**SEPA UNISON Co-Chair Report 2019/2020**

**Louise Giblin & Zia Hussain**

At the last AGM we decided to create a new vice Chair role, which Zia was elected to.

The following branch meeting we discussed the role of Chair & Vice Chair and, in line with current national committees created Co-Chairing for the branch. The role is split equally and we aim to have gender balance in the role going forward. Louise Giblin & Zia Hussain were nominated and accepted this new role.

The branch co-chair facilitates branch and committee meetings, and may also be a senior negotiator. This includes:

* chairing all meetings of the branch and branch committee, agreeing the agenda for meetings with the secretary and making sure that business is properly conducted in line with union democracy;
* advising branch officers and the branch committee on procedure and rules;
* making sure all functions of the branch are carried out;
* working closely with the secretary and other officers to provide leadership to the branch.

**Branch meetings**

We arranged and chaired nine branch meeting this year and have been involved in organising the AGM.

**JNCC**

Zia has attended all the JNCC meetings where possible, Louise has also attended two of these meetings as a substitute for the Branch Secretary minutes available on Intranet:

<http://intranet/corporate-information/committees-and-groups/jncc/>

**Pay**

Zia has been part of the UNISON team that helped formulate and negotiate the Pay Claim for 2018/2019.

**C&B UNISON Sub Committee**

Louise has chaired a C&B subcommittee of Stewards and workplace contacts and had meetings with C&B managers to feedback member’s thoughts on the restructure.

**Training**

Both Co-Chairs attended UNISON Scotland’s learning and development weekend Chair training, this was a great opportunity to learn about the role and meet other UNISON members from across Scotland with a wide range of experiences in the role of Chair.

Louise completed Mental Health First Aid training and SEPA’s Mental Health for Managers training in order to understand mental health issues better and how best to help members.

Zia attended Menopause Awareness on 2nd August to understand symptoms associated with Menopause and options to reduce the impact of the symptoms.

Zia attended NDPB Negotiation Skills on 17th and 18th September 2019 and Campaigning around Bargaining on 27th and 28th November 2019

**Conferences**

Louise attended SEPA UNISON’s first Water, Environment & Transport (WET) conference in Liverpool. We used to be in the Local Government section of UNISON, we applied to change to WET so that we are now in the same section as Scottish Water & the Environment Agency. Attending WET 2019 has allowed SEPA UNISON to build contacts in the sector, especially with Scottish Water. More information can be found about WET conference here - <https://www.unison.org.uk/events/2019-water-environment-transport-conference/>

Louise & Tony McCann (Education officer) attended National Delegate conference 2019, information about NDC can be found here - <https://www.unison.org.uk/events/2019-national-delegate-conference/>

Tony as a first time delegate was asked to write about his experience for UNISON Scotland - <https://unison-scotland.org/it-has-opened-my-eyes-to-the-power-we-have-through-unison-when-we-stick-together/>

Zia attended lack members conference in Bournemouth where I was a first time speaker to conference moving SEPA’s motion.

<https://twitter.com/SEPAUNISON>