

GMB Northants Community Branch
Secretary: Gordon Glassford, Corby, Northants, NN17 2LL
Email: gordonglassford@gmbnorthants.org
www.gmbnorthants.org

Summary of the GMB Northants Branch Meeting held on 28.09.16

Rajko had attended the Hazards Conference in Manchester. The conference had been very good and informative but he was disappointed that he was isolated as a GMB delegate and no effort seems to have been made to organise or introduce the delegates to each other. The secretary will write to the regional health and safety officer to raise our concerns.

It was agreed that Martyn Reuby and Lily Lowe would be our delegates to the Regional Equalities Conference. Martyn had sent a motion for the conference which the meeting agreed to.

Project Group Proposal: Jackie said she was concerned about the poor attendance at branch meetings and felt that we should be doing more to identify possible union activists especially among young and ethnic minority members particularly in the workplace. It was agreed that the secretary liaise with Rachelle Wilkins and try and arrange a meeting of workplace organisers to agree a way forward. It would also be useful to find out what other branches do. It had been suggested by regional office that it might be possible to have a regional meeting of branch officers. The secretary will find out if any progress had been made with this.

Gordon and Jackie had met with Rachelle and Richard Taylor, southern area senior organiser, about the use of accompanying reps. We would like to adopt the system used by Yorkshire region introduced by Tim Roache, now general secretary, when he was regional secretary, Richard is supportive, but this is unlikely to happen in our region currently but that is open to change. We remain hopeful.

Gordon will also soon start writing to potential speakers for Workers Memorial Day. This is quite early but it might help to get in first.

He will write to the regional committee about the need, now that the labour leadership issue has been settled, to get behind the leadership and start opposing the tory government instead of fighting each other.

The branch accounts remain healthy

Rachelle had told the secretary that 30-40 new members had joined from Amey in Northampton these mostly work in school support.

Lily had attended a National Pensioners Convention meeting in Leicester. It was agreed to pay her travelling expenses.