



London Ambulance Service Unison Branch Committee Meeting

14TH June 2007 10.30 hrs – conference Room LAS HQ

Present: Eric Roberts – Branch Secretary
Eddie Brand – Chair
George Achilles – Treasurer
Ian Lee – Health and Safety Officer
Mark Belkin – Education Officer
Andrea Gibbs – Welfare Officer
John Gough – Labour Link Officer
Michael Apps – Retired Members Officer
Peter Hannell – Membership/Pensions Officer
Dave Smith – Equal Opportunities Officer
Harry Day – Training
Sarah Hardy – Vice Chair
Claudette McNaughton – EOC
Richard Chow – EOC
Gary Edwards – West Sector
Dave Lamey – South West Sector
Karen Walling – West Sector
Rob Mathews – North West Sector
John Whiting – North East Sector
John Winnester – Acting Health and Safety Officer
Nadine Poonawala – North West Sector
Tim Stephens – Central Sector

Apologies:

Mark Lione
Paul O’Neil
Rob Sydney
Fred Phillips
Clive Tombs
Joe Easterbrook
Phil Thompson

- EB announced the happy tidings that Julie Shirt had given birth to a baby girl,

[REDACTED]

Previous Minutes

- Minutes from 8th May Agreed as a true record.

Matters arising

- RM raised the issue of the problem of union reps not being stood down to attend meetings unless they could arrange their own cover. ER replied that Tony Crabtree was supposed to speak to the management teams concerned but that this should be covered when the new constitution is agreed. Although there is no absolute legal right to have all reps stood down all the time we have an agreement with management that they will do everything they can to assist.

Branch Secretary's Report (ER)

- ER not elected to the NEC and will finish term of office on 22nd June.
- Legal Report.
- Copy of the letter sent out to members regarding the NHS pay dispute, checking member's addresses etc. All members should now know where we are in the pay dispute; ballot will start in Sept 2007.
- Letter inviting members to complete online survey of NHS health professionals.
- Update from the NHS staff council on the review of unsocial hours. The date has been moved back to April 2008 and this will give us more time to audit everyone's rota within the LAS to see how it will affect us.
- Letter from the National Ambulance Forum to the Joint Chairs of the NHS Staff Council Executive asking that they clarify the rules for meal break arrangements. The Working Group is trying to put together all meal break agreements to give us more options. Concerns are that we revert back to having no non-interruptible meal breaks, these concerns have been clearly raised at the forum and management agree to the principle of staff getting their breaks.
- Draft Job Description for Emergency Care Support Worker as being piloted by South West Ambulance Service, this J.D is only for the pilot site and will need to be agreed nationally after the pilot . ER stated that if a PTS contract is lost the staff are given the option to take on A&E support worker role with the potential for career progression. PH expressed concern over the lack of reliefs due to the cessation of EMT3 courses. ER replied that the workforce plan was introduced nationally by a consultancy service and does not fit London in his opinion. The hope is that London will be given greater flexibility to plan its own workforce in partnership with the union. Technician courses will continue to run to allow A&E support workers the scope for career progression but not this year due to financial constraints.
- Emergency Care Support Worker Scope of Practice and Person Specification.
- Claim Form for tax relief on union subscriptions. We are the only union to have this agreement with HMIR and taxes. Details have been placed on our website and can be downloaded.

- Thank you letter from John Vass for his retirement grant.
- Annual request to sponsor a cab for the Children's Magical Taxi Tour, £500-Agreed by Committee.

- Request received from Michelle Malloy on behalf of Deptford Ambulance Station for donation to help staff facilities. As there are many Unison members at Deptford it was recommend that we make a donation and also advise them that they can also ask Charitable Funds for a donation. JG raised his objection on behalf of his station. GE proposed £100 Agreed by the Committee.
- Learning and Development letter re. Excellence in Patient Communication (EiPC) Course requesting that LAS Unison actively support the course which deals with resolving conflict and also interpersonal skills. Agreed by Committee.
- Cooperative working between GMB and Unison: on a national level all General Secretaries work together and there is a need to start dialogue going on a national level to see where we can work together on pay and pensions and public services. There will be two pilots running, one in N.W England and one in Scotland. Watching the merger between ASU and GMB as this will affect how we work with GMB within the LAS.
- Letter re. NHS pay 2007/8.
- Harmonization of Future Pay Determination Arrangements for 2008/9: Extending the Nursing and Other Health Professions Pay Review Body Remit.
- Campaign letter keep NHS working.
- 13th Oct National Demonstration to support the NHS.
- Retirement grant request received for Hugh Jarvis EMT St Helier. Agreed by the Committee.
- Retirement grant request received for Ed Paddick PTS Camden. Agreed by the Committee.
- Cuba Solidarity flyer for talk being held tonight at the RCN.

Agenda for Change (ER)

- EOC rest break discussions still ongoing. EOC staff on AfC are entitled to have the same meal break agreements as all operational staff covered by the agreement.
- All reviews nearly done, only two outstanding.

Equalities Officer's Report (DS)

- Nothing to report.

Retired Members Report (MA)

- A questionnaire has been sent out for retired members to complete.
- Visitors agreed to Retired Members Conference.

Recruitment Officer's Report (PH)

- List of new Members. Agreed by Committee.

Education Officer's Report (MB)

- MB reported that the book grants are still going well.
- MB needs to arrange a date for joint training course for absence and sickness.

Labour link (JG)

- Request to all members that they use their vote in the deputy leadership for the Labour party; six candidates standing.
- JG will be the Unison Greater London Labour Link delegate at the next conference.

Health and Safety Report (IL)

- Fast track physiotherapy trialed in North West London.
- Announcement at Peter Bradley's road show that all LDV s will be replaced around December 2007.
Mangar Elks will be placed on all Mercedes.
- Carry sheet discussion ongoing.
- With the exception of bag and masks all the disposable equipment is out now.

Welfare Officer's Report (AS)

- Attended the Welfare conference, which was attended by 250 Welfare Officers.
- In 2006 Welfare gave: - £625,000 in grants to 2,240 members and families.
- 700 adults and children benefited from well-being breaks last year.
- Three national charity events were organized in aid of the Bucket and Spade Appeal.
- Special fund was set up to assist the members affected by the Fairpak Christmas Hamper Company: £90,000 was distributed to 700 families
- Debt advice and support available, Unison are in partnership with Payplan a national debt company, there are an increasing number of people taking out secured loans against their properties. Access to this service can be made by a free phone number or through the Welfare Officer.
- Grants can be given to families on low incomes towards a Doit4real summer camp for 11- 16 yr olds.
- Unisons National Women's Committee produced a poster on domestic abuse which includes contact details for Unison Welfare. Emergency grants can be given within 4 hours in the event that a member has fled home with few belongings and needs money quickly. Later on Welfare will be able to make a more substantial grant for furniture or clothes to re-establish the home or even a well-being break.
- Unison Welfare needs publicizing to our members more around the Service.

Treasurers Report (GA)

- £50,000 transferred to the Britannia Building Society.
- Please can everyone ensure their addresses are on claim forms from now on and that receipts are attached.
- GA raised issue of subscriptions paid by university students. EB proposed updating the list.

PTS (GE)

- Kingston Hospital – tender submitted awaiting presentation date.
- Mayday Hospital - tender submitted awaiting presentation date.

- Darent Valley Hospital – tender to be submitted by tomorrow.
- Bart's/ Royal London – Carillion asked for a submission to carry out work as a sub contractor.
- Queen Elizabeth Hospital – retained the contract.
- Newham Hospital – notice to tender by the 12th July.
- PCT Richmond and Twickenham – notice to tender no date set.
- Hillingdon Hospital – lost to door to door who take over the contract in July.
- UCLH – lost but appealed on grounds of pricing and quality.

AOB

- RM raised the issue of Individual Performance reviews and the turnaround times of crews at hospital. Debate ensued EB to take to A&E sub.
- PH raised the issue of reliefs staying on the B rota longer than they were promised and the proposal of a new A/B rota to be designed by Gareth Hughes. EB said that this would be taken up at A&E sub.
- PH also raised the issue of the paramedic course losing the residential element on the last three weeks. HR will write to the members of staff concerned informing them of their rights re. traveling time and costs and admitted that they had made a mistake by making this decision with out consultation first with staff side.
- PH Diabetic update – Thompsons have secured dates for tribunal; 10th and 11th September at Croydon. Seven members will be represented by Thompsons.
- HD raised his concerns over the failures policy of the modular CPR course and requested that a representative sit on the next Modular Training Programmes Working Group. DS confirmed that he will be attending the next meeting dated 27th June.

Date of next meeting 10TH July