



AGENDA

**RETIRED MEMBERS CONFERENCE
THURSDAY 19TH JANUARY 2017**

**The Mechanics Centre LTD
103 Princess Street
(Major Street Entrance)
Manchester
M1 6DD**

Message from the General Secretary

Dear Colleagues,

I would like to welcome you all to the CWU Retired Members Conference for 2017 and I look forward to hearing the debates and your views over the course of the conference today.

We are coming together at an important time for the wider labour movement and our own union. Across the CWU our members face some significant issues in their industries this year which we will have to confront and politically we are faced with a majority Conservative government which is continuing with a set of policies that has seen an explosion of insecure employment and the longest squeeze in living standards for workers for more than 160 years.

Contrary to what the media would have us believe, pensioners have not been immune from this. Our state pension remains one of the lowest among 'developed' economies, occupational pensions have come under steady attack, social care is woefully underfunded and none of us who rely on public services like the NHS have not been left worse off by an unprecedented squeeze in public spending. Despite this we are hearing familiar calls for the 'triple lock' on the state pension to be abandoned and the CWU moved an amendment against such a move at TUC Congress last year.

Equally, I know that our retired members been far from ambivalent about the wider trends we have seen in this country. Many of our retired members are among the strongest supporters of the union movement and our own campaigning work, something I believe is an asset for the CWU.

At the Retired Members Conference last year I spoke about the need for us to improve our communications and the new retired members' website and page in the Voice are progress on this. I also spoke about my desire to look at how we can enhance the role of our retired members as part of the union's Re-design project.

As you will be aware, as a result of legal advice on the union's rulebook, which was received in relation to a branch dispute, the union was forced to revise the model branch constitution last year which has impacted on the rights of our retired members. The NEC will therefore be reviewing the role and rights of retired members within the union as a matter of urgency in order to bring forward a comprehensive set of rule changes in advance of annual conference. This is something I want to hear your views on.

I hope to meet as many people as possible over the course of the day and I hope that everyone here takes the opportunity to have an input into the union's work.

Dave Ward
General Secretary

Message from the Senior Deputy General Secretary

Dear Colleagues,

It is time for us to extend a warm welcome to delegates, observers and visitors to our annual Retired Members Conference. This conference is all about setting the agenda for how we represent our retired members into the future and I know that you, like I are looking forward to listening to and taking part in the debates that move us forward in that direction.

As we start 2017 it is difficult not to reflect on some of the issues that arose in 2016 that will impact upon us all for a long time to come.

In particular the decision, following a referendum to leave the EU is the biggest political decision and will see the biggest political and social change in this country in a lifetime, yours and mine.

Regardless of how individuals voted it is now abundantly clear that the leaders of the leave campaigns lied and lied on an industrial scale. Promises of money for the NHS, promises on the status of EU nationals domiciled in the UK and promises not to attack workers rights and conditions began unravelling within hours of the vote ending.

Our task now is to hold the people who made those promises, many in Government and indeed the government of the day to make good on the pledges made. To do otherwise allows politics in this country to be dragged into an arena where lies, innuendo and the option of abandoning all principles carries the day. In a representative democracy of the type we live under that is simply not acceptable.

If the Government has a plan for Brexit and that plan impacts upon the people of the country as surely it will, then those people have a right to know what that plan is. Simply to say "trust us" when we know they're not honouring the pledges made is dishonest and represents a threat to democracy.

Then we saw, towards the end of 2016 the general acceptance, that you and your conference has recognised for some time, that social care in this country, particularly for the elderly is catastrophically undefended. This was followed by the knee jerk suggestion from Government that the way to fix this would be to tax the people. A government that continues to underfund the NHS whilst continuing with huge tax breaks for big business and the rich wants you to pay for their failings. This is a campaign we need to be and shall be part of, treating our elderly in this manner is a source of national shame.

As I said last year, unions will be crucial for all generations seeking to defend their most basic rights. The future is going to get tougher for the labour movement. There needs to be an upsurge in our resolve to tackle these injustices. A part of that is your conference today and the decisions you make and carry forward on behalf of all our retired members. As ever there is a key role to play in that fight back and retired members, with their experience of past battles, have a lot to teach us.

It only remains for me to wish you all the best and to enjoy the conference.

Tony Kearns
Senior Deputy General Secretary

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Welcome From the General Conference Standing Orders Committee

Once again the General Conference Standing Orders Committee has the privilege of organising the agenda for this Retired Members Conference and as last year we are here to assist in any way we can to ensure your conference runs smoothly.

As the Retired Members Conference is well established within the CWU the Standing Orders Committee have made the Standing Orders more detailed in line with General Conference Standing Orders.

As always the Standing Orders Committee are available to give delegates new or experienced, advice or clarify any issues that they might have with regards to conference procedures so do not hesitate to come and meet with us if you have any queries surrounding the agenda, motions or ballots that will take place during the conference.

Details of the ballot procedure will be given on the day.

Finally, on behalf of the Standing Orders Committee, we wish you a successful conference.

Joyce Stevenson and Tony Sneddon
General Conference Standing Orders Committee

Retired Members' Conference 2017 Standing Orders

1. The sessions of the 2017 Conference shall commence in accordance with the timetable.

2. TIMETABLE

- a 10.30 Chairperson's Opening Remarks
10.35 Dave Ward, General Secretary
10.50 Adoption of Standing Orders Committee Report (including appeals/reference back)
10.55 Guest Speaker – Debbie Abrahams MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Work and Pensions
11.15 Section II Motions
12.30 Lunch
13.30 Section II Motions (continued)
15.00 Tony Kearns, Senior Deputy General Secretary
15.25 Result of Ballots and Closing Remarks
15.30 Close of Conference
- b The doors of Conference will open at 10.00 with conference commencing at 10.30 and closing at 15.30

Conference is divided into two half-day sessions. If the business of any section is completed within the timetable, the Conference shall proceed immediately to the next section of business.

If all the business of the final section is completed within the timetable, the Conference shall return to the earliest uncompleted business.

3. PROCEDURE IN DEBATE

- a Every member of the Conference must remain in their seat, except the one who may be addressing the Conference and, should the Chairperson rise, no-one else shall continue standing nor shall anyone else rise until the Chairperson has resumed the Chair.

SPEAKERS

- b A delegate when speaking from the rostrum shall address the Chairperson. If two or more persons desire to speak at the same time the Chairperson shall decide to whom priority will be given. No person shall be allowed to speak twice on the same question.
- c All speeches shall be confined to the subject under discussion.
- d Delegates may only refer to documents which have a bearing on the subject under discussion.
- e
 - (i) Motions standing in the name of a Branch must be moved by a delegate from that Branch.
 - (ii) Motions standing in the name of a Regional Committee if appropriate, must be moved by a delegate from that body (in line with Rule 10).
 - (ii) Motions must be seconded or else they shall be deemed to have fallen.
- f A motion may be seconded formally or by a speaker making a seconding speech.

COMPOSITE MOTIONS

- g All sponsors of a composite motion will be responsible for agreeing the allocation of moving and seconding speakers from amongst those named within the composite motion, notwithstanding the terms of SO3e(i) and (ii).
- h The mover of a motion shall be allowed to speak for not more than 5 minutes and any other speaker (including the mover exercising the right of reply) for not more than 3 minutes. **In EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES a speaker may request the special permission of Conference to speak for a longer period, if agreed, it shall not exceed a further 3 minutes.**
- i The moving speaker shall have the right of reply to the debate only if there has been opposition and shall not introduce any fresh matter but shall be limited to answering the debate.
- j The Advisory Committee (including the relevant Officer) shall in addition to moving and exercising the right of reply be allowed a maximum of one speaker in a debate on motions standing in the name of the Advisory Committee (SO3i applies to the Advisory Committee).
- k The Advisory Committee (including the relevant Officer) shall only be allowed one speaker in debate on all other motions not standing in the name of the Advisory Committee.
- l No motion shall be spoken upon except by the mover, until it has been seconded. The mover of a motion who sits down without speaking upon it shall lose the right of addressing Conference, but shall still have the right of reply (SO3i) applies. The seconder of a motion who sits down without speaking upon it shall not lose the right of addressing Conference.

ENDING DEBATE

- m Any delegate who has not spoken on the motion before Conference may move "That the motion be now put" on the seconding of which the Chairperson shall immediately and without discussion put this motion to the vote. In the event of it being carried by a simple majority of Conference, Conference shall proceed to vote on the question itself, subject to SO3k and the right of reply as stated in SO3i being exercised.
- n Any delegate who has not spoken on the motion before Conference may move "That Conference proceeds to next business", on the seconding of which the Chairperson shall immediately and without discussion put this motion to the vote. In the event of it being carried Conference shall at once proceed to the next item on its agenda.

WITHDRAWAL

- o Any motion or composite motion may be withdrawn from the Agenda at any time by the sponsor(s) who shall notify the Standing Orders Committee at the earliest opportunity. Once it has been moved and seconded, however, it shall not be withdrawn except with the agreement of Conference by a simple majority vote.

POINT OF ORDER

- p Any person wishing to question the proceedings of Conference may rise on a "point of order", and when called shall state the procedural point in exact terms, whereupon the Chairperson shall immediately give a ruling or refer the matter to the Standing Orders Committee for a decision. Any person raising points of order must seek to prove

one or more of the following:-

- (i) That the speaker is using unparliamentarily language.
- (ii) That the speaker is digressing from the subject of the motion.
- (iii) That the rules of the Union are being broken.
- (iv) That there is an infringement of the customary rules of debate.
- (v) That there is an infringement of the Standing Orders (which shall be referred to the Standing Orders Committee).

- q The Chairperson's ruling on a point of order shall be final unless it is challenged. The correct method of challenging the ruling shall be to move: "I wish to challenge your ruling." Such a motion shall be carried by a simple majority.
- r The Standing Orders Committee shall have the right to enter debate on all matters affecting the decisions and role of the Committee.

4. VOTING PROCEDURE

- a Voting at the Retired Members Conference shall normally be by a show of hand voting cards which shall be issued on the basis of one per Branch in attendance.
- b A card vote may be called for either by the Chairperson of the Retired Members Conference or when 5 or more delegates call for such a vote immediately on the announcement of the decision of the hand vote.

DURING A CARD VOTE ALL PERSONS MUST REMAIN IN THEIR SEATS AND NO PERSON SHALL ENTER OR LEAVE THE FLOOR OF CONFERENCE.

Instructions on the card vote will be given by the SOC.

When the motion being voted upon has a consequential effect on the following motion(s), Conference will proceed to the next item of business unaffected by the card vote result. When the card vote result is announced Conference will return to the earlier item provided it is within the timetable.

- c A motion will be deemed carried if it obtains a simple majority of the votes cast.

5. PROCEDURE FOR EMERGENCY MOTIONS

- a Emergency motions may only be submitted for inclusion in the Agenda if they refer to a matter which because of the circumstances giving rise to them could not possibly have been submitted by the published closing date for motions. Such emergency motions will only be accepted by the SOC if they constitute a significant and important matter, which requires a decision by Conference.
- b Emergency motions must reach the Standing Orders Committee at CWU Headquarters by midnight on **Monday 16th January 2017**. Delegates will be advised by the SOC whether or not the emergency motion has been accepted for inclusion to the Agenda prior to the commencement of Conference.
- c Any emergency motion submitted after the above date must be notified to the Standing Orders Committee as soon as possible. Delegates will be advised by the SOC whether or not the emergency motion has been accepted for inclusion to the agenda as a matter of

urgency.

- d A decision taken by Conference shall not be open to the emergency procedure at the same Conference.

6. APPEALS/REFERENCE BACK PROCEDURE

- a Written notice of appeals/intention to move reference back against decisions of the Standing Orders Committee as published in the Agenda regarding:-

- (i) motions not admitted to the agenda
- (ii) inclusion/exclusion of motions in a composite
- (iii) the priority/placement given to a motion
- (iv) timetable/programme of business
- (v) the Standing Orders for Conference
- (vi) the consequential rulings on motions

must reach the Standing Orders Committee at CWU Headquarters by midnight on **Monday 16th January 2017**. Such written notice must advise of the intention to appeal/move reference back to alter the published agenda with details and reasons for doing so.

After consideration of appeals/reference backs by the SOC, Branches, Advisory Committees, and Regional Committees (if appropriate) wishing to continue their appeal/reference back must seek to do so by addressing Conference at the commencement of conference.

- b Challenges to other SOC decisions as printed or announced in supplementary SOC reports must be made at the time the supplementary report is moved.
- c All appeals/reference backs will be deemed carried if they have the support of a simple majority of Conference.
- d The Advisory Committees will also be required to follow these procedures.

7. SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

- a Motions to suspend Standing Orders shall only be allowed to deal with business or circumstances that could not have been foreseen when the Timetable/Programme of Business was adopted.
- b The Chairperson may accept a motion for the suspension of Standing Orders provided no motion is on the floor being debated.

Any such motion must state the Standing Order/Orders involved and also state the nature and urgency of the business as to why the suspension is required.

The Chairperson shall immediately refer such a motion to the Standing Orders Committee who shall express their view before the vote is taken. A motion for the suspension of Standing Orders will be carried if supported by a simple majority of the Conference and shall take no longer than 15 minutes.

8. BALLOTS

- a There will be a ballot to select two motions this Conference will forward for submission to the 2017 General Conference.

The ballot paper for General Conference selection will be printed on

the reverse of the hand voting card.

Motions in Section II which are carried are eligible for the ballot for General Conference. The ballot will take place at the end of Section II motions.

The ballot box will be open subject to the timetable of Conference and located next to the administration table. The SOC shall be responsible for counting the ballot and advising the Chairperson of the result, which will be announced prior to the close of Conference. In the event of a tie, the SOC will administer an exhaustive ballot.

- b Should there be a request at General Conference to remit a motion in respect of the 2017 Conference motions, the mover of the motion at General Conference will be deemed to have the authority to agree to the remittance on behalf of the 2017 Conference, subject to the agreement of General Conference.

There will be a ballot to select the two delegates that will represent the Retired Members Conference at the 2017 General Conference

9. PROHIBITIONS

The use of mobile telephones are prohibited anywhere within the confines of the Conference Hall.

No documents, posters or banners shall be circulated, distributed or displayed within the Conference Hall without the permission of the Standing Orders Committee.

Timetable and Programme of Business

- 10.00 Registration
- 10.30 Chairpersons opening remarks
- 10.35 Dave Ward, General Secretary
- 10.50 Adoption of Standing Orders Committee Report
(including appeals/reference back)
- 10.55 Guest Speaker – Debbie Abrahams MP, Shadow
Secretary of State for Work and Pensions
- 11.15 Section II Motions
- 12.30 Lunch
- 13.30 Section II Motions Continued
- 15.00 Tony Kearns, Senior Deputy General Secretary
- 15.25 Result of Ballots and Closing remarks
- 15.30 Conference closes

**DELEGATES ARE REMINDED THAT THE BALLOT BOX WILL
BE LOCATED AT THE SOC TABLE.**

SECTION II NATIONAL ISSUES

- 1** Conference instructs the Retired Advisory Committee to work with the NEC to lobby this present government to get the Care Act that was passed in May 2014 running as it should be.

South and East Thames Amal

- 2** This Conference notes that 9.3 million households are headed by a person over retirement age and that this figure is projected to grow to 13 million during the lifetime of this generation. Conference agrees that elderly people need secure and affordable housing and that the Housing and Planning Act of 2016 will lead to more insecure tenancies in council properties, forcing more elderly people into the rented private, sector with even less security.

Conference supports the position of the Labour Party to repeal the Housing and Planning Act and calls on the RMAC to make representation to the NEC to work with all interested groups to highlight the dangers of this Act for elderly people and to campaign for its repeal.

Retired Members Advisory Committee

- 3** This Conference is concerned with the pace of closures of local accident and emergency centres and hospitals. Barely a week goes by without media stories of people left waiting for hours in waiting rooms.

Conference agrees that this is not the fault of the excellent, dedicated hard working staff, but rather a failing of leadership from the government and their austerity led cuts agenda.

Furthermore conference believes that the closure of local A&E centres disproportionately hurts pensioners and the elderly who will struggle more than most to attend far flung centralised A&E centres. This would have the consequence of putting further strains on the ambulance service and more elderly people will require ambulances when previously they could have attended their local centre.

Conference agrees that this is part of the death by a thousand cuts political attack on our NHS.

Conference instructs the RMAC to work with the NEC, and other sympathetic health charities to campaign against the cuts to these centres and to provide widespread A&E provision for all.

Retired Members Advisory Committee

- 4** This Conference notes that in the 2016 Autumn Statement the Chancellor Philip Hammond declared that the 'Triple Lock' for State Pensions would be reviewed prior to the next general election due in 2020. This coincides with a report from the Government Work and Pensions Committee that the Triple Lock be scrapped as it is unsustainable and unfair on younger people.

The triple-lock is a system that guarantees State pensions rise by the same as average earnings, the consumer price index, or 2.5%, whichever is the highest.

Conference agrees that with low inflation and higher earnings the "Triple Lock" allows Pensioners to "catch-up" on their State Pensions must be defended and maintained.

Conference agrees that the RMAC will work with the NEC to Campaign with the Labour Party, the NPC, the TUC and other organisations to defend the "Triple Lock" and maintain the commitment during the next Parliament.

Retired Members Advisory Committee

- 5** Conference recognises the continued under-funding of our NHS. Our National Health Service is at breaking point. On the backdrop of gross underfunding and continued cuts and closures of NHS services, private companies seek to gain even more of a foothold within the NHS. Continued pay restraint has seen the value of NHS staff salaries reduce by 14% since 2010 and there are now 25,000 nursing and 3,500 midwifery vacancies in NHS England alone. This is aggravated by the underfunding and privatisation operating within the social care structure

Conference agrees that the RMAC will work with the NEC to Campaign through the Labour Party, the National Pensioners Convention, the Trades Union Congress and other organisations to mobilise for the national demonstration in London on 4th March which has been organised by Health Campaigns Together. We believe the time has come to demonstrate the breadth and depth of support for the NHS and anger and opposition to the destructiveness of Tory policies.

Coventry

- 6** This conference recognises that retired members of the CWU have concerns with the "value for money" they currently receive for their membership subscription. This conference instructs the RMAC to lobby the NEC for either;

1. A decrease in the monthly subscription for retired members

Or that

2. A greater number of benefits are made available to retired members.

Either of these options to be achieved whilst maintaining current entitlements.

South Wales

- 7 This Conference views with deep concern the unilateral decision of the NEC to abolish the right of CWU Retired Members to vote for their Branch Officers, a right that has existed in this Union for 21 years since the merger of the Unions.

The decision was imposed without any prior consultation with Branches or the RMAC and is not compatible with a Union that prides itself on opposing all forms of discrimination on age, promotes itself on proportionality and fair representation of all members and deals with Equality, Proportionality and fair representation of all members in Branches. Regretfully the NEC decision does not reflect the rules of the CWU.

Therefore Conference agrees to instruct the RMAC to use all means and work with the NEC to seek a commitment from them to submit a Rule change to Annual Conference that restores the right of Retired Members to vote for their Branch Officers as listed in National Rule 6.4.2.

Greater Mersey and South West Lancs

- 8 This Conference agrees that the imposed changes to the Branch Model Constitution issued in LTB 664/16 are undemocratic and stifle the voting rights of retired members in Branch Elections.

This conference therefore seeks that a 'Special Report' be produced by last Friday, prior to the close of motions to General Conference 2017. This report will include an explanation as to the imposed changes to the Branch Model Constitution in respect of the voting rights of retired members, and how the retired members now sit within the CWU structure, this list is not exhaustive. The RMAC are instructed to work with the NEC accordingly.

Eastern No.5

- 9 This Conference instructs the RMAC to ask the NEC if they will request the CWU's General Secretary and the President to publish to the Union's Membership the reasons and rational behind LTB664/16 REVISED BRANCH MODEL CONSTITUTION and the additional note to be inserted at the foot of paragraph 4.4 that states that *Retired Members are not entitled or eligible to stand for election or be able to vote in the above elections (a) to (i)*

Midland Regional Retired Members Committee

MOTIONS NOT ADMITTED TO THE AGENDA

- 10** This conference agrees to fully support a call for a full public inquiry into the actions of the police at the Orgreave coking plant on 18th June 1984 during the miners' strike of 1984-85.

This conference believes that the issue of Orgreave is of local and national importance to all the public as the style of policing undertaken at the time was in their names. A full investigation into the military style policing used on that day is now long overdue and only a full public inquiry can fully investigate this.

This conference therefore agrees to call on the new Home Secretary, Amber Rudd, to order a full public inquiry into the deployment and actions of the police on 18th June 1984 and to conduct meaningful discussions with Orgreave Truth and Justice Campaign, The NUM and concerned MPs.

Midland No.7

NOTES