



Unite Retired Members' National Newsletter December 2022

Seasonal Greetings to all Unite Retired Members
from the National Committee

From your chair

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking you all for being such great comrades. May your Christmas bring you joy and happiness, and may the New Year be merry and bright.

Monica Taylor
National Committee Chair

From your editor

This past year has been a very difficult year for all of our members. It has seen continuous attacks on pensions and pensioners, with an increasing number of pensioners living in poverty. The cost-of-living crisis, energy bills, inflation, rents and housing are issues for us all, which have not been helped by the quick change of residents in 10 Downing Street.

There has been considerable change during the past year which will enable the National Committee to communicate better with our large membership: our quarterly newsletter will be produced to a professional standard and we now have our own website. You can access the website by clicking this link.

We are supported by National Officer Caren Evans, who is very keen to support us in our campaigning activity. Joe Rollin, Senior Organiser for the new Unite for a Workers' Economy campaign, has also been supporting retired members and a member of Joe's team has been seconded for one day per week assisting retired members, which is a tremendous step forward.

With the active assistance of Joe Rollin our Unite booklet encouraging branches to affiliate to the National Pensioners' Convention (NPC) has been updated and can be downloaded from the website. Please ensure that your branch discusses this booklet and affiliates to the NPC.

The NPC played a large part in the successful campaign to reinstate the triple lock. We need to keep the pressure on. There are threats to abolish it after 2023. The government is also threatening to bring forward increasing the state pension age to 68.

Locally and nationally, our members have been supporting strikers and turning out on picket lines, NHS campaigns and protests. We campaign on all issues affecting older people and people in work who are having to strike to preserve their working and living

conditions; for a properly funded National Care Service, with decent wages, training and conditions for care workers.

We intend to publish relevant material from all our regions. Please send materials (with photographs where possible) to me in the first instance for them to be incorporated in the next newsletter. You can send materials to my email address:

michael.mcloughlin1812@yahoo.com

Mike McLoughlin
Newsletter Editor



From your NEC delegate

Can I first thank our National Committee Coordinator Michael McLoughlin, National Committee Chair Monica Taylor, my colleague Bill Moores as well as the rest of the retired members' committee, and of course you the retired members.

It has been a difficult year for many of us with the cost-of-living crisis. I have been at the forefront of campaigning on your behalf on the Executive Council, within the National Pensioners' Convention and within the Labour Party.

We need retired members to be engaged on the ground, campaigning on the critical issues that impact us all including the NHS, the triple lock, heating bills and loneliness in old age. Our union will support you and I will be your voice. Please contact me if you need any support email and philwisemanso@aol.com

Phil Wiseman

Retired Members Delegate on the NEC

From your national officer

During the last year our retired members have been at the forefront of our campaigns. You have supported numerous disputes including more recently campaigning for the triple lock, supporting Unite for a Workers' Economy and assisting with the NHS ballot. Our retired members always turn out and your support is invaluable. I thank you all for your tireless efforts in supporting our industrial and community members and look forward to working with you all next year. Wishing you all a peaceful, happy and safe festive season.

Caren Evans
National Officer

Letter to the editor

In the Autumn Statement the Chancellor used deliberate obfuscation to hide the tax rises that will fall on ordinary citizens over the next six years.

The Chancellor is freezing the current personal tax thresholds so that he can raise taxes by nearly £100 billion for the Treasury over the next five years. The personal tax threshold is the amount of income you can receive before you pay income tax. At present it is £12,570 a year, or about £242 per week. The Chancellor has now fixed the personal tax threshold until 2027/28. This is the longest period since 1955, and the effect will be catastrophic for working people on low incomes. Over the period until 2027/28 basic rate taxpayers will pay £2,600 more in tax because the allowance will not have risen with inflation.

It will have a similar effect on the 40% tax threshold which at present is £50,270 a year. This will remain at that amount until 2027/28. Now the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) say that these tax payers will be paying an extra £2,800 in tax as wages and incomes rise and this will mean that an estimated 2.6 million more people will be paying 40% tax on some of their income.

Inheritance tax has been frozen since 2009 at £325,000 and will now also remain frozen until April 2028. If it had risen with inflation it would be £474,000. The effect is that thousands more families will have to pay inheritance tax when their family members die and the amount they pay will continue to grow.

Keith Clarke
Leicester RM Branch

