Introduction and AGM update

By Jenny Underhill

Hello all, and welcome to our post-AGM newsletter. In this issue you’ll find introductions from some of our stewards, information on the Strawberry Social, and the Branch Secretary’s Report for this year.

I’d like to begin by thanking Helen Adcock, our outgoing Branch Secretary. She worked very hard for Unison and the members, bringing a number of restructures and negotiations to successful closures. After the AGM we welcomed a number of new reps and stewards who will be spending the next few months getting settled.

As the new Branch Secretary I look forward to continuing to work with the committee and the membership in strengthening and developing Unison at York.

Register to Vote

Don’t forget to register to vote – the deadline is 22 May 2017. To apply to register to vote or to update your name or address, visit: https://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote

Welcome to our new Executive Committee Members

Luke Parkinson, Health & Safety Officer and Steward

I’ve decided to take an active role in Unison to help support the branch in Health and Safety and as a steward. I’ve worked at the University since 2012, starting off as a porter, working across a couple of college receptions before moving into Security in 2014. I’ve worked alongside lots of support staff during my time at the Uni and I hope to continue to do so in Unison.
Kym Done, Steward and Workplace Rep (Reception, DECS)

My name is Kym Done and I am a College Receptionist mainly based at Derwent College. I have worked at York University for the last 10 years. I decided to become a workplace steward because I would like to help Unison to make a difference in these increasingly difficult times. With so many departmental restructures in the pipeline or on going, I believe that an increased membership in unison in our workplaces can help in so many ways in the difficult times ahead. UNISON have certainly made a difference in helping change our recently imposed new rostas to a much better rosta that will give me and my colleagues a much better work/family life balance. I am looking forward to becoming a workplace steward and helping UNISON to achieve a better working life for our members.

Save the date… Strawberry Social

Wednesday 21st June 2017, H/G21, 12:30 – 1:45 pm

Join us at the Strawberry Social on Wednesday 21st June – it’s an opportunity to learn more about UNISON’s work, meet fellow members and enjoy lunch! Guests who are not UNISON members are very welcome to attend.

Please RSVP through this google form (by 14 June 2017).

Call for raffle prizes
We will also hold a prize draw to raise money for our chosen charity this year, York Mind. We are looking for prizes – if you are able to donate something, please indicate this on the google form when replying to the RSVP.

Women and pensions

UNISON is committed to trying to improve the pension rights of women who for a number of reasons typically save less than men. When around 75% of our members are women, this is clearly a big issue for us!

UNISON have produced a briefing to help women members find out more about what they can do to get a decent income in retirement. Read the guide here.
Education bursaries available

After a successful first year, the branch is continuing its education initiative by offering bursaries for courses covering education, training and well-being for the next academic year (2017-18). Bursaries are available for most courses offered by York Learning, Languages for All or another training provider in the York area, such as York College.

All Level 1 / Introductory level and recreational courses up to £125 pounds will be paid for on a first come first served basis. We have 15 bursaries available. All you have to do is: look through the York Learning brochure: https://www.yortime.org.uk/yortime_home/default.aspx Find them on: Facebook - York Learning or Twitter #Learningforeveryone Choose your course, pick up the phone and call an advisor on 01904 552806. Quote your membership number and complete the form with the advisor.

We have 3 bursaries of up to £250 for Level 2 / Intermediate Level courses paid in full on a first come first served basis. Complete the attached form and send it to: unison@york.ac.uk

We have 2 bursaries of up to £350 for Level 3 / Advanced Level courses paid in full on a first come first served basis. Complete the attached form and send it to unison@york.ac.uk

Please note: you cannot apply for more than one course per term and all courses are offered subject to funding. First come first served basis. Reviewed termly. You have to be a member for a minimum of 4 weeks to qualify.

Please DO NOT pay for any course before checking funding is available at the branch and your application for Level 2 and 3 has been approved.

UNISON members’ training courses

There are a number of members' training courses available:

**Facing Change together: 11 July 2017**
Location: Commerce House, Leeds
Closing date to apply: 9 June 2017

**Dementia Workshop: 17 July 2017**
Location: Commerce House, Leeds
Closing date to apply: 16 June 2017

**Pathways into UNISON (Women Only) - Residential: 16, 17 September 2017**
Location: Northern College, Barnsley
Closing date to apply: 14 August 2017

To find out more, visit: [http://www.unison-yorks.org.uk/education.html](http://www.unison-yorks.org.uk/education.html)

To apply: download and complete a non-residential application form from the UNISON Education webpages, and Branch to authorise the form by sending it to unison@york.ac.uk.
Forthcoming drop-in sessions

Your Union branch office is W/022. The branch is running a drop-in clinic for all your work related questions and requests for information. Forthcoming drop-in dates:

- Friday 16th June, 12-2 pm
- Friday 30th June, 12-2 pm

Guide to EU/EAA citizens’ right to remain

UNISON’s Strategic Organising Unit, with the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants (JCWI) have produced a practical guide for members and their families whose right to work and live in the UK is dependent on their citizenship of another EU country.

To read the guide, visit: https://www.unison.org.uk/content/uploads/2016/09/24055.pdf

Doncaster Raceday – exclusive ticket offer

Doncaster Raceday: Saturday afternoon 5 August 2017

Exclusive special ticket offer for UNISON members

‘2 for 1’ Grandstand Tickets
Total price £13 (2 tickets)
On sale: from 1 February 2017
Offer closes: 5.00pm on 28 July 2017

To book tickets call 01302 304200 and quote ‘the UNISON raceday offer’, your UNISON membership number or UNISON branch code.

Upgrade! Members can upgrade to two County Stand tickets for £30 (These are usually £32.50 each!)