

**Branch Meeting**

**Wednesday  
28th  
September  
6.30 p.m.**

STUC  
333 Woodlands Road  
Glasgow  
G3 6NG



Branch Secretary Maureen Jenkins at a recent meeting of the Branch

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- **Equally paid before AfC?**
- **Average earnings**
- **Rich-poor health gap widens**
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**Branch Elections Special**

This month's Branch meeting is when the Branch officers and delegates who will represent your interests over the coming two years are elected. All of them are, like you, ordinary members of the Branch elected to positions such as Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and delegates to various committees. In addition, a Branch Committee is elected to take decisions between Branch meetings, if a matter of urgency arises.

Branch meetings are run on a fairly informal, friendly manner and give you an opportunity to widen

your horizons by meeting with people outside your own profession and workplace. They also give you an opportunity to express an opinion on matters under discussion at national level and have that opinion taken into consideration.

In an ideal world, all members would attend all meetings. As this isn't possible (or practical – the room isn't big enough!), please make an effort to attend the Branch Elections meeting this month. It really is the most important Branch meeting of the year.

**Argyll & Clyde Health Board Top Performer in West**

Argyll and Clyde Health Board, which Minister of Health Andy Kerr has decreed must be abolished because of its failure to meet financial targets, is one of the best performing health boards in Scotland when it comes to matters of health according to official figures.

Argyll and Clyde's waiting time performance is the best in Scotland and they have outperformed the other West of Scotland health boards in terms of overall assessment. The financially troubled health board managed to meet the

national target for a maximum six month wait an amazing nine months ahead of deadline and exceeded expectations on key measures outlined in the Health Department's performance assessment framework.

Health Minister Andy Kerr has decided that Argyll and Clyde Health Board should be dissolved with its services being divided between Glasgow and Highland Health Boards. Mr Kerr cancelled the Argyll and Clyde accountability public review which he was due to chair earlier this month.

**Contacts**

Chair	Donald Sime	0141 211 2246
Secretary	Maureen Jenkins	0141 201 3044
Treasurer	Richard Shaw	0141 201 0412
Vice-chair	Helen McFarlane	0141 211 0800
Assistant Secretary	Vacant	
Safety Officer	Derek Anstee	0141 211 2128
Women's Officer	Helen McFarlane	0141 211 0800
Education Officer	Ian Forbes	0141 211 4523
Newsletter Editor	James Ito	0141 201 0798



## Equal pay before Agenda for Change

One of the main driving forces for the introduction of Agenda for Change (AfC) was the unequal treatment of NHS employees. Common conditions of service and the job matching/evaluation system were designed to end unfair treatment and ensure equal reward for work of equal value. However, AfC does nothing to correct historic inequalities based on sex discrimination and Amicus (with other health service unions) has set up an equal pay unit. Its purpose is to look at claims that members may wish to make that prior to the introduction of AfC conditions they were paid less than someone of the opposite sex doing the same or a similar job or one of equal value. If you believe that this might apply to you fill in the form on page 18 of the latest issue of "amicus the magazine" (which all members should receive) or download one from the amicus website ([www.amicustheunion.org](http://www.amicustheunion.org)).

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## Average earnings

According to official figures the average earnings (all workers) in the UK are £27,458 per annum. The average man fares rather better on £30,279 with women on £22,854. Analysed by occupation the statistics reveal that the average manager receives £41,125; professionals £36,536; associate professionals £29,288; admin and clerical £18,880 and skilled craft workers £23,120. Anyone wondering what they're likely to receive under Agenda for Change?

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## Rich-poor health gap widens

According to a report from the Health Inequalities Group, people in poor areas are not only continuing to have poorer health than those living in more affluent neighbourhoods the gap is getting worse. The report found that the gap in life expectancy of the poorest 20% of the population had increased by 2% for men and 5% for women between 1997-99 and 2001-2003 compared to the general population. This equates to a difference of 7 to 8 years in life expectancy between the residents of poorer and wealthier areas.

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## Trauma stress victory

An amicus member employed in a large hospital mortuary developed severe depression and post traumatic stress disorder as a result of her employment. She went on sick leave. After six months her employer told her that unless she was fit to return to work in the mortuary she would be dismissed. Following this the employer did in fact give her three months notice of termination. Amicus claimed and won unfair dismissal and disability discrimination on the grounds that firstly the employer had not followed procedure and secondly had made no attempt to accommodate our member by way of redeployment.

## Branch Meeting Wednesday 28th September

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Minutes of previous meeting and arising.
3. Correspondence.
4. Branch Elections
5. Reports.
5. Motions.
6. A.O.C.B.

The next meeting of the Branch will be held on Thursday 27th October at 6.30 p.m. All meetings are held in the Scottish Trade Union Congress, 333 Woodlands Road, Glasgow G3 6NG. (Tea, coffee & biscuits 6.15 p.m.)

