

## London Ambulance Service Unison Branch Committee Meeting

22<sup>nd</sup> December 2009 1400hrs – Fielden House London Bridge Street

**Present:**

- Eric Roberts - Branch Secretary
- Eddie Brand – Chair
- Sarah Hardy – Vice Chair
- George Achilles –Treasurer
- Michael Apps – Retired Members Officer
- Ian Lee – Health & Safety Officer
- Mark Lione – Membership Officer
- Paul O’Neill – Minute Secretary
- Peter Hannell – Equalities/Pensions Officer
- Brian Robinson – East Central Sector
- Clare Hodgson – East Central Sector
- Dave Lamey – South West Sector
- Julie Shirt – North East Sector
- Linda King – North West Sector
- Rob Matthews – North West Sector

**Apologies:**

- Phil Thompson
- Dave Smith
- Gary Edwards
- Rob Sydney
- Andrea Gibbs
- Hannah Curror

<b>Introductions and Welcome</b>	<b>Action</b>
<p><b>Previous Minutes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ML stated that there were 89 new members agreed at the previous meeting.</li> <li>- Minutes from 24<sup>th</sup> November 2009 <u>agreed</u> as a true record.</li> </ul>	Agreed
<p><b>Matters arising</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- None</li> </ul>	

<p><b>Branch Secretary's report (ER)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ER &amp; EB apologised for the late start of the meeting. This was due to a meeting they had just attended at LAS HQ which had over run. They had arranged an urgent meeting with Jason Killens and Steve Sale to discuss the recent suspension of rest breaks and the situation where crews were being forced, once again, into working on through the compensatory time at shift end.</li> <li>- ER stated that under the Rest Break Agreement the Service can suspend rest breaks in times of severe pressure; however, if the issues surrounding the end of shift working are not adhered to in a way that makes it voluntary a dispute will be lodged on behalf of all the Unions. ER will lodge it as Staff Side Secretary.</li> <li>- ER &amp; EB were to meet management again after this meeting to stress that this needs to be resolved as soon as possible so that a reoccurrence does not happen within the potential severe weather that has been predicted. They will seek an assurance to this effect.</li> <li>- The Committee had a lengthy debate regarding harassment and bullying around this subject, the fact that this was not the first time and the negative effect it has on staff who would normally 'help out'.</li> <li>- The Committee agreed to leave it to ER &amp; EB. A formal feedback would be given at the next meeting.</li> <li>- Legal report and running total of compensation distributed. Compensation totalling £16,004.33p has been awarded to LAS Unison branch members since the last meeting in November, making a total of £52,700.25p since March 2009. <u>£1,410,138.58p</u> of compensation has been obtained by the branch on behalf of its members since 1999. Nine legal forms have been processed since the last meeting.</li> <li>- National Ambulance Dispute – 20 Years on. The branch has put together an exhibition (with thanks to Anna Lowman – Communications Department and Sarah Joy – Finance and Business Planning Department) to remember the 89/90 Ambulance Dispute. This can be seen at LAS HQ until the end of January 2010. Unison believes it is right to mark the anniversary and not forget those who were involved, what this Service and staff went through, and, importantly, what we have achieved through joint working since. Our Service has changed for the better and we have all played a part in that.</li> <li>- Thanks received for donation to Unison Welfare.</li> <li>- Thanks received from Terry Penny for the opportunity to attend the Unison Retired member's conference in Scarborough.</li> <li>- 2010 Unison Health Conference being held in Brighton 18-21 April 2010. Two Branch delegates required; <b>Female Delegate</b> – Andrea Gibbs <b>Male Delegate</b> – Gary Edwards</li> </ul>	<p>Agreed</p>
<p><b>Partnership Forum/Constitution (ER)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- More information, if available, will be given at next meeting.</li> </ul> <p><b>Foundation Trust Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Members concerns over Foundation Trust and opting out. ER has issued advice and information to members regarding opting out. Members are advised to remain in at this time as there are many negotiations/meetings yet to take place. <u>Agreed</u> by the Committee.</li> </ul>	<p>Agreed</p>

<p><b>Branch Officer Reports:-</b></p> <p><b>Communication (RS)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Not present.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Retired Members (MA)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Verbal Report.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Health and Safety (IL)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Swine Flu update. 200 deaths in the UK, 12,000 Worldwide. Expecting infection rate to rise in January/February 2010.</li> <li>- Mattress cover/slide sheet trial now well underway. 500 being used in trial.</li> <li>- The HSE will be inspecting the LAS in March 2010. Area to be focused on will be Violence towards staff, manual handling and stress. HSE inspectors will be riding out with ambulance crews for the first time.</li> <li>- Regional Health and Safety meeting.</li> </ul>	

<p><b>Membership (ML)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- New members list distributed. 53 new members accepted in to the branch.</li> <li>- Could all reps please check their member's addresses and workplace are correct from the RMS list distributed with the diaries?</li> <li>- DL reporting that several staff have rejoined Unison after leaving to join the GMB.</li> </ul>	Agreed
<p><b>Treasurer (GA)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Verbal report including planned end of year accounts. Could everyone please ensure they have cashed all cheques to help maintain up to date accounts.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>PTS (GE)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Verbal Report.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Welfare (AG)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Not Present</li> </ul>	
<p><b>EOC (RC)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Not Present</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Diversity/Equalities (PH)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Equality impact assessments still ongoing. Six have been completed so far with the MRU procurement group proving to be the most problematic.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Education (MB)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Not Present</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Labour Link (JG)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Not Present</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Pensions (PH)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- LAS Pensions Officer Martina Govindraj is willing to discuss pension's issues on station. Please contact her to arrange a visit.</li> <li>- New pensions scheme has an accrual rate of 1/60<sup>th</sup> based on retirement age of 65.</li> </ul>	

<b>Regional Organiser (PT)</b> - Not Present	
<b>Staff Council (EB)</b> - Next meeting will be on 16 <sup>th</sup> February 2010.	
<b>AOB</b> - None submitted	
<b>Date of Next Meeting</b> - 14 <sup>th</sup> January 2010 1030hrs Conference Room LAS HQ.	