

Access All Areas in Scotland

The newsletter for UNISON Scotland Disabled Members



Issue 3 Winter 2013/14



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UNISON Scotland Disabled Members

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Social Media



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UNISON Scotland Disabled Members Committee have been busy over the last few months setting up social media accounts. Whether you Tweet or Post, Follow or Like, the Disabled Members Group has the place for you.

During the National Disabled Members Conference in Manchester and at the STUC Disabled Workers Conference in Dundee, members were kept up to date on proceedings with regular "Tweets" and "Status Updates" by committee members.

While still in it's infancy our Twitter and Facebook accounts continue to increase our following. If you wish to "LIKE" and "FOLLOW" we can be found at:-



@UNISONSCOTDM



Unison Scotland Disabled Members

In Addition we can be emailed at:-



unison-scotlandDM@hotmail.co.uk



www.unison-scotland.org.uk/disabled

Join our Mailing List?

If you would like to Join our Mailing List please forward your full details to Eileen Dinning, UNISON Scotland Equalities Officer, UNISON House, 14 West Campbell Street, Glasgow, G2 6RX. Email e.dinning@unison.co.uk

Report on Disabled Members AGM

The Scottish Disabled Members held their AGM on 9th November 2013 in the STUC Offices Glasgow. The Event was well attended and for the first time at an AGM “FACETIME” was used to allow Vice-Chair Sarah Skeoch to participate from her home.

David Ng Hop (Chair) opened the meeting thanking the Committee and Eileen Dinning for their support during the year. John Nisbet (Secretary) gave an overview of the work the Committee had done during the last year and a general view of the challenges UNISON members face during the year ahead.

There was a Ballot this year for the position of Chairperson between David Ng Hop, Tony Maric and Alan McDougall. Each Candidate gave a brief presentation before ballot papers were handed out. After a very close ballot, Alan McDougall was elected Chairperson for the forthcoming year. Sarah Skeoch was re-elected as Vice-Chair unopposed and John Nisbet was re-elected as Secretary unopposed. A full committee was elected from the members present with Alison Jaconelli and John Nisbet being elected as the regional representatives on the National Disabled Members Committee.

Special Mention was made of Liz Webber who had regretfully, due ill health, stood down from the Committee. Liz had been a stalwart, and founder member of the committee together with being the woman’s rep on the National Committee for many years.



**Alan McDougall
(Chair)**



**John Nisbet
(Secretary)**

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MaybeS “AYE”MaybeS “NAW”

The Referendum Debate

Saturday 22 February saw the “Referendum Debate” come to the Scottish Disabled Members Committee meeting at the Beardmore Hotel, Clydebank. At the request of the Committee, Sandra Webster, “Yes” Campaign & Martin Rooney, “Better together” joined the Committee and Disabled members in a debate on the referendum. After both Sandra & Martin had presented their argument in support of their respective campaigns the floor was opened for questions. After over an hour of



Sandra Webster

lively debate Alan McDougall, Committee Chair, thanked both guests for their attendance and answering the searching questions from the Committee and Members. Further Information on the “YES” & “BETTER TOGETHER” Campaigns can be found at www.yesscotland.net & www.bettertogether.net respectively.



Martin Rooney

Accessibility

Since its inception UNISON's priorities on disability have been led by the union's own disabled members. We help disabled members by fighting discrimination, and campaigning and organising at workplace, regional and national levels.

Our ethos is based on the social model of disability. The social model of disability says that disability is caused by the way society is organised, rather than by a person's impairment or difference. It looks at ways of removing barriers that restrict life choices for disabled people. When barriers are removed, disabled people can be independent and equal in society, with choice and control over their own lives.

Disabled people developed the social model of disability because the traditional medical model did not explain their personal experience of disability or help to develop more inclusive ways of living.

One of the key principles of the social model is that access needs are met for our disabled activists and members attending UNISON events. That commitment by UNISON is to ensure that all disabled members and activists are enabled to participate fully in all areas of union activity.

Unfortunately these standards are not always achieved at regional and branch level. Venues and accommodation are regularly booked based upon the assurances of disabled friendly organisations but often falling short of that standard. Primacy is not always given to the requirements of disabled members and activists when arranging meetings or events. This results in disabled members and activists being excluded from being able to fully participate in Unison activity equal to non-disabled members and activists.

Whilst we know that this situation is not deliberate, the reality is that physical and social barriers play a big part in preventing disabled people from playing an active part in UNISON.

The Scottish Disabled Members Committee, along with national colleagues, will be raising awareness of this issue over the coming months. IN the long term, we'll be campaigning for venues to commission independent access audits. In the short term, we'll be asking branches and regions to provide access information to members which will enable them to request any appropriate reasonable adjustments to remove the barriers to their participation.

For more information, contact Eileen Dinning, Equalities Officer, at e.dinning@unison.co.uk

Dates for your Diaries

Scottish Disabled Members Committee

Saturday 24 May STUC Offices, 333 Woodside Rd, Glasgow G3 6NG

Saturday 02 August STUC Offices, 333 Woodside Rd, Glasgow G3 6NG

Scottish Disabled Members Committee & AGM

Saturday 08 November STUC Offices, 333 Woodside Rd, Glasgow G3 6NG

National Disabled Members Conference

Saturday 25 October

until

Monday 27 October The Brighton Centre, Kings Rd, Brighton BN1 2GR

You're **WORTH** *it*

Worth It is UNISON's UK-wide, cross service group campaign on pay. It aims to raise the profile of pay within the membership, with influencers and the wider public, and to find a new way of talking to people about the impact of the continued pay injustice - making pay about people. To do this, we need members to share their experiences and to show the real reasons why pay matters.

The facts

Your pay is frozen while prices are going up all the time, meaning a real-terms pay cut

- You have less money to spend and may be struggling to make ends meet
- Your public services are being closed or cut, it's not as easy to use them, waiting times increase and the quality of the service falls
- Your local shops and businesses are feeling the pinch and may close, which has a huge knock-on effect for local communities.

We want to hear YOUR story

Please email us with a few lines on how the issue of pay and increased cost of living affects you -

Send your story to worthitstories@unison-scotland.org

You're **WORTH** *it*