



REGIONAL COUNCIL – 2ND FEBRUARY 2013

1. At the NW Regional Council meeting the meeting was addressed by Dave Prentis, General Secretary.
 - D Prentis, General Secretary, thanked everyone; those living in the eye of the storm and living with the burden of one of the most right wing governments that the country has ever known with the destruction of everything we hold key. There are three factors which are giving our members sleepless nights:
 1. Fear of losing job;
 2. Fear of being privatised;
 3. Fear of being re-organised and losing money.
 - UNISON will drive forward the Living Wage Campaign.
 - We should be driving forward a campaign about pay.
 - In 2012 the union recruited 150,000 new members. With job losses at 270,000 the membership is still down. The union's income is £175m of which we are down by £2m. The union has never had to go into its reserves. The value of the money we have to use in real terms compared to inflation has gone down by £10m per year.
 - The union is not cutting back on staff numbers. The aim is to get resources to where branches need them at branch level. The union is putting in place, starting on the 11th March 2013, a massive recruitment campaign.
 - The problem with UNISON is we don't tell people how much it is to join to the union and what they get for their money.
 - We don't tell them that there is a helpline available.
 - If we don't recruit whilst people are in the public sector we will not recruit them when they go into the private sector.
 - We need to get this coalition out. We need a government to come in that has our policies; one that goes for jobs and growth. We need a government that will roll back all the attacks from this current government.
 - Pay – don't believe in running a ballot which we will lose. We will ballot as soon as our members are strong enough.
 - We need a pledge card for the Labour Party "you will only get our support if you do these five things...stop cuts in public services; policies on welfare; investment in jobs and growth, public housing; employment protection that we have negotiation over the last decade; access to Tribunals and a full stop to this attack on workers rights.
2. Motion submitted by the Environment Branch re 'Fracking' was carried.
3. Motions submitted by Salford City Branch re "Greater Manchester One Fund For All" was carried as amended.
4. Motion submitted by United Utilities Branch re "Annual Elections to Regional Council" was lost.
5. Motion submitted by Sefton LG Branch re "Jack Jones Trust" was carried.
6. The NW motions for NDC 2013 are:
 - a. Trade Union Rights – Reversing the ConDem attacks
 - b. Rejecting Privatisation & Campaigning for Public Services

7. Kevan Nelson, Regional Secretary, updated Council as follows:
- During 2013 the NW Region is looking to recruit 21,600 new members.
 - In March 2013 the NEC will be launching the union's new advertising campaign.
 - 11th-24th March 2013 the union will run its first intensive recruitment and organising initiative. All staff resources will be put into selected branches.
 - 12 new Local Fighting Fund Organisers are to be appointed, with hopefully a further 6. Thanks was extended to those branches who have assisted with the funding of these posts. Any branch wishing to assist with the funding of an organising project post to contact their Regional Organiser.
 - Congratulations was extended to the MANWEB branch on their successful ballot result and support for their ongoing negotiations. D Read updated the meeting on the dispute.
 - University of Central Lancashire is seeking Government approval to change its status to a private company by guarantee. The Region will be working closely with the Branch, UCU and NUS to mount a robust campaign against the proposals. Branches are asked to fully support this campaign.
 - Thanks was extended to those branches who had switched to the Online Branch Accounting System (OLBA).