

London Ambulance Service Unison Branch Committee Meeting

9th December 2008 1400hrs – Conference Room LAS HQ

Present:

- Eric Roberts - Branch Secretary
- Eddie Brand – Chair
- Phil Thompson – Regional Organiser
- George Achillies - Treasurer
- Sarah Hardy – Vice Chair
- Michael Apps – Retired Members Officer
- Mark Belkin – Education Officer
- John Gough – Unison Labour Link
- Peter Hannell – Equalities/Pensions Officer
- Paul O'Neill – Minute Secretary
- Richard Chow – EOC
- Claudette McNaughton – EOC
- Clive Tombs – South East Sector
- Dave Lamey – South West Sector
- Mark Lione – East Central Sector
- Tim Stephens – Central Sector
- Julie Shirt – North East Sector
- Rob Matthews – North West Sector
- Gary Edwards – West Sector
- Karen Walling – West Sector
- Fred Philips – Retired Member

Apologies:

- Rob Sydney
- Andrea Gibbs
- Dave Smith
- Ian Lee

<p>Introductions and Welcome</p> <p>Can Senior Sector Representatives please collect 2009 Unison diaries from HQ for distribution to members?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Action</p>
<p>Previous Minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minutes from 11th November 2008 <u>agreed</u> as a true record. 	<p style="text-align: center;">Agreed</p>
<p>Matters arising</p> <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 £117,567.94p has been awarded to LAS Unison branch members since March 2008. £1,422,020.08p of compensation has been obtained by the branch on behalf of its members since 1999. - Dates for 2009 committee meetings distributed. - Nominations at the forthcoming Regional Council Annual General Meeting elections for the Regional Lay Officers positions. Nominees agreed: Gloria Hanson, Conroy Lawrence, Gill Brown, Lynn Bentley, John Gray. The branch agreed the nominations. - Letters received from Mike Dinan - LAS Director of Finance and Sigurd Renton Trust Board Chairman, regarding the LAS application for foundation trust status. - Judgment of the European Court of Justice - Viking judgment and the Rüffert judgment. Analysis by Thompsons Solicitors. - Copy of letter sent to Mrs. Lillian Kenneth for donations by the branch. - Cuba Solidarity Campaign Christmas cards. 	Agreed
<p>Partnership Forum/Constitution (ER)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The T&GWU and GMB have now signed up to the constitution and will be taking three seats in all. We are still awaiting an apology from Dave Powell GMB Regional Organiser re comments made about Unison. - Unison have one more seat to take up on the staff council as per the Constitution. ER nominated Tim Stephens this was seconded by John Gough and agreed by Committee. <p>Foundation Trust Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Letter received from Mike Dinan – Director of Finance, with an invitation to have a seat on the Foundation Trust Programme Board. A letter has also been received from Sigurd Renton Trust Board Chair to the Branch Secretary. ER stated it would be foolish to ignore the Trust Board's desire to achieve Foundation Trust status. Unison needs to achieve an influential position from the beginning and be assured that this is not an attempt to undermine the union. The LAS need to prove that they have the agreement of their staff in order to pursue Foundation Trust Status. 	Agreed
<p>Branch Officer Reports:-</p> <p>Communication (RS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Detailed written report distributed. 	
<p>Retired Members (MA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MA gave a verbal report as well as distributing a detailed written report. - Age Concern is offering free PCs to retired Londoners. MA enquired with MB if Unison offers any basic computer skill courses? The answer was yes. - PT praised the work undertaken by MA. PT attends many branch committee meetings and the LAS branch is the most proactive as far as retired member's issues are concerned. 	MB
<p>Health and Safety</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No report 	
<p>Membership (DS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - List of new members distributed - New members agreed. 	Agreed
<p>Treasurer (GA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Could members please cash any cheques ASAP? - End of year accounts coming up. 	
<p>PTS (GE)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Retained St Georges contract worth £1.3million. 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2nd stage of PTS restructure is underway. - Two members of staff have been injured through tail lift failures. - CT queried the length of protected pay for PTS Crew Team Leaders? - The committee debated the membership of the branch of those members who have been TUPE'd over to other employers. In practice this is a huge piece of work and will have to be carried out soon. - London has a high proportion of private PTS run contracts compared to outer London. These private firms would have to be 'unionised' in order to win contracts back to the public sector. - JG proposed that the committee debates this officially in 2009. 	ER to deal
<p>Welfare (AS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No report. 	
<p>EOC (RC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Restructure is progressing well. It looks as if the Loggist role will go and may come under the role of Area Alocator or go to DMC. - UOC still trying to configure UOC with EOC i.e. Individual Performance monitoring. 	
<p>Diversity/Equalities (PH)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New Equalities Manager in post. 	
<p>Education (MB)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The role of Learner Reps was discussed. Possible partnership work with LAS. - Looking to bring next year's new reps course forward. 	
<p>Labour Link (JG)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Unison Labour Link Forum attended on 5th December. Issue with the GLA. - Claude Moraes MEP gave a report on the work of a MEP. Worryingly certain European states are unifying through fascist right wing parties. JG recommends a look a Claude Moraes website - www.claudemoraes.net - Attended a function at the House of Commons hosted by Rachel Voller. 	
<p>Pensions (PH)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Due to the recent down turn in the economy PH suggests that those members with private pensions should get regular quotes. - Martina Govindraj (LAS Pensions Officer) is still willing to visit main stations to discuss any pension's issues face to face with staff. She will be holding a pensions 'clinic' at NW Sector HQ in February. 	
<p>Regional Organiser (PT)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No report. 	
<p>Staff Council (EB)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minutes from staff council held on 20th November 2008 not yet published 	
<p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ML – AAC review meeting in January 2009. There have been numerous occasion where EOC have not being implementing AAC as per the agreement. It appears that the Blue Eight software is not working. More evidence needs to be gathered for the review. The committee debated the issue of AAC at length. ER warned not to jump before the review date and urged senior sector reps to visit EOC to see for themselves how and if the AAC procedure is being applied. It was agreed that Gary Edwards go into EOC for a week to talk to managers and staff regarding the problems that crews are highlighting. ER to contact EOC Senior management to arrange. 	
<p>Date of Next Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 13th January 2009 (subject to change due to REAP level.) 	