

London Ambulance Service Unison Branch Committee Meeting

12th August 2008 1030hrs – Conference Room LAS HQ

Present: Eric Roberts - Branch Secretary
Eddie Brand – Chair
Phil Thompson – Regional Organiser
Sarah Hardy – Vice Chair
Ian Lee – Health & Safety Officer
Dave Smith - Membership Officer
Mark Belkin – Education Officer
John Gough – Labour Link Officer
Peter Hannell – Equalities/Pensions Officer
Harry Day – Training
Paul O'Neill – Minute Secretary
Tim Stephens – Central Sector
Julie Shirt – North East Sector
Rob Matthews – North West Sector
Gary Edwards – West Sector

Apologies: Michael Apps
Karen Walling
Dave Lamey
Mark Lione
Nadine Poonawalla
Richard Chow
Andrea Gibbs

Introductions and Welcome	Action
Previous Minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Minutes from 8th July 2008 <u>agreed</u> as a true record.- PH would like to remind the committee that he is also the Equalities Officer as well as Pensions Officer.	Agreed
Matters arising <ul style="list-style-type: none">- None.	

<p>Branch Secretary's report (ER)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Legal report and running total of compensation distributed. Compensation totaling £16,814.99p has been awarded to LAS Unison branch members since March 2008. £1,321,285.13p of compensation has been obtained by the branch on behalf of its members since 1999. - The NHSPRB (NHS Pay Review Body) has been put on notice for the 2009 pay negotiations. - Agenda for Change pay during annual leave. PH stated we are also waiting to meet to discuss bank holidays. ER took this opportunity to discuss the current position. - Greater London Region Health Training Conference at the Congress Centre on 1st October 2008. - Managing Sickness Absence. - Pay Circulars and Mileage rates. - Thanks received for donation to Unison Welfare. 	
<p>Constitution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Currently, no further progress has been made. - No apology received from GMB. - Joint Secretaries meeting next week, when a line will be drawn and a deadline to sign may be decided. PH raised his concerns around the lack of trade unionism being shown by other representatives from the other unions within the LAS. <p>Partnership Forum (ER)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No recent forum held because of ongoing problems with other unions. - AAC - JS highlights of issue of crews being asked to standby in no specific location/area despite having the call predicting software. 	ER
<p>Branch Officer Reports:-</p> <p>Communication (RS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No report. 	
<p>Retired Members (MA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No report. 	
<p>Health and Safety (IL)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Honda ST1300 MRU – Following a letter from ACPO regarding the motorcycles stability issues, the LAS legal department would not support their procurement. ADO Jason Killens chaired the group that put an order in for the Honda ST1300 anyway despite the Police motorcycles being frozen. Main issues are that the procurement of new MRU's should have gone through the correct channels first, the ARSG. No one from staff side was invited to the initial group. - Trolley bed trial has begun. Seven of the 'Stryker' electric trolley beds have been distributed around the service. - Hopefully twenty new Mercedes A&E vehicles will enter service by January 2009 	
<p>Membership (DS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nine new members agreed. - Dates and locations for the upcoming Student Paramedic and A & E Support courses required to assist in the recruitment of new members. 	Agreed
<p>Treasurer (GA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Next years Health conference has been booked. - A reminder for all those claiming traveling expenses, receipts have to be submitted or claims will not be paid. This follows on from the recent audit. 	
<p>PTS (GE)</p>	

- No report.	
Welfare (AS) - A reminder to all representatives and members to contact Andrea Gibbs for welfare related issues and not ER in the first instance.	
EOC (RC) - No report, however if RC was unable to attend future meetings then JG would bring any issues/update to the table.	
Diversity/Equalities (PH) - No report.	
Education (MB) - Positive feedback received from recent attendees at the reps course.	
Labour Link (JG) - Recent meeting was deferred due to recent industrial action. - An interesting blog from John Gray visit http://grayee.blogspot.com/ John is a Regional Labour Link delegate.	
Pensions (PH) - No report.	
Regional Organiser (PT) - No report.	
Staff Council (EB) - Minutes will be available for next branch meeting.	
AOB - EB proposed recommending John Whiting for Unison Life Time membership in honour of his long service and dedication to Unison members. John will be retiring from service in the near future following 30+ years. Various members spoke on behalf of this proposal. - Cuba Appeal update – nearly £44,000 has been raised so far towards the target of £50,000 - Possibility of a branch delegation visiting Cuba next year for a twinning event. - ER & EB to visit Cuba as part of London Region delegation to ensure that money that is being raised is being spent on the project it is intended for. The cost to be shared between branch and region. Agreed. - Training has been cancelled at E3. Possible issues with the current REAP level. Senior reps to investigate.	Agreed/ER Agreed ER to Partnership Forum
Date of Next Meeting - TBC	