

UNISONnews

inside

- Your invite to our Annual General Meeting
- UNISON – There For You
- Winter Fuel Grant
- Integrated Care Systems
- UNISON Travel Club
- An impending BREXIT
- Eco-friendly Christmas
- NHS Long Service Awards
- A Members Experience
- The big recruit-a-friend prize draw
- Our AGM agenda

The General Election is on the 12th December, don't forget to use your vote!

2020 Annual General Meeting

Your invitation to the Annual General Meeting for 2020, along with details of how to apply for Branch positions can be found on the back page of this newsletter. As many of you know we cover a large geographic area within the footprint of our Branch, from Barnsley, Doncaster and Sheffield in South Yorkshire through to Wakefield, Halifax, Huddersfield and Todmorden in West Yorkshire. To hopefully enable more of you to attend the AGM, whilst doing our bit to reduce our carbon footprint, we are trying something a little new for 2020 and doing a split site meeting.

The Annual General Meeting is a UNISON rule book requirement, and the meeting is open to all our members, including retired and unemployed members. Our meeting has a number of purposes, such as electing the Branch Officials

and Representatives for the year ahead, and reviewing and adopting the Branch Annual Organising Framework, which is our annual plan and objectives including our yearly budget.

There are certain functions the branch has to carry out, which can include but is not exclusive to, representing members, promoting equality, recruiting new members and negotiating with the employers. However this meeting is also an opportunity for the branch committee to hear member's feedback and ideas. It is your chance to have your say and it would be very useful if you could come along to a meeting and let us know what exactly you would like to see from your branch. There are many other activities we can provide, such as our branch trips, our giveaway's and training opportunities. Tell us what you want to see. Make sure your

voice is heard. We are here to provide what you need.

A buffet style light lunch will be provided at each of our split site meetings. You can go to any meeting, but you can only vote once.

For your convenience a nomination form for any of the Branch Positions along with a stamped addressed envelope is provided with this newsletter. Should you wish to discuss any position you may be interested in further, please contact Branch Secretary Elaine Shelton on 01924 316161 or email Elaine.Shelton@swyt.nhs.uk.



UNISON 'There for you'

Did you know that your UNISON branch has a Welfare Officer to help give advice and support regarding unexpected financial difficulties?

Our Welfare Officer, Anne Grace, can help you access UNISON's Welfare Charity, There For You, which can provide both confidential advice and some financial support for members and their dependants.

The charity allocates individual grants to provide immediate support for those needing financial assistance for anything from emergency fuel and food, transport costs to attend hospital appointments, money to prevent homelessness, help with disability adaptations, small grants to ensure children return to school wearing the correct uniforms and winter fuel grants. These are only a few examples of what is available. Many members experience a variety of financial and emotional difficulties in their lives and UNISON is 'There for You'.

The welfare team deals with enquiries from members who may be struggling to meet day to day living costs, due to a number of reasons e.g. health

issues that have kept them off work, relationship breakdown or bereavement.

UNISON can give you advice on how credit unions can assist you with loans and savings, and provide wellbeing breaks for members who are suffering illness, have caring responsibilities, or who have not been able to take a holiday away at all for a number of years due to financial constraints.

During 2018, the charity

continued to deliver critical support on a daily basis, spending £458,914 on helping to alleviate hardship.

there
for you

supporting UNISON members
when life gets tough



there
for you

supporting UNISON members
when life gets tough

UNISON members struggling through an unexpected crisis can get help from 'there for you' by:-

- ☑ Contacting their Branch Welfare Officer
- ☑ Calling us on 020 7121 5620

You can also find out more information by visiting our website

www.unison.org.uk/get-help/help-with-problems-at-home/there-for-you/

Registered charity number 1023552

UNISON
the public service union

- Financial assistance
- Debt advice
- Wellbeing breaks
- Support & information

Please make sure our members are aware of the help that is available in these difficult times.

TO ACCESS SUPPORT

Contact your local branch welfare officer Anne Grace on 01924 316936.

For debt advice you can call Freephone 0800 389 3302. Go to the UNISON website unison.org.uk and visit the 'Get Help' section. Call UNISON Direct on 0800 0857 857 or There for You national team on 0207 121 5620 or email: thereforyou@unison.co.uk

Winter Fuel Grants for low income UNISON members – Get help staying warm this winter

With rising fuel costs and another cold winter ahead many members are worried about how they're going to pay this year's winter fuel bills.

Help will be on hand!

'There for You' set up a limited fund to help UNISON members on low income by way of a

one-off payment of up to £60 each year.

This offer usually opens in early December so we do not have the full details as yet so keep an eye on your emails for details of when this offer opens.

If you do not receive emails

from us but would like to, please get in touch with us on 01924 316161 or unison@swyt.nhs.uk so we can set this up for you.

Alternatively keep peeking at our national site unison.org.uk/thereforyou where the applications will be opening soon.

Integrated Care Systems within the Branch Area

Within our geographic area there are two Integrated Care Systems (ICS) South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw and West Yorkshire and Harrogate.

What is an ICS?

ICS's are a collective of NHS Organisations, Local Councils, CCG's and the Voluntary sector who work in partnership to provide coordinated care across a geographic area, and take collective responsibility for managing resources whilst delivering NHS standards and improving the health and wellbeing

of the population they serve.

Your UNISON branch work's in partnership with both ICS to ensure our members Terms and Conditions of employment are not forgotten about in any new proposals about how services could be delivered in our area.

Further information for ICS's can be found at:

South West Yorkshire and Bassetlaw [www.england.nhs.uk/integratedcare/integrated-care-systems/south-yorkshire-](http://www.england.nhs.uk/integratedcare/integrated-care-systems/south-yorkshire-and-bassetlaw-ics)

[and-bassetlaw-ics](http://www.england.nhs.uk/integratedcare/integrated-care-systems/west-yorkshire-and-harrogate-ics)

West York and Harrogate www.england.nhs.uk/integratedcare/integrated-care-systems/west-yorkshire-and-harrogate-ics

If you have any concerns with regards to the function of the ICS's in your area, or hear of any suggestion of contract changes in your employment linked to the work of the ICS, please contact the branch with the details of your concern so we can ensure the correct advice and or support is provided.

Did you know that UNISON offers free legal services?

As a UNISON member, you receive free legal advice and assistance for:

- Employment law (Please contact your branch first regarding this)
- Personal injury – at or away from work, on holiday or on the roads
- Serious injury at work – including brain injuries and spinal cord injuries
- Industrial disease or illness
- Basic will writing and reduced rates for more complex wills and conveyancing
- Defending work related criminal allegations
- Free initial legal advice on any non-work issue. This service entitles you to receive up to 30-minutes of telephone advice. This must relate to you personally and not a family member. The scheme does not cover general financial advice.





BREXIT

A word we have heard far too often but what does it mean for you?

Brexit is still on the cards and if this affects you UNISON could help.

With the uncertainty of the UK leaving the EU, many members, who are EU citizens or who have family members who are EU citizens are still worried about their status after Brexit.

UNISON provides free immigration telephone advice to members who have come to work in the UK from a country outside the UK. Working with the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants (JCWI) to provide this support.

If you have been a member of UNISON for more than four weeks and need immigration advice and information, please call UNISON Direct at 0800 0 857 857.

When calling UNISON Direct, please be ready to give your full name, contact phone number and your UNISON membership number if you have it handy.

UNISON Travel Club

UNISON Travel Club offer members of UNISON access to a wide range of exclusive offers on holidays and cruises.



As an approved partner of UNISON, you can be assured of great quality exclusive deals, which will genuinely save you money, as well as an excellent level of service from knowledgeable travel experts.

Whether you want to beat the British weather, beat the crowds or beat a path to the beach, they can find the perfect getaway for you. With a huge range of amazing holidays to all your favorite holiday hotspots and to plenty of

dream destinations too.

There's something for every taste and budget including family deals and indulgent escapes, cruises and city breaks, and much, much more.

Their Travel Experts have a whole world of holiday deals at their fingertips and will make it easy for you to choose, plan and book your perfect holiday and to find the very best deals too.

Happy Holidays!

UNISON Benefits

www.benefits.unison.org.uk

Every one of our members has their own reason for joining the union, but they all receive all the benefits, help and support we can offer. We're always looking out for you when you're at work, but there's much more to life. So UNISON Living is here to help you get the most from your own time too.





Go Green this Christmas!

We're calling on our members to take urgent action to tackle climate change this festive season by making more sustainable choices and reducing waste. Here are our top tips for a greener Christmas:

Why not **hire a Christmas tree?**

More and more garden centres and nurseries, now offer this service. Often they'll deliver and collect it for you. As it's a live tree it'll be able to keep on growing the rest of the year. If you do buy a tree, look for the FSC or Soil Association logo to ensure its sustainably grown.

When Christmas is over, **try recycling your tree**, most councils have collection points where you can leave your tree.

The trees are shredded, then used as mulch on plants in parks, on woodland paths or rotted down for compost.

Artificial trees aren't the most environmentally friendly (the best option being a rooted tree), but if you have one don't throw it out, donate it to charity or put it on a site like Freecycle or Gumtree for someone else who needs it.

You can help reduce your impact on the environment by **cutting down on meat**. There are all kinds of alternative options available in the shops and lots of vegetarian and vegan recipes online. If you like your meat, **choose organic** and free-range.

Try to support small-scale farming wherever possible. Organic and vegan wines are the most sustainable options to wash food down with.

Bins are traditionally overflowing after the Christmas period, so when shopping, perhaps try to choose things that are **light on packaging**, or loose. Try not to cook more than you will eat, and if you do have **leftovers** use them to make some exciting new meals. It'll save money and reduce waste. You can even freeze leftovers – or donate them to a vulnerable neighbour, food bank or shelter.



A lot of **wrapping paper** contains plastic so maybe just

use brown parcel paper instead – you can add your own flourishes or even try making your own festive print using potatoes. Why not wrap your small gifts in a scarf this year, it makes for some quirky packaging and is also an added bonus gift in itself!

Every year we throw away 1.5 billion Christmas cards – if you receive one, make sure you recycle them after the holiday. You could even save the front of small cards to make gift tags for next year.

What about sending an online card? They cut your carbon footprint, save trees

and save money.

You can even make festive travel greener by **sharing lifts** with friends and family. Use **public transport** or **shop online** and get bulk deliveries where possible.

Get inspired this Christmas – it'll help the environment, and save you money!

As our own eco resolution we are looking at changing some of our freebies to more environmentally friendly options for the New Year too so watch this space and have a great festive season, however you spend it.



You never know what is round the corner and we are there to support you.

Here is a member's personal experience of how UNISON can help.

I had recently been diagnosed and treated for cancer. Due to a complex set of circumstances it appeared that I would very soon be heading into a no pay situation which would cause severe financial difficulties for myself and my disabled daughter. After exhausting various avenues for adequate financial help, I turned to my UNISON representative Lorraine Morgan.

She invited me in for a chat to explain my circumstances to see if she could help me. Lorraine was very sympathetic and understanding. She looked at what options were available to me which included UNISON Welfare. My employer was very sympathetic to my situation and was willing to help to discuss my financial position.

UNISON helped me to sort out

sufficient funds to enable me to manage my return to work which alleviated much stress for me and my daughter for who I am the sole carer.

The UNISON representative demonstrated care, compassion and due diligence to which I am extremely grateful.

NHS Long Service Awards

Recently South West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust held an event to give long service awards to around 80 staff, many of them UNISON members.

Staff received awards for 25 or 40 years service and two of our own long serving activists Lorraine Morgan and Tony Wright received their 25 years service awards at the event in November. Amazingly Lorraine has spent the last 25 years working as Office Manager for the branch. She's seen many comings and goings and it's safe to say there is very little she doesn't know when it comes to the day to day running of a busy UNISON



Health branch office. Alongside Lorraine in the photograph is Tony Wright our Branch Chair, Labour Link and Membership Officer. Tony began work as a

Porter at Barnsley hospital and since then he has held various roles in NHS organisations across South and West Yorkshire.

The BIG recruit-a-friend prize draw

If you are already a UNISON member in our branch we would like to let you know of three special offers we have available for you to participate in.



From now until January 1st we will be offering an opportunity for anyone who has recruited 8 members to be included in a draw for a £1,500 holiday voucher to be used in connection with UNISON Travel Club. This draw is in conjunction with two other local UNISON Community Health branches – Sheffield Community Health Branch and Leeds & York Community Health Branch.

Additionally we will have our own local prizes for our top 3 recruiters during this period, who do not win the holiday voucher. We will offer:

**1st prize - £250.00 in vouchers
2nd prize - £150.00 in vouchers
3rd prize - £100.00 in vouchers**

In the event of a draw for any of these prizes names will be drawn out of a hat

Finally so every one of our branch member's has an opportunity to benefit from the

recruit a friend opportunity, both the recruiter and the new member will receive a £10.00 gift voucher.

To participate simply put your name and membership number on any application form you have recruited a new member with and send it to:

UNISON Office
Facilities Department
Fieldhead Hospital
Wakefield
WF1 3SP

We have two application forms, a Direct Debit form and a DOCAS (direct from salary) form. Please note that we can only accept DOCAS forms from South West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, Spectrum Staff, Wakefield Clinical Commissioning Group and Barnsley Clinical Commissioning Group.

Please note if you recruit a member who works on

the bank at South West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust they will have to complete the direct debit application form. This is because Payroll are unable to deduct subscriptions from salary due to bank working being irregular.



You will find an application form with this newsletter to get you

started, forms are also available on our website at www.swyp-unison.org.uk as well as from the branch on request. Please ensure you put your full name on the form of your new recruit so we can send you your gift voucher and enter you in our prize draw.

Best of luck and happy recruiting!

AGM NOTICE

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2020

You are invited to attend the Annual General Meeting of the Branch to take place on Monday 2nd, Tuesday 3rd, Wednesday 4th & Monday 9th March 2020. We are trying a 'split site' AGM this year with 4 meetings in total – any member can go to any meeting, but you can only vote once. We hope the mixture of time and location will allow as many people as possible to attend. A free buffet will be provided at each meeting, and we will pay reasonable travel expenses for those attending. The meetings will be as follows:

Monday 2nd March 12.15-1.15pm, Small Conference Room, Fieldhead, WF1 3SP
Tuesday 3rd March 12.15-1.15pm, The Boardroom, Kendray Hospital, Barnsley, S70 3RD
Wednesday 4th March 12.15-1.15pm, The Labour Club, Wakefield, WF1 1QX
Monday 9th March 12.15-1.15pm, Room 49, Folly Hall, Huddersfield, HD1 3LT

The business of the meeting will be as follows:

- 1/ Apologies for absence.
- 2/ Minutes of the 2019 AGM (Available at the meeting, or in advance from the Branch Office)
- 3/ Matters Arising
- 4/ Reports from Officers & Groups (Retired Members) for 2019/20
- 5/ Branch Accounts for 2019 and Auditors Report (Available at the meeting, or following it from the Branch Office)
- 6/ Report on the 2020 Budget (Available at the meeting, or following it from the Branch Office)
- 7/ Report on the Branch Organising Framework and Action Plan for 2019/20 (Available at the meeting, or following it from the Branch Office)
- 8/ Motions & Amendments to Branch Rules (To be received at the Branch Office by 5pm on Friday 3rd January 2020)
- 9/ Election of Officers for 2020/2021:

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| • Chairperson | • Education Co-ordinator |
| • Vice Chairperson | • Lifelong Learning Coordinator |
| • Branch Secretary | • International Officer |
| • Assistant Branch Secretary | • Membership Officer |
| • Treasurer | • Women's Officer |
| • Welfare Officer | • LGBT+ Officer |
| • Health & Safety Officer | • Young Members Officer |
| • Equality Officer | • Labour-Link (APF) Officer |
| • Communications Officer | |

(Nomination papers are available from the Branch Office and should be returned to the Branch Office by 5pm on Friday 3rd January 2020)

- 10/ Endorsement of Stewards for 2020/2021:

- South West Yorkshire Partnership FT
- Choice Support
- Spectrum CIC
- Other Community (Voluntary) Sector
- NHS Commissioning bodies (CCGs)

(Stewards are nominated by and elected from members within their employer – nomination papers are available from the Branch Office and should be received at the Branch Office by 5pm on Friday 28th February 2020)

- 11/Any Other AGM Business

We look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

Yours,

Elaine Shelton, Branch Secretary

