



GMB RETIRED MEMBERS' ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

TUESDAY 19 OCTOBER 2021

TO BE HELD VIRTUALLY

UNIONLINE

YOUR TRADE UNION LAW FIRM

0300 333 0303

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AGENDA

- 10:00am** Welcome and Opening of Conference, RMA Chair, Derrick Baker MBE JP
Reflection and a Minute Silence
Roll Call
- 10:15am** Standing Orders Committee Report, Ann Leader
- 10:20am** National Secretary's Report, Jan Smith
- 10:30am** National Treasurer's Report, Brian Adams
- 10:40am** **NHS and Social Care**
Motion 1 - The Tory Governments Privation of the NHS by Stealth
Motion 2 - Private Equity in Social Care
Motion 3 - Covid in our Care Homes
Motion 4 - Social Care
- 11:00am** **Address to Conference - GMB National President - Barbra Plant**
Screen Break – Time for a Cuppa !
- 11:20am** **RMA Inclusion and Representation**
Composite 1 – Low Pensions / Bridging the Gap
Motion 5 – Moving Retired Members Towards the Centre of GMB
Motion 6 – In Work Members
- 11:45am** **Address to Conference – General Secretary – Gary Smith**
- 12 Noon** Screen Break – Time for a Cuppa !
- 12: 15pm** **Pensions**
Composite 2 – The RMA's Voice, Representation and Working Together
Motion 7 – Pensioner Poverty

Motion 8 – Pensions

Emergency Motion – Protecting the Triple Lock – State Pensions
(Standing in the name of the National RMA Committee)

12:30pm National Pensions Officer – George Georgiou

12:40pm Industrial Issues

Motion 9 – Zero Hours Contract

Motion 10 – Defibrillators in the Workplace

12:50pm Retired National Co-ordinator – Steve Kemp

1:00pm Social / Community Issues

Motion 11 – Better Bus Services

Motion 12 – TV Licenses

Motion 13 – Support of Veteran's

Motion 14 - Scamming

Motion 15 – Cashless Society

Motion 16 – E-Scooter

1:15pm National Co-ordinator – Jude Brimble

1:30pm Vote of Thanks and Close of Conference

RMA Chair, Derrick Baker MBE JP

NATIONAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

Colleagues Friends and Visitors it is my pleasure in welcoming you to this 2021 Virtual National Retired Members Association (RMA) Conference this being my 10th Year addressing you all as your Secretary. Sadly, our Honorary President Monica Smith cannot be with us howsoever she do send to you all her very Best Wishes after what have been a traumatic time to everyone due to the Pandemic. Monica have had some Health issues apart from that I can tell you she is still her bubbly self.

Sadly Colleagues, Friends and Visitors we have had to send our Condolences to the Families of Liz Blackman who was a valued member of the GMB and our Committee her knowledge was amazing also to Joe Isaac who had been a member of the Committee prior to him taking Retirement Joe also worked tirelessly for his love of the GMB. God Bless your Souls may you both be at Peace and Reunited with your loved ones you both are greatly missed.

It will also be a welcoming pleasure to welcome our GMB President Barbara Plant, Gary Smith the newly elected General Secretary, George Georgiou GMB National Pensions Officer and Steve Kemp prior to Steve's Retirement was the National RMA Coordinator last but not least introducing to you all our New National Coordinator Jude Brimble who during the programme will be addressing Conference I am unsure on preparing this if Warren Kenny London Region Regional Secretary would like to say a few words as until Jude becoming the National RMA Coordinator Warren acted as the interim National Coordinator and assisted in arranging this Conference. Warren we are truly grateful for all your input to the RMA as a whole and to myself.

This Year Colleagues the National RMA made a first at the 2021 Congress by having its National Banner within the opening Banner procession for this to Barbara I give my sincere thanks as you gave an undertaking at the 2019 Conference you would seek to get this to happen. It was Colleagues a surprise and a privilege at the end of Congress asked to address the Delegation this I did from the heart in keeping the National RMA alive.

I have continued my fight with motions at Congress as I had said I would do in getting further RMA recognition within the GMB this I will continue to do so through whatever avenues needed as it has to be remembered that the RMA was formed from a Congress motion. We might be Retired but we are not ready to lay down the gauntlet we have a lot to give as you will hear through some of the proposed motions. We have just had one U turn that is with the National Equalities Forum (NEF) giving back to us our voice and voting rights the constitution is going to be worded to cover this I am sure that either or both the General Secretary and Jude Brimble will cover this when they both address you. This is one of the issues that I had fought for since when the Constitution was reworded back in 2019. Thank you also to Margi Clarke who assisted in getting this back to the table.

Colleagues the National RMA have been virtual meetings since February of this Year to which we have received excellent reports from our National RMA President Derrick Baker MBE who chairs the National Pensioners Convention (NPC) Transport Committee. As to the NPC, through Steve, he kept us up to date with NPC valuable information, may this continue as this works for us alongside the National GMB Pensions Department. Our Treasurer Brian Adams gives us regular printed information on our Finances, our income comes from Branches that are affiliated to the National RMA, Raffle prizes that are donated to our stall at Congress and our Conferences unfortunately since 2019 this income is down due to the current situation also with closing of Branch's or amalgamated Branch's this have reduced our income. Brian when he give you all his report will most probably touch on this.

During our meetings we have been discussing when it is safe for a lot of us, what sort of Campaigns we can participate in, as there are high risk members among us who are still adhering to recommendations given to them in protecting themselves.

I would like to give my sincere thanks to Pat Gannon from National Office for all that she does for the RMA, and to myself extra special thanks Pat in the preparation you have done for this Conference. To Steve Kemp wishing him a very Happy Healthy Retirement and the commitment you gave to us. Once again to Warren Kenny for stepping into the brink much appreciated.

Looking forward to working with Jude Brimble our New Coordinator who I am sure have lots of new ideas for us to work on. In giving our thanks we say many Congratulations to Gary on becoming the General Secretary, I know that you also have some ideas on the National RMAs future working, not forgetting Barbara for all your support.

Sending to our Honorary President Monica our continued loved.

Colleagues, Friends and Visitors I sincerely hope that you will have an enjoyable virtual National RMA Conference and that you all can continue to the best of your ability keep well and safe.

Jan Smith
National RMA Secretary



MOTIONS

NHS and Social Care

Motion 1 – The Tory Government’s Privatisation of the NHS by Stealth

This Conference calls on the GMB to bring this Government to account for its privatisation of the NHS by stealth.

Many of our retired members are now worried that this will spread across the country, leading people to having to purchase Health Insurance, which they will not be able to afford. leaving many worried that the poorest communities will suffer as they will not be able to receive treatment when needed.

We understand that the GMB will be doing all it can to fight this Government regarding its privatisation for profit plans and many of our members will be aware of this through our publications and media. However, it's the wider public that we feel need to be made aware of what this Government is really doing.

Therefore, we ask that the GMB take urgent action in doing all it can to stop the Tory Government in using Private Companies to provide health care and insurance giants taking over GP Practices.

North West & Irish Region

Motion 2 - Private Equity in Social Care

This conference agrees and supports national GMB policy that is for a nationally and publicly funded social care service.

However, in relation to residential and domiciliary care, conference notes that private equity companies and resources are endemic in the sector.

Conference calls on the GMB to campaign for private equity companies to be removed from the sector as a step along the way to implementation of GMB policy. Conference also calls on the Labour Party to support the removal of private equity as part of its policy making process.

Northern Region

Motion 3 - Covid in Our Care Homes

Covid 19 produced a significant crisis in UK care homes. Care home residents are especially at risk due to age, frailty, dementia etc. Residents are also more vulnerable by virtue of frequent close and personal contact with other residents and staff who attend their needs.

Covid 19 spread rapidly through our care homes and despite the best efforts of dedicated staff, many were devastated by the large number of deaths. From January 1st to August 7th there were 29,542 recorded deaths (Care Quality Commission). Sadly, as we are now aware, countless more deaths were to follow.

Why did it happen?

When Covid 19 first arrived in the UK, Public Health England announced that care homes were not at high risk of exposure.

The first lockdown was announced on March 23rd, 2020.

Although concerns were raised about care homes and hospital discharge was discussed on March 19th, 2020, the first government guidelines specifically focused on care homes were not produced until April 2nd, 2020.

As a matter of government policy, patients with Covid 19 were discharged from hospital at the start of the pandemic without first being tested. Something the then health secretary disputes. Strange though, since his announcement back in March 2020, how policy has now changed.

This lack of support brought Covid into many care homes for the first time. Congress, I say "we had the perfect storm". The number of deaths has exposed the fragility of the care home sector even before the pandemic hit our shores. By changing policy, it was an admittance of guilt. Moreover, the change in policy was too little too late and because of this the damage to families has been devastating.

Therefore colleagues, I call upon the GMB to put pressure on the government to make sure a full and detailed public enquiry takes place, as soon as possible and hopefully showing the Conservative party was negligent in the provision of care for UK care home residents and staff.

Yorkshire & North Derbyshire Region

Motion 4 – Social Care

This Conference believes that Adult social care is in need of a thorough reorganisation. This would involve its transformation into a publicly owned services, free at the point of use.

Currently standards of delivery are often poor. Remuneration and conditions of work for employees do not meet the level appropriate to jobs requiring both skill and dedication.

We further believe that reorganisation should not result in a 'top down' service but that employees, clients and the families of clients should be represented in the administration.

We will take such action as is necessary to ensure that the above comes about.

Midlands & East Coast Region

RMA Inclusion and Representation

Composite 1 – Low Paid Pensions & Bridging the Gap

That this conference acknowledges that as the UK have the lowest pensions in Europe, despite the UK being the 5th richest country in the world. Low old age pension is a disgrace and a pension crisis is looming. Workers retiring will continue in the downward spiral experiences by existing pensioners and can only look forward to an impoverished future. Government is good at telling everyone especially the younger generation, that we pensioners have it so good with the triple lock and a guarantee of an increase in the pension rate every year. Now they are putting forward the proposal of putting an extra penny on National Insurance, at those in work, is a deliberate attempt of widening the gap, between Pensioners and young workers. They are not collecting from companies who don't pay taxes in the UK, to subscribe and help towards financing a better system, which would be a better initiative but as usual the levelling down is their tactic.

We call on the GMB to counteract these tactics, increase the pressure on Government, work to bridge the Gap between young workers and retirees. To use GMB sponsored MP's, community groups, and GMB Regions and Nations, RMA members to organise to a march to Downing Street, Parliament etc demonstrating the poor pensions paid and to lobby. GMB Regions and Nations must act cohesively and jointly.

**North West & Irish Region to Move
Southern Region to Second**

Motion 5 - Moving Retired Members Towards the Centre of GMB

This Conference agree the focus on the GMB is not sufficient and therefore propose:

The GMB Rules state that "We work to improve the quality of life and provide new opportunities for all our members and their families. We aim to improve the lives of GMB members and make sure that their achievements lead the way for working people in Britain and across the world."

Conference recognises that the primary focus of our union is on working members but agrees that all members will benefit from a greater engagement with retired members and the national and regional Retired Members groups.

We therefore propose that consideration is given to:

- Establishing email and WhatsApp groups of retired members at regional level.
- The speedy sharing of information from the Retired Members national committee to retired members and Branch Secretaries via these channels.
- Establishing a drop down heading on the national and regional websites to enable sharing of information with retired members.

We believe that retired members are a valuable resource and should be used as such to support our working members at picket lines and demonstrations as well as being invited (directly and in a timely fashion) to support the union's causes via writing and/or emailing.

Southern Region

Motion 6 - In Work Members

This Conference calls on the GMB for a liaison between the National and Regional Young Member Groups and the RMA.

Conference says that there are many Members who are not aware of the problems that could/can occur or what they might receive on reaching Retirement Age and claiming their State Pension.

London Region

Pensions

Composite 2 – The RMA's Voice, Representation and Working Together

This Retired Members Association Conference welcomes the positive response from the new General Secretary at the Hustings in relation to the role RMA members can play within GMB. The RMA therefore looks forward to working with National Office on a strategy for a closer working relationship and a wider role for RMA members across the union.

This Conference recognises that our retired members have a wealth of knowledge and experience that can be put to good use, to benefit our union and raise its profile. We therefore call for the RMA to have a greater involvement in GMB. Working alongside our young members would be a valuable experience for all. We need to have a better inclusive approach and to be involved in supporting lifelong learning.

Conference further agrees that representation of retired members is not reflected on the CEC. As all other sections are by having Reserved Seats; we call on the General Secretary and the CEC to allow for a RMA a reserved seat on the CEC, solely to represent the RMA Section.

**Birmingham & West Midlands Region to Move
Southern Region to Second
London Region to Support**

Motion 7 - Pensioner Poverty

Conference, the Corona virus pandemic has changed life for everyone but with new figures showing that 1.9 million pensioners are still living in poverty, with many more struggling to make ends meet, we are truly concerned that many of the most vulnerable will not be getting the help they need. We are calling for a campaign to address this very worrying fact. Please support.

Birmingham and West Midlands Region

Motion 8 – Pensions

Conference notes with complete horror the fact that the Tory Government have overseen a £3 billion underpayment of Pension payments for Retired people in the UK.

Conference, notes that the Tories proposed response to this alleged "Gliche" is to expect people to wait for up to 6 years to get their money returned, which is completely unacceptable.

The Tories record on Pensions is not to be trusted and conference knows that the Tories record regarding pensions include:

- a. Voting against the introduction of state Pensions
- b. Overseeing the demise of approx. 90% of final salary pensions scheme
- c. Change the rules notice, leaving the WASPI women in significant detriment

Conference sees this latest attack on State Pensions as completely unacceptable and so we call upon the GMB to

1. Commence a campaign to highlight this latest Pension abuse
2. Campaign with GMB sponsored MPs to get this alleged "Gliche" rectified urgently and
3. To campaign to get compensation for those pensioners affected, which should include interest on monies withheld.

Wales & South West Region

Emergency Motion – Protecting the Triple Lock – State Pensions *(Standing in the name of the National RMA Committee)*

This conference condemns the Tory Government decision to renege on its manifesto pledge to have a triple lock in place, as part of its long-standing commitment to ensure state pension increases by the highest of either average earnings, inflation or 2.5%.

Conference will be aware that as the country has been coming out of lock down wages have bounced back, at an 8.8% increase. Along with the cost of living - up. Fuel prices - up. Energy prices - up. Food prices - up.

At a time when this government should be investing to lift millions of pensioners out of pension poverty, they do the opposite. Let's be clear a one year increase of 8% in 2022, will not restore the damage done by the Tory's back in 1980, when they broke the pension link with average earnings.

The triple lock has three decades of damage to undo, average earnings have risen 40% over that time, for women the gender pension gap is 40.3% adrift.

Suspending the triple lock in 2022 will only increase pensioner poverty, have an adverse impact on women and could be the first step to scrapping it altogether. The triple lock is a vital part of a package designed to prop up inadequate state pension rates. Removing it will also have an adverse effect on tomorrow's pensioners, who will not have the luxury of good company pension schemes to fall back on, making the arguments for a decent state pension even more important.

It's shameful that as one of the richest countries in the world we have one of the poorest pension levels in the economically developed world.

The RMA National Committee calls upon :

All GMB regions and nations to join together to campaign on this issue

Join with other older people's organisations to continue to apply pressure on government

Campaign to highlight pensioner poverty and restore the link to average earnings

RMA National Committee

Industrial Issues

Motion 9 - Zero Hours Contracts (ZHC)

Conference calls for the removal of zero hours contracts within key services such as social care. Conference notes GMB policy on ZHC and fully supports that policy. However, Conference believes that the prevalence of ZHCs in the social care sector both publicly and privately funded, is not conducive to high quality jobs or care.

Conference therefore calls on the GMB to campaign to outlaw these policies and calls on Labour Party politicians, at both Westminster and Local Government levels, to pledge their support to implement this policy expeditiously.

Northern Region

Motion 10 - Defibrillators in the Workplace

Disease of the heart & circulatory system account for approximately 200,000 deaths in the UK every year.

In addition to these, another 100,000 individuals suffer from a cardiac arrest and die.

Medical emergencies such as cardiac arrest can be life threatening, so it is sensible to consider what you would do if one of your employees or visitors suffered one.

There are no laws in force in the UK requiring employers to provide defibrillators for their workforce. However, many leading organisations, such as the British Heart Foundation, strongly recommends the deployment of such devices. The number required can be

determined by the size of the workplace, the age of the workers and distance from the emergency services.

People are taking note of this because we are now seeing more and more defibrillators being placed in locations across our cities and towns. Many of these are being provided by local government or private contributors.

Therefore, we call upon the GMB to put pressure on the government to ensure that these life saving devices are made mandatory.

Yorkshire & North Derbyshire Region

Social / Community Issues

Motion 11 – Better Bus Services

Conference to support TUC better buses campaign by campaigning for the reversing of the cuts to bus routes and subsidies to bus services and to encourage bus operators to continue to take cash and not payment by smart phone or contactless only for fares and to continue and encourage the use of young people's discount cards and bus passes.

Midlands & East Coast Region

Motion 12 – TV Licenses

This Conference reiterates its opposition to the removal of the TV Licence for over 75's and believes that the timing of its removal during the global pandemic, which has seen older people isolated because of shielding guidance, is callous and agrees that this Conference should write to the UK Government to express GMB's opposition to the removal.

GMB Scotland

Motion 13 – Support of Veterans

This Conference supports Poppy Scotland's Count Them in Campaign which aims to see the inclusion of an armed forces question in the next Census in 2022. The Census has been carried out this year in England and Wales, but not in Scotland, so we have a challenge to put this motion forward to the Scottish Census which takes place next year.

There is currently very limited information about where our veterans now live and what support they may need. We believe that gathering this information through the Census will allow for an improved understanding of this unique community and ensure that the GMB Retired Members alongside others can ensure we are fully meeting the needs of our serving personnel, veterans, and their families, and to instruct this Conference to write to Poppy Scotland and the local Constituency and Regional MSPs within their local authority area to inform them of the council's support.

GMB Scotland

Motion 14 – Scamming

We call upon Conference to campaign and produce a guidelines leaflet on the risk of scamming. A small leaflet that can be kept next to the phone as a reminder to never to give out bank details and other important advice. This is a terrible 21st century disease and is growing faster by the minute. Many of our retired members are falling victims of this, we need to send out a clear awareness message so that our members can be on their guard against this unforgivable act. This is such a wide issue, whether it's cold calling or contractors charging for unnecessary work these are callous acts against the most vulnerable in society.

We are asking conference to provide a checklist and clear guidelines on this.

Birmingham and West Midlands Region

Motion 15 - Cashless Society

Conference notes the increasing trend over time towards a reduction in cash-based transactions and towards a cashless means of paying for goods and services. Conference strongly believes that this discriminates against the elderly and vulnerable, who may not have the confidence, skills, or finances to dispense with cash, and in the process to use solely chip and pin or contactless means of payment.

Conference also notes the impact that the move towards cashless transactions has had on GMB members working in services such as security.

Conference calls on the GMB to campaign for the retention of cash-based services, for the retention of facilities in local communities that enable people to access their cash freely, and for the GMB to campaign against employers who seek to harm GMB members' terms and conditions, by pursuing policies aimed at replacing cash transactions with a move to cashless.

Northern Region

Motion 16 - E-Scooter

This conference notes with concern that there have been over 5000 incidents leading to injury of pedestrians in London alone in the past year because of E Scooters, in addition to this there have been 500 crimes related to e scooters. Conference acknowledges that these scooters present a significant danger to pedestrians, the elderly, the disabled & especially those with sight difficulties.

We call upon the GMB to.

1. Request that our GMB sponsored MP's Lobby Government to ensure that these vehicles are properly regulated and licenced
2. Contact Council's across the UK to ensure that if these vehicles are to be made legal, that they must be made to use cycle paths and to face significant fines if they fail to adhere to these rules.

Wales & South West Region



NATIONAL COMMITTEE ATTENDING CONFERENCE

**RMA CONFERENCE
TUESDAY 19TH OCTOBER 2021**



NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Jude Brimble	National Coordinator, Euston Office
Ms Jan Smith	National Secretary, London Region
Mrs Lena Sharp	London Region
Mr Brian Adams	Birmingham & West Midlands Region
Mrs Margaret Clarke	Birmingham & West Midlands Region
Mr Nirmal Pheasant	Midland & East Coast Region
Mr John Stevenson	Midland & East Coast Region
Mr Andrew Campbell	Northern Region
Mrs Mary Hutchinson	Northern Region
Mr Pat Delahunty	North West & Irish Region
Mr Billy Goulding	North West & Irish Region
Mrs Margaret Gregg	North West & Irish Region
Mrs Anne Todd	GMB Scotland
Mr Eddie MacDonald	GMB Scotland
Mr Derrick Baker, MBE	Southern Region
Mr Brian Burton	Southern Region
Mrs Ann Leader	Wales & South West Region
Mr Roger Balsdon	Wales & South West Region
Mrs Jackie Tutill	Yorkshire & North Derbyshire Region
Mr George Tutill	Yorkshire & North Derbyshire Region



DELEGATES, VISITORS & GUESTS ATTENDING CONFERENCE

**RMA CONFERENCE
TUESDAY 19TH OCTOBER 2021**



RMA DELEGATES, VISITORS & GUESTS

Guests

Barbara Plant, GMB President
Gary Smith, General Secretary
George Georgiou, National Pensions Officer
Steve Kemp, Retired National Co-ordinator

London Region

Heather Hamblin (Delegate)
Duncan Lyndsay (Delegate)
Dennis Brett (Visitor)
Pam Harris (Visitor)

Midland & East Coast Region

Margaret Cartwright (Delegate)
Keith Parkes (Delegate)

Northern Region

Bill Barrett (Delegate)

North West & Irish Region

Maureen Delahunty (Delegate)
Pat O'Shaughnessy (Delegate)

Birmingham & West Midlands Region

Gabriel Duffy (Delegate)
Pauline O'Rourke (Delegate)

GMB Scotland

James Miller (Delegates)

Southern Region

Megan Dobney (Delegate)
Ken Marshall (Delegate)
Gary Marmion (Visitor)
Susie Nyfield (Visitor)
Jack Ryan (Visitor)

Wales & South West Region

Jenny Smith (Visitor)
Nigel Warn (Visitor)

Yorkshire & North Derbyshire Region

Iris Crummack (Delegate)
Kevan Hensby (Delegate)
Rita Knowles (Delegate)