

Help with debt

Even a small change in circumstances can turn a manageable situation into a debt problem that threatens your home or your family's wellbeing. Whatever the amount, debt can feel stressful, overwhelming and all-consuming.

UNISON's Debtline service is available to all our members to help you manage money and deal with debt. We offer free confidential advice to help you clear your debts.

UNISON Debtline can help you deal with all sorts of debt, from credit cards, to mortgage arrears, to county court judgment claims. We can help give you the best chance of keeping your home if you're at risk of repossession.


UNISON Debtline is a debt advice service for UNISON members run by our trusted partners, PayPlan. We offer confidential, **free** advice to help you clear your debts and manage your money for the future.

UNISON Debtline offers:

- immediate advice
- a free and confidential service with no hidden charges
- a personal case officer to advise you and negotiate with your creditors
- a manageable debt plan to suit your circumstances

Call UNISON Debtline now on freephone

0800 389 3302.



Happy New Year to all our members and to trade unionists everywhere.

Have your say in the Labour Party leadership election. Here's how ...

- ◇ All members of UNISON who are Labour Link contributors can vote but, to get a ballot paper, you must register on the Labour Party website as an affiliated supporter by 5pm on Monday 20th January. This will not cost you anything. <https://support.labour.org.uk>
- ◇ If you are a member of the Labour Party or you join by Monday 20th January, you don't need to do anything. Your ballot paper will arrive automatically.
- ◇ Between 5pm on Tuesday 14th January and 5pm on Thursday 16th January, there will be a 48-hour window during which anybody may pay £25 to become a registered supporter of the Labour Party. Providing your registration is accepted, you will get a ballot paper.

The ballot opens on 21st February and closes at noon on Thursday 2nd April.

The result will be announced at a special conference on Saturday 4th April.



You may become a retired member of UNISON if you are retired and, on the day you retired, you were a UNISON member and had been so continuously for the two preceding years. Becoming a retired member couldn't be easier. Call free on 0800 171 2193

UNISON National Delegate Conference, Brighton, 16th-19th June 2019

UNISON National Delegate Conference brings together voting delegates from each of UNISON's thousand or so branches and non-voting reps from other UNISON bodies including the retired members' organisation.

Retired Members' Conference sends two motions to National Conference. This year, it picked a motion about older people and austerity and one about social care.

But this isn't the only way to get our concerns in front of the whole union.

Branches also send motions. They can send as many as the like and on any subject at all. All members, including retired members, may make suggestions.

With this newsletter is a note about three rule amendments that our regional retired members committee has discussed. The committee would like to get these to national conference. It is calling on branches to put them forward.

Please consider asking your branch to put one of them to National Delegate Conference.

Last date for branches to send them to headquarters is Monday 24th February. Your branch will have its own arrangements and deadlines to deal with conference business.

For further information, email robertdeacon@btconnect.com

UNISON LEARNING One Day Workshops

Free of charge
Open to all UNISON members
9.30am to 4.30pm
at UNISON Regional Centre,
24 Livery St, Birmingham,
B3 2PA

Thursday 27th February
Computers & IT for Beginners
aimed at members with no
knowledge of computers at all.
Apply by Thursday 6th February

Friday 6th March
Your Skills, Your Future
Gain confidence about your
skills and abilities. Signposts
to UNISON's learning offer and
how to get involved in the union.
Apply by Thursday 13th February

For application
forms,
call Irene Phillips
(see below).



Rule Rulebook Reminder:

C2.6.3 Branch annual general meetings are upcoming.

Retired members shall be entitled to attend branch meetings and to vote on matters not relating to the pay and conditions of members in employment. They will be entitled to stand for office and vote only for positions in the Retired Members' Organisation unless otherwise determined by the National Executive Council or as otherwise provided for in these rules.

UNISON West Midlands Regional Retired Members' Committee is made up of two reps of the retired members of each branch and of each Regional Self-Organised Group.

Meetings in 2020 will be at Regional Centre at 1.30pm on Thursday 27th February, Tuesday 2nd June and Wednesdays 5th August & 25th November.

To get in touch: email: i.phillips@unison.co.uk
telephone 0121 685 3186 or fax 0121 685 4400
UNISON Regional Centre, 24 Livery Street,
Birmingham B3 2PA.

This newsletter is circulated by email to retired members of UNISON West Midlands. To subscribe or unsubscribe, contact Irene Phillips above.

Congratulations

to our Electrician colleagues in Sandwell who voted 100% in favour of industrial action (in a 94% turnout) in pursuit of their grading claim.

Taking a leaf out of the Birmingham Homecare workers' book, members are planning, on strike days, to leaflet the wards of leading Sandwell councillors.

Watch out for strike dates and details of how we can join in!