



Amicus Bulletin

South West
Regional Newsletter

Issue one

South West Regional Newsletter

Issue one

Introduction

Meet the General Secretary

Workplace Representatives Training – Stage 1

NHS Training – Reviews

Goodbye to Tony Pearce

My Amicus

Amicus Diary

Regional Representatives Update

New Offices

South West Regional Team

A transgender perspective: can you help?

Introduction to Pensions

Free courses for union members in Cornwall

Introduction

This newsletter is going out to all representatives in the South West Region where we have their email address, please let us know if you have any colleagues that would like to receive it but are not on our database.

I have had complaints from branches that they do not receive the Regional Council minutes or indeed very much information to discuss at branch meetings.

We will try to circulate the minutes in future via Head Office as not all branch secretary's have email. I will also try to circulate details of good causes requesting donations on a monthly basis.

We could send the minutes by email but it will be a pretty big attachment so, if you really want the bi-monthly minutes for yourself, We will send them to your email address on request **Arthur Taylor, Regional Secretary**

Meet the General Secretary

Derek Simpson, the General Secretary will be holding a briefing sessions for members at Eden Office Park, Ham Green, Bristol on Wednesday 7th December at 7.30pm.

There is only enough space for 50 members to attend and places will be given on a first come first served basis. If you are interested in coming or know of any other members who would be interested please email Chantal on Chantal.mcgowen@amicustheunion.org or call the office on **01275 370000**. We will send you a map and confirmation of your attendance in the post.

Workplace Representatives Training - Stage 1

A Representatives Training Day is being held at Smiths Aerospace, Gloucester, on the 1st December 2005.

The Training will cover:

- The Disability Discrimination Act
- The Age Discrimination Act (New Laws)
- Disciplinary & Grievance Procedures
- TUPE Regulations

The main tutor will be a solicitor from Thompsons and there will be opportunity for questions and answers throughout the day.

Priority booking is given to reps in the Gloucester area. If you are interested in attending and have not received an invite in the post please contact Chantal McGowen on **01275 370000** or Chantal.mcgowen@amicustheunion.org

NHS Training - Reviews

We recently held a training day on Agenda for Change Banding. It was primarily designed to help our Regional Representatives in carrying out reviews and also to help them assist members in dealing with their own Reviews.

If you would like a copy of the paperwork issued call Chantal on **01275 370000** or email her on Chantal.mcgowen@amicustheunion.org

Goodbye to Tony Pearce

South West Regional Officer, Tony Pearce, has left the union under the Voluntary Redundancy programme. Tony has been a Union Officer for 14 years, and will be missed by colleagues and members alike.

My Amicus

We are constantly looking at ways of improving the services provided to members, and an important part of that improvement is the way in which we communicate.

The Amicus website is an increasingly popular and essential form of communication, and we have recently launched a new step in its development - "My Amicus". This is an area dedicated to members only, tailored to your own sector of work and allowing you to change personal details directly. If you want to add your email address or update details then log onto the link below and register on "My Amicus".

Many other exciting developments are planned, so make sure you get in at the beginning and log onto www.amicustheunion.org now and register on "My Amicus". Remember this facility is only available to members!

Amicus Diaries

Amicus 2006 Diaries are available to order at the price of just £2 per diary. Click on the following link to download the order form.

<http://www.amicustheunion.org/PDF/Diary%20request%20form.pdf>

Regional Representatives Update

The Amicus South West Region is currently updating its information systems. We are particularly keen to include email addresses so we can communicate more effectively using the internet.

You should all be receiving a form in the post to complete. Please fill in as much detail as possible and return to us via the Freepost address.

If you know of a colleague who is also an Amicus Representative and has not received this form please tell them to contact us. We thank you in advance for your assistance in this matter, if you have any queries please don't hesitate to contact us at the Bristol Office on [01275 370000](tel:01275370000).

New Offices

Following the closure of our Clifton and Almondsbury Business Park offices the Regional office moved in early June to Ham Green. Below are our contact details:

Amicus
Eden Office Park
63 Macrae Road
Ham Green
Bristol
BS20 0DD

Tel: [01275 370000](tel:01275370000)
Fax: [01275 370037](tel:01275370037)

The ex UNIFI Tower House office will be closing on 16th November with Stuart Davies and Meg Crack moving into Eden Park.

The Plymouth office has also recently moved to new premises, their details are as follows:

Amicus
Envoy House
Longbridge Road
Plymouth
PL6 8LR

Tel: [01752 675970](tel:01752675970)
Fax: [01752 675989](tel:01752675989)

South West Regional Team

Bristol Office Support Team

Carol Richards
Rebecca Dicken
Chantal McGowen

Bristol Officers

Arthur Taylor – Regional Secretary
Dorothy Fogg – Regional Officer
Colin Rose – Regional Officer
Christine Starling – Regional Officer
Andy McDowall – Regional Officer
Jim D’Avila – Regional Officer
Terry Keefe – Regional Officer
Jerry Pickford – Regional Organiser
Meg Crack – Development Officer
Stuart Davies – Regional Organiser

Plymouth Office Support Team

Sonja Prowse
Sheila Cameron

Plymouth Officers

Colin Pettifer – Regional Officer
Glyn James – Regional Officer
Heath Pettifer – Learning Organiser

A transgender perspective: Can you help?

Equality South West aims to be a source of expertise on equalities issues in the region. It brings together members of equalities communities so their opinions can impact on the work of a range of organisations in the region such as Local Authorities, Health Authorities, major employers and regional bodies such as the Regional Development Agency and Government Office South West. Equality South West also offers advice and training on equalities issues.

They would like to improve contacts with transgender people and hear their views on how we. Tim Roberts, Equality Development Officer, said: "If you are a transgender person and would like to find out more about our work or get involved in the work of the project, just let us know. We want to know what you think our priorities should be."

Contact Tim Roberts on tim.roberts@equalitysouthwest.org.uk

Introduction to Pensions

South West TUC Education is offering a 3-day course as an introduction to pensions. Participants will have the opportunity to look at:

- An outline of the state pension scheme
- The options available in pension provision, and how they differ
- An overview of the stakeholder pension scheme
- Understanding pension jargon
- Personal Private Pensions
- Starting to understand your pension scheme, and comparing it to others
- Equality proofing pension schemes.

The course is taking place from on the 16th, 17th and 18th January 2006 in Bristol. If you would like to attend the course or if you would like any further information please contact City of Bristol College on [0117 312 5607](tel:01173125607) or by email on tuedadmin@cityofbristol.ac.uk

Free Courses for union members in Cornwall

Everyone enrolling for a course at ANY of the Learning Shops around Cornwall has to pay a membership fee of £20.

But TUC Learning Services, Cornwall (funded by Objective 1) will pay this fee as a training subsidy for all trade union members. So this means FREE courses to all trade union members in Cornwall at the Learning Shops!

Remember, this subsidy is only available to TU members and so could be a useful way of promoting union membership.

Learning Shops are based at Bodmin, Bude, Camborne, Helston, Mullion, Plymouth, St Austell and St Mawes. They offer IT courses (including ECDL), Learndirect and Skills for Life - a great way to get back into learning!

If you need more information, contact TUC Cornwall Learning Services on [01209 611604](tel:01209611604) cmann@tuc.org.uk