



St Helens & Knowsley
UNISON
Health Branch

**EQUALITY AND
DISABILITY NEWSLETTER
December 2011**

The 2011 Disabled Members Conference

This year's conference took place in a surprisingly warm and sunny Brighton at the beginning of November. We had two delegates going from our branch this year, Janet Stout our branch International Officer and Stephen Stout. I also went to the conference but on this occasion I was representing the North West Disabled Members as one of their delegates. So for this conference I had to write and present a motion. The topic that was discussed and chosen by the North West Disabled Members Group was on Freedom of Information. The focus of this motion was to be basically the lack of support that is given to many disabled members when they are trying to get information from government bodies who should really know better on the problems that disabled people face.

There were many scenarios that I heard at the conference after delivering my motion from members who had had problems of one kind or another, and a lot of problems should have been simple to resolve. Type face, font, background color, even to be allowed the simple request of being able to have someone to read it for them so they could answer the questions. There were stories of disabled members being fined hundreds of pounds for not returning a form that they had to fill in by a certain date but were unable to access it even after numerous attempts to explain this to the government departments.

The motion got passed at Conference and hopefully will go forward for possible inclusion at the National Conference which next year is at Bournemouth in 2012.

Dyslexia in our own words

Union learn carried out a comprehensive survey in dyslexia during the year which revealed some interesting data. Key figures include;

- 80% aware of workers with dyslexia
- 68% aware that workers with dyslexia find working situations difficult
- 43% think people with dyslexia are more vulnerable to redundancy
- 96% would welcome more training on dyslexia



For more details on the survey findings follow this link:

<http://www.unionlearn.org.uk/initiatives/learn-4315-f0.cfm>

UNISON have created a practical tool for people as part of the wider UNISON Skills for Life Strategy called 'Dyslexia in our words' based on case studies of UNISON members sharing their experiences of dealing with dyslexia in a positive way. This booklet includes why dyslexia is an equalities issue, how to get a dyslexia assessment, how to organize around dyslexia, tips on making communication dyslexia friendly and where to go to further information. There is also a dyslexia in our own words booklet available on the Unison Website. To find the interactive link to the 'Dyslexia in our words' booklet follow:
http://issuu.com/thedesignmill/docs/dyslexia_booklet_s?mode=window&viewMode=doubl ePage

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Jeanette Foster Equalities Officer St Helens & Knowsley Health Branch



Are you reading this but not a member?

It's easy to join the North West's brightest and best public service trade union. Contact the branch office on ext 1852/7612 or contact the North West region branch on 0845 355 0845 or any UNISON steward on both hospital sites can get you a membership form and application forms can also be found online at. www.unisonnw.org.uk

Have you misplaced or lost your union membership card? It is very easy to do especially if you have moved house or lost a bag. Getting a replacement card is a very simple and straightforward process. Follow this UNISON website address you can soon get a new one. <http://www.unison.org.uk/help/membershipcard.asp>

If you don't have internet access you can call UNISON direct 0845 355 0845. You can expect on average to wait 2 to 3 weeks for your new union membership card.

Unison are in the process of updating membership records. If you are a member and have changed your place of work, job title, etc can you let us know, alternatively you can do it yourself <http://www.unison.org.uk/membership/update.asp> It is vital that as a unison member all your details are up to date.

Make your views known

As a disabled staff member, someone who cares for a disabled person or maybe someone who works with the disabled, are there any issues that you encounter that make you angry or warm your heart? Do you have views on a topical subject involving any disability or equality issues that you would like to get off your chest? Or do you just want to see something in this publication? Have you got an event coming up? If the answer to these questions is yes, send your suggestions, stories and ideas to Jeanette.foster@sthk.nhs.uk or contact Unison Branch office ext 1852.



ARE YOU A DISABLED MEMBER OF STAFF



If you are a disabled member of staff and currently have a council issued blue badge and have not got your staff blue car park permit yet; you need to take your car permit and council issued blue badge to the main reception with your work security badge to prove the blue badge is your property Then when you pick up your blue staff parking permit you can park in one of the disabled staff car park spaces.



If you're a Unison Member remember that you can join the Unison Welfare Lottery.

If you would like to know how you can join the Welfare Lottery go to:-

www.unison.org.uk/octopus



Unison St Helens & Knowsley Health Branch would like to thank all of their members and wish them a very Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year



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