

Let's follow March 26 with a national strike ballot to:

STOP THE PENSIONS ROBBERY!

The scale of the March 26 demo has confirmed the potential strength of the trade union movement. Now we must use that strength to defeat the attacks on public sector pensions.

Discussions have been going on between all three main teacher unions in England and Wales about co-ordinating ballots to allow joint action to take place in June. The NUT Conference seems certain to call for a ballot. The NASUWT Conference should do the same.

Some public sector unions are still urging a delay while talks continue with the Government. However, this is playing into the Con-Dems hands. They are trying to stall and divide union opposition.

George Osborne has said that final decisions about increased pension contributions will be postponed until June. However, he refused to remove the proposed £2.8 billion savings from that extra 'stealth tax' on public sector workers from March's Budget. That leaves very little room for genuine negotiation - unions will just be left to agree exactly how that pay cut will be applied.

Teachers of all unions deserve the strongest defence of our pension scheme. It will be the Government that gains if some unions stands aside while others are balloting.

10 REASONS TO TAKE ACTION:

1. **To stop around £100 a month being stolen from teachers' salaries.** That's a 50% increase in pension contributions on top of a 'pay freeze'.
2. **£10,000's more will be robbed over our retirement** by the switch from RPI to the lower Consumer Price Index.
3. **Yet more money could go in a new 'career-average' scheme.** Hutton is cooking up yet more ways of cutting our pensions.
4. **You might be 68 before you can claim your (cut) pension in full.** Hutton wants normal pension age to go up to 68 for young teachers, 66 or 67 for older staff. Could you cope with teaching over 65?
5. **If you choose to retire 'early', you'll lose £1,000s.** Retiring at 60 - or even 62 - would count as 'early retirement'.
6. **Our pension scheme costs are falling. This is just robbery.** Hutton's own figures confirm our pensions are affordable. They just want to impose an extra 'tax' on teachers and other public sector workers.
7. **We have a good pensions scheme - let's keep it that way.** Staff who are feeling the squeeze already may just opt out of the pension scheme. We have to defend pensions.
8. **The threat of action made the last Government retreat.** Joint campaigns in 2005-6 forced the last Government to withdraw most of its pension attacks. Let's do it again now.
9. **Strike action can make this Con-Dem Government think again too.** They are unpopular and divided. Further delay will only encourage them. But firm action can defend pensions.
10. **The NASUWT must lead from the front, not stand aside.** 'United we stand, divided we fall'. The NUT and ATL are looking to ballot for strike action. Civil servants in the PCS and UCU lecturers are also ready to take joint action. Now's the time to ballot too!



MORE NEWS ON THE CLASSROOM TEACHER BLOG

Look out for more news and views on the Classroom Teacher blog. Read reports on joint NASUWT / NUT strike action on Academies in

Coventry, over behaviour in Darwen and disputes over cuts and workload in London.

National Shop Steward Network National Conference - June 11

Shop stewards and workplace reps from across Britain came together in July 2007 to launch the National Shop Stewards Network (NSSN). The Network's founding conference resolved to rebuild the strength of our movement from the bottom up by creating local, regional & national networks to put elected reps and shop stewards from different unions in permanent contact with each other. We have since held three further conferences, which have gone from strength to strength, as well as organising local events.

Organising mutual solidarity when trade unions are in dispute is at the heart of our work. We also share information to develop ways of successfully resisting attacks on our union rights, jobs, pay, conditions and pensions.

Full membership of the NSSN is open to all elected trade union reps who are not national paid full-time officials: so if you are a shop steward, local rep, branch official, health and safety rep, trades council delegate or union learning rep, your place is in the NSSN as well as your own union. Of course, ALL union members are welcome to attend our meetings.

The NSSN does not interfere in internal union business, but seeks to strengthen confidence, democracy

and accountability at all levels of all our unions. We seek affiliations from all official trade union bodies, from local branches to national unions. We seek the co-operation and support of local trades union councils in building our network. In turn the NSSN can help revitalise trades councils by putting known reps in a town or city in touch with one another.

The Rail, Maritime and Transport (RMT) union played an essential role in founding the NSSN, but several other unions including the CWU, PCS, POA, NUM and, most recently, the NUJ have already supported us at national and regional level.

The 5th Annual Conference of the National Shop Stewards Network will take place on Sat. June 11th 2011.

It will be taking place in the run-up to potential strike action against the attacks on public sector pensions. It will provide an excellent opportunity to discuss with colleagues in other teaching and public sector unions. The other main themes of the conference will be fighting the anti-union laws and defending the NHS.

The conference will be at the South Camden Community School, near Euston/Kings Cross, from 11.30am - 4pm. Visit the NSSN website for more info: www.shopstewards.net



The poster features the NSSN logo at the top, followed by the text 'CONFERENCE 2011'. Below this is a photograph of a group of people holding various union banners, including 'UNISON', 'NUT', 'NUJ', and 'RMT'. The main text on the poster lists three key objectives: 'Strike to defend jobs and pensions', 'Fight the Anti-Trade Union Laws', and 'Save our NHS'. At the bottom, it provides the date and time: 'Saturday June 11th, 11:30am - 4:00pm', the location: 'South Camden Community School, London NW1 1RG', and registration details: 'Registration will begin at 10.30am' and 'Email info@shopstewards.net to register'. Two websites are listed at the bottom: www.shopstewards.net and www.stopcuts.net.

Add your name to the **CLASSROOM TEACHER** mailing list



Classroom Teacher is a regular monthly newsletter sent out by email to teachers across England - now supplemented by a termly 'Classroom Teacher in Wales' too.

In the last year we have written on all the main battles facing teachers - Academies, Workload, Pensions, Cuts, Management Bullying... We have made sure that reports from local protests and strikes are circulated into staffrooms across Britain.

Up to now, it has been mainly circulated within NUT Local Associations but we welcome more reports and subscribers from NASUWT members too.

If you want to get a regular copy, send your e-mail address to Classroom Teacher. Why not have your say and send in an article too!

Classroom Teacher

... is an initiative ...
by, and for, classroom teachers
... voicing the concerns and
experiences of classroom teachers
... so we can build action to win
change for classroom teachers

If you want :

... help organising a strong Union group in your school
... to share your views about the pressures teachers face
... to take action to defend teachers and education ...

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