

Public Service Pensioners' Council

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To: Secretaries of Constituent Organisations

28th May 2014

Dear Colleagues

AGM AND CAMPAIGNING STRATEGY FOR 2014-2015

As with last year, I am taking the opportunity to give a brief report of the proceedings of the AGM and to set out our campaigning strategy for the year ahead.

The AGM was highly successful, and it was a pleasure to see representatives of so many constituent organisations present. I hope that even more representatives of constituent organisations can attend next year.

The Officers and Executive Committee members for the coming year are as follows:

Officers

Chair: Brian Sturtevant (Civil Service Pensioners' Alliance)
Vice Chair: Clint Elliott (National Association of Retired Police Officers)
General Secretary: Andrew Morris (National Union of Teachers)

Executive Committee

Mike Duggan (Civil Service Pensioners' Alliance)
Maj Gen John Moore-Bick (Forces Pension Society)
Ian Potter (National Association of Retired Police Officers)
Pearl Harris-Clarke (National Union of Teachers)
Andrew Ruffhead (Prospect)
Philip Burgess (UCU)

Brian was unfortunately unable to attend the AGM due to illness, but I have sent him good wishes on behalf of the PSPC.

The most important event over the forthcoming year will be the General Election. Unusually, we know the date of the next General Election will be 7 May 2015. Our campaigning position is complicated by the passage of the Lobbying Act through Parliament. We are aware that the Electoral Commission is due to issue guidance on how this ill-conceived Act will work in practice. We are aware that the pressure group Commission on Civil Society and Democratic Engagement are in discussions with the Electoral Commission. We hope that arrangements will result which allow charities, trade unions and other organisations to participate in the democratic process.

The PSPC has prepared its Manifesto, which was endorsed with some amendments at the AGM. I enclose the current draft of the Manifesto. We intend to seek meetings with representatives of the three major parties over the next few months to discuss the content of

General Secretary: ANDREW MORRIS

ASSOCIATIONS REPRESENTED: Association of HM Inspectors of Schools OFSTED Section Committee • Association of HM Inspectors of Schools (Scotland) • Association of Local Authority Chief Executives • Association of Teachers and Lecturers • Association of School and College Leaders • British Broadcasting Corporation Pensioners Association • Civil Service Pensioners' Alliance • Civil Service Pensioners' Alliance (Scotland) • Educational Institute of Scotland • Forces Pension Society • Foreign and Commonwealth Office Association • GMB • MDP Retired Officers' Association • National Association of Head Teachers • National Association of Retired Firefighters • National Association of Retired Police Officers • National Association of Schoolmasters Union of Women Teachers • National Federation of Occupational Pensioners • National Union of Teachers • Overseas Service Pensioners' Association • Prospect • Public and Commercial Services Union • Retired Police Officers' Association (Scotland) • Retired Prison Governors Association • Retired Teachers' Association (Northern Ireland) • Scottish Retired Teachers' Association • UNISON • University and College Union

the manifesto and the parties' proposals for pensioners at the next election. The time to influence the major parties is before they draw up their own manifestos. We hope that constituent organisations will use the PSPC Manifesto to further their own campaigning aims.

We will also circulate the PSPC manifesto to the other major pensioner organisations to examine whether there are areas for joint working. We anticipate that this will be the case, as there is far more which unites the pensioner movement than divides us.

Our plan is, as in previous years, to also hold a Manifesto Conference in the lead-up to the General Election. We anticipate that this will be held in February or March 2015 and will take the format of a one-day Conference at NUT Headquarters. Representatives of constituent organisations will be invited to attend.

We have a busy year ahead and one which will set the tone for the years that follow. I would also be glad for constituent organisations to contact me so that we have a dialogue throughout the year.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Morris'. The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial 'A' and a distinct 'M' at the end.

ANDREW MORRIS
General Secretary