

N24-Norwich Branch Newsletter

Working together in the Norwich region

Welcome to our 3rd addition. At a recent meeting we committed to continuing this service and to making a quarterly newsletter for our members. Times move fast and we have another edition which outlines some changes to the way Branch is run. After the amalgamation of the Norwich APEX and GMB branches we were holding Committee and Branch meetings every consecutive month. The Committee will meet as required on an ad hoc basis. Branch meetings will now be held every 3 months.

Updated Branch Meetings Dates

Wednesday 6th April

Wednesday 1st June AGM

Wednesday 7th September

Wednesday 7th December

which will be held on June 1st where we shall elect the committee and acting officers. For your say on how we run the branch, please come along.

From the list on the left you will see that the next meeting is 6th April. At this meeting we will be discussing the Secretarial role within Norwich N24 Branch. It has become difficult for one person to set aside sufficient time to do our large membership justice, so at the next meeting we will be discussing how we can split the secretarial functions up to continue the excellent service Neil Cooper has provided. The next important meeting for our branch will be the AGM

Meeting with Ian Gibson MP, April 1st, 2005



Dr Ian Gibson has agreed to meet with the Branch on 1st April 2005. This is the perfect time for you to ask questions about party politics and his support for trade unionism. The meeting will be held at the usual venue of The Angel Gardens PH, Angel Road, Norwich. The meeting will commence at 7.30pm. We hope that you will join us for what should be an informative meeting... the more the livelier!

Branch Affiliations

The Branch regularly considers applications for donations and affiliations to various charities and organizations that match trade union ethics. The following organisations are supported by us. If you would like more information on any of these organisations then please visit the website or contact the secretary. www.norwichgmb.com



Labour Research Department

Message from our Branch Secretary – Neil Cooper

It has been over a year since I took over the job of Branch Secretary from Phil Innes and I felt it was time for me to say a few words. With the amalgamation of the APEX & GMB Branches the Committee and I did not have any idea how the Branch would work. Luckily we have not had any major problems, and the Branch has moved forward. With the help & experience of Steve Moore the Branch now has an email address & website. The Norwich Branch is one of the very few General Branches in the GMB with a website. It has been said before; if there is anything you would like to see on the website or in the newsletter please contact Steve. The Branch is committed to get a newsletter to all Members at least once every three months, so if you are moving, please let me know your new address. If you know of any Branch Member who has not received a newsletter, please let me know.

At the beginning of last year the Branch's total membership was 1490. It is now sitting at 1530. This may not sound like a big increase but we have had over 300 new members in the last year. This should give you an idea of the need to recruit and retain members as I'm sure we have lost members in established workplaces. Everyone can help recruit and retain members, because it will affect GMB members in any workplace that does not have a strong GMB presence. If you know of someone who may benefit from GMB membership please pass on my phone number.

I was recently asked by a member why the GMB has a political fund. Practically every GMB campaign is labelled as a political act, so they can only be funded from the Political fund. This can be any Health & Safety campaign or local issue that may require funding. At the moment the GMB is campaigning on Local Government Pensions, supporting a motion going to Parliament so that everyone will get paid holiday, Workers Education and Skills training, and fighting to stop age discrimination. Only a very small amount from your contributions goes to the Political fund (approximately 2 weeks contributions a year). If there is an issue that you think the Branch should get involved with please come along to a Branch meeting & raise it.

Finally I would like to congratulate Terry Nokes who will be going to the GMB National Congress as a delegate from the London Region. I'm certain Terry is looking forward to Congress & I'm sure he will be speaking on the Branches motions. The Branch motions can be seen on the Branch website. Also attending from the Branch will be Keith Rowley. Keith will be going as a visitor; this allows Keith to watch the proceedings.



The website www.norwichgmb.com has become a central point for information about branch activities and developments. There are helpful links for union shop stewards and safety representatives. If there is anything that you would like to see on the web pages then please contact the webmaster; webmaster@norwichgmb.com

Next Branch Meeting: **6th April 2005, 7:30pm, Angel Gardens Public House**
1st June AGM