



North West Gas Branch

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Something new

by Steve Alford (Communications Officer)

Welcome to YOUR very first North West Gas Branch newsletter.

As we move into the New Year with you all this would be a good time to provide you with some new ways to speak to you and let you know we are not just your union representatives but also a valued source in supporting in many different ways

As a valued member of UNISON and more importantly North West Gas branch we would like to give you more and make you aware of what else is available to you. Some of you like myself have been in UNISON for 10+ years but only since I have been the communications officer have I found out what else UNISON offers to its members.

In this very first newsletter there will be some news you may already know and also some that you will simply think, Well I didn't know that.

To keep up to date with YOUR branch follow us on FACEBOOK and TWITTER by clicking on the links.



Martyn's Corner

By Martyn Bryan

As we look into 2015, it is a great feeling to know that the shift review has now been settled. We have had great success based on negotiation, and in the vast majority of cases our members have had an acceptable outcome. We will continue to work with British Gas to look into flexible work requests

The re-fit at Talbot Road cannot happen soon enough, health and safety will be improved with better desks, better seating and a cleaner environment.



Children's Christmas party



UNISON funded a children's party at Jump nation, on Saturday 13th December, this as a great success, no broken bones and everyone seemed to enjoy their time. We had a fantastic turnout, and apologies to those who lost out in the raffle for spaces.

Talbot Road

by Martyn Bryan



Our notice board in the restaurant shows you information about your reps. As a group we work hard to defend people and jobs, we are passionate about making Talbot Road a great place to work. Following the shift review we are now in different parts of the building, but one of us can always be contacted on the mobile

We can represent you in cases of great difficulty. All we ask is that you contact us as soon as the issue arises. We always fight for justice, fairness and equality

During the last year one of your very own branch officers was successful in securing that all British Gas Sites fly the PRIDE flag.

Also this year seen the first ever stall presented to our members that celebrated black history month. This is a huge step in showing all our members that we are here to support each and every one of our members



Trade Union issues.

Now as we approach 2015, we are fighting hard for fair pay. UNISON represents a huge number of public service workers, a good deal of the publicity coming from the media and indeed the Union revolves around this issue.

The energy sector, (the sector we are involved in directly) has its' own pressures and difficulties. At the recent **energy seminar** in Chester we discussed the move by some suppliers to off shoring jobs and using agencies such as Capita to deal with telephony. Some of our competitors are really feeling the pinch, and members are suffering from threats of redundancy and poor working conditions. The real reduction in wages compared to inflation is an issue across the industry. We felt that British Gas was probably leading the field in wages and growth of employee benefits. There is certainly a great deal more to do, and the "living wage for all" target is laudable.

We have huge numbers of poorly insulated homes, built in the last century. These homes are leaking energy. We need to work hard to replace old homes with new well insulated and maintained homes, and visit the older homes we cannot replace to provide excellent measures to reduce energy consumption. Our own Matt Lay spoke about the Unions' proposals to help in this effort.



The Labour Party appear to be committed to helping our customers save money on their fuel bills, they want to look for sustainable sources of energy, and importantly for us, improve the profile of the energy suppliers, which she admitted was poor. She understands the impact this has on people working in the industry, both in terms of morale and wage growth. It is fair to say that a profitable business like ours might be able to pay more, but the constant scrutiny by the media may be a reason the wage growth is so low. We welcome the 2.5 % pay rise due in 2015,

AGM 2015

#NWGASAGM2015

The AGM is on Friday 6th February 2015

7.00pm for 7.30pm start. Buffet served on arrival.

- FREE taxi there and home
- FREE hot and cold buffet
- FREE drink vouchers
 - FREE DJ & Disco
- FREE Raffle with quality raffle prizes



The branch will pay for your transport there and back, or if it's cost effective the branch will pay for you to stay at a local Premier Inn hotel instead of taxis.

(Accommodation and Taxi requests to be submitted by Friday 23rd January 2015).

