

MAG Senior



Retired Members urged to support LG colleagues fight for Fair Pay

The Scottish Retired Members Secretary Marie Macrae has urged all Retired Members to throw their weight behind Local Government colleagues who are being balloted for strike action over pay.

UNISON's 70,000 Local Government members in Scotland will be balloted for industrial action following a consultative ballot which saw 77.6%



vote to reject the employers' pay offer.

Urging our support for colleagues in any future action, Marie said "Local Government workers right across the board have suffered pay deterioration over

the last few years."

"Retired Members have time, skills and a sense of fairness that should be put to good use in the event of industrial action".

(Continued on page 3)



Another EXCELLENT Scottish Retired Members Conference

The keynote session at this year's Conference was titled "Integrated Care - Is it working?" And we couldn't have had any better or higher profile speakers to take us through it. Leading off was Shona Robison, Scottish Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport (MSP for Dundee City) followed by Anas Sarwar, MSP for the Glasgow region.

The full Conference report will be sent out to Branch RM Secretaries, all Conference Delegates and main Branch Secretaries in the near future. Brief reports for the session and the three workshops are given on pages 2 and 3.

From strength to strength

Our first Scottish Retired Members Conference was held in 2007 - so this was our eleventh event - and it has gone from strength to strength over the years. This year's event had about 70 delegates attending from 30 branches.

Both main speakers and other session leaders remarked on the number of delegates in attendance and also on the quality of the questions and discussion.

Not "Another Election" ...

Theresa May caught us all by surprise even most of her own Party. We are heading for "yet another trip to the ballot box" on Thursday 8th June.

It's understandable that many of us - even those with years of political involvement behind them ... will confess to a fair degree of 'ballot fatigue'. Two rather acrimonious referenda, the 2015 General Election, and the recent Local Government elections appear to have numbed many voters. However, this is just 'not the time to switch off'. This could be one of the most significant elections we've had in the UK for years. Don't duck out - make sure you vote.

Deadlines for the 2017 National R M Conference

Conference will be held in Llandudno on 10th & 11th October.

If you or any of your Retired Members Section are intending to go to Conference then you **MUST** make sure you meet the deadlines shown page 4.

Make sure you get the your details into UNISON HQ well before the deadline dates.

In this MAC Senior ...

- Integrated Health Care Is it working?
- 3 Good Conference workshops
- UNISON RM issues
- 2017 National RM Conference deadlines
- The 2017 Scottish RM Bowling Competition

Quality Speakers

Music lovers say that for quality sound you need quality speakers.

We had two excellent speakers for our main session and it made for good listening!

This was maybe the best-balanced session I've heard at the Conference since it began in 2007.

The only annoying thing was that for most of the time, they seemed to be totally agreed with each other.



Shona Robison - Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport.

Member of the Cabinet since April 2014. MSP since 1999 - firstly for the North of Scotland then, since 2003, for Dundee City.

Anas Sarwar

MSP for the Glasgow region since May 2016. MP for Glasgow Central from 2010 to 2015, and Deputy Leader of the Scottish Labour Party from 2011 to 2014.



Integrated Care ... Is it working?

From the start it was fairly obvious that everyone seems to agree that there is a need for integration and that there are many good examples of how local Government and local NHS managements are combining efforts and resources to make it happen.

However, it wouldn't do for the two speakers to be seen to be agreeing with each other for too long. After all, that's why they are on opposite sides of the Political divide!

Resourcing

The main point of contention between the two centred on the resourcing of the integration process.

Shona continued to assure the audience that it was all going to plan and that the Scottish Government had made adequate funds available. On the other hand, Anas

highlighted the difficulties arising from Government-imposed budget restrictions - the outcome of which has resulted in ongoing staffing and recruitment problems.

Question time

The session closed with a lively, wide-ranging question time covering privatisation, care workers' travel costs, recruitment issues in the NHS, cuts to Council budgets and 'creeping privatisation of NHS Dentistry

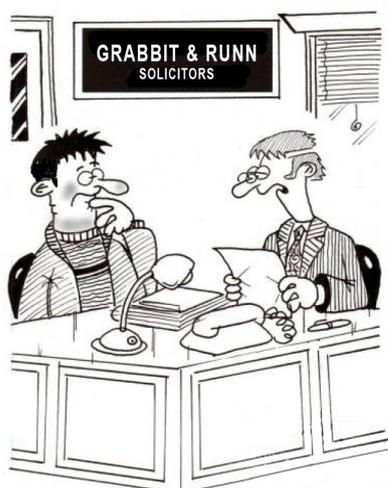
UNISON Retired Members Issues

Peter Hunter, UNISON's Regional Scottish Organiser (below) addressed many of the problems experienced by Retired Members Sections.

These included

- Main Branch Officers refusing to acknowledge Retired Members Sections
- Restriction on matters for discussion by RM Sections
- Adjacent branches sharing RM Sections
- Retired members acting as principal Branch Officers

A worthwhile session which aired many of the issues which frustrate RM Officers



You didn't quite read the small print, did you?
Our charges are £20.00 per letter - and there are 233 letters on this page

Challenging loneliness

Most people will feel lonely at some point in their lives. It's a deeply personal experience that in most cases will thankfully pass - but for a growing number of people, particularly those in later life, loneliness can define their lives and have a significant impact on their wellbeing.

Loneliness is associated with depression, sleep problems, impaired cognitive health, heightened vascular resistance, hypertension, psychological stress and mental health problems. Several recent studies have identified a range of factors associated with being lonely in older age and which will begin to tackle the problem. These include ...

- Social networks - living alone, being widowed or divorced, a lack of contact with friends and family and limited opportunities to participate in social occasions
- Health - poor health, limited mobility, social care needs or cognitive and sensory impairment
- Individual characteristics - age, ethnicity, sexual orientation, low income, retirement
- Neighbourhood characteristics - structures of buildings and streets, provision of local amenities, territorial boundaries, area reputation, neighbourliness, material deprivation of area of residence

Good choices for the afternoon workshops

We had three workshops in the afternoon session - as shown below. Delegates were able to choose which two they wanted to attend. The initial reaction was that all three were "very good and interesting".



Funeral Poverty



John Birrell

Chair of the Scottish Funeral Poverty Working Group took this session.

John kept the groups' interest high as he covered all aspects of arranging funerals.

Funeral Poverty, first identified in 2012 as the inability to pay in time and having to provide a £1000 immediately.

Funeral Debt burden is the unsustainable debt

Andy Douglas

Unison's Scottish Welfare Charity Link Trustee led the session on "the Benefits of Retired Membership". Andy is from Stirling Branch and is one of 6 lay members elected to the National Welfare Committee.

Andy gave an outline of the work of the National Welfare Fund and range of benefits awarded by the Fund in recent

due to the cost of the funeral.

Bereavement Poverty occurs when grieving becomes secondary to worry about finding the money to cover the costs.

John emphasised the need to think ahead and to know what you want

before you purchase.

Discuss with family what you want rather than leave it to them when they are shocked and grieving.

When a relative dies take account of what would that person want and can they/you afford it. Compare prices and options.

Very simple funerals can be the most respectful.

There is a proposal for a Scottish Funeral Bond which will help avoid funeral poverty.



Benefits of Retired Membership



years. He detailed the criteria which is normally applied for applications for assistance - making special reference to those applicable to Retired members.

He emphasised the role of the local Branch Welfare Officers in respect of financial advice and the links with such as local Credit Unions.



Fake Britain



LizAnne Handibode

from South Lanarkshire Consumer & Trading Standards has been along to our Conference in the past and she was a welcome return. LizAnne gave another fascinating and thought-provoking rundown of the ever increasing threats we all face from fraudsters and internet scammers.

Financial losses to mass marketing fraud in the UK are estimated at £9Billion annually. This includes

- 'Door step crime'
- "fake good, and
- Telemarketing fraud

LizAnne emphasised that the elderly are prime targets for organised crime.

Retired Members urged to support Local Government colleagues (continued from page 1)

Announcing the LG Committee decision Dougie Black, UNISON Regional Organiser (left) said "Local Government workers have suffered years of pay restraint. Their pay is worth far less now than ten years ago. The cost of food, gas and electricity, travel and childcare continue to

rise and consequently their living standards have been severely eroded. This can not continue."

"Fair pay remains a priority for UNISON. Our members are the cogs that keep Local Government services turning and they deserve to be treated fairly".

Time for a natter

As usual, the Conference lunchbreak gave many delegates time to enjoy the buffet lunch and to meet up with friends from other branches.



2017 ANNUAL BOWLING TOURNAMENT

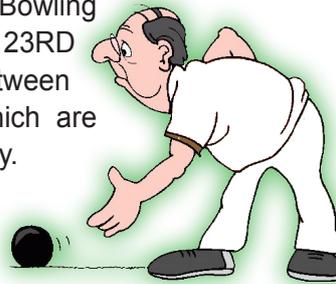
Now that the summer has arrived, it's time to break out the summer gear and get stuck into our seasonal pursuits. The Retired Members Annual Bowling Tournament will be held at Thornton Bowling Club, Thornton, Fife at 12.00 pm on Wednesday 23RD August 2017. The new venue is located between KIRKCALDY and GLENROTHES, both of which are easily accessible, within a 10 minute Bus journey.

Please send numbers of bowlers and/or spectators Barbara Fulton - UNISON, Arthurlie House, Springhill Road, Barrhead G78 2SE (or by telephone – 07954 380753) before Friday 14th August 2017.

Tea/Coffee and filled rolls will be available on arrival, at a cost of £1.50 per person.

The Clubhouse bar will be open for drinks throughout the day.

There is no charge for meals for Retired Members who are playing bowls. Spectators will pay £8.00 per meal. The meal choices will be ...



Main Course - choice of Steak pie, Chicken Korma & rice or Vegetarian Quiche, with vegetables and potatoes where appropriate.

Sweets will offer a choice of Gateau or Fruit, meringue and ice cream.

The tournament is always a great day out - for bowlers and friends (non-bowlers). Make sure to get your team arranged and the details fed in to Barbara

The Nelson Mandela Scottish Memorial Foundation



has been established to mark the centenary of Nelson Mandela's birth in 2018. 2018 is also the 25th anniversary of his visit to Glasgow in 1993 to collect the Freedoms of nine UK cities.

The Memorial Foundation aims to increase the knowledge and understanding of the life and legacy of Nelson Mandela and the role of Glasgow and Scotland in the worldwide campaign for his release and against apartheid.

The Foundation has launched a campaign to raise funds for a statue of Nelson Mandela. The target has been set at £250,000.

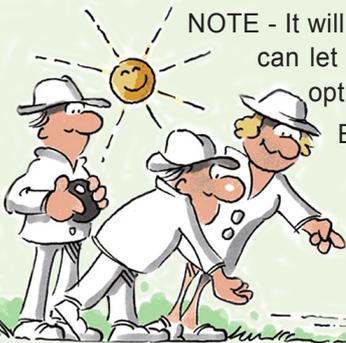
Trade Unions were great supporters in the anti-apartheid and for the release of Nelson Mandela. UNISON played a leading and significant role in the campaign.

We hope that Scotland's UNISON branches and members will continue to play a lead role and contribute generously to the appeal to create a statue of Nelson Mandela to celebrate his centenary.

Make cheques payable to the Nelson Mandela Scottish Memorial Foundation, and send to the Treasurer, NMSMF, 364

NOTE - It will help the planning for the catering if branches can let Barbara know the numbers and meal choice options in advance.

Barbara will also be happy to receive donations from branches for competition and raffle prizes. Please send cheques to Barbara Fulton, at the address shown above. Cheques should be made payable to "UNISON Scotland Retired Members".



The 2017 National Retired Members Conference

will be held in Llandudno on 10th & 11th October. If you or any of your Retired members Section members are intending to go to Conference then **you MUST make sure you meet the deadlines shown on the right.**

This is particularly important in relation to submitting delegates' names and details. Make sure you get your names in plenty of time. **Don't leave it to the last moment!**

Names etc have to be entered on-line. Liaise with your main Branch Secretary if necessary to make sure your details are processed in plenty of time. **If you miss the deadline there is little chance of you being admitted as a Conference Delegate.**

The Scottish Regional RM Officers have no control or influence on these rules. If you miss the deadlines, they cannot wave a magic wand and get you in. **It's your responsibility to get your names in. It's your fault and nobody else's if you miss out.**

Deadlines for Conference Submissions/Publication Dates

Submission of Motions	Wed. 21 June 12.00 noon
Submission of Amendments to Standing Orders	Wed. 21 June 12.00 noon
Publication of Preliminary Agenda	Wed. 12 July
Submission of Delegates	Frid. 4 Aug 5.00pm
Submission of Amendments	Wed. 16 Aug 12.00 noon
Submission of reasonable adjustment requests for access	Mon. 28 Aug 5.00pm
Publication of Final Agenda	Wed. 13 Sept.
Submission of Emergency Motions	Tues. 3 Oct 5.00pm
Submission of changes of Delegates online	Thurs. 5 Oct 5.00pm

Tweedsmuir Road, Glasgow, G52 2EH

For more information, contact johnnelson48@yahoo.co.uk

The Nelson Mandela Scottish Memorial Foundation is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

Charity number:

MAC Senior

is produced and published by the UNISON SCOTLAND RETIRED MEMBERS COMMITTEE

Contact RM Secretary, Marie Macrae (mariem2248@googlemail.com) if you have any questions or comments.