

UNISON
Birmingham Branch
DISABILITY FOCUS

May
2017

DATES

The Group meets on the second Monday of the month at the McLaren Building Priory Queensway 5.30—7.30pm.

June 12th

July 10th

August 14th

September 11th

October 9th

November 13th

December 11th

DISABLED MEMBERS' CONFERENCE

The 2017 UNISON *Disabled Members'* Conference takes place from **Saturday 28th to Monday 30th October at Manchester Central.**

Branches and Regions can send delegates to the Conference to debate motions and amendments on issues that affect disabled members in the workplace.

The Birmingham Branch is one of only six Branches that send delegates from its own self organised group.

The Conference gives disabled members the opportunity to meet other disabled members from around the country. It takes place over three days. There are guest speakers and workshop

In 2017, the Birmingham Branch sent 3 delegates to the Conference in Brighton.

One of those delegates was Dorothy who was a first time delegate to the Conference.

She had this to say about her experience of the Conference:

“I would encourage anyone with an interest in UNISON, or if you are wanting a further insight into how UNISON has impacted on lives and the passion of those who have dedicated time to get involved and make a real difference rather than rely on hearsay or rhetoric.”

“Each chairperson was very fair in allowing just enough time for delegates to express their views at caucus groups and in the main Conference debates.

The atmosphere, very warm and welcoming, in fact the general feeling was that of being in a safe and relaxed environment, whilst still discussing, debating serious issues. Sounds strange I know, but I have often felt very uncomfortable, awkward even being around small groups of people never mind masses.

For the first time in my life I was able to sit within a crowded room and not feel out of place. I made a conscious effort to mingle; I unglued myself from the side of my facilitator and approach random delegates on the last day.”

“In general people were kind and welcoming rather than patronising, friendly rather than condescending.

I believed everyone there could and did respect that having any disability in this present pressurised society requires an extraordinary amount of strength and

organisation to even leave home most days. To travel to any event social or otherwise often takes enormous courage too. Or maybe that's just me. But essentially that's what UNISON's about. Being kind but firm. Having the knowledge, fortitude and courage to speak out on behalf of their members. As well as being informative, interactive and transparent.”

If you are interested in coming to the Conference in October this year then come along to the meeting on **Monday June 12th** when delegates will be elected to go.

The 2017 Conference timetable is as follows:

Deadline for Submission of Motions	5.00pm	Friday, 7 July 2017
Deadline for Submission of Amendments to Standing Orders	5.00pm	Friday, 7 July 2017
Deadline for Submission of Amendments to NDMC Constitution	5.00pm	Friday, 7 July 2017
Publication of Preliminary Agenda		Friday, 28 July 2017
Deadline for Submission of Delegates	5.00pm	Friday, 28 July 2017
Deadline for Submission of Amendments	5.00pm	Friday, 1 September 2017
Publication of Final Agenda		Friday, 29 September
		2017

Deadline for Submission of Emergency Motions	5.00pm	Friday, 20 October 2017
Deadline for Submitting Change of delegates	5.00pm	Wednesday 25 October 2017