

EC GUIDANCE TO IMPLEMENT RULE 10. MEMBERS IN RETIREMENT

Explanatory Note

The constitutional structures for retired members within Unite are intended to facilitate the continued involvement and activity of activists who are no longer in the workplace. The example of the retired members' structure in the USW (website www.usw.org SOAR (Steelworkers Organisation of Active Retirees) shows what a huge contribution retired members can make to campaigning, particularly in support of the political and campaigning structure of Unite.

The structure proposed below recognises the best traditions and experience of our retired members. It is also appreciated that a number of our retired members still hold lay office within the current structures under dispensation from the EC where appropriate.

10.1 There shall be established an association for Retired Members which shall be supported by the Union in the manner determined by the Executive Council.

10.1.1 The Retired Members Association is the name of the constitutional body for retired members within Unite. It is an integral part of Unite.

10.2 The Retired Members Association (hereafter RMA) shall promote the interests of all senior citizens by working with other bodies involved with the retired, cementing links with the Union and ensuring its support both within the Union and beyond. The RMA shall harness the support of members in retirement in promoting the Union's political and campaigning objectives.

10.2.1 The Retired Members Association will draw on the best traditions of the retired members' structures of both the TGWU and Amicus, together with adding new ideas and practices where these will best serve the aims and objectives of the Union.

10.2.2 This will include, but not be confined to new initiatives through which the unique experience and skills of retired members can support through the political and campaigning work of the union.

10.3 The RMA shall have regional RMA Branches and a National Committee of the RMA. Standing Orders for these Branches and National Committee shall be determined by the Executive Council.

10.3.1 Retired members are free to remain in their Unite workplace branches or may be allocated to their local Unite geographic branch.

10.3.2 Where appropriate an RMA branch will be established on the same geographical boundaries as the Area Activists Committees.

10.3.3 The Regional Committee will determine whether there are sufficient active retired members to merit a separate RMA branch for each Area Activist Committee. Where there are sufficient activists to establish more than one RMA branch within an AAC boundary, this matter will also be considered by the Regional Committee.

10.3.4 There shall be an RMA Co-ordinating Committee in each Region. Each RMA branch in a Region may elect up to two delegates, as

defined in 10.3.4.1, to the Regional Co-ordinating Committee. Each Co-ordinating Committee shall elect the following:

- 10.3.4.1 2 RMA delegates per region to the National Committee of the RMA; for the first electoral period only, those delegates shall be elected on the basis that the retired members formerly of the Amicus section elect one RMA NC delegate from their number, and the retired members formerly of the TGWU elect one RMA National Committee delegate from their number
- 10.3.4.2 a delegate who shall sit as an observer on the Regional Committee
- 10.3.4.3 Delegates to the National Pensioners Convention
- 10.3.4.4 The RMA National Committee and Regional Co-ordinating Committees shall meet quarterly.