

April 2008

Newsletter

From the Learning & Organising Team

Regional Council and the Regional Learning and Organising Committee

If you're a regional council delegate and want to sit on the Learning and Organising Committee you have just missed the closing date for nominations! BUT – no worries, the committee will write out to branches explaining how you can come along as an observer. We will also advertise a couple of seats we call 'co-options' these are available for interested Branch Education or Life Long learning coordinators who may not be Regional Council Delegates but are particularly interested in getting involved...

VIDEO CONFERENCING

The Regional Learning and Organising Committee wanted to talk to Cumbria based reps – but it was the 29th January and there was plenty of snow on the hills – a beautiful picture post card day but travelling difficult.

21st Century technology came in handy and for half an hour we held a video conference between the committee in Arena Point and Reps, staff and TUC tutors in our Carlisle office.

'I was very impressed - much appreciated' Rod Earl, Allerdale

It was really helpful. Putting faces to names is always a useful exercise – thanks to all those who attended. Maria Moss our Branch Development Officer in Merseyside – is as we speak exploring equipment sites in Liverpool so that we can repeat the experience elsewhere...

Challenge Racism – work with a branch team encouraging your employer to evidence how they are complying with their legal equality duties. We are offering a year-long supported learning and negotiating package for branches. So far we are working with the pilot branches, Lancashire County, Knowsley, Cumbria County, Lancashire Police, Preston, Blackburn, East Lancashire Health, Bolton Health, Oldham, Bury, Manchester, Liverpool, Wirral and Wirral Health, Liverpool Community Health. Speak to the Regional Equalities Officer, Dion Baugh for the full low down

'Continuity of team members on both sides can be a practical problem but don't let this put you off – its important for us all to continue to pursue this issue' Carol Lukey, Lancashire County Branch

Branch Secretary Development Programme

If you are a newly elected Branch secretary or Assistant Branch Secretary consider signing up of the programme. We have around 30 branches involved currently – it's the network if you're new and inexperienced. Find out more at the information meeting at Arena Point 4th April and/or Book a place on the initial basic training at Arena point , 9.30-4.30 each day 12-13 May (Get your branch to arrange overnight accommodation for you if you have practical travel difficulties)

'I've been able to attend all of it so far – the best was the mentoring module' Damian Isherwood, Bolton Health

Learning for Active UNISON members

- If you are newly elected as a steward you should be on RMS as a '9'. If you have undertaken initial basic training for stewards you should be on RMS as a '50' – ask your branch for a screen print of your record to check...
- A recent Arena Point workshop looked at SKILLS FOR LIFE FRIENDLY materials. Members worked through learning materials adapted to be easily accessible for people who may find reading and number work difficult. Reflect on your own branch publications to members – how skills for life friendly are they?...

'Our learning and development manager was very interested to know about PDP's for reps and how this could be delivered locally – I thoroughly enjoyed the workshop, by the way' Linda Payne, East Lancashire Health

- Members discussed and debated how practical it would be to introduce PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANS for active members in the branch. We held the workshop at arena point but it could easily be run at branch level, particularly if the branch is considering establishing a formal mentoring or steward support system
- A bespoke series of courses has been scheduled for HEALTH branches,
 - Negotiating Skills
 - One Step Ahead
 - The Organising Steward

See your branch education coordinator for further details – phone UNISON direct on 0845 355 0845 to check who this is, if you're not sure...

Life Long Learning in the North West

- A fantastic celebration event was held nationally at Congress House in London (10/03/08). Over 250 people attended from every region in the union, Dave Prentis the general secretary attended too along with the government minister for adult education...

'Getting 6 years of learning centre news into my 60 second presentation was quite a challenge' Roger Irvine, Mersey Travel

The North West contingent had a great time and we want to take this opportunity to heartily thank Mersey Travel for their splendid display and Salford for their continuing help and support, well done...

- The following Branches have second round bids in for Union Learn funds regionally: Halton Health, Salford LG, Wirral LG, Allerdale LG, Tameside LG, Blackpool LG. see Cleve Tait our learning organiser for more details about how your branch can get involved...
- UNISON has been given the go ahead for a huge piece of work, LEARNING, EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY. This project will provide lots of space for NW branches to get involved – particularly those members in LIBRARIES ...



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