

Annual General Meeting – A Success.

We would like to thank all members who turned out at our recent AGM which was held over three meetings to ensure the widest possible participation – there was a marked improvement on recent years. We'd also like to thank all those who have come forward to take on new roles as either officers or workplace reps within the branch. As requested at the AGM, we have put the PowerPoint presentation onto the regional website. This now includes the written reports provided at the AGM and a copy of the 2023 AGM minutes which records the decisions taken. The presentation also includes updates on who was elected to the various roles in the branch. It can be accessed via:

<https://eastmidlands.unison.org.uk/east-midlands-gas-southern-branch-agm/>

An invitation for You to Attend our National Equality Seminar in Leeds

Please note that registrations for the 2023 B&E (Energy and Water Environment and Transport) Equalities Seminar are now open. And we are seeking volunteers from the branch to attend. The branch will support up to 4 delegates – this will include all accommodation (including meals) and travel costs.

The seminar this year will take place over the weekend of **Friday 14 to Sunday 16 July, at the Leeds Hilton City Centre Hotel.**

Last year's Equalities Seminar was well-attended, received good feedback from delegates and helped facilitate a decent amount of collaborative working around equalities between members, and across branches and the Service Groups, and it is hoped that this year's event will be equally as positive.

Branches that wish to register delegates for the seminar can do so by the deadline, which is Friday 30 June.

An event page has been created for this seminar, with full details of the event including costs and information on how to register members to attend via the OCS. A provisional seminar programme will be posted on the page as very soon, once it is available. The page can be accessed here: <https://www.unison.org.uk/events/wet-and-energy-equalities-seminar-2023/>

If you are interested in attending, please advise Nevil Fanibanda Nevil.Fanibanda@britishgas.co.uk UNISON Branch Secretary.

For any other info, please speak to:

Adelle Flynn – Branch Chair

Nevil Fanibanda – Branch Secretary

Jay Patel – Treasurer

John Merrell – Retired Members Officer

Imran Ravat – Communication Officer

Hasmukh Mistry – Health and Safety Officer

Mickey Kauldhar / Sham Laher – Disabled Members officer



Vacancies

Despite our best efforts not all the roles available were filled. So we are making a specific request for you to think about whether you might be interested in joining us. The positions in question are:

- Black Members Officer
- Welfare Officer
- Education Officer
- Women's Officer
- Labour Link Officer
- International Officer
- LGBT+ Officer
- Membership Office
- Vice Chair
- UNION Learner Rep(s)

If you are interested or would like to know more, please contact Nevil Fanibanda

Nevil.Fanibanda@britishgas.co.uk UNISON Branch Secretary.

Call in and see us and get yourself a free tea or coffee from the Canteen

We have planned several events in the forthcoming weeks to promote the union. We are encouraging all members who are at Spinneyside to call in and see us – and collect a token and have a free coffee or tea from the canteen. If you bring along a friend or colleague to join the union, you will get a free lunch!

List of events:

Tue 9th May – Meeting room 8 | TC 1000hrs – 1500hrs

Wed 17th May – Syndicate room 1 | TC 1000hrs – 1500hrs

Wed 24th May – Meeting room 8 | TC 1000hrs – 1500hrs



Report from the East Midlands National Pensioners Convention Annual General Meeting

Should anyone who is able to access the internet and wish to find out more about the NPC and its history can do by searching <https://www.npcuk.org/about-the-npc>

I attended the East Midlands National Pensioners' Convention (EMNPC) Annual General Meeting at The Mechanics Institute in Nottingham on Wednesday 22nd March 2023. I had a real problem with my hearing on the day and my hearing aids decided not to work properly, so hearing everything, especially from behind was difficult. All since sorted out. There was no hearing loop. Should I attend further meetings I will ask for one. There were others with hearing aids there too.

We were welcomed by the secretary Clare Wilkins and the chair Michael McLoughlin. There were approximately 19 who attended (not sure as most sat behind me) and 15 apologies. There were no matters arising from the AGM of 23rd March 2022. The Secretary's' and the Treasurers' reports were tabled.

Our guest speaker was Rosie MacGregor, the National Pensioners' Convention President. Rosie said she was pleased to be back at the EMNPC and felt very welcome. She spoke quite a lot about the NPC Pension Policies and working to amend the division between 'Those who have and those who have not'. She touched on the cost of energy and she also spoke regarding the 'Triple Lock', which I am sure pensioners are very well acquainted with. She spoke about the 10% this year as opposed to costs, and also about the coffin that was brought to 10 Downing Street. The problem of either heating or eating that some pensioners have to weigh up was also spoken about. She told us that there were 2 Million+ pensioners in poverty. The NPC are committed to fairness and are asking the government to raise the State Pension to equal work pay. She spoke about pension age and the fact that the pension age keeps going up that some of today's teenagers were 'likely to die before reaching pension age'. The NPC are campaigning for the government to have 'A Commissioner For Old People'. Some pensioners who have had their homes broken into have been put on Pre Payment-Meters. On a side, I'm not too sure why Rosie had spoken about this, other than to make sure pensioners who have this happen do not have meters broken into to take cash. Rosie spoke at length about colder persons and there should be proper energy for all. There is to be a 'Digital Working Party' set up. She spoke about Digital Inclusion and Access to Technology for pensioners. Also, about Dignity In Retirement.

The chair thanked Rosie and passed on a gift.

There was quite a discussion regarding the Older Persons Manifesto. Some people were suggesting that the NPC should lobby Age UK to get involved more. We were told that Age UK get a large payment from the government and might not want to 'rock the apple cart'. There was lots of discussion regarding peoples' personal pensions.

Following this the elections for the officers and committee members of the EMNPC were held and most of the sitting members, that wanted to continue, with 3 others were elected. The election of 4 members to attend the Special Delegate Conference were elected. Being new to the group I didn't feel it was right to put myself forward.

There were 3 motions passed to take to the conference, these were Basic State Pensions, Decline in Bus services, Support for Carers and also Energy Tariff.

There was no further business and the chair closed the AGM.

The Special Delegate Conference will be held on 26th June in Blackpool.

The date of the 2024 AGM is to be decided and may possibly be 20th March 2024.