



WHO I AM AND WHY I'M STANDING

Since starting work in the 1980's, I have been a trade union activist. As a CPSA member I was involved in campaigns for better wages and conditions for low paid workers. I joined the Post Office 9 years ago. Currently I am Assistant Branch Secretary of Chesterfield Post Office Head Quarters Branch, Communication Managers Association, and a member of the Business Systems Organising Committee, and work for CSC. Like many others, my job was privatised recently, against which I campaigned in the union at local and national levels. I am standing in the NEC elections as a part of the Unity Gazette slate that is contending every constituency of the union.

MANIFESTO FOR A NEW NEC

Amicus members of the CMA and FPA come from a wide range of industries. By and large we are technicians, managers and professionals. Despite our diversity, we face many of the same problems. We are often in the front line of delivering changes in our respective industries. We are often burdened with impossible workloads, no training and no support from higher management. We are rewarded for this with growing job insecurity and constant downward pressure on our pay and conditions. Many of our members are victims of work-related illnesses caused by stress. I will fight for a 35 hour basic week across all our industries.

I am committed to ensuring that Amicus becomes a member-led union where the concerns of our members are the top priority. I welcomed the election of Derek Simpson to the General Secretary position and fully support his view that "Instead of having one eye on what the employers want and the other on what Downing Street wants, we should have both eyes on what our members want."

We face job insecurity, redundancies, mergers, take-overs, regulators bent on destroying our industry, privatisation, outsourcing, off-shoring, the growth of racism, pensions crises, public services cutbacks - the list goes on. It is essential that our union becomes a campaigning union that punches its weight, and takes a firm stand in the interests of our members. This means that we need less emphasis on partnership deals with employers, less emphasis on doing what the government wants us to. More emphasis is needed on developing strong grassroots organisation and acting on members' wishes. The stronger we are on the ground, the faster we

can make this a reality. We need more workplace reps trained, we need equalities organisations at all levels of the union. We need to push out into new areas and recruit new members. An active campaigning approach is the lifeblood of our union. For too long the emphasis has been on credit cards, discounts and the like, rather than solidarity, unity and equality.

The election of a new NEC is a step in that direction. For too long unelected full-time officials have dominated the union and our new constitution puts too much power in the hands of the NEC. I want to see the main decision-making powers returned to the branches and conferences. I am committed to ending the culture of top-down trade unionism, of secretive deals behind closed doors.

We should not be afraid of taking political stances too. New Labour has not repealed the anti trade union laws introduced by the Tories. The treasury has a bottomless pit when it comes to funding war, yet constantly tells us there is no money to fund services or save jobs. Open competition in a world marketplace is their philosophy. Britain has hence become the easiest place to underpay, overwork and sack workers in the whole of Europe. When jobs are shipped overseas, we face redundancy while third-world workers are exploited in non-union sweatshops. We need to raise these issues without fear of upsetting the government.

The NEC elections are a chance to change the direction that the union is taking and I appeal for your support as a step towards achieving this.

PLEASE USE YOUR VOTES AND GET INVOLVED

- **No to privatisation**
- **No to redundancies**
- **No to sweetheart 'partnership' deals**
- **Yes to well funded public services**
- **Yes to secure pensions**
- **Yes to a member-led union**

Amicus unity gazette

For a democratic union controlled by the members

We are standing for election as part of a group of candidates committed to returning the union to its members. We are supported by Amicus Unity Gazette, the grouping that was central to Derek Simpson's election campaign, bringing together activists from both AEEU and MSF.

For more information, see www.amicusunitygazette.com or write to **Bill Young, 22 Swale Road, Rochester, Kent ME2 2TT.**
If you want to send a donation, please make cheques payable to "Engineering Gazette".