

Inside this issue:

- Activists to help run the Branch
- Unison supports Ukraine

Rochdale UNISON is looking for activists to help run the branch

At our recent Annual General Meeting, members of Rochdale UNISON stepped forward to take on important roles within the branch:

Branch Secretary	Jonathan Harding
Assistant Branch Secretary	Michael Acton
Assistant Branch Secretary	Christine Bonsall
Branch Chair	Christine Bonsall
Deputy Branch Chair	Paul White
Communications Officer	Sam O'Brien
Treasurer	Sue Cartledge
Labour Link Officer	Alec McFadden
International Officer	Alec McFadden
Social Secretary	Pasquale Iannidinardi
Retired Members Secretary	Helen Harrison
Lifelong Learning Coordinator	Alec McFadden
Branch Auditor	Jeanette Hart
Branch Auditor	Debbie Gunner

But there are still several positions that we did not receive nominations for. Being an activist can be challenging at times but it is also very rewarding and essential to the health of the union. If you would be interested in getting more involved in the work of your Trade Union, please contact the Branch Office: unison@rochdale.gov.uk (01706925952). You will be supported within the role and given appropriate training. Should you be required to attend meetings, we can request facilities time (provided your employer has an agreement with UNISON). If you would like more information you can speak to a Branch Officer about the role and what it would involve:

Equality Officer – To advise the branch on equality issues and promote equality within the branch.

Environmental Officer – Co-ordinates the union's green and environmental agenda in the branch.

Health and Safety Officer – Involved in all negotiations with the employer on matters related to health and safety. To advise the branch committee on health and safety issues arising in the branch, to recommend policies and priorities, to co-ordinate the activity of health and safety representatives and to organise regular meetings of health & safety representatives to exchange information and consider priorities.

Welfare Officer – To ensure that members seeking welfare assistance receive a prompt, supportive and effective response.

Young Members Officer (aged 27 and below) – To recruit new members and to encourage existing young members to become active in the branch. To make sure issues of concern to young workers are raised by the branch.

Membership Officer – To monitor the branch's recruitment, and also leavers rate. To make recommendations to the branch committee on recruitment activities, targets, resources, budgets, etc.

Sports Secretary – To help with organising sporting events for members.

Education Co-ordinator – Responsible for coordinating the training of stewards and health and safety representatives in the branch. Also publicising the broader educational opportunities available to UNISON members.

UNISON donates to fund to support Ukrainian people

No one can fail to be moved by the scenes of terrified civilians taking shelter underground or of the hundreds of thousands of women and children desperately trying to cross the border to safety, to an uncertain future as a refugee.

UNISON immediately condemned the Russian invasion of Ukraine last week and has called for Russian troops to withdraw to allow meaningful peace talks to go ahead. The union has reached out in solidarity to public service unions in Ukraine whose members are on the frontline trying to save lives as civilian casualties rise. Workers and ordinary people in both Ukraine and Russia are the victims of this war, not the perpetrators. It has agreed to donate £10,000 to an appeal by the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC).

It is also talking to our European and international union federations, EPSU and PSI, about how we can practically support those unions and Ukrainian public service workers.

Europe is facing a major refugee crisis. As most European countries have opened their borders to refugees from Ukraine, the UK's own government is shamefully still putting up significant administrative barriers to prevent refugees arriving in the UK. And it is not just Ukrainians who are trying to get out. Thousands of migrant workers and students from around the world are caught up in the chaos and there have been disturbing reports of racial discrimination against them by border guards, which UNISON condemns.

How you can help

UNISON branches and members have been asking how they can help. The ITUC has launched an appeal to support the Ukrainian trade union movement and ordinary workers in Ukraine.

Donations should be sent to ITUC-CSI account number 068-9007804-23 with Belfius Banque SA, Boulevard Pachéco 44, B – 1000 Brussels, (BIC/Swift code: GKCCBEBB – IBAN Code: BE92 0689 0078 0423). Any amount of contribution will be appreciated. Please mark the contribution for 'Ukraine' and if not possible please alert finance@ituc-csi.org to what has been sent and say it is for Ukraine.

UNISON is also encouraging branches to reach out to any Ukrainian members they may have to see how they can be supported at this incredibly difficult time.

UNISON is also encouraging members to [donate to the Disasters Emergency Committee \(DEC\) appeal](#).

Please check that your UNISON colleagues have received this newsletter electronically—if not please ask them to contact the branch on 01706 925952 or email.unison@rochdale.gov.uk so we can update their membership record