

RETIRED MEMBERS CONFERENCE 5TH MARCH 2009

I attended the Retired Members Conference as a delegate for the North East Region. It was very disappointing to find that the two propositions put forward by the North East Retired Members Committee had not been sent to head office in time to be included in the conference agenda, not only that the names of the delegates had not been sent either. This can only be put down to the ineptitude of the secretary of the regional committee. However we did manage to obtain credentials and were able to take part in the proceedings.

All the propositions were carried unanimously with the exceptions of prop.4 it was agreed that the administration costs would be too high to carry out this proposal. The procedures were already in place whereby branches could donate money from their rebates from head office.

Proposition 10 was not reached as this was virtually the same as prop 9, therefore with prop 9 being carried prop 10 fell.

One very sad occurrence was the death of Stan Skinkiss on the eve of conference. Stan was a tireless worker on behalf of all pensioners and will be greatly missed. Stan served as the RMAC member for Greater Manchester for many years. Our deepest sympathy goes to all his family and relatives

Dennis I Patterson.

North East Branch Retired Members Secretary

SECTION II

NATIONAL ISSUES

- 1 This conference instructs RMAC to work with the NEC and other interested parties to seek to amend the criteria by which payment of the Carer's Allowance is made. This to include registered Carer's not being penalised due to them, or their partners, being in receipt of a State Pension.

Retired Members Advisory Committee

- 2 This conference agrees that the time is now right to create a National Carer's Service. This service would enable those needing such care to be attended at the point of need at no cost to the individual, as is the philosophy of the National Health Service - which is or was the envy of the world.

That in order to avoid the government's lament 'that it is unaffordable' the funding should be created by direct taxation of those individuals earning £100,000 per annum or more. The tax shall be raised by a 2% increase on this category - not as the government suggests in their paper as "responsibility of the individual" by sharing costs with the government pound for pound.

Conference instructs the RMAC to work with the NEC to pursue this policy.

North West Region

- 3 This Conference calls upon the RMAC and the Officer with responsibility for Retired Members to ensure that a Retired Members' Weekend Summer School is organised for 2009 and the following three years.

The details of these schools, including an invitation to attend, to be published in a Letter to Branches, at least two calendar months before the closing date for applications.

Midland Region

- 4 This Conference notes that the National Pensioners Convention (NPC) is always seeking extra funding from Unions, Pensioner Groups and Associations and individual Members affiliated to it. This Conference therefore instructs the Retired Members Advisory Committee with the NEC to submit the following rule change to the next General / Rules Conference.

Amend Rule 11.5.1 and insert after 'Fund' in line 2, and 1p per member for the National Pensioners Convention.

London Region

- 5 This CWU Retired Members Conference condemns the proposed part privatisation of the Post Office by the current minister Mandelson whose proposal may or would have a wide ranging effect on the Royal Mail Pension fund to the detriment of current, deferred and future pensioners of the scheme.

This Conference whole heartily supports our union and instructs the RMAC to assist in anyway possible in the efforts to stop the proposed actions of Mandelson and the Government in bringing about part privatisation of this Great British Institution.

Northern Ireland Region

- 6 This Conference calls upon the RMAC to request the NEC to initiate a campaign to press the Government to expand services within the Post Office Card Account to encompass full banking facilities.

Midland Region

- 7 This conference views with concern the ongoing closures of public conveniences across the country and instructs the CWU National Executive to exert pressure on the government and local authorities to reverse the present policy of closures.

South West Region

- 8 This Conference agrees to pursue a policy via the RMAC to the main Annual Conference of this union that a minimum of three editions of The Link shall be published each year.

Eastern Region

9 **COMPOSITE MOTION**

IF CARRIED 10 FALLS

This Retired Members' Conference agrees to pursue the policy via the RMAC to main Annual Conference of this union that an advert shall be printed in each edition of "The Voice" laying out the terms of Retired Membership of this union. These adverts are to commence as from the first edition of "The Voice" after June 2009, after the Main Conference of this union.

Eastern Region

London Region

Northern Ireland Region

- 10 This conference deplores the fact that the NEC has not carried out the terms of motion 10 from the London Region with regard to the advertising of Retired Membership in the voice because of declining membership. Conference instructs the RMAC to continue to pursue this policy with the NEC.

South West Region