

**London Ambulance Service Unison Branch
Committee Meeting**

8th May 2007 1030hrs – Committee Room HQ Waterloo

Present: Eric Roberts - Branch Secretary
Eddie Brand – Chair
Phil Thompson – Regional Organiser
Gary Edwards – West Sector Rep.
John Winnister – Acting H&S.
David Lamey – South West Sector Rep.
Nadine Poonawala – North West
Rob Matthews – North West
Peter Hannell – Membership Secretary
Karen Walling – West Sector Rep.
John Gough – Unison Labour Link
John A. Whiting – North East
Mark Belking – Education Officer
Dave Smith – Equalities Officer
Michael Apps – Retired Members
F. Phillips – Assistant Membership
R. Chow – EOC

Apologies received.

Clive Tombs – South East
Andrea Gibbs – Welfare Officer
Harry Day - Training
Mark Leone – East Central
Sarah Hardy _ Vice Chair
Paul O’Neill – Minute Secretary
Rob Sydney - Communications
Tim Stephens - Central
Julie Shirt – North East
Ian Lee – H&S Officer
George Achilles - Treasurer

Introductions and Welcome

Previous Minutes

- Minutes from the 14th March 2007 agreed as a true record.

Matters Arising

- Branch Secretary's Report GMB/ASU Merger – No further information. The original date for 'merger' has passed. London GMB still opposed.

Branch Secretary's Report

- Legal report and running total of compensation.
- Unison Welfare acknowledgement.
- ASWHF acknowledgement.
- Response to national rest break proposal. All responses to proposals to be discussed at ambulance sector meeting in June.
- Health Conference Motion on pay. First meeting between staff side and employers broke down without further improvement on current offer. Pay review body awarded 2.5% which should have been implemented on 1st April 2007. However, Government intervention initiated a staging which equated to 1.9%. CAC and ancillary staff not included in PRB. These staff fall under PNC but have had same offer. If staging not withdrawn or a different award made there will be a ballot for action. The ballot will be for all staff, PRB & PNC. It was recognised that action is difficult because of rules in place regarding industrial action.
- Statement from ambulance sector committee reaffirming rules on new grades having to be agreed at national level. Trial taking place in South Western Ambulance Service for ECAs.
- HPC paramedic seat election for 2007. Ian Hopkins is standing and supported by UNISON.
- Retirement request for Joseph William Desmond agreed.
- Funding for charity bike ride, Jonathan Edwards requests for £250 agreed by branch committee.

Agenda for change

Some reviews still outstanding.

Problem with EMT ones and twos has now been sorted and awaiting confirmation. In most cases staff should receive an increase.

Unison has won the argument for I&I staff to be graded into band 5 from 2004. Staff, however, need to provide proof that they have been actively using their skills.

Workforce planning

No meeting has taken place since the last Branch Committee. More information should be available at the next Committee meeting in June. The Branch Secretary is to visit the South Western Ambulance Service as part of the Unison National Ambulance Sector to see the pilot for Emergency Care Assistants.

Branch Officer's Reports

- Health & Safety. Cargo netting agreed for Astras. Trolley Bed mattresses; carry chairs, any damage to be removed from vehicles.
- Membership. New members list accepted and agreed on to Branch. Peter Hannell would like to thank everybody concerned for their efforts over the past 18 months. PH reminded the Committee that application forms should not be sent direct to payroll. Thanks to Clive Tombs for his recruitment in what is a difficult area.
- Labour Link. No report.
- Retired members. Pro forma to be sent out for retired member's conference.
- Education. One day courses on sickness and absence procedure is being considered. Book grants have been running for one year and are a huge success. The application process to be discussed. Mark Belkin to provide information for next meeting.
- Equalities. DS spoke about specific learning difficulties. DS also discussed the Age Discrimination Policy and the

implications for those staff working on the White Vehicles. This raised concerns over lack of opportunities for older members of staff. It was agreed to take this issue to Joint Secretaries.

- Communications. Rob Sidney wishes to thank Branch Officers who have contributed to the Newsletter. New e.mail accounts to be set up.

PTS

Contracts at Hillingdon and UCLH have been lost. Meetings will be taking place with all staff, and current vacancies within service will be looked at. Gary Edwards will lead on this for the Union.

EOC

Joe Easterbrook still involved in rest break discussions. No update as yet regarding UOC.

Full time officer. No report.

Staff Council. No report. Previous meeting cancelled.

Any Other Business

- Peter Hannell highlighted problems getting representatives stood down on the Friern Barnet Complex AOM has been written to without response. Hoping this situation may be resolved with implementation of the new constitution which is presently under discussion. Concerns were raised regarding the standing down issue for all meetings (H&S included) recently. This will be taken to Joint Secretaries.
- Request to sponsor Mark Belkin in 10k run for charity. £250 agreed.
- Regional Health Committee. Motion to support the campaign to help modernise and re-furbish the Havana City Ambulance Control Room was debated. The work that LAS UNISON had done in the past was mentioned regarding the sending of ambulances. Our solidarity work with the Cuban Health Workers Union in general and our links with ambulance workers specifically was discussed. The motion explains the timeframe and also informs members of a visit in October 2007

by Cuban Trade Unionists to formally launch the campaign. LAS UNISON will play a part in hosting this visit. The motion also welcomes the discussions that have taken place between the General Secretary of the Cuban Health Workers Trade Union and UNISON Greater London Region Health Officers to broaden the understanding and twinning arrangements between Havana and London's Health Workers.

A sum of £5000 was pledged to launch the appeal fund as long as the motion was passed at the London Regional Health Committee and all London UNISON Branches will be asked to contribute. This motion was agreed. It will now go to the Regional Health Committee.

Next meeting: 14th June 2007.