



BULLETIN

Bulletin No: 020

24 April 2023

TO ALL UFUA MEMBERS

Call for nominations for National Work Health & Safety Coordinator

Branch Secretaries have been asked by the National Executive to provide nominations to fill the position of National WHS Coordinator before the next meeting of the National WHS Committee to take place in May.

Each nomination for the role must:

- be endorsed by the Secretary of the Branch; and
- include a brief candidate statement (no more than 1 page) describing their suitability for the role and their intentions if elected.

Members who are interested in carrying out this important role are asked to provide their nominations and candidate statement to their Branch secretaries by Friday 12 May 2023.

The Role

This important role is responsible for:

- Coordination and Chairing of the meetings of the National WHS Committee (usually held online every two months)
- Coordination and chairing of the National WHS meeting held annually in conjunction with National Committee of Management
- Coordination of WHS activities and campaigns common to branches including through involvement in all WHS sub committees and working groups
- Maintaining information flow between National Executive, National Committee of Management, National WHS Committee, Branches and members.

- Involvement in setting of Australian and International Standards
- Assistance to Branch WHS reps in WHS issue resolution.
- Where resources are available, attendance at national and international WHS conferences.
- Preparation of National WHS Bulletins

Assistance is available from the National Industrial Officer and National Administration Officer. The position is supported by an honorarium of \$11,086 per annum.

Appointment Process

Once nominations have been received by Branch secretaries, each Branch is to forward a Branch nomination to the National WHS Committee. The committee will decide upon an appointment, which will be submitted to the National Executive for endorsement. The National Committee of Management (NCOM) meeting in November will ratify the Executive decision, and the term of appointment will be until the NCOM meeting in late 2024. The term thereafter will be three years.

This process usually takes place every three years, but disruption to the NCOM meetings schedule caused by COVID has resulted in a changed schedule in this instance.

The National WHS Committee covers some of the most important work that the national Union does. It is informed by work being undertaken by our members at the branch level and the achievements and struggles of our international comrades.

In recent years the UFUA has been able to secure significant victories and achievements for our members in the realm of WHS, including:

- Presumptive legislation to protect firefighters from cancer
- Banning PFAS to protect firefighter health
- Promoting better firefighter wellbeing through health monitoring and fitness initiatives
- Improving international and Australian standards relating to firefighting clothing and equipment

The National WHS Committee is currently coordinating national responses to important WHS issues, including:

- forming a sub committee on psychosocial mental health issues and WHS regulations;
- applying the latest findings from research into respiratory protective devices; and
- coordinating a national plan on diesel particulates in fire stations.

If this is something that you are passionate about and you would like to contribute your own efforts to the great work that the Union has been doing on WHS issues for its members please consider nominating yourself for the National WHS Committee Coordinator role.

If you would like to be involved in the work of the National WHS Committee but do not wish to nominate yourself for the Coordinator role, please contact the current National WHS Committee Coordinator Neil Mangelsdorf at neil.mangelsdorf@ufunat.asn.au

Authorised by National Secretary Greg McConville