

CLARE WILLIAMS – Regional Convenor

JULIE WYNN – Deputy Convenor

We are writing to ask for your branch nomination as Convenor and Deputy Convenor for the Northern Region. The Region continues to respond to the challenges facing our members and to be a respected and influential voice in the national union.

The past 12 months have been difficult coming to terms with the loss of Kenny Bell as Deputy Convenor, and the huge contribution he has made in the Region. He of course remains in our thoughts, and his legacy continues in our on-going work and our responses to the challenges we face.

Eileen Thompson is also seeking re-election for another year, which is good news, and will help us to continue our work in identifying and developing new activists and leaders, whilst retaining some continuity.

The Coalition Government's austerity measures are having a significant impact on public sector workers, service delivery, and on UNISON members. In a region with 1:3 jobs in the public sector, one of the highest levels of young people's unemployment, and highest rate of child poverty, the challenges faced are significant. However, the work we have been doing as a Region has put us in good stead to respond.

Campaigning

- Under the Million Voices campaign promoting our agenda for public services and a fair society.
- Maintaining and building the Public Service Alliance coalitions across the Region.
- Working with branches, service groups, self-organised groups, and Labour Link to promote our alternative agenda.
- Building alliances with Community Voluntary Sector.
- Establishing regional working groups on key issues – personalisation; Health and Wellbeing; Clinical Commissioning Groups; health and social care.

Organising

- Putting organising at the heart of our activity – recruiting members and new activists, particularly young people and other under-represented sections of our membership.
- Increasing the participation of members in regional activities and campaigns.
- Increasing support for activists through training and mentoring.
- Implementing a casework management system to support senior lay activists at branch level.
- Identifying organising projects and securing resources to support lay activists in branches.

Bargaining

Promoting an agenda for;

- TU and workforce engagement in efficiencies and cuts
- Workplace learning and development
- Equalities
- Health and well being

The disillusionment with mainstream political parties, coupled with the economic recession, has resulted in a political and constitutional crisis. Unfortunately this is being used by some commentators to promote an agenda which attacks working people, and those who are most vulnerable, with some success. This is why trade unions and UNISON in particular must be in the forefront, developing and promoting an agenda for fairness, jobs and quality public services and building and supporting broad based campaigns at local, regional and national level.

We are asking for your support to continue to work supporting the region to ensure we deliver for our members, our communities and our activists.

If you would like us to attend a meeting or want further information telephone;
Clare – 07801 743444
Julie – 07508 080362