

GMB RMA CONSTITUTION

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- The GMB RMA aims to provide practical assistance to the recruitment, retention and organisational objectives of the GMB wherever and whenever possible.
- The GMB RMA aims to campaign on behalf of retired GMB members, and this bring about dignity in retirement.
- The GMB RMA will work in partnership with like-minded pensioner groups whenever it is appropriate to do so.
- The RMA aims at all times to comply with Equal Opportunity policies of the GMB.

CONSTITUTION – REGIONS AND BRANCHES

To ensure we have a consistent and democratic structure that is simple to understand and easy to apply across all Regions.

1. Each Region will have an RMA Co-ordinator appointed by the Regional Secretary.
2. The Co-ordinator will be responsible for organising the regional activities, assisting with campaigns, and liaising on issues of importance to the interests and benefit of the RMA, within the rules policies and procedures as determined by the GMB governing bodies.
3. Each Region will have an annual conference of its RMA members to be held in January of each year.
4. Each Branch within the Region will be entitled to nominate delegates and submit motions to the conference.
5. The Regional Conference at its first meeting will elect from its number the offices of President, Secretary, and Treasurer. These positions will be subject to the endorsement of the Regional Secretary and or the Regional Committee. The term of each office held will be 4 years.

6. The Regional Conference will aim to elect a Regional RMA Committee comprising of at least 10 members including the President and Secretary. The Conference must ensure that proportional and equal representation is maintained recognising the diversity of our membership. Frequency of meetings should be determined by the officers of the committee and the Regional Coordinator in consultation with the Regional Secretary.
7. At the first meeting of the Committee they will nominate 2 of their members to represent the Region on the National Committee. The term of office will be 4 years. If existing arrangements are in place within Regions for the democratic election of these seats then those current arrangements take precedence.
8. **In recognition of the Northwest & Irish regions historic position the region will be entitled to send an additional ex officio delegate to the National Committee as a representative of the Irish area within the region. The travel and subsistence expenses of the additional delegate will be met by the Region. This arrangement will be reviewed in June 2012.**
9. The Regional Conference will elect from amongst its number, 2 members to attend the National Conference. The names of the delegates will be forwarded to the National Committee Secretary by the 28th of February.
10. The Regional conference may submit up to 3 Motions to the National Conference for consideration.
11. The RMA National Conference will be held in June of each year at the same venue as GMB Congress.
12. In those years where the Sectional Conferences are held and Congress stands adjourned to facilitate the holding of sectional conferences the RMA National Conference will convene on the same date as the Sections.
13. In the alternating years the RMA Conference will convene on the day immediately following the close of Congress or if the National Committee so decide the day preceding the opening of Congress.
14. The National Committee may seek authority at anytime from the General Secretary in determining whether or not the Conference should continue to be held annually or move to a biennial basis.

15. The GMB RMA shall at all times work within the rules and policies of the GMB.
16. Retired life members of the GMB are eligible for membership of the RMA.
17. Spouses or partners of retired members are encouraged to be involved in GMB RMA activities subject to such limitations as determined from time to time by the Regional Secretary and/or the Regional Committee. GMB Regions may wish to establish RMA Branches. Such Branches can only be established with the authority of the Regional Secretary, and/or the Regional Committee. Such Branches shall be under the authority of the Regional Secretary, and/or the Regional Committee, and funding for such will be met by the Regions.
18. RMA approved delegates expenses will be paid strictly in accordance with current GMB rules and policies.

CONSTITUTION – NATIONAL COMMITTEE

1. Each Regional delegate to the National Committee of the RMA is encouraged to assist in effective communication about the activities of GMB retired members taking place at Regional and National level.
2. The National Secretary will circulate minutes of the National Meetings of the RMA to Regional Secretaries and Regional RMA Co-ordinators, for wider circulation.
3. The RMA National Committee will hold its AGM in March.
4. The RMA National Committee at the AGM will elect a:-
 - a) Chair of the National RMA
 - b) Vice Chair of the National RMA
 - c) Secretary of the RMA
 - d) Assistant Secretary of the National RMA
 - e) Treasurer of the National RMA
 - f) Election of 4 SOC members
6. The RMA National Committee will meet at least 4 times per annum.

7. The RMA National Committee shall appoint delegates to other appropriate bodies as necessary following consultation with and agreement of the National Co-ordinator.
8. The National Committee of the RMA shall be empowered to fill occasional vacancies until the next AGM.
9. An Annual National Conference will be held in June. The programme and agenda will be agreed between the National Committee and the National Co-ordinator.
10. The National Conference Delegation shall comprise of:-
 - a) Members of the RMA National Committee (18)
 - b) 2 retired GMB members from each Region elected at the Regional RMA Conference (18)

Total 36 delegates representing the current 54,000 RMA members = 1 delegate per 1500 members

11. Regions may consider sending the regional coordinators as visitors to the National Conference. Such visitors shall attend at the discretion of the Regional Secretary in an ex officio capacity. Visitor numbers from branches may be subject to limitation, dependent upon available facilities and costs. The National Committee will review this position on an ongoing basis.
12. Each Region shall be entitled to send a maximum of 3 resolutions to the National Conference.
13. The National Secretary will notify all Regions of the administrative arrangements concerning the National Conference.
14. Communications between the National RMA and the National Union of the GMB will be conducted through and between the National Secretary of the RMA and the National Co-ordinator.
15. The financial accounts of the RMA will be reported to the AGM of the RMA, the National Conference, and the GMB Finance Committee.

APPENDIX

GUIDELINES FOR GMB RMA CONFERENCE

These guidelines provide a broad, but flexible, framework for dealing with Conference business and have been drawn up in accordance with the Rules of the Union. They are intended as guidelines for the Chair, Conference and the Standing Order Committee itself.

1. CONFERENCE

Conference is convened and delegates are elected subject to the provisions of the GMB Union Rule Book and GMB RMA Constitution. The Conference of the GMB RMA shall conduct its business at the following times:

10:00am – 12.30pm
1.30pm - 4:00pm

2. STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE – 4 MEMBERS

The Standing Orders Committee shall be appointed in accordance with the Constitution of the RMA. The members of the Standing Orders Committee shall elect a Chair from amongst their own number.

The Standing Orders Committee shall have power to recommend to Conference proposals on the conduct of Conference business as covered by these guidelines.

The Standing Orders Committee shall meet as and when may be necessary to arrange Conference business.

3. MOTIONS

It is the responsibility of the Standing Orders at Conference to make recommendations to Conference for the handling of the agenda.

The Standing Order Committee has three responsibilities in respect of Motions submitted to Conference.

- (1) The Committee shall determine whether or not each Motion is “in order” for debate at Conference, i.e.
 - a. Whether the Motion ought to be dealt with by a more appropriate body (for example a JIC or a Section of Delegate Conference);
 - b. Where a Motion conflicts with a rule, or is an explicit rule amendment to give effect to its provisions;
 - c. Whether the Motion covers more than one subject;
 - d. Whether, after consultation with the delegation, the provisions of the Motion are still relevant and appropriate to the present situation (i.e. whether the Motion has been “overtaken by events”);
 - e. Whether the wording of the Motion is incomprehensible;

If a Motion comes within any of these categories, it shall be ruled “out of order” by the Standing Orders Committee, and the Committee shall recommend to Conference accordingly.

- (2) The Committee shall make proposals to Regional delegations on the withdrawal of a Motion in favour of another Motion on the Conference agenda. In determining whether to recommend the withdrawal of a Motion, the Committee shall ensure that the principles and proposals incorporated in that Motion are fully covered by the Motion that will remain on the agenda.

A Regional delegation is entitled to reject the Committee’s proposals to withdraw, and to allow its Motion to stand on the agenda.

If a Regional delegation agrees to the withdrawal of its Motion the Standing Orders Committee will, if it wishes, recommend the rights to second the other Motion or the right to speak in support of it. The Standing Orders Committee will report the recommendation accordingly to Conference.

- (3) The Standing Orders Committee shall assist Regional delegations in the drafting of composite resolutions and shall make proposals and recommendations accordingly.

In determining proposals on composite resolutions, the Committee shall bear in mind the following points:

- a. That the principles and proposals of the Motions concerned are covered in the composite resolution;
- b. That the wording of the composite resolution reflects the meaning of the original Motions.

The first Report of the Committee shall, as far as possible, report on agreed composite Motions, and/or indicate those Motions which are being considered for compositing and fix the time and place at which Regional delegations are required to meet the SOC either to discuss the compositing of Motions, or any other matters relating to Motions standing in the name of a Regional delegation.

In the event of a delegation failing to respond to an invitation to meet the SOC this shall be reported to Conference with the recommendation that the Motion shall fall.

If in the opinion of the SOC a Regional delegation has unreasonably declined to composite a motion, this shall be reported to Conference with any recommendations that the Chair of the SOC deems appropriate.

The Standing Orders Committee and the delegations involved in the proposed compositing shall be informed by the National Coordinator of the RMA of the GMB policy prior to the proposed composite being finalised.

If the Regional delegation agrees to a composite resolution, agreement will then be sought between the delegations concerned on which shall move and second the resolution and, where appropriate, which Regional delegation shall have the right to speak in support of it. The Standing Orders Committee will report the recommendation accordingly to Conference.

Priority in debate will be given to those delegates who assist in achieving a composite.

4. EMERGENCY MOTIONS

Any delegates wishing to submit an Emergency Motion shall in the first instance seek the agreement of his/her Regional delegation that the Motion is an Emergency Motion. It shall then be referred to the Standing Orders Committee which shall decide whether the Motion is an Emergency Motion after taking account of the following points:

- a. Whether the Motion involves a serious situation needing quick action;
- b. Whether the Motion relates to events which have occurred after the closing date for Motions;

Emergency Motions can be composited.

5. WITHDRAWAL OF MOTIONS

If a Regional delegation wishes to withdraw a Motion in the name of a branch of the Region, or in the name of the Regional Committee, they shall notify the Standing Orders Committee.

6. MATTERS OF URGENCY

Any delegate wishing to bring before Conference “a matter of urgency” not on the agenda shall in the first instance seek the agreement of his/her Regional delegation that the matter is one of urgency. It shall then be referred to the Standing Orders Committee which shall recommend whether or not the matter is one of urgency, after taking account of the following points:

- a. Whether the matter needs immediate decision and is a matter which is not (whether by Motion or otherwise) already on the agenda;
- b. Whether the matter could have been dealt with adequately in an ordinary Motion placed on the Congress agenda, or by an Emergency Motion.

- c. The Standing Orders Committee shall inform the Chair of Conference and Conference of its recommendation. The Chair shall then put the Motion that the matter be taken as a matter of urgency, and it is then the responsibility of Conference to decide whether the matter be so brought forward.

7. NATIONAL RMA COMMITTEE

The National RMA Committee has the right to submit Motions to the Conference. The National RMA Committee will notify Regional delegations of these Motions prior to the Conference.

The National RMA Committee has the right to submit Motions as “a matter of emergency” to the Conference. The National RMA Committee should notify the Standing Orders Committee of their intention to do so.

8. DEBATING PROCEDURE

The procedure for debating Conference Motions shall normally be at the discretion of the Chair who will indicate to Conference wherever appropriate, the procedure or procedures he/she intends to adopt.

In determining the procedure for debating Motions, the Chair shall have regard to the following points:

- a. No resolution of the Conference in session can be amended, rescinded or negated by a subsequent Motion, at that Conference;
- b. Precedence in debates shall be given to a Motion of the National RMA Committee;
- c. The procedures for taking Motions are as set out in Rule 70 Clauses 3-18 in respect of Council meetings;
- d. Personal attacks on colleagues should not take place.

The Standing Orders Committee shall advise the Chair what Motions will fall if another Motion is carried.

9. TIME LIMIT FOR SPEAKERS

The times for speakers will be recommended by the Standing Orders Committee, taking account of the amount of business on the agenda.

It may be necessary, in order that the business of Conference is properly completed, that time for speakers be curtailed. The Standing Orders Committee shall recommend revised times for speakers to Conference.

10. VOTING

Voting shall be by a show of hands.

Only delegates seated in the Conference should vote.

Show of Hands: The Chair shall call for those in favour to show, and shall then call for those against.