

Inside this issue:

- AGM
- Retired members
- Health & Safety
- AFG
- Winter Fuel Grants

Date for your Diary Rochdale UNISON AGM—27th February 2019

Rochdale UNISON annual general meeting will be on Wednesday 27th February 2019.

The annual general meeting will be held at three venues:

Environmental Management Green Lane Heywood

7.00—7.30 am

Reception Room Rochdale Town Hall

12.00 -1.15pm

Middleton Cricket Club

5.30 - 6.45pm

**Rochdale UNISON wishes all its member a
very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year**



Three simple ways to join UNISON today:

www.joinunison.org

Call UNISON

0800 171 2193

Fill in the form on the
back and send it to the
address below

Rochdale UNISON, Branch Office, 46 Richard Street, Rochdale, OL11 1DU

Rochdale Retired members

Rochdale UNISON are lucky to have a vibrant group of retired member activists. They meet once a month at Rochdale Town Hall where they have invited speakers on a variety of topics. They recently had someone from the WASPI (Women against State Pension Inequalities) campaign to speak about the injustice of the Governments changes to women's pensions. Members of the group have represented Rochdale UNISON in the Pensioners Parliament, the Retired members National Conference and the Ageing with Pride conference. The group also organises social events such as recent trips to the People's History Museum in Manchester and to see the Terra-cotta Warriors in Liverpool. If you are a retired member and would like to get involved please contact the branch 01706 925952.

Health and safety Reps wanted

UNISON takes the health and safety of all workers and the public we serve very seriously. To help us to protect your safety we have health and safety representatives who can deal with issues as they arise. We are currently looking for a volunteer to become a health and safety rep at Number One Riverside. You would not be expected to do this on your own and would be working alongside the branch secretary and branch health and safety officer. We will provide full training to anyone who is interested. If you are interested or just want to find out more about what the role involves please contact the office 01706925952.

AFG refuse to meet petitioners over sleep-in payments

Support workers, service users' families and councillors were refused the opportunity to submit a petition signed by over 13,000 people at the Alternative Futures Group (AFG) Headquarters in Prescot.

The petition calls for AFG not to go through with their controversial plan to remove top-up payments for sleep-in shifts. The planned cut will affect thousands of staff across the North West and cost some as much as £90 a week, or £4500 a year. AFG have announced that they will stop making the payments in January despite there being no cut in the funding that they are receiving from local councils.

The proposal has met widespread opposition from staff, service users' families and the wider public. A small delegation had hoped to be able to submit the petition to AFG's trustees on Wednesday, but AFG turned them away and would not accept the petition.

Louise, a support worker from Rochdale said: "I do eight sleeps a month and usually receive about £150 in top-up. I'm really, really angry about the plans to remove it. Without this money, my car insurance won't get paid. We will end up dipping into savings. We won't be able to do decorating or go on holiday. We usually catch up on bills in the first month after Christmas, after buying all the presents, so this will have a big knock on effect. "I love my service users and the house I work in. I don't want to have to look elsewhere for work."

For further information contact Joanne Findlay 07946553898

Winter Fuel Grants for UNISON members

Members living on a low income constantly struggle to make ends meet – and this can be particularly acute in the winter when the cost of heating homes rises as the outside temperature falls. But it's not all bad news – help is available.

The union's welfare charity There for You has once more set up a limited fund to help members on low incomes towards the cost of their winter fuel bill through a one-off payment of £60.

The process is very similar to previous years and an amount of money has been ring-fenced to support this initiative. However, once it's gone it's gone!

So don't miss out. Apply early and send your form and supporting paperwork in as soon as possible. To apply contact UNISON Direct on 0800 0 857 857 for a form to be sent to you or follow the link below:

<https://www.unison.org.uk/content/uploads/2018/12/Final-Winter-Fuel-Grant-Application-Form-2018-19.pdf>