

## London Ambulance Service Unison Branch Committee Meeting

12<sup>th</sup> February 2008 1030hrs – Conference Room LAS HQ

**Present:**

- Eric Roberts - Branch Secretary
- Eddie Brand – Chair
- Sarah Hardy – Vice Chair
- George Achilles – Treasurer
- Andrea Gibbs – Welfare Officer
- Rob Sydney – Communications Officer
- Michael Apps –Retired Members Officer
- Ian Lee – Health & Safety Officer
- Dave Smith - Equal Opportunities Officer
- Mark Belkin – Education Officer
- John Gough – Labour Link Officer
- Peter Hannell – Membership/Pensions Officer
- Fred Philips – Assistant Membership Officer
- Paul O’Neill – Minute Secretary
- Harry Day – Training Officer
- Richard Chow – EOC/UOC
- Tim Stephens – Central Sector
- Nadine Poonawala – North West Sector
- John A Whiting – North East Sector
- Rob Matthews – North West Sector
- Clive Tombs – South East Sector
- Gary Edwards – West Sector

**Apologies:**

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| Julie Shirt   | Mark Lione |
| Phil Thompson | Dave Lamey |
| Karen Walling |            |

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| <p><b>Introductions and Welcome:</b></p> <p>Martina Govindraj the LAS Pensions Officer will be giving a presentation on the updated NHS pension scheme and taking questions after the meeting.</p>   | <b>Action</b> |
| <p><b>Previous Minutes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Amendments – H&amp;S a <u>review</u> of FRU driver training has begun and new blankets due for delivery w/c 1<sup>st</sup> February.</li> <li>- Minutes from 14<sup>th</sup> January 2008 <u>agreed</u> as a true record.</li> </ul> | Agreed        |
| <p><b>Matters arising</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Bank Holidays – interpretation received from national joint secretaries which will be discussed at LAS joint secretaries.</li> </ul>  |               |

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| <p><b>Branch Secretary's report (ER)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Legal report and running total of compensation distributed. £1,290,668.06p of compensation has been obtained by the branch on behalf of its members since 1999.</li> <li>- UNISON National Ambulance Sector Committee position on meal breaks – There will not be a “one size fits all” meal break agreement for ambulance trusts. It has been agreed that those trusts (London included) which have jointly agreed arrangements in place that are within the provisions of AfC and the Working Time Directive may continue as they are. Those which have no agreement should agree one based on the recommendations of the National Ambulance Partnership Forum.</li> <li>- Unsocial hour's agreement ballot.</li> <li>- UNISON response to the joint review consultation of the NHS pension scheme update.</li> <li>- NHS Staff Council advice on the matching of Paramedic and Technician jobs under Agenda for Change. This will be reviewed.</li> <li>- Minutes from the Unison Health Group National Ambulance Sector Committee.</li> <li>- Nominations for the London Region Seats for the Service Group Executive elections – It is proposed that the branch re-nominates Bill Beekoo, Layla Rumble and Rachel Voller. Agreed.</li> <li>- Retirement function requests for Charlie Balderstone from Pinner Ambulance Station and Glyn Johnson from Ponders End Ambulance Station. Agreed.</li> <li>- Gary Edwards and Sarah Hardy nominated as delegates for the National Conference on 17-20<sup>th</sup> June 2008</li> </ul>   | <p>Agreed</p> <p>Agreed</p> <p>Agreed</p> |
| <p><b>Agenda for Change</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Covered in Branch Secretaries report.</li> </ul> <p><b>Partnership Forum (ER)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- This is now scheduled every three weeks. The agenda for staff side is put together by ER and EB. Both sides submit an agenda which produces a balanced meeting. As a result of the last meeting we are hoping to resolve the issues regarding the MDT countdown clock and a review of the mileage allowance. EB stated that the mileage will hopefully be increased; PH stated that White Work vacancies should be advertised in the near future.</li> <li>- RM raised the issue of the New Ways of Working document and proposed a consultative staff ballot on every proposal .ER responded by stating that we are nowhere near that stage yet and the New Ways of Working document is only a proposal at this stage based on the modernisation aspects of Agenda for Change. It is best to have all proposals out in the open whether they are good or bad so that all staff can see them. The Union will deal with consultation when the time comes. Senior representatives are involved in every strand of this at all times. The branch will receive reports at every meeting. PH stated that an AOM from the NW sector has been meeting with staff to gauge opinion on Exemplar Complexes, but this is not in any way an official staff consultation meeting. ER informed the committee that in his view some senior area management have jumped the gun. ER has asked senior management to place any staff consultation organized by managers on hold until this has been brought to this forum for discussion and a joint way forward has been agreed. Nothing should be agreed until an official staff side/management road show has taken place and staff are balloted as a result after having all the information and any questions answered. The committee continued to debate the document.</li> </ul> | <p>ER to deal</p>                         |
| <p><b>Branch Officer Reports:-</b></p> <p><b>Communication (RS)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A detailed written report distributed.</li> <li>- The LAS Unison website is now five years old and has been given a facelift.</li> <li>- 2007 was a record year for visits to the site.</li> <li>- The committee relayed their eternal thanks and praise for the work RS has done.</li> </ul>  |   |

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| <p><b>Retired Members (MA)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A detailed written report distributed.</li> <li>- 'Old hands' reunion to be held at the LAS Museum at Ilford Ambulance Station on 16<sup>th</sup> May from mid-day.</li> </ul>   |            |
| <p><b>Health and Safety (JW)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Incident data recorders active on all new Vauxhall Zafira FRU's</li> <li>- A former Training Officer is working with the LAS to put together the proposed FRU driving course. He had been working on this project prior to his retirement.</li> <li>- LA52/277 on going. Meeting later this week.</li> <li>- NHS security bulletins are to be placed on stations only.</li> <li>- ATOS. A potential conflict of interest was possible because ATOS were also providing advice to government regarding the pension scheme.</li> </ul> |            |
| <p><b>Membership (PH)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Successful recruitment of AES staff.</li> <li>- New members list will be brought to the next meeting.</li> <li>- Continuing problems where members are failing to inform of any change of address or personal details.</li> <li>- CT requested that a new membership pack be put together</li> </ul>  | PH to deal |
| <p><b>Treasurer (GA)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Annual returns have been completed. There are some cheques that have not been cashed which has made balancing the books difficult.</li> </ul>  |            |
| <p><b>PTS (GE)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The PTS contracts for the UCLH (22 staff) and Kingston (18staff) have been lost. Talks are on-going with management and staff regarding their future options.</li> </ul>   |            |
| <p><b>Welfare (AS)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A reminder to all representatives and members to contact Andrea Gibbs for welfare related issues and not ER if that can be helped.</li> </ul>  |            |
| <p><b>EOC (RC)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The proposed rota changes within EOC have been formally rejected by staff representatives. The matter is now with the Joint Secretaries.</li> </ul>  |            |
| <p><b>Equalities (DS)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Future of White Work vehicles has been secured. Eligibility for the white work hubs will be agreed soon and reported to the Branch.</li> </ul>  |            |
| <p><b>Education (MB)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Twelve new staff representatives have successfully completed the latest Introductory Stewards course.</li> <li>- Book grant applications. Verbal update and report.</li> </ul>   |            |
| <p><b>Labour Link (JG)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- JG will be standing again for Greater London Regional Committee.</li> <li>- Attended the Mayor of London's manifesto launch.</li> <li>- Publicity push to combat BNP activities</li> </ul>   |            |
| <p><b>Pensions (PH)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No report. (Presentation given by Pensions Officer Martina Govindraj)</li> </ul>  |            |
| <p><b>Staff Council (EB)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No report.</li> </ul>  |            |

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| <b>AOB</b><br><br>- Reminder of the branch AGM on 14 <sup>th</sup> March 1800 at the Union Jack Club Gascoigne Room. |  |
| <b>Date of Next Meeting</b><br>- 14 <sup>th</sup> March 2008 (prior to the branch AGM)                               |  |