

ONE UNISON VOICE



Newsletter of Salisbury Health Branch

February 2024

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:

Tuesday 27th February 2024

In Meeting Room 5, Salisbury Methodist Church, St Edmunds Church Street, Salisbury and also via Teams online conferencing

Please contact the Branch Secretary (see page 4) for a weblink to join the meeting

What is the Annual General Meeting?

The AGM is your opportunity to decide who your union representatives will be for the for the year ahead. We elect your Branch Officers and accredited workplace reps (e.g. stewards and safety reps) every year.

Your branch officers are the senior representatives of the local organisation of our union and they have a responsibility to work on your behalf on the Branch Committee for the following year managing member engagement, organisation, resources, strategy, policy, recruitment, communications and representational arrangements.

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 inc. Lesbian & Gay 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.*

You can apply in advance to become a branch officer by submitting a nomination form, signed by two other branch members, by **20th February** (please contact the Branch Secretary for a form). Where no advance nominations are received then a vacancy is open to volunteers from the floor at

the meeting on 27th February. An election will be held for any contested positions at the AGM meeting or by a ballot of the whole membership depending on the role.

The AGM is your opportunity to hear what your officers have been doing on your behalf 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 it's share of our union's finances over the last year and gives updates on other activity and recruitment and organisation.

Access

If you need any assistance in accessing the AGM please contact the Branch Secretary in advance of the meeting.

Motions

You are encouraged to submit a motion if there is an issue or policy that you feel strongly

(Continued on page 2)



(Continued from page 1)

about and that you wish the union to take up or about any campaigns that you think we should run. You can submit motions for debate and discussion at the meeting by sending the text to the Branch Secretary by **20th February**.

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

The AGM may consider amendments to our branch rules and copies of the existing branch rules are available on request from the Branch Secretary, or are posted on UNISON's hospital intranet page. Proposals for any changes to be sent to the Branch Secretary by **20th February**.

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.

This year we will not be meeting physically due to the pandemic measures still ongoing and we will do our best to facilitate a decent meeting despite the unusual circumstances.

I look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

Mark Wareham,
Branch Secretary

Donation to Medical Aid for Palestinians

Our branch recently made a donation of £500 to MfP in line with a national appeal by the union. MaP works to provide medical assistance to citizens in the West Bank and Gaza as well as in refugee camps in Lebanon.



UNISON have designed 2024 as our year of LGBTQ+ workers. Writing last year, our General Secretary Christina McAnea said: "As a proud ally to the LGBT+ community, I'm concerned about the rise of LGBT+ hate crime and hate speech. The lack of progress in protecting LGBT+ people against abhorrent practices like conversion therapy is deeply troubling."

"The UK's reputation on LGBT+ equality has taken a dive since the Tories took power in 2010. Each year, ILGA Europe

releases the Rainbow Map which ranks countries from 0 to 100% on different criteria from discrimination and harassment, family rights, hate crime and hate speech. Up until 2015, the UK topped the list. Last year, UK's position plummeted to 14th, dropping 11% in the index. Our position has worsened again this year – we've dropped to 17th position and it's shameful. According to ILGA Europe, the UK's position continues to decline because of the rise of hate crime against LGBT+ people, the failure to ban

conversion therapy, the lack of progress on modernising the gender recognition act and the rise of anti-trans rhetoric in mainstream news and politics."

For our LGBT+ members, it is truly terrifying and that's why UNISON is taking action. Equality is at the heart of everything we do and I'm proud of what UNISON has achieved on progressing LGBT+ rights. And there are lots of exciting LGBT+ campaign activities you can get involved in. So why not contact us to find out more."

We are One Team!

Branch activists, employees and members celebrated the NHS One Team on 15th November last year. At a union stall in Springs Restaurant at Salisbury District Hospital we promoted the fact that the NHS, and other health services, is not just about nurses and doctors, although they are very important, but a range of other jobs and professionals including administrative and facilities staff.

Our union prides itself that not only are we the biggest union in the UK, but that we bring together workers from across the NHS Team into one union and that we work for fair treatment of all of those workers regardless of profession and service.



Dates for the Diary
1st May 2024—Labour Day

Sunday 21st July 2024—
Tolpuddle trade union
festival, Tolpuddle, Dorset



UNISON is currently supporting the national NHS Job Evaluation Group (JEG) to review nursing and midwifery profiles to ensure they are fit for purpose. We are also launching campaigns in branches to organise nurses and midwives collectively to ensure you are graded right.



OUR WORKERS' RIGHTS ARE UNDER ATTACK AGAIN

Our Branch Secretary, Mark Wareham, joined fellow trade unionists at a demonstration in Cheltenham on Saturday 27th January to protest against government attacks on the right to strike. The Tory government want to introduce legal minimum service levels in certain industries to undermine the ability for some workers to join legal strike action. UNISON General Secretary, Christina McAnea said that such laws were totally unnecessary and a further erosion of workers rights. Public and Civil Services Union General Secretary, Mark Serwotka, promised legal action against the erosion of fundamental human rights of their members.



WHO'S WHO IN THE BRANCH

Chair —
Amy Emmens

Secretary & membership—
Mark Wareham

*Vice Chair, Treasurer, Health
& Safety and Black
Members—*Denis Bangura

*Women members & Labour
Link—*Caroline Corbin

*Welfare—*Clare Christopher

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

Upcoming UNISON Events

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

South West Region Get Active event, Taunton
17th and 18th May

National Delegate Conference
13th to 16th June
Liverpool

Retired Members

3rd to 4th October
Edinburgh

Disabled Members
28th to 30th October
Edinburgh

LGBT+ Members
10th to 12th November
Liverpool

Young Members
24th to 26th November

2024 Diaries and A3 Wall Calendars

We still have a limited number of diaries and calendars available for members. Please contact the Branch Secretary if you would like one.



Deadline date for next issue—end May 2024

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.

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**

