

Devon County UNISON Retired Members Committee

The Retired Members Committee (RMC) provides a link between the employed and retired and that solidarity between generations is important to everyone. The NHS, the provision of a decent income in older age, social care and a fair society all matter to every UNISON member, regardless of age.

The Devon County RMC feeds into the South West regional committee and from there into the National Retired Members committee. This gives you a voice at the heart of the union and ensures that your views are heard at our national and retired members' conferences.

UNISON retired members work with other pensioner organisations in the UK and across the world which gives you plenty of opportunities to campaign on issues that are important to you.

We value your experience. Our retired members attend branch meetings and often mentor new branch officials and reps, as well as getting involved in local and national campaigns.

The Devon Retired Members committee meets four times a year to discuss and campaign on issues of concern as it affects our retired members. It is recognised by the County Council as a representative body who is consulted on the budget and other issues.

Membership of the RMC

Two of the active members of the Committee have decided to retire from their roles and our thanks must go to them for the long years of service to the Branch and the Trade Union movement.

Colin Lomax who was a former Branch Secretary in the days of NALGO has been the Retired members secretary for at least 15 years has decided to step down and we will miss his advice and council.

Graham Parkhouse has represented the branch and the Union on the Ilfracombe Trades Council for a considerable time as well as representing the Trade Union movement as a member of the Employment Tribunal system.

Between the two of them there is over a 100 years of experience in the Trade Union Movement.

Recently we have been joined by Moira Macdonald, a retired member and former Branch Secretary to the committee who has already contributed to our discussions.

We would welcome expressions of interest from our retired members who would like to serve on the committee and volunteer for various of the roles.

Local Government Pensions

As retired members, one issue which is of concern is our Local Government Pension and how changes to it, both in terms of administration but also of what it invests in are important.

To this end, Roberto Franceschini serves on the Investment and Pensions committee of the County Council and actively looks after our interests as members of the Devon LGPS. Andy Bowman serves on the Devon Pension Board as a scheme member representative and also sits on the Oversight Board of the Brunel Pension Partnership as a scheme member representative.

Issues which have been raised include the Environmental, Social and Governance aspects of investments. In particular, the calls for the disinvestment of the fund from those sectors dependent on Carbon.