



Branch Newsletter – February 2025

Hello and thanks again for reading the latest UNISON Wiltshire and Avon Health branch newsletter. If you have recently taken part in a UNISON training course, conference or have something else that you think other union members would be interested to hear about then please write to the branch at wahbunison@gmail.com and let us know about it.

Other ways of keeping up with branch news is our website www.wahbunison.co.uk or find us on Facebook [Wiltshire and Avon Health Unison](https://www.facebook.com/WiltshireandAvonHealthUnison)

Seb

Branch Communications officer

Your Branch nominations for UNISON National Executive Council (NEC)

Following an extraordinary meeting held by the executive on the 4th of February it was decided to nominate the following people running for the UNISON National Executive Council (NEC). The ballot itself opens on 21 April 2025 and runs until 21 May 2025, with information on all candidates and voting forms being provided at that time.

The candidates nominated are:

Regional

SW Seats: Rebecca Brookman (Female), Mark Wareham (General) and Avril Young (Low Paid Reserve)

Health: Clare Miller (Female), Jordan Rivera (Female) and Kevin Corran (General) and Adrian O'Malley (General)

National

Black Members: Antonia Bright (Female), April Ashley (Female), Amerit Rait (Male) and Julia Mwaluke (Low Paid Reserved)

Disabled Members: Tara Thomas (General)

Young Members: Kameron Spence (General) and Natasha Bednall (Female)

Motion on Palestine passed by WAHB Branch Exec encouraging action on the 13th

At the same extraordinary meeting of the branch executive as the NEC nominations (see above) a motion was passed encouraging members to participate in the national Workplace Day of Action for Palestine on 13th February. This could involve different forms of raising awareness in our workplaces, ranging from lunch-time protests to simply taking staff group selfies showing our support for the Palestinian people. If you are interested in knowing more about what is planned or have made a plan for the Day of Action yourself and would like others to know about it then please email the branch.

The full motion passed can be found on our branch website here:

<https://www.wahbunison.co.uk/emergency-motion>

Are you a retired member (or about to be one)? We want to hear from you

Are you a retired member or are about to become one? Your experience and wisdom are highly valued, and we would be delighted to involve you more in the activities of Unison's retired members. The Wiltshire and Avon Health Branch is eager to establish an active group for retired members that includes both social and business meetings and we'd like you to tell us what that looks like – please fill in the following form so we know what you're expecting our retired members section to look like:

<https://forms.office.com/e/EP2mMt1q8r>

Support your branch – become a steward!

Trade union branches can only function with the active participation of you, the membership. By taking up roles in the executive or as a steward for your workplace you're providing an important service for all your fellow members as a point of contact between the membership and the union. Can you help? If so please consider stepping up and becoming a steward or taking on one of the many roles in the branch executive to make sure we can continue to fully support all our membership across our many employers and workplaces. Steward training will be provided and more information about roles on the executive can be found here: [Official branch roles](#) | [Our activists](#) | [UNISON National](#)

If you are interested in increasing your involvement with UNISON please email us at wahbunison@gmail.com and we can answer any questions you may have.

Upcoming Branch Annual General Meeting

It's rapidly approaching time for the branches annual general meeting (AGM) again so keep your eyes open for the notification letter sent out to you (if one doesn't arrive please check your UNISON details to make sure we have the right address for you). The AGM is your chance as a UNISON member to hear reports from the Executive about how things have gone over the last year, vote for the new Executive and discuss the union and branch with other members. **It is a requirement of the union that enough of our members attend the AGMs to hear the reports and approve the decisions made there so please make every effort to attend one of the meetings.** If you are a Representative/Steward then you must also submit your nomination form to the AGM with signatures from two other members. There are also a number of positions on the Branch Executive available, if you are interested in helping out the branch more as a Representative or part of the Executive team please email wahbunison@gmail.com for more information.

The dates and times are as follows:

19th February – MS Teams ([Virtual AGM via Teams](#) ID: 386 311 273 908 Passcode: dW798Pc2) 1 – 2:30pm

21st February – Swindon (Holiday Inn Swindon, Marlborough Road) 6pm

24th February – Bristol (Vassal Centre) 12:30pm

7th March – Warminster (Warminster Civic Centre) 6:30pm