

YOUR VOICE



Wirral UNISON Branch Newsletter
May 2019

WHAT DOES UNISON DO FOR YOU?

No Compulsory Redundancies

Despite the large budget deficit Unison sought and achieved a 'no compulsory redundancy' agreement with the Council. No one should be forced to leave who doesn't want to. We will be seeking the same for the same agreement for this year

Pay Increases above 2%

After UNISON representation this was achieved for the lowest paid in the Council (up to Band G). Magenta staff also received above 2%

Re-Grades

A number of staff have been successfully regraded following pressure from Unison

Fighting School Cuts

Schools support staff are often in the front line of cuts. It is Unison that will fight for all Support Staff, see inside for the success we achieved at Egremont

Expert Support On Personal Matters

If you need support with sickness, disciplinary, grievance etc, we have trained and skilled representatives that will help get the best outcome

Reduction in Compulsory Unpaid Leave.

Unison have secured a reduction in compulsory unpaid leave from 4 days to 3; whilst preserving the Xmas shutdown. Members will still be able to voluntarily take extra unpaid leave.

Consultations

We are the Union in every consultation, making your voice heard. We will challenge management at every step to get the best outcome for our members



ESSENTIAL COVER IF YOU WORK IN PUBLIC SERVICES

Worried about your job in public services? At a time of cuts, redundancies, restructuring and outsourcing, **now is the time to join UNISON.**

From
£1.30
a month



Join online at
joinunison.org

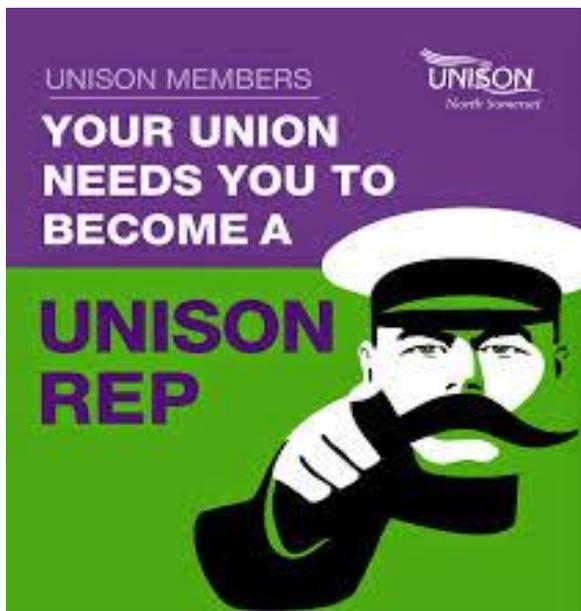


Call us on
0800 171 2193



Ask your
**UNISON rep for an
application form**

BECOMING A UNISON STEWARD



WHO SHOULD BE YOUR STEWARD?

To work effectively Unison needs a Steward in every team or workplace.

The Steward can tell the union what is happening where you work, how people are feeling, as well as telling you what is happening.

A steward in every workplace makes for a stronger union and better results for you!

Who is the Unison Rep where you work? If you don't have one, why not speak to your colleagues and discuss who should be your Steward.

INTERESTED??

Find Out More at our Session:

Unison Steward — An Introduction

30 May 12:30 pm.

Unison Office Birkenhead

Buffet Lunch Provided

To reserve a place contact

666 3040 or **unison1@wirral.gov.uk**

Defend and Improve Family Friendly Working

It's not all about pay & jobs, the conditions we work in and our work life balance are crucial issues for many members.

We are constantly seeking to improve the work life balance arrangements for our members—let us know if you have any ideas in this area.

If you have a work life balance arrangement, and management are looking to end or change it against your wishes, please get in touch to discuss what we can do to help

WORKPLACE STEWARDS 2019/20

Wirral Council

Mike MENDEZ, Graham ROE, John HIGHTON, Sarah KINSELLA, Sheila HENRY, Tony CHADWICK, Byrony SANDERS, Angie REDGRIFT, Dave GRIFFITHS, Katrina FLAYE, Amanda WATERFALL, Alistair SMITH, Laura BEECH, Louise BENNETT, Karen SMITH, Bill BURGESS, Gill WHITFIELD, Carl FRYER, Jane EDWARDS, Lisa DUGGAN, Steve STOTT

Wirral Met College

Allen DUNN, Barbara SCULTHORPE, Mel GUILFOYLE, Stephanie FLINT, Ian ANDERSON

Autism Together

Dave CALLAND, Russell MALLAM

Schools

Karen KELLY, Margaret CABOT, Steve COTGRAVE, Susan MURRAY, Jackie GILBERT, Peter DOFFMAN, Joanne NORTON, Dawn BENNETT, Carol OWEN, Michael WILLIAMS, Ann HODGSON, Kate WILLIAMS, Karen KERR, Gill THURLOW, Sarah LOND, Alison BIRCH, Lynn KELLY

Magenta

Kathy McDONALD, Michael DOUGHERTY,

Karen HARRIGAN

Wirral Evolutions

Graeme FISHER

UNISON Victory at Egremont School

The Multi Academy Trust that runs Egremont Primary recently announced plans to cut up to half the support staff at the school. Our members were shocked and angry, and parents were startled.

However UNISON was not prepared to accept this lying down. We told management we would not accept any compulsory redundancies and would fight their proposals.

At a meeting for all members, there was an overwhelming vote for strike action. We also called a public meeting for parents, and sought the support of local politicians.

Faced with this vocal opposition, the Trust backed down, and came up with new proposals that meant no Compulsory Redundancies

This protected our members jobs, and safeguarded the education levels for local Children.

WIRRAL UNISON WILL FIGHT FOR OUR MEMBERS, AND WE WILL WIN!



Whether its physical attacks or verbal abuse. This is never acceptable.

UNISON will be taking this up as an issue.

If you suffer from violence at work;

let your Steward know

LGBT RULE CHANGE BY REBECCA CALL

UNISON's LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual & Transgender) group are bringing a rule change to this year's National Conference; to add a + after LGBT in order to make the group more inclusive. Although the group works with umbrella definitions of bisexual and transgender, meaning its bi network is for all members who feel attraction to more than one gender and its trans network is for all types of self-identifying trans people and non-binary members, still some members, who should feel they belong, actually don't.

At 2017 LGBT Conference a motion highlighted the growth in the number of people identifying their sexual orientation and gender identity in many different ways beyond a binary definition and wanting the LGBT group to organise on a LGBT+ basis. A consultation in 2018 showed support for the proposal to change the group name to LGBT+. So this rule change is to be debated this year.

To explain what this means for our members...well the + will include anybody who may be at risk of prejudice or discrimination on the basis of their sexual orientation and/or gender identity meaning that those that don't feel the current acronym is relevant to them should now feel fully included. This should hopefully make UNISON more attractive to them and has the potential to build the membership.

By adding a + UNISON is future proofing itself as the way people define themselves is constantly evolving. The + means that there should be no need for further rule changes as it will be fully inclusive of all members under the LGBT umbrella definition.

The North West Regional Council have passed a motion in support of this rule change as has our Branch Committee.

For more information on joining the LGBT (+) North West Group please contact the Branch Office.



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Email: unison1@wirral.gov.uk

Follow us on  

BRANCH COMMITTEE 2018/19

David JONES	Branch Secretary
Lois FOUND S	Deputy Branch Secretary
Stephen BENNETT	Schools Officer
Gill HARRIS	Education Co-Ordinator
Joel MANSELL	Communication
Danielle KERR	Women's Officer
Peter FERGUSON	Branch Chair
Mel GUILFOYLE	Equalities Officer
Steve PRESTON	Treasurer
Lisa McSHANE	Welfare Officer
Phil HAMILTON	International Relations
Michelle LANGAN	Membership Officer
Nick BOWER	Health & Safety
Lisa McSHANE	Labour Link
Dave HARDCASTLE	Lifelong Learning

WIRRAL MET COLLEGE

BALLOTING FOR STRIKE ACTION

Last year our members received a 1% pay rise, the first for a number of years. This year we are determined there will be a better result.

Our members are rightly angry over chronically low pay levels, with too many only receiving the minimum wage.

So Unison is currently balloting our members at the college, alongside 17 other colleges around the country. We expect a strong vote for strike action, to help get our members the pay they deserve.

NOT A MEMBER? JOIN TODAY!

All new members that join in May will, after 2 months membership, be entered in to a prize draw in July to **WIN A CASH PRIZE OF £100**.

Recruit A Colleague— If you're already a member why not get one of your colleagues to join.

If you recruit a colleague in May, let us know who (unison@wirralunison.co.uk) and after they have been a member for 2 months you will be entered in to a **draw for a cash prize of £100**

The member who recruits the most new members in May **will receive £100** (or a share if a tie)

All new members who join in May must still be a member on 18 July to be considered

join.unison.org.uk or **0800 171 2194**