



Retired Members Committee

Still Active!

The Committee has remained active this year, despite the problems presented by the Covid crisis, about which, as you are aware, we drafted a letter for Branches to use to contact their Retired Members to ensure that they were not experiencing problems during the pandemic.

Social Care Crisis

The crisis in social care shows little sign of abating, largely due to Tory government inactivity on this crucial issue. We were fortunate to be able to listen to Retired member Pia Feig address us on behalf of the Reclaim Social Care Campaign. Whilst UNISON correctly focusses on the issue of low paid workers, on poor conditions of service in this sector, the Committee also thought that some of the broader issues of service improvement, ownership etc should also be pursued within the union.

Black Members

Retired members are affected by the same societal pressures as working members, (and some more!), so we were pleased to invite the Chairperson of our Black Members Committee, Ameen Hadi, to speak to us about the Black Lives Matter movement to our April meeting, as a result of which we decided to co-opt a black Retired Member to the Committee.

Digital Exclusion

Committee member Mary Whitby has impressed on the Committee the need to consider digital exclusion, with particular reference to older people, and has also raised this matter at the Regional Women's Committee, along with a representative from the Manchester Branch. Whilst Zoom, Teams and similar apps have kept us afloat over the past year, we must not lose sight of the fact that many of our members cannot access these systems, and we should bend over backwards to help them.

Getting Back to Normal?

Plans are in hand to arrange a National Retired Members Conference, with provisional dates of 12 to 13 October 2021, subject to sufficient relaxing of lockdown restrictions, it is not yet determined whether this will be a virtual or a physical event. Branches will of course be informed of all details, including appropriate deadlines.

Roger Bannister

Chairperson