

London Ambulance Service Unison Branch Committee Meeting

16th July 2010 1400hrs – Conference Room LAS HQ

Present:

- Eric Roberts - Branch Secretary
- Eddie Brand – Chair
- George Achilles - Treasurer
- Sarah Hardy – Vice Chair
- Ian Lee – Health & Safety Officer
- Rob Sydney – Communications Officer
- Peter Hannell – Equalities & Pensions Officer
- Mark Lione – Membership Officer
- Paul O'Neill – Minute Secretary
- Brian Robinson – East Central Sector
- Tim Stephens – Central Sector
- Rob Matthews – North West Sector
- Gary Edwards West Sector
- Dave Lamey – South West Sector
- Marcus Davis – Central Sector Senior Rep (observing)

Apologies:

Dave Smith	Julie Shirt
Hannah Curror	Michael Apps
Linda King	Phil Thompson
Richard Chow	Claudette McNaughton
Clare Hodgson	Andrea Gibbs
Mark Belkin	

Introductions and Welcome	Action
EB introduced Marcus Davis a senior rep from Central Sector who is observing the meeting today. He will be deputising for Central Sector Rep Tim Stephens temporarily.	
Previous Minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minutes from Committee Meeting held on 26th May 2010 <u>agreed</u> as a true record. 	Agreed
Matters arising <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dave Smith and Mark Lione have been voted as Senior Sector representatives for the East Sector. 	
Branch Secretary's report (ER) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Legal report and running total of compensation distributed. Compensation totalling £16,824.00p has been awarded to LAS Unison branch members since the last meeting. Running total of compensation from March 2010 is £52,113.78p. <u>£1,610,242.39p</u> of compensation has been obtained by the branch on behalf of its members since 1999. Nineteen legal forms have been processed since the last meeting. - Reminder for committee members to notify ER if they wish to attend the training weekend at Croyde Bay. Time off is yet to be negotiated. - NHS Pay 2011-2013 Hopefully spine point pay increments will not be affected. - Joint Operations management and Staff Side statement published on 7th July. - Independent review of the Knowledge and Skills Framework. - New benefit guidelines and claim forms. <p>Branch Secretary's report continued -</p>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Launch of the LAS Unison Branch Secretary's Blog. It can be accessed direct at www.ericblog.lasunison.com or via the LAS Unison website at www.lasunison.com - Thanks received for our recent donation to Unison Welfare. - Death in Service payment agreed by Committee. - Palestine Solidarity Campaign affiliation renewal – Agreed by Committee - PH suggests raising the profile of the Branch by using examples from real cases we have been involved in and using statements from those members that we have assisted. - ER gave a presentation to the committee on the recent Unison London Region & LAS Unison Branch joint delegation to Cuba. This highlighted the improvements that have been made so far within the Havana city ambulance control room. There is still much work to be done. A full report will be published soon. 	<p>GA</p> <p>GA</p>
<p>Partnership Forum/Constitution (ER)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Health and Safety Organisation Policy Statement has been sent to all Full Time Officials of the three main Unions within the LAS. The deadline to respond is 30th July 2010. The CEO has overall responsibility for H&S but on a day to day basis this can be delegated to a named Director of the LAS. All the requests for clarity within the agreement have been accepted and dealt with. <p>Foundation Trust Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Committee discussed the contents of an email from the GMB regarding the offer of a Staff Council/Partnership Governor Seat. The Committee rejected the proposals put forward by the GMB and agreed that Unison's Staff Council members vote to accept the offer of one seat and also agreed that they should vote for one person to fill the seat on behalf of the Staff Council Staff Side (Trade Union Side). 	<p>ER</p>
<p>Branch Officer Reports:-</p> <p>Communication (RS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Detailed written report distributed. - Eric's blog launched. - Slight redesign of the branch website homepage. Mainly due to the fact that majority of LAS PC's use an older version of Internet Explorer which couldn't process images on our website. - Twitter feed appears to be successful. - RS requests stories or more updates to be submitted regularly to keep the website fresh. - The committee thanked RS for his efforts. 	
<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"> - Attended Hazard Conference at Keele University in Stoke on behalf of Branch. One of the key speakers was a current union rep from the Union for Health and Safety Inspectors. - Thompson's solicitors report into H&S perceptions. - Lord Young's report suggests that emergency service workers are exempt from H&S legislation. There are fears over the Tory Coalition's influence on H&S issues. - BBC ran a story covering the recent HSE inspection carried out on the LAS. - Date for the complete withdrawal of the remaining 41 LDV ambulances within the trust is December 2010. - New blankets are work in progress. - 29th July 2010 given as date for the trial of a mechanical carry chair. 	
<p>Membership (ML)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New members list distributed – <u>Agreed</u> by committee. - One more Student Paramedic course to start at Hannibal House. Once these recruiting opportunities have ceased we should focus our abilities on retention. 	

<p>Treasurer (GA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No report. 	
<p>PTS (EB)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meeting of PTS sub Committee held two weeks ago. PTS rotas and rest break issues discussed. - Met with members affected by recent contract loss. Trying to arrange redeployment within LAS. 	
<p>Welfare (AG)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No report. 	
<p>EOC (RC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No report from EOC. 	
<p>Diversity/Equalities (PH)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MRU Equality impact assessments booked. - Ability for a Paramedic to “step down” to EMT grade seamlessly. - 28 days notice should be given to staff on “family friendly”/flexible rotas to attend mandatory LAS courses. - New Equality Act to come into effect. Managing Attendance Policy will have to be reviewed. - Impact Assessment training for assessors. 	
<p>Education (MB)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No report. 	
<p>Labour Link</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No report. 	
<p>Pensions (PH)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 452 Pension Choice packs were sent out. Sector reps are urged to book Martina Govindraj to their complexes so staff can discuss any pension’s issues. - State pension age likely to be raised to 66 as of 1st April 2011. 	
<p>Regional Organiser (PT)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No report. 	
<p>Staff Council (EB)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Staff Council meeting postponed. 	
<p>Senoir Sector Representative Reports</p> <p>North East/East Central (ML)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Generally poor turnout at the recent ADO staff consultation meetings. - Raised issues around current number of staff suspensions. - Seven members were suspended in EC sector that is now down to three. ADO had reviewed the suspensions that were active. - A couple of rotas yet to be agreed in EC. - Met with ADO and AOM’s from J3 and K5 to discuss rota review to include 3am finishes. Union guidance may help to get staff agreement. - H3 have rejected offer to become next NWOW site. <p>West Sector (GE)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rota issues at Hanwell, Greenford and Chiswick around 3am finishes. Looks like a compromise may have been agreed. - RM brought up issues surrounding 3am finishes. The committee discussed the topic in depth. 	

<p>North West (PH)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PH states that in the NW Sector Brent, St John's Wood and Kenton are in dispute over rotas. - Pressure on staff as members are being "dragged" into the office to justify response/mobilisation times. - Poor relationship with West area senior management team. <p>Central (TS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Deptford having issues regarding new rota. - MRU – changes to Special Response Desk or a proposal to scrap desk. TS has managed to push for changes through proper consultation to areas/desks within EOC. - Issues surrounding critical transfers. <p>South West (DL)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No staff suspensions. - No problems with rotas. 	
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<p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - None submitted. 	
<p>Date of Next Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - TBA 	