional issues of relevance and importance to BA OT members. It also provided an opportunity for networking with other OT stewards across the U.K. and share ideas and plans for each Regional BAOT Forum to take forward over the coming year.

This first day started with looking at NHS pay. This was a very interesting session and collective thought on the impact of the three-year pay deal so far. We then looked at building a pay claim for 2021.

After that we had a session on NHS job evaluation (JE) which gave an overview of the NHS and JE scheme and how the scheme is governed. We were able to look at the process of job matching to national profiles and the importance of up to date job descriptions.

Finally, we looked at UNISON's "Earnings max" campaign, which is a campaign to ensure that all members are receiving their contractual entitlements and in particular we looked at how to launch a banding appeal.

The second day started with tackling bullying and harassment. This was an activity session related to how to understand bullying in the workplace and how to involve the wider workforce to challenge it.

After that we focused on UNISON's learning programme, by exploring how programmes can be helpful in moving members from learning to activism.

We then had a very interactive session regarding CBT techniques to prevent workplace stress which was designed to help busy workplace stewards who are juggling the union work alongside the day job. Evidence-based individual strategies to help reduce and prevent work with place and competition fatigue was explored and discussed which were really beneficial in terms of using the strategies in everyday life.

The seminar then concluded on raising the profile of occupational therapy. This session focused on the Royal College of Occupational Therapies campaign "Small changes, Big impact" celebrating the small changes occupational therapists can make that have a big impact on the people they support.

This was great event to attend and I'd like to say thank you to the branch for supporting me in attending. If any members

would like more information, have any queries regarding BAOT-UNISON membership or have any concerns at work please contact me at—  
[mehdi.belbahi@nhs.net](mailto:mehdi.belbahi@nhs.net)

## There for You

*There for You is UNISON's charity to support members when life gets tough.*

If you are experiencing financial or emotional difficulties, you can access free confidential advice and support from your Branch Welfare Officer, Clare Christopher.

If you have an unexpected crisis that means you are struggling with money, Clare can help you apply to There for You for financial assistance.

She can also help with applications for essential household goods and electrical items such as cookers, washing machines, beds, floor coverings etc.

There for You also provides winter fuel grants (Dec-Feb) and school uniform grants (May-July) for low income members. The charity also offers wellbeing breaks to those for whom a break would usually be out of reach.

For more information please contact Clare via [salisburybwo@gmail.com](mailto:salisburybwo@gmail.com)

## WHO'S WHO IN THE BRANCH

**Chair** —  
Zara Salisbury

**Secretary & membership**—  
Mark Wareham

**Treasurer**—Anne Marie  
Fitton

**Equality**—Chris Webb

**Women members & Labour  
Link**—Caroline Corbin

**Disabled members**—Mehdi  
Belbahi

**Black members & Health and  
safety**— Denis Bangura

**Welfare**—Clare Christopher

**Retired members**—Dianne  
Bartlam & Sheila McQueen

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@  
nhs.net  
UNISON's website -  
<http://www.unison.org.uk/>

## Upcoming UNISON Events

Please let us know if you are interested in attending any of these conferences / events -

- **Safe Staffing Forum**  
3rd March 2020  
Warwick University

- **International Seminar**  
6th to 8th March 2020  
Croyde Bay, Devon

- **Young Members  
(under 27) Weekend**  
1st to 3rd May 2020  
Glasgow

- **National Delegate  
Conference**

16th to 19th June 2020  
Brighton

- **Retired Members  
Conference**  
13th to 14th October 2020  
Bournemouth

- **Disabled Members  
Conference**  
24th to 26th October 2020  
Brighton

- **Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual  
and Transgender  
Conference**  
13th to 15th November 2020  
Liverpool

### EU-Exit—Settled Status

Are you an EU citizen looking for help with a Settled Status, UNISON can help. For further information visit this weblink - <https://www.unison.org.uk/news/article/2019/11/settled-status-unison-can-help/>  
Or contact the Branch Secretary (see page 4).

### 2020 Diaries and A3 wall calendars

We still have a small number of slimline UNISON diaries and A3 wall calendars available to members on a first come first served basis whilst stocks last. Please contact the Branch Secretary if you would like one.

*Deadline date for next issue—end of April 2020*

*Edited by: Mark Wareham*

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*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.

**Everyone needs a helping hand at work sometimes.**

**Joining UNISON — Britain's biggest 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**

