

London Ambulance Service Unison Branch Branch Committee Meeting

31st March 2004 15.00 hrs – Union Jack Club SE1

Present:

- Eric Roberts - Branch Secretary**
- Eddie Brand - Chair**
- Phil Thompson – Full Time Officer**
- George Achilles - Equal Opportunities Officer**
- Bryan Arnold - Treasurer**
- Ian Lee - H & S Officer**
- Fred Phillips – Membership Officer**
- Steve Harbord - Welfare Officer**
- Mark Belkin – Education Officer**
- Rob Sydney - Communications Officer**
- Paul O’Neill - Minutes Officer**
- Michael Apps - Retired Members Officer**
- Dave Smith - North East Sector**
- Julie Shirt – North East Sector**
- Claudette McNaughton - CAC**
- Joe Easterbrook – CAC**
- Paul Leggett – CAC**
- Richard Chow - CAC**
- Andrea Shields – East Central Sector**
- Jim Underdown – North West Sector**
- Karen McDonald – North West Sector**
- Sarah Hardy – South West Sector**
- Clive Tombs – South East Sector**
- Karen Walling – West Sector**

Apologies:

- Jenny Wade**
- David Lamey**
- Gary Edwards**

Introductions

– None

Previous Minutes

- Two corrections:-
 - CAC “Too many discrepancies within the software system, therefore it should not be used until it is working correctly”.**
 - H&S “30 Manger Elks have been purchased, at a cost of £800 each”.**

Minutes from 18th February 2004 agreed as a true record.

Matters Arising

- Potential use of swipe cards.

EB to report back.

Branch Secretary's Report (ER)

- Latest figures for legal forms and compensation distributed. ER highlighted the large amount of compensation awarded to Unison members within the LAS. This currently stands at £744,320.04p since March 1999.
- Proposals for the preparations & implementation of AFC were recently discussed at the staff council meeting. It is important that all staff side reps and members read this document as if the ballot is in favour of AFC this is how it will be introduced. By the time the ballot is held members should be aware of their own terms and conditions on which to vote.
AS - Problems with members not receiving ballot papers. ER - This is mainly down to members failing to update the branch with change of address details. The membership officer has done they can to keep records updated.
Unison will have six members sitting on the LAS AFC Joint Project Board.
- AFC documents.
- NHS pensions review – update.
- Health Policy Day conference on 7th April 2004. Five members will be attending.
- Application for Honorary Life Membership in respect of Fred Phillips has been received by Unison.
- Branch AGM taking place this evening. One motion has been submitted and if passed it will be sent on to the Labour Link Officer.
- 31 LAS staff have been forced to join other companies as a result of the loss of two significant PTS contracts. At Mayday Hospital 6 staff have had to join another firm.
- LAS need to lobby the minister over bidding for contracts to avoid problems in the future.
- CT asked if the branch can approach LAS management and ask them to review use of SJA as subcontractors. *ER to deal*
- Intermediate Tier may assist with PTS staff redeployment.

After further debate this ended the Branch Secretary's report.

Equal Opportunities (GA)

- No report.

Retired Members (MA)

- GLA newsletter to be distributed.

Welfare (SH)

- SH congratulated AS on being elected to the post of Branch Welfare Officer. The Branch Secretary thanked SH for all his work on behalf of the Branch.

Health & Safety (IL)

- Mercedes back door – Photos of proposed rear door securing bracket were distributed. This will be fitted to the next delivery of vehicles and should be retro fitted the current Mercedes ambulances.
- Manger ELK has gone out on sector.
- Alternative Response Vehicle – new vehicle will have automatic gearbox and a tail lift.
- AS asked if Oxyclyp™ are going to be reintroduced for lightweight cylinders. *IL to deal*

Treasurers Report (BA)

- No report.

Communication (RS)

- Web site newsletter subscribers' draw winners are Fred Jones for February and Clare Worsley for March.

Membership (FP)

- New members were accepted into the branch.
- On behalf of the branch committee, ER thanked Fred for all his hard work and support. Responsibility for membership will be passed to Jim Underdown after the AGM.

Education (MB)

- Recent computer training courses were a success. More to arranged in the near future.

PTS

- No report.

CAC

- No report.

Regional Officer (PT)

- Results of election for Branch Welfare Officer:-

Votes returned	255
Spoilt papers	2
Andrea Shields	135
Steve Harbord	118
- AS shall take up post of Welfare Officer.
- The Regional Secretary is unfortunately unable to attend tonight's AGM as planned.

Staff Council Reports (EB)

- PDP update.
- Alternative duties for older staff.
- CHI report.
- Travelling expenses for mandatory courses.
- LFB first responder scheme.
- New disciplinary procedure.
- Occupational Health to offer chicken pox vaccine and to introduce a Well Persons Clinic.
- Fleet
- PTS

AOB

- KMc - Skirts are not part the uniform dress code. There are members who would prefer to continue wearing skirts. ER - LAS wanted to abolish skirts for A&E staff due to H&S concerns. PT - As the service consulted widely on the new uniform it may not be unlawful not to issue skirts. There may however be an issue on medical grounds. There may be a different ruling for female EMD and PTS co-ordinators.

ER/PT to deal

- **JU – Problems with MDT/CAC not sending calls to nearest vehicle if on station but to a vehicle that is green mobile yet further away. JE – This is a point of conflict for everyone but some VCS are not using the MDT correctly either.**
- **Risk sharing data. Unsafe to work with, staff at risk all round. Implemented on EC sector as a trial without consultation.** *ER to deal*

Date of next meeting

- **11th May 2004 Conference Room LAS HQ 1030am**