

London Ambulance Service Unison Branch Committee Meeting

11th November 2008 1030hrs – Conference Room LAS HQ

Present:

- Eric Roberts - Branch Secretary
- Eddie Brand – Chair
- Phil Thompson – Regional Organiser
- George Achillies - Treasurer
- Andrea Gibbs - Welfare Officer
- Sarah Hardy – Vice Chair
- Ian Lee – Health & Safety Officer
- Dave Smith - Membership Officer
- Michael Apps – Retired Members Officer
- Rob Sydney – Communications Officer
- Mark Belkin – Education Officer
- Peter Hannell – Equalities/Pensions Officer (part meeting)
- Paul O'Neill – Minute Secretary
- Richard Chow – EOC
- Claudette McNaughton – EOC
- Clive Tombs – South East Sector
- Mark Lione – East Central Sector
- Julie Shirt – North East Sector
- Nadine Poonawalla – North West Sector
- Rob Matthews – North West Sector
- Karen Walling – West Sector

Apologies:

- Dave Lamey
- Tim Stephens
- Gary Edwards
- Harry Day

<p>Introductions and Welcome</p> <p>The committee will congregate outside HQ to observe two minutes silence at 1100hrs to remember the fallen on Armistice Day.</p>	<p>Action</p>
<p>Previous Minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minutes from 14th October 2008 <u>agreed</u> as a true record. 	<p>Agreed</p>
<p>Matters arising</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - KW – Student Paramedics. - ML – Local agreement regarding policy of one trainee/Student Paramedic to a crew. 	

<p>Branch Secretary's report (ER)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Legal report and running total of compensation distributed. Compensation totaling £39,273.92p has been awarded to LAS Unison branch members since March 2008. £1,343,717.06p of compensation has been obtained by the branch on behalf of its members since 1999. - National Ambulance Sector Committee – Ambulance Risk Flagging. - Update from Ambulance Service Network Diversity Forum. - AMBEX 2009 has been cancelled. ER hopes that this will not affect partnerships formed with other services. - Thanks received from Unison Welfare for donation of £300. - Thank you letter from Jason Killens regarding Dave Hartshorn's retirement function. - Retirement request received on behalf of John Willmott and Jennifer Moss. Agreed by the committee. 	GA
<p>Partnership Forum/Constitution (ER)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Letter received from GMB LAS Branch President Mick Butler. ER stated that the numbers of seats the GMB are requesting are irrelevant as they have not signed up to the <u>new</u> constitution. The staff Council is meeting next week, PT stated that there has still been no retraction over comments made and the letter which was received. CT spoke on the situation as it is predominately his sector/area which is affected. PT explained the current situation; there are currently two GMB Branches from two different regions. They claim to have 1300 members yet only half those numbers are traceable through the DOCAS system (payment of subscriptions at source). The issue is not the number of seats but the number of members each union has. If the number of verified Unison members is added to the number of members GMB claim to have then there are more union members than there are employees. <p>Foundation Trust Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Unison guide to Ambulance Foundation Trusts distributed. - The branch is waiting written confirmation from the trust board that it to apply for trust board status. This would include at what stage the LAS is in the process, the timetable and where they hope to be by April 2009. If Foundation Trust status achieved there may be a possibility that all unions are sidelined, and that service users/members of the public would be able to sit on the trust board. The branch is still opposed to Foundation Trust status but is adopting a twin track approach, and certain guarantees are required before we jump fully on board. PT explained the history of Foundation Trusts and stated that it is government policy that every NHS Trust achieves Foundation status. 	
<p>Branch Officer Reports:-</p> <p>Communication (RS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ongoing issues with website. - RS witnessed Tim Stephens working at a call in Peckham. 	
<p>Retired Members (MA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Attended Retired Members conference in Glasgow, written report to follow. 	
<p>Health and Safety (IL)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Honda ST1300 MRU – Compiling risk assessment and report. - NHS Ambulance infection control guidelines. - Negotiations for make ready contract, Bill Leaning involved in this work. - UV Modular have won the contract to supply the new Mercedes ambulance body. - Update on the incidents involving LDV ambulances and Carbon Monoxide poisoning of crew staff. - IL will back on the committee next year. 	IL

Membership (DS) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New members agreed. - Student paramedics will pay full subscriptions based on their salary. 	Agreed
Treasurer (GA) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Could members please cash any cheques ASAP? - KW queried if the book grant was still running? MB confirmed that it is and GA confirmed that he is still receiving applications. ER responded that there may be confusion as nationally Unison stopped the grant which led us to carry it on locally. - 	
PTS (GE) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No report. 	
Welfare (AS) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No report. 	
EOC (RC) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Annual Leave issues still not totally resolved. - New appointments; Paul Cassidy – UOC and Graham Griffiths- QA 	
Diversity/Equalities (PH) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Draft copy of the Practical guide to Diabetes in the work place distributed. This has been produced by the Equality and Diversity Programme within the Ambulance Service Network 	
Education (MB) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No report. 	
Labour Link (JG) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Written report distributed from the Unison Labour Link Forum attended on 16th October. 	
Pensions (PH) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No report. 	
Regional Organiser (PT) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PT proposed by ER to act as Returning Officer for the 2009 branch elections. Agreed by committee. - Ambulance risk flagging – There has been a marked increase on physical /verbal attacks on LAS staff. Up 300+ to 600+. There has been a lot of media interest, mainly from the BCC who wish to interview a front line crew and also staff from EOC who have been victims of an assault. Approximately 15% of staff were assaulted 2007/8. ER queried figures produced by other ambulance trusts. 	PT/ER
Staff Council (EB) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The committee agreed that DL,GE,RC,ER,EB, ML and PH take the available seats for Unison on the staff committee 	Agreed
AOB <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Overtime allocation issues with the temporary suspension of the station overtime call in list. It has now been agreed to allocate overtime on a first come first served basis. This was agreed by six of the seven Sector Reps (including the GMB) and will be closely monitored. PH gave a balanced view of the situation. 	
Date of Next Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 9th December 2008 	