



PUBLIC SERVICE EXECUTIVE UNION

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER – MARCH 2014

Membership

Up to 18 March 2014, 34 new members joined the Union.

Income Continuance

The new scheme rate of 0.83% of pay will apply from 1 April 2014 as the new, revised sick leave arrangements come into force from 31 March 2014. This rate includes a subsidy of €250,000 from Union funds and will last until March 2015, at which time it will be reviewed. All of the indications are that the review will result in further increase in cost. Various options are being explored, including the option of joint schemes with other unions.

Branch Officers Course

This takes place on 25 and 26 March 2014.

Union Accounts

The EC has approved the audited accounts for 2013. These will be printed and will be included in the ADC 'packs' for presentation and approval at the ADC.

Union Web-site

A contract has been placed for the overhaul of the Union website. It is expected to be ready prior to the ADC.

Future Union Organisation

Following a letter from this Union, discussions on future union organisation have commenced with the AHCPS, CPSU, IMPACT and Veterinary Officers' Association. At this point some information, some of it confidential, has been exchanged between the Unions on finance and structure. Discussions on possible shared services, including schemes for members, have commenced also.

Union Staffing

Phyllis Behan, AGS, has announced her intention to retire in June of this year. Suitable acknowledgement of Phyllis' role will take place later. In the meantime the process for the filling of the vacancy has been approved by the Executive Committee. A Circular and press advertisements will issue shortly.

Honorary Life Membership

After some difficulty, the Union managed to get a message to people who, in turn, could convey to Malala Yousafzai that we have awarded her honorary life membership. Malala is pursuing her studies at present and is not available for any public events.

Public Service Pay

The Executive Committee has decided to issue details to members of the price paid by them, as Public Servants, for the austerity policies pursued since 2009. This will issue in a separate Circular and will be included in ADC 'packs'. Members are being advised to use the information when dealing with canvassers in the forthcoming elections.

The Union has brought a claim to adjudication for payments to members who stayed abroad for a total of more than 7 days during the Irish Presidency of the EU. This follows an adjudication finding in respect of members of the AHCPS.

Travel and Subsistence Rates

Discussions regarding these rates have begun.

Internal Promotion processes

In light of the debacle in Revenue, Social Protection and Dept. of Agriculture with a process run by the Public Appointments Service (PAS), a meeting with PAS, the Dept. of Public Expenditure and Reform and the Staff Panel has been arranged.

Communications

Following discussion at the Executive Committee on the matter, the Communications sub group was asked to look at the Union's communications policy, both internal and external. That group recommended to the EC that members be asked for their views on this matter. The EC has agreed and a separate circular will issue.

PMDS

After a period of disagreement between the Staff Side and the Official Side, it has been agreed that the question of third party reviews of ratings will be referred for adjudication. The Official Side's position was that only those rated '1' or '2' should be allowed to appeal and that there should be a charge for appeals. They have dropped the question of a charge and the issue to be determined by a third party will be if those who get a '3' rating should be allowed to appeal that rating. Meetings on calibration are taking place with AHCPS and IMPACT as the members of those unions are affected by the process immediately.

Diversity

A meeting of the EC sub-committee on Diversity is being arranged. This will consider the outcome of the Diversity Forum.

Eircom

Dermot Murtagh's leaving was marked by the committee with a social event and small presentation in respect of his work as a committee member and officer of the Branch.

An Post

Issues related to IT Pay progression are to be referred to the LRC. A date is awaited.

Discussions on new time and attendance managements process, ASMP, are continuing but will probably be referred to ongoing talks at LRC on a new clocking in system and the Union's 2% productivity claim.

National Lottery

Following conclusion of the ballot, the NLC had to draw up a restructuring plan to allow for exits. A draft was presented which allows for 6 PSEU members to exit. Discussions are ongoing.

Commissioners of Irish Lights

Significant changes in the administration & management of the superannuation scheme for Irish Lights staff and pensioners are in course of implementation.

In essence, the changes involve the integration of the pension scheme into the UK Public Service Pension Scheme. Amongst other things, this means that pension increases will be governed by UK policy rather than with regard to the position in Ireland. This had been the practice previously but was changed as Irish Lights' pensions had fallen seriously out of line with Irish economic conditions.

Superannuation

Part of the ADC will be devoted to this issue and the ADC will be addressed by Fergus Whelan of the ICTU on the matter.

Solidarity Fund

The Executive Committee has approved a grant of €10,000 to KMF Productions who produce the 'What in the World' TV series. A grant of €2,000 to the Ukrainian Trade Union movement was also approved.

Youth Connect

This Union has provided significant funding to the ICTU Youth Connect, a project designed to teach school pupils about Trade Unions. Part of this project involved a competition between schools to make a Trade Union related film. The entries will be judged and prizes awarded at a ceremony on 27 March 2014.

T. Geraghty
General Secretary