

London Ambulance Service Unison Branch Committee Meeting

22nd March 2005 1400hrs – Union Jack Club SE1

Present: Eric Roberts - Branch Secretary
Eddie Brand – Chair
Phil Thompson – Unison Regional Officer
Paul Leggett – Vice Chair - CAC
Bryan Arnold – Treasurer
Andrea Shields – Welfare Officer
Ian Lee – Health & Safety Officer
Jim Underdown – Membership Officer
Fred Phillips – Asst/Membership Officer
Rob Sydney – Communications Officer
Mark Belkin – Education Officer
Dave Smith – Equal Opportunities Officer
John Gough – Labour Link Officer
Paul O’Neill - Minutes Secretary
Michael Apps - Retired Members Officer
Harry Day – Training
Kevin Tarsnane - PTS
Claudette McNaughton – CAC
George Achilles – North East Sector
Julie Shirt – North East Sector
Peter Hannell – North West Sector
Karen McDonald – North West Sector
Mark Lione – East Central Sector
Michelle Michael – East Central Sector
David Lamey – South West Sector
Clive Tombs – South East Sector
Karen Walling – West Sector
Gary Edwards - West Sector

Apologies: Sarah Hardy
Richard Chow

Introductions

- Michelle Michael welcomed to the committee taking up the vacant East Central Sector female seat.

Previous Minutes

- Minutes from 15th February 2005 agreed as a true record.

Matters Arising

- PH inquired about the Manual Handling policy. IL reports that it is still being worked on.

Branch Secretary's Report (ER)

- Legal report and running total of compensation.
- Dave Prentis has been re-elected as General Secretary of Unison by a massive majority.
- Unison members have overwhelmingly voted in favour of keeping the Political Fund.
- Agenda for Change technical guidance re Ambulance Practitioner profiles. Job evaluations still outstanding.
- Motion put forward from PH over industrial action being taken to ensure the defense of NHS pensions.
- Reply from ER regarding recent internal emails over NHS Pension scheme proposals.
- Unison reaction to new maternity leave proposals.
- As the LAS book grant has been stopped, it is proposed that the branch offers its own grant for members to purchase books for study/educational purposes. AGREED.

AGM

- Branch Rule Change – It is proposed that the position of Vice Chair be removed from the branch rules. A vice chair would then be elected at each meeting where the Branch Chair was absent. Following a lengthy debate the committee voted in favour of the change taking effect in March 2006. This will be taken to AGM.
- Public Sector Pensions - Motion for Industrial Action. The committee felt that as well as local this issue is nationwide and therefore we need to campaign in unity with other branches. The branch will act on member's behalf when called for. As consultation is still ongoing this motion should not be put to AGM. AGREED.

Agenda for Change Update

- ER gave a detailed report.
- Management are now attending meetings in full and progress is now being made.
- Agreement on payments to staff working within the Inner /Outer London boundaries has now been reached. Need to approach the Joint secretaries and Pan- London working group. There maybe a local agreement for relief's and cross sector workers.
- Option still for EMD's to opt in/out of AfC. Work needs to be done to ensure they do not lose out either way.
- It has not been decided if accrued A/L from October 2004 until April 2005 will be available to be used or if staff will be paid in lieu of A/L.
- PTS have been evaluated in Band 3, resulting in a pay increase.
- Still awaiting EMT profiles.
- More staff are still required to under take training for the job matching panels.
- Meal breaks have still not been decided, either crews are or are not available during their break. Our target is a 37½ hr week inclusive of breaks.

Equal Opportunities (DS)

- Diversity questionnaire being distributed to staff.
- Sector by sector development plan beginning in October.

Retired Members (MA)

- Michael Apps will be running the London Marathon next month to raise money for Scope. The committee agreed £100 sponsorship.

Welfare (AS)

- Request for funds to assist with fundraiser for the family of Martin Lovejoy. £500 AGREED.
- Proposal for a donation to be made towards a trust fund for the family of Nathan Adams. £700 AGREED.

Health & Safety (IL)

- Awaiting feedback after recent visit by the HSE.
- New MacNeillie A&E vehicles – four are at West ham workshops.
- Introduction of morphine update.
- O/T payable for signing in/out of Morphine/drugs. Dave Whitmore is to approach the Chief Executive.

Treasurers Report (BA)

- BA gave a detailed report.
- Information on upcoming Health Conference in Plymouth.

Communication (RS)

- Committee members with union laptops should keep the anti-virus software up to date. The cost of this will be reimbursed through the branch.
- Articles required for newsletter.

Membership (JU)

- New members accepted into the branch.
- 17 T/EMT courses are planned to train 90-100 new staff. Also a bridging course for EMT 1 staff. Possible recruitment from these courses.

Education (MB)

- Union course booklets distributed.
- Pension's course.

Labour Link Officer (JG)

- JG elected on to the GLR Labour Link Committee.
- Political Fund ballot.

PTS (KT)

- St Hellier contract has been lost and awarded to Group 4.
- Charing Cross contract has been reapplied for.
- Homerton contract has also been lost.
- Job profile for PTS T/L

CAC

- Meeting to be held with John Pooley regarding CAC dress code.

Regional Officer (PT)

- Branch Elections Returning Officers Report
 - 2400 ballot papers distributed
 - 346 ballot papers returned
 - 1 ballot paper spoilt

Treasurer	George Achilles	206 votes
	Richard Chow	123 votes

Vice Chair	Sarah Hardy	153 votes
	Steve Harbord	110 votes
	Paul Leggett	73 votes

- Complaint received regarding the election address of Steve Harbord, under Rule 12 material contained in the address.

Staff Council Reports

- No meeting held.

AOB

- Training meeting on 3rd May 2005 items for inclusion to JG, PH, EB or JU please.
- EMT 2 staff drawing EMT drug packs when working along side EMT 1 staff. Issue revolving around no supervision by fully qualified staff. Fiona Moore has approved this action. Branch unhappy with decision.
- Delegates for National Conference Gary Edwards and Karen Walling.

Date of next meeting

- 12th April 2005 for Branch Officers only.