

# Unite - PruSection News



PGDS edition

July 2015



## Unite Rules Conference

As regular readers will be aware Unite held its 4-yearly Rules conference a couple of weeks. This gives members the opportunity to debate and amend the rules of the Union.

The biggest rule change on the agenda was whether Unite should continue its current political strategy which includes affiliation to the Labour party and to try and get more union members active and standing as Labour candidates in local and parliamentary elections. The counter argument put was that the Labour Party no longer represents the interests of UK workers and Trade Unions and the union should support parties that do.

Following the debate conference voted overwhelmingly to support the current strategy and continue the affiliation.

Your Senior Rep attended the conference and spoke in a number of debates including one which sought to remove the right of Workplaces to nominate candidates in internal Unite elections so that only Union Branches would have the right to nominate.

Steve felt it was important that every Prudential workplace should have the right to nominate candidates. He felt that it increases members involvement in the Union and makes members more engaged in the wider Union. Fortunately, Conference agreed and the proposal to remove the right of workplaces to nominate candidates was defeated.

## PGDS Meetings

You will have seen the notes from our last quarterly meeting with HR. One topic discussed was the apprentices. Following this and further feedback from yourselves, your reps wrote to Charles Forte expressing concern in the way apprentices are placed at the end of their apprenticeships.

Whilst Unite is pleased that 3 apprentices from the 2014 programme have been successfully placed with PGDS; we still have some concerns around the retention of the apprentices, post apprenticeship. We will continue to discuss future programme retention levels with PGDS and UKIO as the administrators of the overall scheme.

We have also been in discussions with HR in relation to the recent employee vetting programme which will be reviewed following some issues that arose this year. PGDS HR informed us of a small number of issues that arose during the process. PGDS has advised that these issues have been addressed and will be providing Unite with an update once this year's exercise is complete.

## Senior Rep Elected

Following our internal Unite elections Steve O'Donnell has been re-elected as your Senior Rep. Steve's term of office runs until June 2018.

Following his election Steve said "I'm delighted and proud to have been re-elected to represent Prudential members."

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