



London Ambulance Service Unison Branch Committee Meeting

15th March 2010 1500hrs – Union Jack Club - Gascoigne Room SE1

- Present:**
- Eric Roberts - Branch Secretary
 - Eddie Brand – Chair
 - George Achilles - Treasurer
 - Sarah Hardy – Vice Chair
 - Michael Apps – Retired Members Officer
 - Andrea Gibbs – Welfare Officer
 - Ian Lee – Health & Safety Officer
 - John Gough – Unison Labour Link
 - Mark Lione – Membership Officer
 - Mark Belkin – Education Officer
 - Rob Sydney – Communications Officer
 - Paul O'Neill – Minute Secretary
 - Brian Robinson – East Central Sector
 - Clare Hodgson – East Central Sector
 - Julie Shirt – North East Sector
 - Dave Smith – North East Sector
 - Rob Matthews – North West Sector
 - Linda King – North West Sector
 - Hannah Curror – West Sector
 - Richard Chow - EOC
 - Claudette McNaughton - EOC

- Apologies:**
- Phil Thompson
 - Tim Stephens
 - Dave Lamey
 - Gary Edwards
 - Peter Hannell

Introductions and Welcome	Action
EB welcomed all and reminded the committee that the Branch AGM will take place shortly after the Committee Meeting in the Gascoigne Room, Union Jack Club at 1800hrs.	
Previous Minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minutes from Committee Meeting held on 15th February 2010 <u>agreed</u> as a true record. 	Agreed
Matters arising <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - None 	

<p>Branch Secretary's report (ER)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ER began his report by announcing the results of the recent Branch elections during which the Branch Secretary and Vice Chair positions were contested. ER congratulated Sarah Hardy on being re-elected to her post as Vice Chair. ER stated that he was proud to announce he has been re-elected as Branch Secretary. A full report will be given by the Returning Officer Phil Thompson at the AGM. - Legal report and running total of compensation distributed. Compensation totaling £44,200.00p has been awarded to LAS Unison branch members since the last meeting. Running total of compensation from March 2009 is £104,800.25p. <u>£1,522,838.83p</u> of compensation has been obtained by the branch on behalf of its members since 1999. Seven Legal forms have been processed since the last meeting. - Pay Circular - 2010 Uplift to Agenda for Change rates of pay and allowances. - Independent review of Knowledge and Skills framework. - Human Resources Directors update distributed. - Letters to A&E Support and PTS staff from Branch Secretary. - Unison National Delegate Conference 2010. Confirmation that Sarah Hardy and Richard Chow will be delegates. - Health Service Group Executive branch briefing distributed. - Andrea Gibbs has been nominated for the Welfare seat on the Greater London Region Sub Committee. - Retirement function request received on behalf of Michael Taylor from EOC/HQ. - Richard Chow submitted a request for sponsorship for a charity abseil he is undertaking to raise funds for Kidney Research. Committee <u>agreed</u> on £500. - Letter of thanks received from the General Secretary SNTS Cuba on behalf of the Ministry of Public Health in Cuba and Cuban health workers for the solidarity our Branch has displayed to help with the Haiti relief operation. - Greater London Region disciplinary action outcome. 	<p>Agreed/GA</p> <p>Agreed/GA</p>
<p>Partnership Forum/Constitution (ER)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No report. <p>Foundation Trust Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No report. 	
<p>Branch Officer Reports:-</p> <p>Communication (RS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - RS intend to update the Branch Officer pictures on the website. - LAS Unison is now on Twitter. Sign up to follow @LASUNISON and receive short timely messages from LAS Unison. 	
<p>Retired Members (MA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MA has been re-elected to the Greater London Region committee. - National Pensioners Convention affiliation renewal fee of £15 due for 2010. 	<p>Agreed/GA</p>

<p>Health and Safety (IL)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The LAS are still subject to an audit by the HSE; they are due to finish the audit by the end of March with the results being published in April. - New carry chair, IL pushing for a service wide trial. - Winter tyres to be tested on ambulances at the MIRA test track. - MacNeillie will be completing the 65 ambulances which were left unfinished as a result of the collapse of UV Modular. - Following a recent trial at Chase Farm Complex a light weight fleece blanket has been approved for use. 	
<p>Membership (ML)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New members – <u>Agreed</u> by committee - Staff job title/role to be added to list. - End of year membership report – 2009/10 proved to be a successful year for recruiting new members. Over 500 new members joined the branch; the majority is new staff joining the LAS but other new members have joined from other trade unions. - ER thanked all who have worked so hard to recruit. 	
<p>Treasurer (GA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - End of year accounts have been sent to Unison. 	
<p>PTS (ER)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ER stated that a letter has been sent out to PTS staff to in order to try fill the vacant PTS seat on the Branch. - A number of contracts are out to tender. 	
<p>Welfare (AG)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Welfare AGM on 10th March. - Information on CSA payments for staff on long term sickness. - Unison Welfare is celebrating its centenary having started out as a children's home/orphanage in 1910. - Changes have been made to the convalescence application forms. - Welfare Officer can contact Payplan directly on behalf of members if necessary. - DVD has been produced outlining work and services provided by Unison Welfare. - If Unison Welfare is unable to assist with any financial cases from LAS Branch members then they are automatically referred to the ASWHF. - Members who have been victims of domestic abuse can access a free weekend at Croyde Bay. 	
<p>EOC (RC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Command Point team will be in the USA testing the new software for two weeks. - EOC/UOC Workplace elections are to begin soon. 	
<p>Diversity/Equalities (PH)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Not in attendance. 	
<p>Education (MB)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In order to continue to run in house staff representative courses we need a minimum of 12 attendees. Could Sector reps please notify MB of any new station representatives that may be elected in the upcoming elections? 	
<p>Labour Link (JG)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - JG announced that he will not be standing for the Greater London Region Labour Link seat this year. - ER thanked JG for all his hard work as Labour Link Officer. 	

<p>Pensions (PH)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Not in attendance. 	
<p>Staff Council (EB)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Report distributed. 	
<p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - LK voiced the concerns of A&E Support working at E3 Complex who are 'feeling lost' within the LAS. ER stated that the role was initially devised in order to save the jobs of 70+ PTS staff due to the loss of three PTS contracts. ER is confident that a review of the role will be reported in the near future and he hopes that a 'bridging course' may be devised to bring eligible A&E Support staff up to the equivalent level of the EMT3 role. - The Branch has learnt of the death of recently retired member of staff Charlie Sawyer. His funeral is being held in Putney Vale tomorrow 16th March. The Branch offers their condolences to his family, friends and colleagues. 	
<p>Date of Next Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - TBA 	