



Welfare Newsletter

UNISON Scotland
June 2012

UNISON
Scotland

Special Interest Articles:

- Fundraising - Falkirk Wheel
- Training for Welfare Officers
- UNISON Welfare AGM & Seminar
- Scotland Region - Branch Welfare Officer's Seminar
- School Uniform Grant 2012



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Falkirk Wheel Fundraising Event 9 September 2012 – 11 – 5.00 pm

The Falkirk Wheel Experience - Come and sail 35 metres into the air! Regional welfare representatives have made visits to the Falkirk Wheel to see what facilities they have on offer to allow us to have a fundraising day for UNISON members and their families. We recently distributed a flyer at Scottish Council in April and are now promoting the event on the Scottish Region's website. An official letter is also being sent to branches to raise awareness.

It was agreed at the Scottish Regional Welfare Committee that all proceeds from this unique fundraising event would go to UNISON Welfare's Bucket & Spade Appeal. We will update the flyer with some further information and this will be published on the website again for all branches along with this newsletter. The Falkirk Wheel offers lots of things for the whole family. There is a picnic area and a child's play area. For the more active

parents/children there is a cycle route and nature trails. There will be sponsored walks around the Falkirk Wheel to fundraise. You can check the event site out and see what's to offer at www.thefalkirkwheel.co.uk. We are negotiating discounts on meals and boat rides with the Events Manager depending on how many people attend, so the more people that come along, the more people will save and in turn the more money we hope to raise.

Training for Welfare Officers

UNISON Welfare has been busy alongside regional welfare committee's organising accredited training events across the country. As jobs are being cut and benefits have been reduced, this puts an even bigger strain on our member's household budgets and finances. Now more than ever, we need our Welfare Officers to be aware of the difficulties members are facing and to help them overcome these pressures

with practical advice and support. By attending the training, volunteers will learn how to develop their role and learn how to promote UNISON Welfare to their branch and members. The first training event held in Scotland took place on the weekend of 27th-29th April and was very well attended, in fact oversubscribed with the hope that another training event takes place soon. The course included the role of the Branch Welfare Officer,

criteria for financial assistance and communication skills, promotion, publicity and influence amongst many other subjects. It was also a great chance to meet other Branch Welfare Officers to network and learn from each other's experiences. We are now creating a contact list of all Branch Welfare Officers across the country. Contact Diane Anderson, our Information Development Officer with your details.



"This is a great weekend for UNISON Welfare volunteers within the Scottish Region to get to know each other."



UNISON Welfare AGM & Seminar

Our Annual General Meeting (the 'AGM') and Seminar, which is open to branch and regional welfare representatives was held at Croyde Bay in Devonshire between the 10th and 12th May and a few of our welfare representatives from across Scotland were there. The programme timetable of the seminar included Setting up for Success as Welfare Officers, Benefits and Grants update, Housing Benefits and Welfare Reform,

Stresses and Strains - Managing Yourself in Supporting Members and Celebrating Success in 2012 - looking to the future. Finally it was down to the business side of things which was the AGM on the final day. There was also of course the social side of things and we all met good friends from not only across the Scotland Region, but across all the UK regions represented and our Board of Trustees. This was the last of

three AGM and Seminar's to be held in the beautiful Croyde Bay with the next being held next year in London. As the Scottish Region sent a smaller delegation this year, we would encourage more Welfare Officers to attend next year. Details of family holidays at discounted rates for UNISON members can be found on the website <http://www.croydeunison.co.uk/>.

Scotland Region - Branch Welfare Officers Seminar

The regional welfare committee has organised a unique training event for all branch and regional welfare representatives on the weekend of 3rd November to 4th November at the Stirling Barceló Hotel. This is a great weekend for UNISON Welfare volunteers within the Scottish Region to get to know each other, network and attend workshops at an informal event.

A programme of events will be made available in our next newsletter or in a separate bulletin nearer the time, but should you wish to attend, please contact Diane Anderson, Information and Development Officer, UNISON House, 14 West Campbell Street Glasgow G2 6RX. Please put these dates in your diary and apply to attend the seminar. Topics that we hope to include are

the new Welfare Bill, PayPlan and UNISON Welfare structures, Scottish regulations on voluntary sequestration and bankruptcy, bereavement in different cultures, wills and power of attorney. We are arranging invitations to guest speakers to discuss these topics.

School Uniform Grant 2012

UNISON Welfare's national office have setup a limited fund to help UNISON members on low income with school uniform costs by way of a one-off payment of up to £120 (this is the

maximum grant available where there is more than one school age child). To apply, please download the application form or alternatively contact your UNISON branch for help

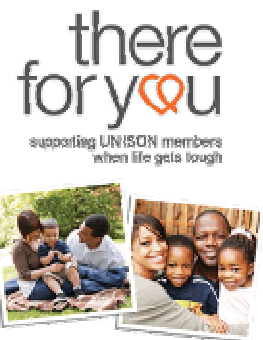
promoting this special grant for our members. The form can be downloaded from <http://www.unison-scotland.org.uk/welfare/>. The closing date for applications is 6 July 2012.

Bucket & Spade Appeal - What is it?

The Bucket & Spade Appeal aims to raise funds for the family holidays provided by UNISON Welfare. Although there has been a huge growth in tourism a quarter of the UK's population, including many families with children, are excluded from taking holidays mainly because they cannot afford them. Our family holiday service provides a much needed break to families whose very difficult circumstances mean they have the most to gain from the stress relief that a holiday can bring. Thanks to the many volunteers who have taken part in our sponsored events, and the support of branches, members and staff, we have

raised significant funds over the years since the appeal was first introduced in 2005. If you or your branch hasn't got involved yet there are many ways you can help. All the monies raised for the appeal are held in a restricted fund to be used exclusively for members and their families' holidays. However, under the current difficult economic times that we live in, the funds that have been raised over the years have run dry and UNISON Welfare is desperate to encourage regions and branches to actively fundraise to replenish the appeal with much needed funds so that UNISON members and their families

can benefit from the appeal's holiday service once again. Earlier in this newsletter, we explained what our region was doing to fundraise at the Falkirk Wheel. There are dozens of ways you can get involved and they don't all have to be about raising money, raising awareness is just as important. The appeal is a great opportunity to put UNISON Welfare on the map in your branch and for them to help contribute to. Use it to raise awareness of the family holidays and our other services amongst stewards and members. Get more information at <http://www.unison.org.uk/welfare/>.



Play OCTOPUS - UNISON Welfare Lottery

Introducing the Octopus Lottery - the UNISON Welfare Monthly prize draw. Every year we help thousands of members with grants, wellbeing breaks, free debt advice and a wide range of support services. To be able to provide this support we rely on UNISON members and branches to help us with fundraising and the Octopus Lottery Monthly prize draw is one of the ways we can do this. Up to 50% of the total money raised from ticket sales is paid out as prizes and administration costs are kept very low at just 10%. You can buy up to

a maximum of 10 numbers at £1 each (branches may buy more) which will be automatically entered into each month's prize draw. So unlike some prize draws you do not need to remember to enter each month. We need Branch Welfare Officers to promote this fundraising lottery at their branch committees or executives to encourage take up of multiple ticket purchases from their branches which would contribute to much needed funds for UNISON Welfare and if your branch wins, you could encourage your branch to invest the

prize money in fund raising events like the Scottish Region's Falkirk Wheel or a local event your branch would like to organise. If your branch or your members would like to sign up to play Octopus Lottery please complete the application form and direct debit form held online at <http://www.unison.org.uk/octopus/>.



Over 50 cash prizes every month including a first prize of £1000!



UNISON Scotland Region Extra

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We're on the Web!!

See us at:

<http://www.unison-scotland.org.uk/welfare/>

Introducing the regional committee

The Scottish Welfare Committee is made up of representatives elected at Scottish Council. There are four male seats and four female seats. There are also representatives elected from Scottish Committee and Self Organised Groups. We also have other UNISON Welfare representatives in attendance like our trustee for Scotland and other officials. For

2012/13 our elected chairperson is Gail Miller from Dundee City Branch and our vice-chairperson is Adanna Brown from Falkirk Branch. Diane Anderson is our Information Development Officer from the Scotland Region Office. We have given contact details of a few of the representatives on the Scottish Welfare Committee

below, but we will arrange for a full contact list to be published on our website at <http://www.unison-scotland.org.uk/welfare/>. So if you wish to discuss any material held in the newsletter, wish to share any fundraising ideas or just want to speak to an experienced branch welfare officer, please don't hesitate to contact any of us.

Scottish Welfare Committee contacts

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And finally...remember fundraising at the Falkirk Wheel...

