

amicus nec election

HEALTH SECTOR CANDIDATES

Gill George
Dave Hutchinson
Janet Moir

Dear Colleague

We are writing to ask you for your support by nominating us as candidates for the Amicus National Executive Council (NEC). Every workplace rep and shop steward should contact their full time officer for a nomination paper. Please hold a workplace meeting to nominate us. We are all experienced and hardworking trade union activists.

This is a crucial election. The NEC is the most powerful body in the union. The new rulebook states that 'the government, management and control of the union are vested collectively in the NEC'. It will even be the NEC that convenes regional meetings of health workers, and that has complete control over whether different professional or occupational groups are allowed to meet at all. If the new NEC does not have a real commitment to democracy, we will end up with a completely centralised and bureaucratic union in which ordinary members have no control.

Our members in the NHS are under attack. The NHS is subjected to constant organisational change – but we aren't given the resources to do our jobs. We face serious threats, from mounting workloads, privatisation, and attacks on our pay and conditions. The increasing emphasis on targets and star ratings increasingly distorts the work we do.

Tony Blair has told private sector healthcare executives that he wants to open up the whole of the NHS to private healthcare. Privatisation has already spread throughout the NHS, through PFI, NHS LIFT, and the private sector concordat. Foundation hospitals aren't just about a two tier

health service. They open the door to even more privatisation. Many members from the AEEU section have already been privatised. Members in the MSF section are now being included in PFI schemes. Time and again, privatisation has led to worse services for the public, and worse pay and conditions for NHS workers.

Low pay in the NHS is a significant problem for many of our members. Agenda for Change is no solution. With NHS salaries for a full time job starting at around £10,400, low pay has not gone away. Agenda for Change will lead to substantial pay cuts for many of our members. Agenda for Change will introduce performance related pay, and an increase in working hours for 60% of our members. There's nothing wrong with harmonisation – but we have to harmonise on the best conditions, not the worst. We have to fight for adequate investment in salaries, so that all our members in the NHS can earn a living wage.

It is also an absolute priority to build strong union organisation, in the NHS and in every sector of our union. We need union reps in every workplace. We have to ensure that reps consistently have the training and support they need to be effective. This is the only way to create a strong and vibrant union that is responsive to the needs of its members.

The existing union leadership prioritises partnership with New Labour – and puts support for the government before support for our members. That's why our union leadership won't oppose privatisation, and won't fight for decent investment in NHS salaries. This isn't good enough. We urgently need an NEC that puts our members first.

Gill, Dave & Janet

All of the candidates are happy to attend branches or workplaces to explain why they are standing, to answer questions, and to discuss members' concerns.

To get in touch, e-mail Gill George at gillgeorge@ghg.me.uk

or ring Gill on 020 7502 6905

Also see www.amicusunitygazette.com

Gill George



Gill is a speech and language therapist working in City and Hackney PCT. She works with children with complex special needs, such as autism and cerebral palsy.

Gill has been a union activist and workplace rep for 20 years – first in local government, and in MSF and Amicus since joining the NHS.

Gill is a leading activist within the NHS. In particular, she has led the campaign over Agenda for Change. Gill fought for and won the Conference policy that demands adequate funding for Agenda for Change, and that commits the union to opposing pay cuts for our members. Gill also moved the emergency motion blocking the early implementation of Agenda for Change at the proposed foundation hospitals.

Gill is a long-standing delegate to the London Regional Council and a member of the London Region Management Committee. She is a delegate to the 2003 Trades Union Congress. Gill is also Vice-Chair of East London Health Branch, the Secretary of the London Speech and Language Therapy Advisory Committee, and the London Region delegate to the MSF Health Sector NAC.

Dave Hutchinson



Dave is currently a member of the MSF NEC. He describes this experience as 3 years of frustration at the way the NEC is manipulated by a right wing clique. He is angry that the NEC has pursued witch hunts against activists in the union, and even

changed their own standing orders to prevent members seeing how NEC members vote. Dave's major achievement on the NEC has been to prevent General Secretary Roger Lyons from extending his term of office without bothering to call an election!

Dave began his working life in labs. He worked for many years in the Sheffield Blood Transfusion Service, and the haematology lab at what is now Sheffield Teaching Hospitals Trust. Dave currently works as computer manager at the Trust.

Dave has campaigned around many NHS issues – including the internal market, PFI, and the struggle for a fair deal for our members out of Agenda for Change.

Dave has been a member of the union since 1970. He has held countless positions within the union – including Branch Secretary, delegate to the Health Sector NAC, TUC delegate, and Regional President.

Janet Moir



Janet is a Health Visitor in Birmingham. Working in the inner city, she knows at first hand the impact of inadequate NHS resources – and the difficulties of recruiting and retaining staff.

Janet has been a Health Visitor since 1971. She is an active member of the CPHVA, and is currently Vice-Chair of the CPHVA Special Interest Group for Older People. She is also committed to ensuring that the CPHVA remains at the heart of the wider union. Janet is the Women's Officer on the West Midlands Regional Council, and has been a leading activist on the Regional

Women's Committee for many years.

Janet was closely involved in the last regrading exercise for community nursing staff, and remembers the problems well. She is also concerned that the constant reorganisation of the NHS is distorting service delivery. Janet wants to see proper funding of the NHS, decent pay and conditions for all NHS workers, and a union that is committed to playing a strong and independent role in representing its members.