

Health and Welfare Divisional Conference 2023



THE FÓRSA Health and Welfare Divisional Conference took place in Galway in May of this year. Branch Committee members attended, six as delegates and three as observers. In total, the branch had 22 motions before conference, representing issues raised by members in the HSE, Brothers of Charity and Tusla. The large number of motions is indicative of the contribution and proactivity of members who attended the AGM in February.

One current issue raised by South Tipperary in its motions to Conference was Covid-19 Leave. In its communication to union members, the NJC, (National Joint Council), HSE staff panel of Trade Unions, provided an update of the conciliation Conference which took place on the 10th July last, under the auspices of the WRC. The Conference was in pursuit of the unions claim for an Occupational

In attendance at the Divisional Conference are (from l-r) Karen Keane, Committee member, Michael Smith, Fórsa President, Colette O'Connell, Branch Chair, Michael Harhen, Secretary, Denis Larkin and Mary Isabeth, Committee members.

Injury Scheme for employees suffering from Long Covid as a result of occupational disease.

The unions also sought the reinstatement of Special Leave with pay from five to ten days in line with HSE advice to employees working with vulnerable people. HSE policy advises that contact with vulnerable people be avoided for 10 days, yet special leave with pay is only for 5 days. This was highlighted at the recent Health Divisional Conference by the South Tipperary Branch, which successfully brought two emergency motions to conference, one of which highlighted the anomaly in Covid Special Leave and HSE policy.

Please see attached document for other motions brought by South

Tipperary Branch which were passed by conference and so become union policy.

NATIONAL BALLOTS

Fórsa will be balloting all members in the near future on a new pay deal to replace the current pay deal which is the extended Building Momentum. It is important therefore, that if there is any change to your membership details (change of email address, position, home address or work location) please update you details by emailing southtipbranch@forsa-rep.ie

THANK YOU



Hilary Kelleher, AGS, recently announced she will be retiring this September. Hilary has given unstinting and dedicated service over 24 years to

the members of the South Tipperary Health and Community Branch.

Over the years that she served South Tipperary, Hilary has demonstrated a tireless commitment to representing members collectively and individually and was a tenacious advocate in defending the rights of workers.

The Branch Committee and members would like to wish Hilary best wishes and a long and happy retirement.



Joan Duggan, Treasurer, Liz Fay, AGS, Colette O'Connell, Chairperson and Deirdre Whelan, Vice-chairperson, pictured at the recent Admin morning held in the TUH.



You're better off in FÓRSA

Fórsa members can save lots of money with our enhanced package of financial benefits provided or negotiated by the union. Some of these are free to all Fórsa members. Others are optional benefits, available only to Fórsa members, which can mean savings on insurance, salary protection, additional pension coverage and more.

Fórsa members are entitled to*

- €5,000 illness benefit when out of work for more than 12 months
- €5,000 personal accident insurance
- €5,000 critical illness or death benefit
- Spouses or qualifying partners qualify for death benefit too
- Evacuation or repatriation expenses of up to €250,000 for members who die or are seriously ill abroad
- Free legal help in bodily injury cases
- Free 24/7 legal advice helpline
- Free 24/7 confidential counselling helpline
- Free 24/7 domestic assistance helpline
- Free will writing service

Members can opt in to Fórsa-facilitated financial benefits

- Car insurance
- Home insurance
- Travel insurance
- Additional pension benefits
- Salary protection and life cover

Fórsa members can also apply for

- Gaeltacht scholarships for their school-age children
- Industrial relations scholarships
- Benevolent grants for members in financial distress
- Fórsa group scheme (www.forsa.group-login.com/login).

*Six months continuous membership is required to avail of services. Financial benefits are strictly subject to policy, terms, conditions and exclusions. See www.forsa.ie for details.

Did you know...

Fórsa members can save a lot of money with the enhanced package of financial benefits provided or negotiated by the union.

Some of the deals are free to all Fórsa members. Others are optional benefits available only to Fórsa members, which can mean savings on insurance, salary protection, additional pension coverage and more.

The Branch Chair and Committee encourages you to use your membership card, and the unions purchasing power, for your benefit.

For regular updates on offers, please sign up for the Fórsa group scheme emails at forsa.ie.