

Members facing decision time on revised pay offer

Chairing team unchanged

THE SGE re-elected Lilian Macer as the committee's chair, while George Barron and Ann Moses remained the committee's choice for vice-chairs.

Future SGE meeting dates:

2007 meetings:

21 September

21 November

THE Service Group Executive (SGE) presented UNISON's health membership with a critical choice – whether to accept or reject an improved pay offer secured through negotiations with NHS employers and the government.

Under the threat of industrial action, management agreed to proposals that would raise wages for the lowest paid staff, provide extra ring-fenced funding for training, establish employer contributions to fees for staff who require registration to practice and open up discussions on key areas for a possible three-year pay deal.

Therefore, the SGE decided



to consult every member in the NHS on the deal by triggering a consultative ballot that will commence on 20 August and close on 13 September.

Branches are asked to help the consultation process among members by explaining the impact of the pay deal, which the

Service Group Executive views as the best offer achievable through negotiations.

The deal represents an improvement to the government pay offer for 2007 / 2008, which staged the Nursing and Other Health Professionals Pay Review Body's recommendation of 2.5% by awarding 1.5% in April followed by 2.5% in November.

The improved offer, if accepted, would still be staged in England, but would be payable in full from 1 April in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Light up November with message of celebration and demonstration

HEAD of Health Karen Jennings announced Saturday 3 November as the date of a central London event that will both celebrate the achievements of the NHS in the 60 years since its establishment and demonstrate against the "escalating attacks which threaten the very existence of the NHS."

Regions and branches will be encouraging members from around the country to join the event, which is set to attract a host of popular speakers and offer a feast of great entertainment.

Plans have been developed with

the NHS Together coalition to deliver an event that can succeed in broadening the appeal of our message.

The demonstration was originally intended to take place in October, but a lack of suitable locations forced postponement.

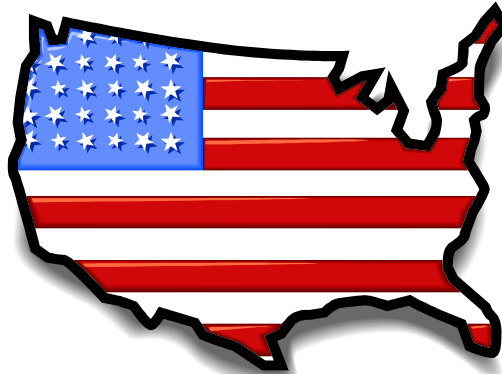
So, taking the opportunity to begin a series of events marking the 60th anniversary of the NHS, Saturday 3 November was fixed as the date when UNISON can really do the event justice and turn out in force to send a clear message to the government.



A model for UK trade unions?

US trade union officer Will Erickson explained the innovative organising model that has turned the weakness of trade unionism in the United States on its head and delivered workplaces boasting over 90% union membership.

The small New England based union has adopted techniques, borne out of operating in a fiercely anti-union environment, which almost entirely set aside certain traditional aspects of British trade unionism such as distribution of literature, political lobbying and attracting members by offering services in the vein of



home insurance or discounts on holidays.

Instead, the union targets its resources heavily on continually developing one-to-one relationships with staff and addressing the issues that lie at the heart of how they feel about their workplace experience.

Over time, the technique has enabled the union to build an incredible network of members and activists that runs entirely counter to the average US workplace, where union membership density stands at just 10%.

Your who's who of the SGE working groups

Staff Council - Catherine Ahrens, George Barron, Caroline Bedale, Joseph Conaghan, Lilan Macer

Agenda for Change - Pam Barr, Lyn Hunter, Alex Joyce, Ian Lindley, Ann Moses, Lorraine Rigby, Tommy Steenson, Graham Young

Integrated Care Committee— George Barron, Bill Beeko, Lyn Hunter, Thomas Steenson, Joan Taylor

Improving Working Lives - Peter Atkinson, George Barron, Lilian Bold, Joe Conaghan, Thomas Steenson, Joan Taylor

Knowledge and Skills Framework - Lilian Bold, Kath Budd, Lyn Hunter, Gill Malik, Lucia McKeever, Ann Moses, Rachel Voller

Primary Care - Pam Barr, Caroline Bedale, Bill Beeko, Mervyn Dawe, Lyn Hunter, Mark Ladbrooke, Ann Moses

Pensions - Joe Conaghan, Stephen Kennedy, Mark Ladbrooke, Lucia McKeever, Ann Moses, Harry Seddon

Structures Review - Catherine Ahrens, George Barron, Lilian Bold, Lyn Hunter, Alex Joyce, Stephen Kennedy, Thomas Steenson

Private Contractors - Maria Alberts, Pam Barr, George Barron, Mary Fitzpatrick, Paul Harper, Nick Holden, Rachel Voller, Harry Seddon

Privatisation - Bill Beeko, Paul Harper, Stephen Kennedy, Lilian Macer, Lucia McKeever, Ann Moses, Karen Reissmann

Conference Review - Pam Barr, George Barron, Bill Beeko, Paul Harper, Nick Holden, Alex Joyce, Ian Lindley, Lilian Macer, Llinos Phillips, Thomas Steenson, Joan Taylor

Children's Workforce Strategy - Rachel Voller, Layla Rumble

Blood battle wins congratulations

THE SGE congratulated members in NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) on their fight against cuts proposed in the organisation's strategic plan.

Following months of campaigning that focused parliamentary and public attention on the folly of plans to cut 600 jobs and slash the number of blood processing centres serving England and north Wales, NHSBT has announced a thorough review of its proposals.

While awaiting the results of this review with interest, the SGE pledged to support NHSBT members if it proves necessary to resume the fight against cuts.

Scotland offers new path for partnership

REGIONAL officer John Gallacher outlined to the SGE the benefits gained by partnership working in Scotland.

The Scottish Executive has established extensive national and local mechanisms that enable unions to participate in influencing decisions before they reach firm initiatives.