

newspaper

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Successful DM for branch



The PR and Communications branch had a very successful and enjoyable Delegate Meeting in Southport in April.

The branch's motion calling for a review of the union's communications sparked one of the liveliest and most interesting debates of the conference.

The motion, which was ultimately adopted by the conference, instructed the National Executive Council to undertake a strategic communications review to decide how best to deploy available resources to promote the NUJ, its work and its achievements within and beyond the union.

Mark Whitehead, branch secretary, moved the motion and said that it was not just about the content of the Journalist, but how communi-

cations had changed so much in recent year with the massive increase and importance of social media, and therefore the union need to look at the whole way it communicates with members.

Mark noted recent improvements in the content of the Journalist but there was a need to take a clear analytical look at what the union was doing in communications.

Other speakers focussed on the content and style of the Journalist to delegates, both positive and negative. Some delegates argued that the journal should be a primary source of information on news activity. Others pointed out that the current direction of the publication had been endorsed by the membership through the re-election of the current editor.

A follow-up motion from the branch calling for the appointment, rather than

election by the membership, of the next editor of the Journalist, was lost. Most opposition came from those who felt that making this change now would be predicting the outcome of the previously agreed over-arching communications review.

Another motion on the Journalist which called for the independence of the post to be enshrined in the union's rules was endorsed by the branch and adopted by the conference.

The branch also put successful motions calling for a focus on recruitment of PR members and for the NEC to work on opposing the Lobbying Act.

The branch delegation voted in favour of a motion which is set to change the way subscription rates are set. Members can now choose to pay subscriptions based on

their salary rather than the sector they work in. All new members will automatically be charged based on their salary. The NEC will be communicating with members in the coming months to offer members the opportunity to change grade.

Branch delegate Shumon Rahman, a former George Viner Fund and Felix Deardon award recipient, spoke in favour of the union's continued support of the George Viner fund and the re-establishment of donations to NUJ Extra.

Branch member becomes vice-president

Branch vice-chair and incoming NEC sector representative Sian Jones won an election of DM delegates to become the union's next vice president. Sian will join new president Tim Dawson and general secretary Michelle Stanistreet who was re-elected unopposed as general secretary of the union in the week of conference.



Branch meetings are on second Tuesday of the month.

Branch committee 2016

At the AGM in January your new branch committee was elected. The post holders for 2016 are as follows:

Chair: Debbie Cavaldoro

Vice-Chair: Monica Foot / Mick Holder (job share)

Branch Secretary: Mark Whitehead

Assistant Secretary: Sian Jones

Equality Officer: Carmel McHenry

Treasurer: Carmel McHenry

Welfare Officer: Debbie Cavaldoro

Newsletter Editor: Lisa Browne

DM convener: Debbie Cavaldoro

Recruitment and Retention: Mark Whitehead

Web: Mick Holder

E-Mail:
Please help build branch database by sending your e-mail address to:
nujppr@googlemail.com

Auditors: Anita Halpin, Charles Harkness and/or Eddie Barret (tbc)

Thanks were given to the outgoing committee members for their work during 2015.

Don't forget!

Let the NUJ have your e-mail address so we can save on postage by e-mailing you the branch newsletter.

@NUJ_PRmembers on Twitter

We are on Twitter!, Follow us on @NUJ_PRmembers for updates on all things NUJ and PR.

Union acknowledges branch and union stalwart

Branch member Jim Boumelha was awarded the union's recognition being granted as Member of Honour status at the conference.

General secretary Michelle Stanistreet gave the citation for Jim who is also president of the International Federation of Journalists.

'When I became president I paid tribute to Jim as someone I've regarded as a great NUJ mentor and friend since getting involved in the NUJ and getting to know him,' said Michelle.

'His fearless and unflinching championing of minority issues goes back to his earliest days of activity in the NUJ. He has worked unstintingly for the cause of BME journalists for well over three decades, first as a member of the Race Relations Working Party and later as a founding member of the Black Members Council and a trustee of the George Viner Fund.'



Union says goodbye to two stalwarts

Branch members Lena Calvert and Anita Halpin were both presented with personalised caricatures to thank them for their many years of union work.

Former NUJ president, treasurer, NEC sector representative, NUJ Extra trustee and long-term branch activist Anita was presented with the cartoon to thank her for her commitment to the union as she stands down from the NEC. However, Anita has promised that she is not finished with the branch yet!

Lena, branch member and long-term staff member at the union was presented with her cartoon to mark her retirement from the union at the end of last year. Lena was attending the union after agreeing to return for the conference to service the Standing Order Committee, a job she has undertaken for many years.