

# LIVEWIRE

Issue 18 Christmas 1998

UNISON Manweb Branch

## GET YOUR EYES TESTED!!!

No I am not being cheeky, I am clarifying the misconception that the Company do not pay for eyesight tests.

On several occasions in the past staff have been told that initial eyesight tests are not paid for by the Company but this is incorrect. In the Energy Supply Health & Safety Committee meeting held on 4th November 1998 Mr Peter Brady, the Administration Manager of Human Resources in Energy Supply confirmed that the Company DO pay for initial eyesight tests and also subsequent tests as needed.

In addition to this, if your Optician prescribes spectacles for use to do VDU work and you are classed as a VDU user you

I think we'd work better if we'd been party to decisions about working practices!



would be entitled to £50 towards the cost of those spectacles. Presently the Company request however, that you follow the procedure outlined in the box on the right

Not so difficult is it? Why is it then that it has taken UNISON to keep its members informed of their entitlement when it would be to the benefit of the Company to publicise this?

### Merry Christmas

At this festive time of year we would like to wish all UNISON members and their families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We hope Livewire has kept you informed over the last 12 months and will continue to do so in 1999 and beyond. We look forward to meeting as many of you as possible at the Annual Meeting which is now booked for Thursday 4th March from 6pm on at the Plantation Inn, Chester.

### Free Eye Test Procedure

- Apply to Occupational Health for an eye sight test and inform your Line Manager that you have done so.
- Having had the Occupational Health test you can then make an appointment with your own optician.
- Ask your optician to give you a receipt showing the charge for the test and also the approximate date for any subsequent appointment to recheck your eyesight.
- If your optician prescribes spectacles for VDU work you will also need to get a receipt for this as you are entitled to £50 towards the cost.
- Take the receipt( or receipts) to your Line Manager who will reimburse any charges.

Could it possibly be that the Company begrudge the costs that this might incur?

N.B. The union have been informed that a formal copy of an amended procedure will be circulated by the company before Christmas.

Shirley Vickery,  
Warrington Call Centre Rep

## Millenium Pay Claim

The Trade Unions first Pay Claim submissions to the Business Councils since the end of Company bargaining will be made shortly.

Given the welcome news of increased profitability by Scottish Power and Manweb in the Half Year Results, including an increase in Dividend to shareholders of 10.3%, staff will clearly be expecting to share in the wealth which they have generated.

In fact staff have been widely praised by managers in various staff meetings for their contribution to winning new customers in the Gas and Electricity markets, to the 62% improvements in Guaranteed standards and to Manweb receiving the third lowest number of complaints to OFFER.

**It would be hollow praise indeed if this were not met with pay rises to match these successes.**

*David Read*  
Branch Secretary

**Warrington Energy Supply**  
At the Energy Supply Local Forum in Warrington there was a brief discussion on standby in the Call Centres.

Unison stewards were pleased to have it confirmed by Brian Carmen that all

staff on standby who had been contacted for recent emergencies had come out and rumours that there were problems were unfounded.

Indeed all staff involved in standby support were praised for their support.

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### **Pension trustee elections**

Nominations for Pension Fund Trustees are currently in progress. Although Unison representatives believe in principle that Trade Unions should be able to stand candidates for Pension trustee positions, the regulations governing such an approach are not clear and could leave formally nominated union candidates open to challenge.

We therefore cannot advocate support for specific candidates but would ob-

serve that members may wish to read carefully whether any candidates have a history of Trade Union representation before they cast their vote.

#### *last chance to join*

To those who have not yet joined the Manweb scheme, which has the highest contribution per member from the company at 12% of salary, remember

**You only have until the end of December 1998 to join.**

### **JOIN UNISON TODAY**

I hereby authorise subscriptions to be deducted from my salary at the appropriate rate and paid accordingly to UNISON.

Name..... Employee Number.....

Location..... SIGNED..... Date.....

(Please detach and send to UNISON, 58 Chester Rd West, Shotton Deeside CH15 2BY or return to your steward)

P.P. c/o Manweb UNISON, 58 Chester Road West, Shotton, Deeside

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