



AGENDA

**RETIRED MEMBERS CONFERENCE
WEDNESDAY 31ST JANUARY 2018**

**YMCA
41 Fitzroy Square
London
W1T 6AQ**

Message from the General Secretary

Dear Colleague,

I would like to welcome you all to the CWU Retired Members Conference for 2018 and I look forward to hearing the debates and your views over the course of the conference today.

We are coming together at an important time for the labour movement. More than a decade after the financial crash, we face major issues as a country. The NHS and other public services have been pushed to crisis point by seven years of austerity. Poverty across society is on the rise. Insecurity at work is at record levels. And a whole generation is being denied access to decent housing.

Despite this, I believe we have cause for optimism at the start of 2018. Last year saw a decisive shift in the political landscape and we now have a realistic chance of securing a genuinely transformative Labour government. On the state pension triple-lock, means testing of benefits for pensioners and the dementia tax, just days after they were announced the government was forced into a number of u-turns over its moves to make older people pay the price for austerity. Equally, through the ongoing WASPI campaign the labour movement is putting significant pressure on the government which we will be driving forward this year.

I also believe the CWU is in a good place as a union. The Four Pillars campaign in Royal Mail delivered a huge yes vote which has forced the company to make significant concessions in ongoing talks. In BT, on both pensions and agency workers rights, we have been engaging members in a way that few other unions in the UK can match. And within the TUC, the CWU is leading the push for the whole trade union movement to come together and launch a major campaign for a bold new deal for all workers.

What underpins all of these issues is the fact that people in this country are under severe pressure and unions have never had such an important role to play. Because of this, I am clear that in 2018 we have to secure the future of the CWU, and continue to drive forward positive changes in the way we stand up for members through the redesign project. I want to hear your views on how we do this and on our other campaigning priorities for the year ahead.

I hope to meet as many people as possible over the course of the day and I hope that everyone here takes the opportunity to have an input into the union's work.

Dave Ward
General Secretary

Message from the Senior Deputy General Secretary

Dear Colleagues,

Once again it is time that time of year for us to extend a warm welcome to delegates, observers and visitors to our annual Retired Members Conference.

In my message last year I reflected upon the EU referendum result. I said then that it was now abundantly clear that the leaders of the leave campaign lied and lied on an industrial scale. To have been proved right is no consolation.

The promises of money for the NHS are exposed now simply by watching the appalling state the NHS finds itself in, as I write this message news breaks that patients are dying in hospital corridors because of a lack of beds and the worst recorded waiting times for A&E patients are being incurred. This is a story of national shame, a Government so out of touch with then needs of the people of the country that we are not able to properly look after the sick or the dying.

Worse still the news that in the recently announced cabinet reshuffle the man who has overseen this appalling decline in our NHS, Jeremy Hunt, now has responsibility for Social Care. So just when you thought things couldn't really get any worse along comes May and her government for the few to do exactly that.

So our task, as ever, is to increase our efforts in this area. Mobilise our 15,000 retired members to support campaigns and demonstrations to save our NHS, for themselves and for future generations. The opportunity exists to debunk the myth that the older generation are pulling up the drawbridge on the young people of today. I believe our retired members will rise to that challenge.

2017 saw a General election, with a Jeremy Corbyn led Labour Party defying the odds and the pundits by coming close to winning. Much work needs to be done but the General Election 2017 changed the narrative in this country. No longer was it unpopular to criticise austerity, no longer was it unpopular to stand up for workers rights and no longer was it unpopular to campaign for a society to be driven by a shared responsibility to make the country better for all and not just for a rich elite, a society for the many and not the few. I know that many of our retired members were active in that campaign.

I also know that many of our retired members were active in our 4 Pillars campaign that delivered such a massive yes vote amongst our Royal Mail members and brought Royal mail back to the negotiating table.

That spirit of 'playing their part' be it by supporting our industrial work or our political campaigning is something we should be proud of. It is a spirit we will need to harness if we are to unite to save our NHS from the government who don't care and from the privateers who bleed it dry.

Our future is up grabs, all you have fought for as trade unionists over the years is under attack and the spirit we need to see at this conference is one whereby we all commit to working together, leaving our differences aside, because if we fight amongst ourselves we take our eyes off the real prize that awaits us, a fairer society for all and dignity and respect in our older years.

Have a good conference

Tony Kearns
Senior Deputy General Secretary

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Welcome From the General Conference Standing Orders Committee

Welcome to the CWU Retired Members Conference of 2018 on behalf of the General Conference Standing Orders Committee.

This year we have again used the same criteria for motions that will be used for General Conference 2018 and, as such, the Standing Orders are as close as possible to those which will be in place for that Conference.

We have, recognised an issue with Emergency motions being submitted at times where we have no facilities to deal with such motions. To rectify this issue the submission of Emergency motions will close at Midnight on 26th January as reflected in the standing orders.

The Standing Orders Committee will be present during Conference should any Delegate have any question over procedure, and to conduct the Ballot(s) for motions to go forward to General Conference as well as the delegates to represent the Retired Members at General Conference 2018.

May you all enjoy a successful Conference.

Joyce Stevenson and Tony Sneddon
General Conference Standing Orders Committee

Retired Members' Conference 2018 Standing Orders

1. The sessions of the 2018 Conference shall commence in accordance with the timetable.

2. TIMETABLE

- a 10.00 Registration
10.30 Chairperson's Opening Remarks
10.35 Dave Ward, General Secretary
10.50 Adoption of Standing Orders Committee Report (including appeals/reference back)
10.55 Motions
12.30 Lunch
13.30 Motions continued
15.00 Tony Kearns, SDGS
15.25 Chairpersons closing remarks
15.30 Close of Conference

- b The doors of Conference will open at 10.00 with conference commencing at 10.30 and closing at 15.30

Conference is divided into two half-day sessions. If the business of any section is completed within the timetable, the Conference shall proceed immediately to the next section of business.

If all the business of the final section is completed within the timetable, the Conference shall return to the earliest uncompleted business.

3. PROCEDURE IN DEBATE

- a Every member of the Conference must remain in their seat, except the one who may be addressing the Conference and, should the Chairperson rise, no-one else shall continue standing nor shall anyone else rise until the Chairperson has resumed the Chair.

SPEAKERS

- b A delegate when speaking from the rostrum shall address the Chairperson. If two or more persons desire to speak at the same time the Chairperson shall decide to whom priority will be given. No person shall be allowed to speak twice on the same question.
- c All speeches shall be confined to the subject under discussion.
- d Delegates may only refer to documents which have a bearing on the subject under discussion.
- e
 - (i) Motions standing in the name of a Branch must be moved by a delegate from that Branch.
 - (ii) Motions standing in the name of a Regional Committee if appropriate, must be moved by a delegate from that body (in line with Rule 10).
 - (ii) Motions must be seconded or else they shall be deemed to have fallen.
- f A motion may be seconded formally or by a speaker making a seconding speech.

COMPOSITE MOTIONS

- g All sponsors of a composite motion will be responsible for agreeing the allocation of moving and seconding speakers from amongst those named within the composite motion, notwithstanding the terms of SO3e(i) and (ii).
- h The mover of a motion shall be allowed to speak for not more than 5 minutes and any other speaker (including the mover exercising the right of reply) for not more than 3 minutes. **In EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES a speaker may request the special permission of Conference to speak for a longer period, if agreed, it shall not exceed a further 3 minutes.**
- i The moving speaker shall have the right of reply to the debate only if there has been opposition and shall not introduce any fresh matter but shall be limited to answering the debate.
- j The Advisory Committee (including the relevant Officer) shall in addition to moving and exercising the right of reply be allowed a maximum of one speaker in a debate on motions standing in the name of the Advisory Committee (SO3i applies to the Advisory Committee).
- k The Advisory Committee (including the relevant Officer) shall only be allowed one speaker in debate on all other motions not standing in the name of the Advisory Committee.
- l No motion shall be spoken upon except by the mover, until it has been seconded. The mover of a motion who sits down without speaking upon it shall lose the right of addressing Conference, but shall still have the right of reply (SO3i) applies. The seconder of a motion who sits down without speaking upon it shall not lose the right of addressing Conference.

ENDING DEBATE

- m Any delegate who has not spoken on the motion before Conference may move "That the motion be now put" on the seconding of which the Chairperson shall immediately and without discussion put this motion to the vote. In the event of it being carried by a simple majority of Conference, Conference shall proceed to vote on the question itself, subject to SO3k and the right of reply as stated in SO3i being exercised.
- n Any delegate who has not spoken on the motion before Conference may move "That Conference proceeds to next business", on the seconding of which the Chairperson shall immediately and without discussion put this motion to the vote. In the event of it being carried Conference shall at once proceed to the next item on its agenda.

WITHDRAWAL

- o Any motion or composite motion may be withdrawn from the Agenda at any time by the sponsor(s) who shall notify the Standing Orders Committee at the earliest opportunity. Once it has been moved and seconded, however, it shall not be withdrawn except with the agreement of Conference by a simple majority vote.

POINT OF ORDER

- p Any person wishing to question the proceedings of Conference may rise on a "point of order", and when called shall state the procedural point in exact terms, whereupon the Chairperson shall immediately give a ruling or refer the matter to the Standing Orders Committee for a decision. Any person raising points of order must seek to prove one or more of the following:-

- (i) That the speaker is using unparliamentarily language.
 - (ii) That the speaker is digressing from the subject of the motion.
 - (iii) That the rules of the Union are being broken.
 - (iv) That there is an infringement of the customary rules of debate.
 - (v) That there is an infringement of the Standing Orders (which shall be referred to the Standing Orders Committee).
- q The Chairperson's ruling on a point of order shall be final unless it is challenged. The correct method of challenging the ruling shall be to move: "I wish to challenge your ruling." Such a motion shall be carried by a simple majority.
- r The Standing Orders Committee shall have the right to enter debate on all matters affecting the decisions and role of the Committee.

4. VOTING PROCEDURE

- a Voting at the Retired Members Conference shall normally be by a show of hand voting cards which shall be issued on the basis of one per Branch in attendance.
- b A card vote may be called for either by the Chairperson of the Retired Members Conference or when 5 or more delegates call for such a vote immediately on the announcement of the decision of the hand vote.

DURING A CARD VOTE ALL PERSONS MUST REMAIN IN THEIR SEATS AND NO PERSON SHALL ENTER OR LEAVE THE FLOOR OF CONFERENCE.

Instructions on the card vote will be given by the SOC.

When the motion being voted upon has a consequential effect on the following motion(s), Conference will proceed to the next item of business unaffected by the card vote result. When the card vote result is announced Conference will return to the earlier item provided it is within the timetable.

- c A motion will be deemed carried if it obtains a simple majority of the votes cast.

5. PROCEDURE FOR EMERGENCY MOTIONS

- a Emergency motions may only be submitted for inclusion in the Agenda if they refer to a matter which because of the circumstances giving rise to them could not possibly have been submitted by the published closing date for motions. Such emergency motions will only be accepted by the SOC if they constitute a significant and important matter, which requires a decision by Conference.
- b Emergency motions must reach the Standing Orders Committee at CWU Headquarters by midnight on **Friday 26th January 2018**. Delegates will be advised by the SOC whether or not the emergency motion has been accepted for inclusion to the Agenda prior to the commencement of Conference. **No Emergency Motions will be accepted after that date.**
- C A decision taken by Conference shall not be open to the emergency procedure at the same Conference.

6. APPEALS/REFERENCE BACK PROCEDURE

a Written notice of appeals/intention to move reference back against decisions of the Standing Orders Committee as published in the Agenda regarding:-

- (i) motions not admitted to the agenda
- (ii) inclusion/exclusion of motions in a composite
- (iii) the priority/placement given to a motion
- (iv) timetable/programme of business
- (v) the Standing Orders for Conference
- (vi) the consequential rulings on motions

must reach the Standing Orders Committee at CWU Headquarters by midnight on **Friday 26th January 2018**. Such written notice must advise of the intention to appeal/move reference back to alter the published agenda with details and reasons for doing so.

After consideration of appeals/reference backs by the SOC, Branches, Advisory Committees, and Regional Committees (if appropriate) wishing to continue their appeal/reference back must seek to do so by addressing Conference at the commencement of conference.

- b Challenges to other SOC decisions as printed or announced in supplementary SOC reports must be made at the time the supplementary report is moved.
- c All appeals/reference backs will be deemed carried if they have the support of a simple majority of Conference.
- d The Advisory Committees will also be required to follow these procedures.

7. SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

- a Motions to suspend Standing Orders shall only be allowed to deal with business or circumstances that could not have been foreseen when the Timetable/Programme of Business was adopted.
- b The Chairperson may accept a motion for the suspension of Standing Orders provided no motion is on the floor being debated.

Any such motion must state the Standing Order/Orders involved and also state the nature and urgency of the business as to why the suspension is required.

The Chairperson shall immediately refer such a motion to the Standing Orders Committee who shall express their view before the vote is taken. A motion for the suspension of Standing Orders will be carried if supported by a simple majority of the Conference and shall take no longer than 15 minutes.

8. BALLOTS

- a There will be a ballot to select two motions this Conference will forward for submission to the 2018 General Conference.

The ballot paper for General Conference selection will be printed on the reverse of the hand voting card.

Motions in Section II which are carried are eligible for the ballot for General Conference. The ballot will take place at the end of Section II motions.

The ballot box will be open subject to the timetable of Conference and located next to the administration table. The SOC shall be responsible for counting the ballot and advising the Chairperson of the result, which will be announced prior to the close of Conference. In the event of a tie, the SOC will administer an exhaustive ballot.

- b Should there be a request at General Conference to remit a motion in respect of the 2018 Conference motions, the mover of the motion at General Conference will be deemed to have the authority to agree to the remittance on behalf of the 2018 Conference, subject to the agreement of General Conference.

There will be a ballot to select the two delegates that will represent the Retired Members Conference at the 2018 General Conference

9. PROHIBITIONS

The use of mobile telephones are prohibited anywhere within the confines of the Conference Hall.

No documents, posters or banners shall be circulated, distributed or displayed within the Conference Hall without the permission of the Standing Orders Committee.

Timetable and Programme of Business

- 10.00 Registration
- 10.30 Chairpersons opening remarks
- 10.35 Dave Ward, General Secretary
- 10.50 Adoption of Standing Orders Committee Report
(including appeals/reference back)
- 10.55 Motions 1-9
- 12.30 Lunch
- 13.30 Motions 1-9 continued
- 15.00 Tony Kearns, SDGS
- 15.25 Chairpersons closing remarks
- 15.30 Conference closes

The timetable is subject to alteration should guest speakers confirm availability. Delegates will be advised via a SOR or at the start of conference should the timetable be altered.

**DELEGATES ARE REMINDED THAT THE BALLOT BOX WILL
BE LOCATED AT THE SOC TABLE.**

SECTION II NATIONAL ISSUES

- 1** This conference notes that around 11% of all households in the UK live in fuel poverty. This amounts to around 2.4 million households and 1.4 million older people in England alone. In addition, almost one in three older people live in homes with inadequate heating or insulation making their homes more difficult to heat and/or keep warm. In total, this therefore accounts for around 3.5 million older people at risk or suffering from fuel poverty.

The Conference agrees the real problem is the lack of an active policy to tackle fuel poverty whilst we facing ever increasing energy costs. In 2016, the average dual fuel bill reached £1,135. Compared to in 2004 when an average home paid £565. This absorbs nearly 14% of the income of a single pensioner dependent on the Pension Credit guarantee.

This is also highlighted by the Office for National Statistics that provides data on the number of excess winter deaths. (Deaths occurring in December to March) minus the average of non-winter deaths (April to July of the current year and August to November of the previous year). In the winter period (December to March) of 2016/17 there were an estimated 34,300 more deaths in England and Wales, compared with the average for the non-winter period. The overall figure represents a 39.5% increase on the previous year's figure and is the second highest in the last five years. It represents a death rate of 285 people a day during the 4-month period in question, or 11 deaths an hour.

Britain also has a significant number of homes which are energy inefficient, and in urgent need of improvement. This could help not only the fuel poor, but the economy as well with the creation of thousands of green jobs, as well as helping meet our climate change commitments.

This conference therefore agrees that the RMAC to work with the NEC in conjunction with other supportive campaigning bodies to campaign that the government carry out the following urgent programme of action:

- Introduce a national programme to improve the heating and insulation standards of existing homes so that they reach the standards of new homes built today. In particular, the homes of all low income and fuel poor households should be improved to the standard by 2020.
- Legislate to oblige all fuel companies to provide an industry-wide 'social tariff' to low income and fuel poor consumers – that offers a better deal than tariffs offered to more financially secure consumers.
- Ensure that energy companies are obliged to offer payment packages to offline customers that are equal to those available online.
- Many older people assume their loyalty for sticking with their energy provider is rewarded, when in reality those that do not switch are punished for inactivity with higher prices. Competition and choice have clearly failed the poorest customers and it is now time to introduce a real price cap on energy bills that benefits all customers, especially the poorest.
- End the use of pre-payment meters.

- Provide an annual fuel allowance to all vulnerable, older and low income households set initially at £500 which keeps pace with annual increases in average energy bills.

Retired Members Advisory Committee

- 2** This Conference, aware of the rising level cold related pensioner deaths, (over 34,000 in England and Wales during the Winter of 2016/17) instructs the RMAC to raise the profile of this issue to the National Executive Committee and to encourage the NEC to support the National Pensioners' Convention's call for the government to establish a Fuel Poverty Commission so that the causal factors of poor insulation and inadequate heating can be addressed along with a substantial increase to the Winter Fuel Allowance for pensioner households.

North West Regional Retired Members Committee

- 3** Conference notes the ongoing major crisis developing in the NHS affecting all of those in need of health care and recognising that the elderly and pensioners are massively affected by these cuts.

Conference agrees that a major campaign is required to stop the continuation of privatisation in the health service and for the service to be reinvigorated with the required funding to meet the needs of all.

- a) Conference calls on the RMAC in conjunction with the NEC to
- b) Call on the TUC to organise a national demonstration calling for an end to privatisation in health and social care and against continued austerity. Campaign for a Labour government to end PFI in the health service and to bring health and social care back into public ownership and for funding to end the crisis.

Coventry

- 4** That this conference notes that the First Secretary of State and Minister for the Cabinet office, Damian Green, has announced that the government will publish a green paper on care and support for older people in England by Summer 2018. The paper will set out plans for how government proposes to improve care and support for older people and tackle the challenge of an ageing population.

This conference instructs the RMAC to work with other organisations, including the NPC, NFOP and the TUC to monitor the progress of this green paper, and respond to the Public consultation that is to be held once the bill is published.

Retired Members Advisory Committee

- 5** This conference is extremely disappointed at the delay in dealing with Motion 29 from General Conference 2017.

This was a Motion in the name of the NEC that called for a report to Branches by the end of September 2017.

With the issue of LTB 653/17 on the 4th December 2017 the issue is going to drag on until at least February 2018 before the NEC make recommendations to

branches.

This is inconsistent with the Conference Motion instructions and this is not acceptable.

The RMAC is therefore instructed, as a matter of urgency, to enter dialog with the NEC to put on hold the additional paragraph to the Model Branch Constitution contained in LTB 664/16 until a report is issued that is acceptable to Branches and their Retired Members' Sections.

Midland Regional Retired Members Committee

- 6** This Conference instructs the RMAC to request the NEC to explain why the instructions clearly contained in Motion 35 which was carried at General Conference 2017 have not been complied with.

Midland No.1

7 COMPOSITE MOTION

This Conference agrees that the new Retired Members Web page is not fit for purpose, in that it does not provide the facility for the publication of reports and articles that are relevant to the retired members of this Union.

The RMAC is instructed to work with the National Executive Council and the Communications Department to restore the facilities that were previously available to retired members.

South East No.5
South East Regional Retired Members Committee

- 8** Conference agrees that the timing of the Retired Members Conference specifically being held in the depths of winter, with many aged and infirm members having to travel distances at this time of year. It would be better suited to be held in the autumn period possibly around the time of the other equality conferences before the weather takes a hold.

Therefore the RMAC is instructed to work and advise the NEC to seek an Autumn venue in time for the next Retired Members Conference.

Greater Mersey and SW Lancs

- 9** This conference recognises that the content of the course titled "Retired Members Weekend" is no longer fit for purpose for retired members.

This conference instructs the Retired Members Advisory Committee in conjunction with the NEC to work with the CWU Education Department to review the content of this course as part of the Re-Design Project.

The content of the course as a minimum should reflect the variations of legislation within the UK & include at a minimum awareness state pension entitlement and also care and dementia awareness. The course should continue to be available to all retired members.

South East Wales Amal

MOTIONS NOT ADMITTED TO THE AGENDA

- 10** Conference agrees with the carriage of Motion 29 at Annual Conference 2017 and the paragraph with reference voting rights for retired members, therefore the NEC are instructed to publish their decision and reasons with reference to this paragraph to the RMAC and in a LTB.

South West Regional Retired Members Committee

- 11** This conference notes that there are no cohesive communication channels within the Retired Members Section of the CWU.

This issue needs to be address as a matter of urgency by the establishment of a Working Group consisting of representatives of the RMAC, the Regional Committees and Branches, the SDGS Dept and the Communications Dept in order to make best practice and use of Communication facilities.

Eastern Regional Retired Members Committee

- 12** Conference agrees that retired members attending meetings should not be classed as 'business use' in terms of insurance cover, if this cannot be changed in rule in relation to retired members, the NEC is instructed to place a rule amendment to the rules revision conference which will allow CWU Branches to fund any extra cost incurred in gaining business use insurance for retired member's representatives only when using personal vehicles.

North East Region Retired Members Committee

- 13** Conference recognises the increase in the numbers of UK citizens living in poverty and homelessness.

Conference agrees. That the Labour Party and other affiliated Trades Unions, take away for examination and consultation, the means to alleviate poverty and homelessness in the UK. Any subsequent agreements will then become part of the Labour Party manifesto in preparation for the next General Election.

Eastern No.5

- 14** Conference agrees that motions carried at TUC Pensioners Conferences in England that go to the national TUC are only taken forward at the discretion of the Chair. Conference recognises here must be a more robust attitude to these motions carried at the Pensioners Conference and for the TUC to assist in ensuring they are actioned.

Therefore this conference agrees that the RMAC and the NEC are instructed to work together with a view to encourage other unions to put pressure on the TUC to change this situation.

Retired Members Advisory Committee

NOTES