



Branch Newsletter

February 2021

Get Involved. Get Active!

SAVE THE DATE!

BRANCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 24TH MARCH 2021

10 AM

ONLINE VIA TEAMS

If you would like to join the meeting but have difficulty using TEAMS, please get in touch with the branch

Aside to covering what has been an extremely challenging year, it is at the AGM when your Branch elects your Branch Officers and Representatives

Reps and contacts are invaluable to helping make sure our working conditions are safe and our jobs are secure so we are asking you to consider whether you might be able to get more involved in YOUR Branch. Every bit helps.

OUR STRENGTH IS IN OUR MEMBERS

**All attendees will be entered into a
FREE PRIZE DRAW to win Love2Shop vouchers:**

1st Prize £50

2nd Prize £25

3rd Prize £10





WHY YOU SHOULD MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ATTEND YOUR BRANCH AGM

As members of Unison and the YSJ Unison Branch, **you are the Union's strength** in your workplace.

The AGM provides you with an opportunity to:

- ✓ Elect your representatives
- ✓ Set the objectives and priorities for the coming year
- ✓ Hear about the hard work your branch has been doing over the past year on your behalf in what has been one of the most challenging and extraordinary years in living memory
- ✓ Find out how you can get most involved and help others

The AGM serves as a catalyst, helping bring members together to build stronger organisation. But we cannot do this without YOU!

HELP YOUR UNISON BRANCH! Why get active in your branch?

Getting involved in your branch offers a chance for you to influence the decisions of the branch – and in turn **make a difference** in your workplace.

Volunteering brings personal benefits too:

- you can get **free training and learning opportunities** – and **time off work while you learn**
- you gain valuable experience in new areas (**transferable skills**)
- you can create a better workplace and better public services
- it looks good on your **CV or job appln**
- **Wellbeing**- we all need some of this during the current climate. **Giving and helping others** can be a real 'mood booster'. It's a known fact that people who are interested in helping others are more likely to rate themselves as happy.



Questions? Suggestions? Workplace issues? Get in touch... unison@yorksj.ac.uk

There are many roles available – which one interests you?

Branch Chair

- Chairs meeting
- Agrees Agenda
- Advises on procedures & rules
- Provides leadership to the branch

Branch Treasurer

- Manages branch finances
- Keeps branch accounts
- Prepare budgets
- Advises branch on financial management and expenditure

Full training is provided and paid time off given by the University/Employer

Branch Women's Officer

- An opportunity to bring important changes for women in the workplace
- Build links with other organisations
- Be a focal point for women's issues

Branch Education Officer

- Helps arrange training courses and education programme for members, stewards, H&S reps and branch officers

Don't fail our public services
Don't fail our economy
Don't fail our students
Don't fail our staff
Don't fail our future.

UNISON
the public service union

Questions? Suggestions? Workplace issues? Get in touch... unison@yorks.ac.uk

Branch Communications Officer

- Create a positive image for the branch
- Produce new sheets, bulletins & digital comms
- Monitor and liaise with local media

Branch Membership Officer

- Maintain accurate membership records
- Monitor recruitment & retention rate
- Help develop and implement branch organisation and development plan

Learn & develop transferable skills.

Add these to your CV / Job Applns

Welfare Officer

- Develop and co-ordinate local welfare activity
- Undertake training
- Seek advice from and promote 'There for You'

Build confidence skills

Equalities Co-ordinator(s)

- Work on equal rights
- Promotes equality
- Point of contact for equality issues
- Shares responsibility for tackling prejudice and discrimination
- Co-ordinates development and training of members from under-represented groups

The Organising Steward

Advises and supports members on workplace issues

Recruits and organises new members

Works with members to establish an organised workplace

Supports and represents members on individual and collective issues

Is a listening voice

HONESTY – RESPECT – OPEN – FAIR – CLEAR COMMUNICATION

Full training and mentoring is provided with paid time off to do the training and paid time negotiated to carry out your union role as a steward.

Presently all training is being undertaken online with other new stewards so you get to meet new reps like yourself from different Sectors. The training is 1 day a week over 5 weeks. You can then progress to a more advanced level later and even do Employment Law courses. There is a massive scope of learning available!



YSJ University:
"We actively support staff in providing time off to undertake these roles"

What will I learn?

- ✓ How to work with members and tackle issues in the workplace
- ✓ The role of an organising union
- ✓ How to resolve cases
- ✓ How procedures work in practice
- ✓ How to handle disciplinaries and grievances or similar types of cases as a representative of Unison members in your workplace
- ✓ **Be accredited /certified as competent to accompany members at hearings in compliance with the Employment Relations Act 1999**
- ✓ Understand the broader roles in which Unison operates including internationally.

WORKING TOGETHER

PAID TIME OFF TO DO UNION TRAINING AND UNION DUTIES

Trade Union representatives and the University are committed to working in partnership to promote and maintain good employment relations and to pursue and achieve the following common objectives:

- ❖ To ensure that employment practices in the University are conducted to the highest possible standards
- ❖ To enhance effective communication with all staff throughout the University
- ❖ To achieve greater participation and involvement of all members of staff in the issues faced in running and developing the University
- ❖ To ensure that equality of opportunity is offered to staff or prospective staff and that members of staff are treated fairly and equitably in all matters of dispute.

“Unison are looking for colleagues who are keen to play a role in the YSJ local branch and there are many opportunities to get involved whether it’s being a steward and helping others; a Treasurer if you like doing accounts; a workplace contact or perhaps you are interested in equality issues? The University actively supports staff in providing time off to undertake these roles.”

Want to know more?

To arrange an informal chat about any of the roles:

Contact the branch: unison@yorks.ac.uk

Contact Unison local organiser, Linda Cartwright: l.cartwright@unison.co.uk

or

Find out more at your AGM



BE ON THE SAFE SIDE WEBINARS (FREE TO ALL MEMBERS)

Find out what it is like to be a H&S Rep

Being a health and safety representative can be a very rewarding experience. You will be offered high quality training and support by Unison. Perhaps the most important role that a representative play, (other than legal functions), is simply being there and talking to members regularly about their concerns especially during the pandemic.

Interested? Just click on any of the links below to register on a 'Be on the Safe Side' webinar: -

Wednesday 24 February at 2:15 pm

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6209556101726549772>

Evening Session 2 March at 6:00 pm

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/645818358506155280>

Tuesday March 23, 2021 at 2:00 pm

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1676580822660314384>

Wednesday April 7, 2021 at 2:00 pm

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5448393889094755600>

Wednesday April 21, 2021 at 2:00 pm

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6293838066505714960>

Wednesday May 5, 2021 at 2:00 pm

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7184054357399692048>

Tuesday May 18, 2021 at 2:00 pm

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3203883837501756688>

This is great opportunity to find out more about what it is like to be a Health and Safety Rep from existing reps, ask any questions and take the next steps in your journey to become a UNISON Health and Safety Rep.



ON FACEBOOK?

We post regular news and updates on our facebook

Visit and like our page:

<https://www.facebook.com/YSJUnison>

Don't forget your member benefits!



Questions? Suggestions? Workplace issues? Get in touch... unison@yorks.ac.uk