

DRIVING YOUR INTERESTS

UNISON has teamed up with vehicle management company Grosvenor Hall Group Ltd to launch a personal contract purchase and contract hire scheme for all members and any immediate family or partners.

What are the Benefits?



- Payments are usually less than a loan
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- Manufacturer Breakdown Recovery included
- Fixed monthly payments for easy budgeting
- Free the money tied up in your car



To have a look at the latest deals go to www.affinity-leasing.com Click on the members tab, then click on the Unison logo. The user name is 'unison', and the password is 'car deal'. Or, you can contact the UK call centre on 084 50 57 57 50.

TRIBUNAL UPDATE

We are pleased to report that UNISON & GMB settled their protective award claim against WBC and secured an out of court settlement. Members should not have income tax deducted but any amounts will be subject to national insurance contributions.

Discussions have been held regarding the claim for unfair dismissal which has resulted in the Employment Tribunal listing all claims for unfair dismissal to be heard at a 10 day hearing commencing on Monday 12 January 2009. We will keep you updated of any developments.

Why not earn yourself a £5.00 gift card for every friend or colleague you recruit to UNISON. Contact the Branch Office for more details!



MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

UNISON members will be aware that the Branch Office recently wrote out to all members with personal details that we hold on our membership system. We asked that you make any alterations that were incorrect and return back in the free-post envelope supplied.

A key function of the membership system is to be able to check the membership density within a work area. This means that we must have your current workplace entered into the system. If you have moved workplace or have received the incorrect details and have not notified the Branch Office can you please contact us on the details below:

Email: unison2@warrington.gov.uk
Tel: 01925 637927
Fax: 01925 443875



WARRINGTON BRANCH NEWS

Unison Office, East Annexe, Town Hall, Warrington, WA1 1UH

Telephone: 01925 637927/442186/7 fax: 01925 443875

www.unisonwarrington.org.uk

SEPTEMBER 2008

Local Government Pay Update



CONGRATULATIONS AND THANK YOU!!!

The high profile of the strike days was down to a huge team effort – regions, branches and members all working together to deliver what we wanted – an agreement to return to the negotiating table by the employers. We know it wasn't easy, but with your hard work and commitment we can all be very proud of our campaign and it's success.



Picket Lines during the Industrial Action

Due to the successful industrial action on the 16th & 17th July the Employers have agreed to re-open talks with the Trade Unions. An initial meeting took place on the 12th August to set the timetable and agenda for the way forward. A joint statement between UNISON, Unite & the Employers stated that a "new era of employment is needed to reflect properly the contribution of the workforce, to improving services and meeting the needs of their local communities". The statement went on "to secure this new settlement, the partners are committed to immediate serious and meaningful negotiations over a range of issues including the joint union pay claim and a review of conditions of service."

Now the employers have agreed to come back to the table, UNISON is leading the negotiations to improve the pay and conditions of our members. The services our members provide are essential to local communities. Services will simply get worse as councils continue to lose committed staff and struggle to find new employees prepared to work for such low pay and poor conditions.

Another meeting was held on the 22 August of which we do not yet have any feedback, however further talks will be taking place and as soon as we have any updates we will communicate this to members. Thank you for your continued support.

Pam Howard & Jason Floran—Joint Branch Secretaries

JOB EVALUATION UPDATE



Recent Employment Appeal Tribunal decisions have meant that the unions and the employers have got to consider carefully proposals for backpay and protection for the implementation of the new pay and grading structure planned for October 2008. UNISON nationally are considering the implications of the recent judgements and will be reviewing the negotiating advice that will be issued to branches. Although we are waiting for up-to date advice regarding the recent decisions we are continuing to work with Warrington Borough Council on the implementation of the new pay and grading structure.

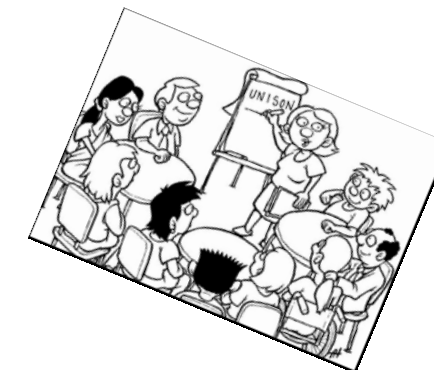
Both UNISON & GMB are now involved in discussions with WBC on the various aspects of the Single Status agenda. These include the new pay and grading structure, premium payments i.e. shift pay, out of hours etc and the car user review. A full ballot of members will be held once a final package has been put together and authorised by UNISON nationally. Discussions will also have to take place on the implementation of the flexible working policy and more in depth discussions on the second phase of the car user review i.e. lease cars, pool cars, lease car insurance & car parking charges which is due for review following the end of the original agreement. We will keep you updated as talks develop.



Union Learner Representative

A Union Learner Representative (ULR) is a union activist who promotes the learning agenda at work. The role was created to encourage workers to continue learning throughout their working lives, to make them aware of the opportunities available to them and increase access to training. Below is a short description of some of the duties a ULR could perform

- Encouraging colleagues at work to take up courses
- Helping to look at training needs
- Supporting and mentoring people through training
- Promoting courses
- Acting as link between the employer and the branch on learning issues



Formerly recognised in law by ACAS in the Spring of 2003, the ULR, in the same way Stewards and Health & Safety representatives are, the ULR role receives time-off with pay for training and fulfilling their trade union duties and activities which has been further clarified in the recently agreed facilities agreement with Warrington Borough Council.

UNISON have been working in partnership alongside the GMB & the Employers to establish a ULR network within Warrington Borough Council. We have established a ULR forum whereby ULR's can actively participate and have a say in learning activities within WBC and how they are run. We are currently in the process of submitting a joint bid to the TUC for funding to run and organise learning events.

Some of you may have seen the GMB bus at your workplace. This bus is touring workplaces introducing the ULR role and how the unions can assist members in learning activities. It visited Woolston Depot on the 5 August and will be visiting again on the 30 September. Visits are also planned for New Town House (6 October) & Bewsey Old School (7 October) Other workplace visits will be planned within the coming months.



We are aiming to recruit more ULR's to assist us in delivering the learning agenda. If you are interested in taking on this role within UNISON please contact either of the following people for an informal discussion, alternatively why not visit the learning bus when it visits the workplaces listed above.

- | | | | | |
|-------------------|---|---------------|---|------------------------------------|
| Education Officer | - | Dave Eatock | - | email: deatock1@warrington.gov.uk |
| ULR | - | Lesley Marlor | - | email: lmarlor@warrington.gov.uk |
| ULR | - | Val Matthews | - | email: vmatthews@warrington.gov.uk |

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AMOUNT OF CREDIT	£8,858.00	TOTAL CHARGE FOR CREDIT	£703.80
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