



GROUP CIRCULAR 926

To: Branches, Groups and Executive Council

August 2022

Dear Colleague,

- 1.REMINDER-AGM DOCUMENTS TO BE RECEIVED BY WEDNESDAY 7SEPTEMBER**
- 2.AGM DAY RATE**
- 3.AUDIT OF GROUP CONTACTS**
- 4.HQ STAFF RESPONSIBILITIES**
- 5.PARLIAMENTARY EVENT TO CELEBRATE 70 YEARS OF CSPA**
- 6.MEMBER BENEFIT- TRAVEL INSURANCE UPDATE**
- 7.REMEDY UPDATE- SUMMER 2022**
- 8.COLOUR COPIES OF GROUP NEWSLETTERS**
- 9.NPC CAMPAIGN! BULLETIN**

1. REMINDER: AGM DOCUMENTS TO BE RECEIVED BY WEDNESDAY 7 SEPTEMBER

GC 925 gave details of the Annual General Meeting. Enclosed with the circular were several forms asking for details of Group delegates, sponsored representatives, additional Group representatives, accommodation, meal choices and any transport requirements. This is a reminder that to finalise plans with the Hotel/AGM venue, we need to receive completed forms from Groups at HQ Office by close **Wednesday 7 September**.

To receive and subsistence expenses before the AGM, please submit your claim form before 30 September. ***Please ensure that all information is submitted to HQ Office on the forms provided*** and not by email. Your cooperation is very much appreciated. Thank you!

If you require any more forms, please contact the office on 0208 688 9418 or by email enquiries@cspa.co.uk

2. AGM DAY RATES

GC 925 also requested details of those attending the AGM for the day who did not require overnight accommodation.

The day rates for Sponsored Representatives (one per Group) are:

A Sponsored Representative attending for a day, including lunch, £18.

A Sponsored Representative attending for a day, also attending the evening meal, £30.

The day rates for other Group representatives and observers are as follows:

An observer attending for a day including lunch: £39

An observer attending for a day and attending the evening meal: £66

As outlined in **GC 925** an invoice will be issued to cover any charges due for attending the AGM. The due date for payment is Friday 28 October.

3. AUDIT OF GROUP CONTACTS

Now that Groups are beginning to meet again we would like to ensure that we have the appropriate contact details for email and postal communications. An email has been sent out to all addresses on our list of members who hold Group Committee positions

Please reply to sally.tsoukaris@cspa.co.uk to confirm.

Your Group's (or Branch's) Name:

Please complete the below list with incumbent names (where these posts are in place) within your CSPA Group/Branch -

Group/Branch Chair:
Group/Branch Treasurer:
Group/Branch Secretary:
Group/Branch Membership Secretary:
Other Group/Branch Postholders:

Any other contact names you want included in Group Circular emails.

Please also confirm the name of the Person Designated to receive Group/Branch postal mailings.

Many thanks for your assistance in ensuring future communications reach the correct recipients. It would be most helpful if you could respond by **Wednesday 31 August**. Thank you to those Groups who have already replied.

4. HQ OFFICE-RESPONSIBILITIES

Groups may be aware that Darlene Vendryes, Office Manager, and Linda Smith, Minutes Secretary, retired at the end of June. Thank you to those Branches, Groups and members who sent greetings to Darlene and Linda.

Marion McAuliffe marion.mcauliffe@cspa.co.uk is now Office Manager and is responsible for the duties formerly undertaken by Darlene, i.e. Group newsletters, changes in Group personnel, questions on membership, finance and payment of subscriptions by Direct Debit, Civil Service Pension deductions and subscriptions and organisation of accommodation at the upcoming AGM.

Sally Tsoukaris, sally.tsoukaris@cspa.co.uk is Deputy Office Manager/PA to the General Secretary and has been settling into her new role well. Sally deals with general enquiries on the telephone and by email: enquiries@cspa.co.uk. Sally is also assisting me as my PA, setting up meetings managing the office calendar, dealing with correspondence, and assisting the Office Manager with ad hoc duties.

5. PARLIAMENTARY EVENT TO CELEBRATE 70 YEARS OF CSPA TUESDAY, 8 NOVEMBER 2022

Groups will be aware that the CSPA is celebrating its 70-year anniversary this year. We will mark this landmark achievement at the AGM in Kenilworth. We will also be holding a Platinum Jubilee Reception in the Churchill Room, House of Commons on **Tuesday 8th November 2022**, commencing at 1pm and finishing at 3pm. We are very pleased that a long-standing supporter of the CSPA and its campaigns on survivors' pensions for life, Clive Betts MP, is hosting the event.

An initial outline programme is as follows:

13.00 Event opens

13.30 Speeches

- Lisa Ray General Secretary, CSPA
- Keynote Speech: Heather Wheeler, Parliamentary Secretary, Cabinet Office
- Clive Betts MP

Tea, Coffee and Sandwiches will be served at the event, and it is expected to end at around 3pm.

We would very much like Groups and Branches to send two representatives and to invite their constituency MPs to find out about the work of the CSPA. The earlier you contact your MP the better!

How do I contact my MP?

To find your MP and send them an email click on this link;

<https://www.writetothem.com/?a=westminstermp>

Writing is probably the best method, as it provides a written record that can be referred to later. You can:

- Send the template letter enclosed with this circular, or write a letter to your MP at: House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA
- Adapt the letter to email your MP you can use the contact details in the [Directory of MPs](#)

Remember to always include your own address when you write to your MP so that they will know you live in their constituency. If writing is not possible or you just want to ask a quick question or make an appointment, you can telephone your MP's office.

- To telephone their office at the House of Commons, call 020 7219 3000 and ask to be put through to their office giving your MP's name
- To phone your MP at their local constituency office, you will find the contact details at your local town hall or library, or it may be given in the [Directory of MPs](#)

MPs may also have their own locally run websites, and be active on social media. Where possible, we have added these details to the information in the [Directory of MPs](#).

Please let cspa@connectpa.co.uk know if you receive a response to your invitation, so that we have an idea on numbers of MP's attending the reception.

Further information will be circulated to confirm details of those Group members attending the reception in a future group circular.

6. CSPA MEMBER BENEFIT- TRAVEL INSURANCE UPDATE

Groups will be interested to hear the latest update on Travel Insurance, and the following update will also be appearing in the Winter edition of *The Pensioner* magazine:

In response to membership comments about the new Travel Insurance arrangement "Lighthouse" which launched on 5 April and, in particular, feedback about the unsatisfactory customer service, CSPA has been exploring alternative offerings with the Civil Service Insurance Society (CSIS) which were not available earlier in the year. Deputy General Secretary David Luxton said "Our discussions with the not-for-profit CSIS are at an advanced stage, with Executive Council agreement for a new offer to be launched in the early Autumn. This will not affect those members who have taken out cover through Lighthouse, and we will continue to support those members with any issues. We have done this in response to membership feedback.

The new arrangement is being finalised subject to Regulatory and Contractual terms being agreed by late September for launch in the early Autumn.

The proposals will include Annual and single trip travel cover, with wide age and medical condition acceptance. The policies can be purchased on the web or over the phone with the experienced CSIS Helpdesk team.

An alternative product will also be available aimed at covering non-standard / higher risk medical conditions that cannot be covered under the main facility – this is all carried out seamlessly and members will have individual policies they can take out as and when required.

Wendy Hilder, Chief Executive of the Civil Service Insurance Society, said: "After working in partnership with CSPA for many years, CSIS is delighted to be working with them to develop an arrangement to provide members annual and single trip travel insurance. This adds to our range of other quality insurance products that we offer at competitive prices with a first-class service you can trust. We also continue to donate all available profits to Civil and Public Service Charities.'

Further information will be posted on our website late in September and through e-Newsletter and a future Group Circular.

7. CIVIL SERVICE PENSIONS 2015 REMEDY UPDATE SUMMER 2022

Groups will be aware that CSPA has been working with the Cabinet Office on the McCloud remedy. Things have been quiet recently while the civil service rolls over all current civil service staff to the Alpha pension scheme and deals with current ill health cases.

You may wish to check whether or not the Remedy applies to you: [Remedy - Retirement Modeller - Civil Service Pension Scheme](#).

When are pensioners being dealt with?

Once you know that it affects you then you need to wait for the civil service pension scheme to contact you, however, CSPA will be running more webinars towards the close of the year bringing updates.

Now the timetable is that from October 2023, and for a period of up to 18 months, those retired either fully or partially will be offered the option to have their pension benefits for the relevant Remedy period assessed in their old scheme or in the Alpha scheme.

This assumes the legislation will be in place. There should also be a modeller for you to have an idea before you get the choice. Look out for more updates on this from CSPA via the Pensioner magazine, Group Circulars and Email newsletters.

8. COLOUR COPIES – GROUP NEWSLETTERS

The Executive Council has agreed in principle that, from 1 January 2023, all Group newsletters will be printed in colour. Groups have had the opportunity to have one newsletter a year printed in colour since 2019, and the EC hopes that this extension will assist Groups in the preparation and drafting of their newsletters. The decision will be reviewed when the 2023 Budget is prepared in December to ensure it is affordable, but it is the intention of the EC to proceed with this change unless something unforeseen happens between now and then.

Groups will be aware that as part of the improvements being made to CSPA that we are rebranding our organisation. Further details including branding guidance and templates intended to simplify and assist with the production of group newsletters will be issued in due course.

9. NPC CAMPAIGN! BULLETIN

A copy of the Summer 2022 newsletter from the National Pensioners' Convention is enclosed with this circular.

If you have any questions or require any further information about the matters covered by this Group Circular, please don't hesitate to contact the CSPA Head Office, either by email at enquiries@cspa.co.uk or by telephone on **020 8688 8418**.

Yours sincerely,

Lisa Ray
General Secretary