

NORTH WEST TUC ANNUAL CONFERENCE, 28 MARCH 2020

ELECTION ADDRESS: PETER BILLINGTON

I have been a member of the NW TUC Regional Council for many years. I am also the Secretary of the Lancashire Association of Trades Union Councils (LATUC) and Chair of North-East Lancashire TUC. I was elected as an officer of Hyndburn Trades Union Council in 1979 and have been a local and county TUC officer since that time.

I am standing for election as Treasurer of the NW TUC because the LATUC believes that at least one of the NW TUC officers should be an ordinary trade unionist rather than a full-time trade union official.

This is not a criticism of the excellent work done by many full-time trade union officials. We just consider that an ordinary trade union activist would bring an extra dimension to the work of the officers of the NW TUC.

I joined UNITE (then the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers) in 1974 and have been a member continuously since that time. I have been an Amalgamated Engineering Union (AEU) Branch Secretary, safety-rep, shop-steward, chair of the Platt Saco Lowell shop-stewards committee, AEU District President, delegate to the AEU National Committee and Rules Revision Committee for several years, and chair of the AEU Divisional Committee. I am currently the Branch Secretary of the Burnley UNITE Branch.

As a lay trade unionist, I have represented workers at the Employment Tribunal from the late 1980s up to the present day. The cases I have been involved in included claims for unfair dismissal, constructive dismissal, unpaid wages and other debts, unfair selection for redundancy, disability discrimination, and victimisation for trade union activity. They involved private and public employers including BAe, Senator Group, Blackburn with Darwen Council, Lancashire County Council, Blackburn College, and the Department for Work & Pensions (DWP). I prepared and presented an appeal at the Employment Appeal Tribunal in London. I have also represented workers at internal disciplinary and grievance hearings involving a number of private and public sector Lancashire employers.

I was a Labour Party member for many years and held the positions of Hyndburn constituency chair, East Lancashire Euro-constituency chair, and Lancashire County Councillor.

I am a member of Liberty (National Council for Civil Liberties), the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND), Hope Not Hate, the NW Labour History Society, and the Raymond Williams Foundation. I help organise and carry out anti-racist and anti-fascist activity against the BNP, EDL, UKIP, etc., in Lancashire.

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