



National Pensioners Convention  
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## NPC Annual Review

2019 was the 10th year of government driven austerity and was a significant year for many retired people and an active year for NPC as a consequence. Thanks to your support and the support of all our affiliates and members we managed to achieve many of our aims and objectives. Pensioner concerns were raised with government in a variety of ways.

We continued to represent a pensioner opinion to parliament by briefing Ministers, Opposition Parties, MP's and Select Committees on the effect of policies and planned legislation on pensioners.

Each year in June Pensioners from all over the country gather for our annual Convention (formerly the Pensioners Parliament) which covers a range of issues of importance with guest speakers and debate and comments and questions from participants. The Convention allows the 'pensioner voice' to be heard and enables the NPC to formulate policy based on the opinions of pensioners themselves. The Convention illustrates the very needs that Jack Jones, our founder, understood so well when in 1979 he established the NPC. We now have 1.2 million members organised across over 1,000 pensioner groups and forums.

What distinguishes the NPC really is that we are a campaigning organisation, we are political but not Party Political. We remind people we are an older persons' organisation run by older persons. Older people, like the population at large, vary in their political beliefs and that is why we strive to remain independent. NPC is a combination of local groups, nationwide industry-based pensioner associations, National Trade Unions and retired member associations, all maintaining a reasonable balance.

Throughout the year we demonstrate on items of concern to older people; excess Winter deaths, the loss of free TV licences, cuts in the Meals on Wheels, funeral costs, threatened cuts to Post Offices and the services they traditionally have offered, are all monitored. The NPC was part of a consortium of organisations instrumental in getting the first ever debate on climate change on national television.

We continued to publish a wide range of guides, the Monthly news round up in our Campaign Bulletins and specific guides and booklets. With our related charity, the National Pensioners Education and Welfare Centre, we promoted the publication of the annual Jack Jones Lecture, this year the lecture being given by Rebecca Long Bailey MP.

A very successful publishing year saw over thirty different publications being issued. These include our ten-minute briefings and regular campaign bulletins, as well as our new publication, "Home Sweet Home?" which sets

out the NPC policy on housing and older people, that has resulted from our consultation over the housing needs of older people. Our new flagship Care Policy when published will be an effective response to government plans when these are agreed and published.

The campaign over the inadequacy of the State Pension and changes to State Pension Age is always a key area for NPC. We take every opportunity to promote our Policy of a State Pension fixed at 70% of the living wage and we campaign with all of those impacted, especially working women who have been very badly affected by the increases in State Pension Age.

Much of the work of NPC is done through its members via a number of Working Parties covering areas such as Transport, Pensions and Income, Health and Social Care, Women, Minority Elders, and LGBT. Each working party is elected from within NPC membership and brings together the collective knowledge and skill of its members to develop policies and campaigns through discussions, conferences and events.

Many members of NPC are also members of their region of which there are 15. Each Region has its own members, committee and regional council, its own meetings and campaigns, all of which are firmly rooted in as geographically logical a way as practical.

NPC has a small hard-working staff team who are totally dedicated to supporting and informing our members. NPC work also benefits from the generosity of a number of affiliates who provide meeting and conference room facilities free of charge.

NPC is above all an organisation of its members, who provide free of charge their time, expertise and knowledge serving on committees, working parties, as speakers at meetings and as spokespersons for the press, TV, radio and at Parliament.

Income and Expenditure 2019			
Opening Balance	<b>£73,400</b>		
Total Income	<b>£127,000</b>	Total expenditure	<b>£118,600</b>
		Surplus	<b>£8,400</b>
		Closing Balance	<b>£81,400</b>

This summary is taken from the published accounts scheduled to be approved at the Executive Committee meeting in March 2020, following an audit. A full set of accounts, including the report of the independent examiners, can then be obtained from NPC Head Office.

Note: A number of National Affiliation Fees that were due in 2018 were only received in 2019, and during the year a staff vacancy arose following the resignation of the National Officer. The overall effect of these two factors, along with other small savings, was to produce a modest end of year surplus of £8,400 compared to the 2019 budgeted deficit of £31,000. The budgeted deficit for 2020 is £23,000.

The total income includes £21,700 in donations, £58,000 in affiliations and a £30,000 Age UK grant