

January 2009

Newsletter

From the Learning & Organising Team

Activist Course Stats for 2008

During 2009 we achieved a record 27,277 participant days. We had 1,067 participants taking part in 91 courses – 44% men and 56% women. We increased our training penetration of new stewards to 69% - that is 69% of the new stewards placed on RMS attended UNISON's course The Organising Steward. The bad news however, was that Health and Safety training took a dive! The % of new reps taking the starter training was down 10% during a year which saw a dramatic 30% drop in the number of new Health and Safety Reps added to RMS.

Bespoke training in Bolton – Equalities

Bolton Met branch are getting to grips with the Equalities agenda and inviting all their stewards to participate in a three day learning programme. The course will take place over two days together then there is a gap to complete a related organising task and a final day a couple of months later. The first set of dates is **26-27 March and 2 July**.

Branch officer training 2009 – for newly elected Branch officers

21-22 April Chairing Skills
28-29 April Communications in the Branch
12-13 May Health and Safety Officers (not reps)
14-15 May Treasurers
14-15 May Equality Officers
15 May Labour Link Officers
15 May Membership Officers
15 May International Contacts
18-19 May Secretaries
20-21 May Education and Life Long Learning Co-ordinators

The UNISON tutor training programme

In 2009 we will run two episodes of this programme – aimed at creating a cohort of tutors able to run learning events locally in their branches.

Branches should remember this aim when authorising applications.

We are trying out a new format in March – 3 days followed by a gap and then the last 2 days but reverting to 5 days in a row for the November course

- **9-11 March**, and **19-20 March**
- **2-6 November**

Branches should also be aware that applicants to complete stage one must attend a further three day equalities course and an assessed teaching practice.

Recruitment Workshop for the Environment Agency Branch

In December the branch ran an effective workshop planning their campaign strategies to grow the union during the weeks ahead. If your branch wants to spend time getting your act together in this way speak to an area officer to help you get started.

Making the Most out of Meetings

This new addition to the programme was well received and has retained its place in the 2009 programme – it's a great follow-up for Chairs who have already undertaken the initial basic training – **28-29 October 2009**





Working Class Movement Library – lottery money coming through

UNISON has had a close relationship over the years with the library in Salford and we are partners in their lottery bid – we are especially interested in the development of materials from the library which we could incorporate into our adult learning programmes. The Library has now secured funds for this work to begin in 2009.

Film production for Team Negotiations

The region is putting together new visual resources for the team negotiations course. Filming will take place on 30th January at Arena Point – if you want to take part please contact the regional education officer



Knowledge and Skills Framework in the NHS – dispute to force the issue

The KSF is a national agreement to which UNISON is a party and it forms part of the Agenda for Change in the NHS – some employers have been reluctant to properly introduce this scheme and work together with the unions. It is an excellent framework in which to progress NHS trusts towards becoming learning organisations. The unions in one Merseyside trust have taken a stand against their employers disregard for the agreement and are currently in dispute – let's hope the employers are willing to listen, learn and improve.

Learning Reps Training dates:

- Manchester – 5th March – 2nd April 2009 (5 Thursdays)
- Warrington – 7th April – 5th May 2009 (5 Tuesdays)
- Liverpool – 22nd May – 19th June 2009 (5 Fridays)
- Blackpool – 25th September – 23rd October (5 Fridays)
- Manchester – 19th October – 16 November 2009 (5 Mondays)

UNISON's Living Library project – International Logo

The international living library movement has been working with the region and we are now authorised to use their official logo in our communications. The working class movement library has been the first establishment to offer their library as a venue for our UNISON Living Library events this year.

Return to Learn and Women's lives – 20 year Celebration

In November former participants on the programmes got together to celebrate the 20 year run of these programmes – Current groups are running in Manchester, Liverpool Salford, St Helens and Blackpool. The celebration took place alongside the residential event for the current participants at the Sasha's Hotel in Manchester. 159 national tests in numeracy and literacy were successfully achieved at the event.

Learning Lunches

These events are aimed at creating networks for Branch Education and Life Long Learning Coordinators and Learning Reps; the latest was held in October in Chester. Our dates for 2009 are

- 11 May 2009** at Arena Point, Manchester
- 25 September 2009** at the Gujerat Centre, Preston
- 3 December 2009** at the Holiday Inn, Liverpool

