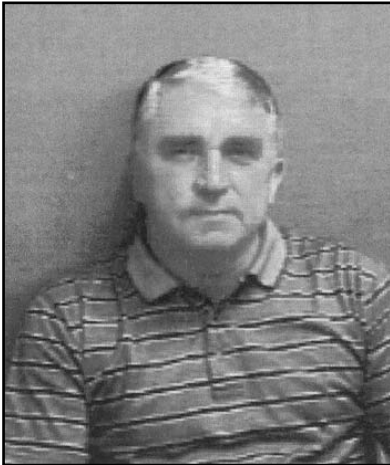


AMICUS EC ELECTIONS 2003 / EDUCATION, GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS & LOCAL AUTHORITIES



WILLIAM GOWANS

Constituency:
Education, Government
Departments & Local
Authorities
Membership number:
A0077898
Branch:
Dundee 2 - 0329

● UNION CV

I have been a member of the union for 40 years having served my time as a plumber in Dundee.

I worked for several private companies before joining the Dundee Corporation DLO in 1971. I was elected as a Shop Steward in 1972. I was elected Deputy Convenor (all trades) in 1982 and in 1988 I was elected as the first non UCATT full time Convenor of the DLO, a position I have held in elections every three years since 1988. I have also served the union as a safety representative since 1990. During my time as a steward I have attended numerous policy conferences culminating in this year's historic policy and rules revision conferences. I have also been a delegate to the Labour Party conference as well as the TUC and STUC. I chair the current National Committee for local authorities and have been a member of that committee since its inception in the 1980's. I have also served on the Scottish Area Committee for local authorities since the industrial committees were formed.

I have served on the branch committee for many years, the last 16 years as branch secretary. I am proud of the fact that our workforce at the DLO were probably the first in Scotland to levy ourselves in support of the miners during their struggle against the Thatcher government. We also levied ourselves in support of the workers in dispute at Timex, Dundee, I attended their picket line every Monday. I also persuaded our members to agree to a levy in support of the Confeds 35 hour week campaign.

● WHAT I STAND FOR

I have been involved in the fight to protect our members jobs in local authorities for many years including the attacks by successive Tory governments for 18 years and while I, along with millions of others, welcomed the return of a Labour government in 1997, I am well aware that our members still need protection from unhelpful government policy that puts our members jobs, wages and conditions in jeopardy. I feel my long experience qualifies me to assist our union as a member of the lay executive in that duty. There are many issues facing our members in the public sector, not least of which is the government's drive towards privatisation. Housing stock transfer is not the answer in my opinion to the public sector housing problems. In fact I believe it will not only lead to the demise of DLO but will create a millstone of debt for our children and grandchildren to pay.

The government's Best Value initiative cannot be argued against in theory but a level playing field must be created, i.e. private companies involved should be subject to the same Best Value criteria as local authority departments. The single status initiative if applied to craft workers will be divisive and potentially disastrous for some of our members. I believe our union should negotiate a realistic national hourly rate for our craft members which would act as a safety net for our members who are caught up in single status negotiations or service delivery restructuring deals offering paltry salaries or hourly rates.

I believe a left wing executive would be more willing to effectively challenge government decisions that adversely affect our members. I also believe that we have a unique opportunity along with the new leader of our union to truly give the union back to the members, an initiative that I would be honoured if elected to support.

WILLIE GOWANS CANDIDATE FOR EDUCATION GOVERNMENT DEPTS & LOCAL AUTHORITIES

AMICUS EC ELECTIONS 2003 / EDUCATION, GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS & LOCAL AUTHORITIES



PAT McCOURT

**Constituency: Education,
Government
Departments & Local
Authorities**

**Membership Number:
A0060811**

**Branch:
Spennymoor 0861**

● UNION CV

Time served plumber
Amicus/AEEU member - 22 years
Shop steward - 6 years
Union Learning Representative - 1 year
Chairman Joint Shop Stewards Committee - 5 years
Delegate to Regional & National Conference
Labour Party member - 22 years
Labour councillor - 5 years
Delegate to Labour Party Conference 1998 & 1999

● WHAT I STAND FOR

Having successfully supported Derek Simpson in his campaign for General Secretary I wish to continue this support from the platform of the Lay Executive Council and help Derek deliver his campaign agenda.

Employment - Sedgefield Borough Council - 24 years

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Green Lane
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Co. Durham
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