



AGENDA

**RETIRED MEMBERS CONFERENCE
TUESDAY 15TH NOVEMBER 2022**

**CWU Headquarters
150 The Broadway
Wimbledon
London
SW19 1RX**

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Welcome From the General Conference Standing Orders Committee

Welcome to the CWU Retired Members Conference of November 2022 on behalf of the General Conference Standing Orders Committee.

This year we have again used the same criteria for motions that will be used for General Conference 2023 and, as such, the Standing Orders are as close as possible to those which will be in place for that Conference.

We have, recognised an issue with Emergency motions being submitted at times where we have no facilities to deal with such motions. To rectify this issue the submission of Emergency motions will close at Noon on Thursday 10th November as reflected in the standing orders.

The Standing Orders Committee will be in attendance during the Conference should any Delegate have any question over procedure, and to conduct the Ballot(s) for motions to go forward to General Conference as well as the delegates to represent the Retired Members at General Conference 2023. Further information will be given at the start of the conference as well as prior to the commencement of the ballots.

May you all enjoy a successful Conference.

Joyce Stevenson and Tony Sneddon
General Conference Standing Orders Committee

Retired Members' Conference 2022 Standing Orders

1. The sessions of the Retired Members Conference shall commence in accordance with the timetable

2. TIMETABLE

- a 10.00 Registration
10.30 Chairperson's Opening Remarks
10.35 General Secretary's Address
10.55 Adoption of Retired Members Conference Standing Orders Committee Report (including appeals/reference backs)
11.05 Section II – Motions 1-10
12.20 Ballot to represent Retired Members at General Conference 2023
12.30 Lunch
13.30 Section II - Motions 1-10 Continued
14.50 Ballot
15.00 Senior Deputy General Secretary
15.25 Chairperson's Closing Remarks
15.30 Close of Conference
- b The doors of Conference will open at 10.00 with conference commencing at 10.30 and closing at 15.30

Conference is divided into two half-day sessions. If the business of any section is completed within the timetable, the Conference shall proceed immediately to the next section of business.

If all the business of the final section is completed within the timetable, the Conference shall return to the earliest uncompleted business.

3. PROCEDURE IN DEBATE

- a Every member of the Conference must remain in their seat, except the one who may be addressing the Conference and, should the Chairperson rise, no-one else shall continue standing nor shall anyone else rise until the Chairperson has resumed the Chair.

SPEAKERS

- b A delegate when speaking from the rostrum shall address the Chairperson. If two or more persons desire to speak at the same time the Chairperson shall decide to whom priority will be given. No person shall be allowed to speak twice on the same question.
- c All speeches shall be confined to the subject under discussion.
- d Delegates may only refer to documents which have a bearing on the subject under discussion.
- e (i) Motions standing in the name of a Branch must be moved by a delegate from that Branch.
(ii) Motions standing in the name of a Regional Committee must be moved by a delegate from that body.
(ii) Motions must be seconded or else they shall be deemed to have fallen.
- f A motion may be seconded formally or by a speaker making a seconding speech.

**COMPOSITE
MOTIONS**

- g All sponsors of a composite motion will be responsible for agreeing the allocation of moving and seconding speakers from amongst those named within the composite motion, notwithstanding the terms of Standing Order 3e(i) and (ii).
- h The mover of a motion shall be allowed to speak for not more than 3 minutes and any other speaker (including the mover exercising the right of reply) for not more than 3 minutes. **In EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES a speaker may request the special permission of Conference to speak for a longer period, if agreed, it shall not exceed a further 2 minutes.**
- i The moving speaker shall have the right of reply to the debate only if there has been opposition and shall not introduce any fresh matter but shall be limited to answering the debate.
- j The National Retired Members Committee (NRMC) shall be allowed one speaker in debate on all motions except those standing in their name. With the exception of Branches and Regional Committees moving and seconding a motion (under SO3e), Branches and Regional Committees, are entitled to one speaker only in each debate.
- k No motion shall be spoken upon except by the mover, until it has been seconded. The mover of a motion who opts not to make a moving speech shall lose the right of addressing Conference but shall still have the right of reply (SO3i) applies. The seconder of a motion who opts not to make a seconding speech shall not lose the right of addressing Conference.

**ENDING
DEBATE**

- l Any delegate who has not spoken on the motion before Conference may move "That the motion be now put" (following the process as detailed in SO3p) on the seconding of which the Chairperson shall immediately and without discussion put this motion to the vote. In the event of it being carried by a simple majority of Conference (subject to SO4), Conference shall proceed to vote on the question itself, (subject to SO3j) and the right of reply as stated in SO3i being exercised.
- m Any delegate who has not spoken on the motion before Conference may move "That Conference proceeds to next business" (following the process as detailed in SO3p) on the seconding of which the Chairperson shall immediately and without discussion put this proposal to the vote (subject to SO4b). In the event of it being carried Conference shall at once proceed to the next item on its agenda.

WITHDRAWAL

- n Any motion or composite motion may be withdrawn from the Agenda at any time by the sponsor(s) who shall notify the Standing Orders Committee at the earliest opportunity. Once it has been moved and seconded, however, it shall not be withdrawn except with the agreement of Conference by a simple majority vote.

**POINT OF
ORDER**

- o Any person wishing to question the proceedings of Conference may rise on a "point of order", and when called shall state the procedural point in exact terms, whereupon the Chairperson shall immediately give a ruling or refer the matter to the Standing Orders Committee for a decision. Any person raising points of order must seek to prove one or more of the following:-
 - (i) That the speaker is using unparliamentarily language.
 - (ii) That the speaker is digressing from the subject of the motion.
 - (iii) That the rules of the Union are being broken.

- (iv) That there is an infringement of the customary rules of debate.
 - (v) That there is an infringement of the Standing Orders (which shall be referred to the Standing Orders Committee).
- p The Chairperson's ruling on a point of order shall be final unless it is challenged. The correct method of challenging the ruling shall be to move: "I wish to challenge your ruling." Such a motion shall be carried by a simple majority.
- q The Standing Orders Committee shall have the right to enter debate on all matters affecting the decisions and role of the Committee.

4. VOTING PROCEDURE

- a Voting at the Retired Members Conference shall normally be by a show of hand voting cards which shall be issued on the basis of one per Branch in attendance.
- b A card vote may be called for either by the Chairperson of the Retired Members Conference or when 5 or more delegates call for such a vote immediately on the announcement of the decision of the hand vote.

DURING A CARD VOTE ALL PERSONS MUST REMAIN IN THEIR SEATS AND NO PERSON SHALL ENTER OR LEAVE THE FLOOR OF CONFERENCE.

Instructions on the card vote will be given by the SOC.

When the motion being voted upon has a consequential effect on the following motion(s), Conference will proceed to the next item of business unaffected by the card vote result. When the card vote result is announced Conference will return to the earlier item provided it is within the timetable.

- c A motion will be deemed carried if it obtains a simple majority of the votes cast.

5. PROCEDURE FOR EMERGENCY MOTIONS

- a Emergency motions may only be submitted for inclusion in the Agenda if they refer to a matter which because of the circumstances giving rise to them could not possibly have been submitted by the published closing date for motions. Such emergency motions will only be accepted by the SOC if they constitute a significant and important matter, which requires a decision by Conference.
- b Emergency motions must reach the Standing Orders Committee at CWU Headquarters by noon on **Thursday 10th November 2022**. Branches and Regional Committees will be advised by the SOC whether or not the emergency motion has been accepted for inclusion to the Agenda prior to the commencement of Conference. **No Emergency Motions will be accepted after that date.**
- C A decision taken by Conference shall not be open to the emergency procedure at the same Conference.

6. APPEALS/REFERENCE BACK PROCEDURE

- a Written notice of appeals/intention to move reference back against decisions of the Standing Orders Committee as published in the Agenda regarding:-

- (i) motions not admitted to the agenda
- (ii) inclusion/exclusion of motions in a composite
- (iii) the priority/placement given to a motion
- (iv) timetable/programme of business
- (v) the Standing Orders for Conference
- (vi) the consequential rulings on motions

must reach the Standing Orders Committee at CWU Headquarters by noon on **Thursday 10th November 2022** by email to conferences@cwu.org. Such written notice must advise of the intention to appeal/move reference back to alter the published agenda with details and reasons for doing so.

After consideration of appeals/reference backs by the SOC, Branches or Regional Committees who have followed the correct appeal/reference back procedure wishing to continue their appeal/reference back must firstly advise the SOC of their continued appeal.

The SOC will then advise the Chair of the Conference the details of the branches/Regional Committees who have the right to address conference at the commencement of business on **Tuesday 15th November 2022**.

- b Challenges to other SOC decisions as printed or announced in supplementary SOC reports must be made at the time the supplementary report is moved.
- c All appeals/reference backs will be deemed carried if they have the support of a simple majority of Conference. (SO4 applies)
- d The Retired Members Committee will also be required to follow these procedures.

7. SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

- a Motions to suspend Standing Orders shall only be allowed to deal with business or circumstances that could not have been foreseen when the timetable/Programme of Business was adopted.
- b The Chairperson may accept a motion for the suspension of Standing Orders provided no motion is on the floor being debated.

Any such motion must state the Standing Order/Orders involved and also state the nature and urgency of the business as to why the suspension is required.

The Chairperson shall immediately refer such a motion to the Standing Orders Committee who shall express their view before the vote is taken. A motion for the suspension of Standing Orders will be carried if supported by a simple majority of the Conference (SO4 applies).

- c At the end of the period of suspension of Standing Orders the Conference shall return to the next business in that section only. No subsequent motion for the variation of the timetable to compensate for time lost by the suspension of a Standing Order/Orders or the discussion of such suspension shall be admissible.

8. BALLOTS

- a There will be a ballot to select two motions this Conference will forward for submission to the 2023 General Conference.

Motions in Section II which are carried are eligible for the ballot for

General Conference. The ballot will take place at the end of Section II motions

The ballot box will be open subject to the timetable of Conference and located next to the administration table. The SOC shall be responsible for counting the ballot and advising the Chairperson of the result, which will be announced prior to the close of Conference. In the event of a tie, the SOC will administer an exhaustive ballot.

- b Should there be a request at General Conference to remit a motion in respect of the 2023 Conference motions, the mover of the motion at General Conference will be deemed to have the authority to agree to the remittance on behalf of the 2023 Conference, subject to the agreement of General Conference.

9. PROHIBITIONS

- a The use of mobile telephones are prohibited anywhere within the confines of the Conference Hall.

No documents, posters or banners shall be circulated, distributed or displayed within the Conference Hall without the permission of the Standing Orders Committee.

Timetable and Programme of Business

- 10.00 Registration
- 10.30 Chairpersons opening remarks
- 10.35 General Secretary's Address
- 10.55 Adoption of Retired Members Conference Standing Orders Committee Report (including appeals/reference backs)
- 11.05 Section II – Motions 1-10
- 12.30 Ballot to represent Retired Members at General Conference 2023
- 13.30 Section II - Motions 1-10 continued
- 14.50 Ballot
- 15.00 Tony Kearns, SDGS
- 15.25 Chairpersons closing remarks
- 15.30 Conference closes

DELEGATES ARE REMINDED THAT THE BALLOT BOX WILL BE LOCATED AT THE SOC TABLE.

SECTION II NATIONAL ISSUES

1 COMPOSITE MOTION

Conference agrees that, due to the energy crisis, the National Retired Members Committee will work with the NEC and ensure that the CWU will take all necessary action to pursue this policy with all organisations to which the CWU are affiliated:

- 1. Scrap all Standing charges on Gas and Electric**
- 2. Prepayment meter users only be charged at the same rate as other users**

The National Retired Members Committee is instructed accordingly.

North West Regional Retired Members Committee
Retired Members Committee

- 2** Conference is concerned that the Retired Members who fill out or amend the Death Grant Nomination form or change their address or nominated person, do not receive notification that the form has been received and actioned at CWU Headquarters.

Therefore, Conference instructs the RMC to work with the NEC so that when a member notifies Head Office of any such change, the Retired Member is notified by whatever means possible that the changes have been actioned by Headquarters staff.

This is of special import to those Retired Members that do not have access to the internet.

The RMC is instructed accordingly.

South West Regional Retired Members Committee

- 3** Conference wishes to express its' concern that that section of the Retired Membership that for various reasons are not connected to the internet and may well not have a "smart phone", have no way of accessing information on the discounts that the CWU nationally have negotiated for the Retired Membership.

Despite this being highlighted at the National Retired Members Working Party there has been no move by Head Office to overcome this problem.

The RMC is instructed to investigate the reasons for this lack of action and report back to the Retired Membership.

Great Western

- 4 It has been for some time a frustrating truth that although the retired members of this union have been set aside, marginalised and forgotten. This perception has to change, it is the intention of this motion that business can be progressed smoothly without delay. Each RMC meeting can not meet or decide action without the SDGS being present. It is not only archaic but frustrating that work that needs to be done is halted by one person's absence. And so it comes to the motion in the belief that if it is passed will aid development of the retired members committee.

That this retired conference instructs the RMC to request the NEC to appoint a deputy to stand in for the SDGS to attend retired members meetings, in order that business can be conducted without delays. Whilst it is accepted that there are in fact two deputies nominated, both officers are unable to attend due to other commitments, thereby causing resentment in being kept in the dark and unable to function as a committee. The SDGS is ultimately responsible for the retired members, and part of that responsibility is to attend RMC meetings and formulate campaigns on behalf of the retired members.

It is a belief that members are being given a disservice by meetings not being held, and that campaigns such as retention, are not being pursued because of the RMC's ability to function. It is the hope of my branch and on behalf of all retired members that the smooth operation of the RMC can continue, and the campaign for retention will maintain our strength as a whole union.

South West Middlesex Amal

- 5 Conference agrees there is a sense of urgency across the United Kingdom, for a campaign to be mounted to appoint a Minister for Older People. There are over thirteen million people who are retired without a voice in Government. Over 57 percent of older people believe they are being overlooked by Society.

There are a growing number of issues to be addressed, Social Care, Pension provision and the cost-of-living crisis that adversely affected retired people.

Conference therefore instructs the Retired Members Committee to work with the National Executive Council and other like-minded Organisations to achieve the terms of this motion.

South East No.5

- 6 This Annual CWU Retired Members Conference instructs the National Retired Members Committee to work with the NEC to urgently consider holding the Retired members annual conference in October of each calendar year, commencing from October 2023, and that the conference arrangements shall be in line with national rules. The venue for the conference shall be determined by the NEC taking cognizance of location accessibility, in terms of entry & egress, and which allows for the ability of delegates to travel to said location.

The National Retired Members Committee are further instructed that in the event of very exceptional circumstances beyond the control of the NEC that would necessitate a change in venue or mode of conference (e.g. Pandemic /national emergencies) then the NEC shall be empowered to enact such changes to conference arrangements as is necessary, giving as much prior notification of any proposed changes, as is possible.

Retired Members Committee

- 7** Conference notes that an online CWU HQ meeting was held in April 2021 attended by the DGS, Regional Retired Members leads and the National Retired Members Committee.

The meeting established a link between the NRMC and the Retired Members Regional Structure. No further meetings have taken place. The NRMC is therefore instructed to seek from the NEC a policy or constitution that will establish a continuation of these meetings, that will link up the Regional Retired Members leads and the NRMC which in these difficult and challenging times is necessary and vital for our future organisation, by video or other means.

The National Retired Members Committee is instructed accordingly.

Retired Members Committee

- 8** This conference instructs the RMC to request the NEC to submit a motion to the Rules Revision Conference 2023 which will amend all rules applicable to entitle retired members to be brought into the equalities department of this union.

London Regional Retired Members Committee

- 9** Protecting the Triple Lock

The state pension increase for this current financial year was just 3.1% because the Government ditched the Triple Lock mechanism arguing that they couldn't afford it because of its high public spending commitment during the Covid Pandemic. Despite a promise by the government for it to be restored for the next annual state pension increase due in April 2023 the current financial crisis arising out of the war in Ukraine means that once again the Triple Lock is at risk.

The Triple Lock is vital as it ensures that pensioner income is not destroyed by the rising cost of living. At a time of major national crisis, it is completely unacceptable to make already vulnerable people feel even more worried about their future.

This conference instructs the RMC to work with the NEC to urge the TUC and Labour Party to campaign to robustly defend entitlements for retired people. The RMC is instructed accordingly.

Somerset, Devon & Cornwall

- 10** The Retired Members Committee is instructed to examine and campaign to mitigate any threats to the RMG pension schemes from a buyout of Royal Mail Group. This concern has been highlighted by the recent industrial dispute and the interests of private equity firms.
- This to include liaising with CWU nominated trustees to the pension funds.
 - To ensure the widest campaign of stakeholders and political influencers is enabled.
 - Seeking the support of the NEC to gaining legal advice in this regard as appropriate.
 - Ensuring direct communications to retired members are sent should any negative impact become apparent.

This list is not exhaustive

Western Counties

MOTIONS NOT ADMITTED TO THE AGENDA

- 11** That This Conference agrees that Branches with non functioning Retired Sections that those retired members be transferred to the nearest branch with a functioning Retired Members Section ASAP in order to facilitate proper representation.

Glasgow and District Amal

- 12** Following the limited publication of the 'Summary of Submissions from the Retired Members Recruitment Sub-Committee on boosting CWU Retired Membership' we instruct that the document is issued to Branches forthwith so that propositions relating to it may, if thought necessary, be submitted to the 2023 CWU Conference.

Eastern Regional Retired Members Committee

NOTES