



London Ambulance Service Unison Branch  
Committee Meeting

23<sup>rd</sup> March 2006 1030hrs – Union Jack Club SE1

- Present:**
- Eric Roberts - Branch Secretary
  - Phil Thompson – Regional Organiser
  - George Achilles - Treasurer
  - Andrea Shields – Welfare Officer
  - Ian Lee – Health & Safety Officer
  - Fred Phillips – Acting Membership Officer
  - Rob Sydney – Communications Officer
  - Mark Belkin – Education Officer
  - John Gough – Labour Link Officer
  - Paul O’Neill – Minutes Secretary
  - Richard Chow – EOC
  - Claudette McNaughton - EOC
  - John A Whiting – North East Sector
  - Julie Shirt – North East Sector
  - Peter Hannell – North West Sector
  - David Lamey – South West Sector
  - Karen Walling – West Sector

- Apologies:**
- Eddie Brand
  - Harry Day
  - Nadine Poonawala
  - Sarah Hardy

Introductions and Welcome. Dave Lamey in the Chair.	Action
<p><b>Previous Minutes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Minutes from 20th February 2006 <u>Agreed</u> as a true record.</li> </ul>	
<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>- Legal report and running total of compensation.</li> <li>- Financial 2005 Return has been submitted and received by the Unison finance department. ER thanked GA for his efforts.</li> <li>- National Delegate Conference branch motion.</li> <li>- “The Big Event” - Protect Our National Health Service – Campaign Rally, is taking place in Gateshead to coincide with the Unison Health Conference on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2006.</li> </ul>	<p>Agreed by Committee</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Unison Healthcare SGE February newsletter.</li> <li>- Southwark Credit Union road show dates.</li> <li>- Sierra Leone Appeal – donation acknowledgement.</li> <li>- ASU sending mail shots to stations. The Service will deal in line with unrecognized organisations. Las Unison will circulate advice.</li> <li>- Labour Link Elections – ER congratulated JG on his election.</li> <li>- Action for Sick Children – Donation of £250.</li> </ul>	<p>Agreed by Committee</p>
<p><b>Agenda for Change</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Most staff groups should be assimilated on to AfC by the end of April.</li> <li>- No discussions on meal breaks will take place until all staff within the Trust are assimilated. ‘Meal Break Working in the Ambulance Service’ document re-circulated as a reminder of the issues.</li> <li>- Pay Negotiating Council 2006-07 pay round notes.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Retired Members (MA)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Retired members AGM.</li> <li>- Retired member’s reunion taking place in May.</li> <li>- Request to renew affiliation with National Pensioners Convention for £12.50.</li> </ul>	<p>Agreed by Committee</p>
<p><b>Health and Safety (IL)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- IL and PH attended a meeting for an Ambulance Design Group. This is a group looking into the feasibility of standardising UK ambulance design. They have concerns that the LAS concept will be lost if an outside body tells Trusts which vehicles/equipment to use. Not many UK Ambulance Trust frontline staff have the amount of input into vehicle/equipment design as we do in London.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Membership (JU)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- New members accepted into the branch.</li> <li>- Could all reps ensure that members from the university course become full Unison members by transferring from the student subscription rate when they qualify and are employed full time by LAS.</li> </ul>	<p>All Agreed All Reps</p>
<p><b>Treasurer (GA)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Health Conference booking are now complete.</li> <li>- There have been some minor issues in transferring the names for the Branch account with Britannia.</li> <li>- National Conference had been booked in BA’s name.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Communications (RS)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Written report distributed.</li> <li>- Pop up ads have now gone from email login.</li> <li>- The committee thanks RS for his excellent work.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Welfare (AS)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No report.</li> </ul>	

<p><b>Equalities (DS)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Draft policy on age discrimination has been drawn up. JG queried incapability laws/issues.</li> <li>- Recruitment/Selection meeting – Reviewed practice of internal promotions and legislation regarding Type II diabetics.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Education (MB)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Book grant will need to be well managed</li> <li>- Could sector reps inform MB of any new reps taking up posts after the workplace elections? This will help in organising reps courses.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Labour Link (JG)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Distributing information at the AGM.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Pensions (PH)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 1¼ Million Local government workers will be striking in protest over the LGPS on Tues 28<sup>th</sup> March. Please show your support by attending the rally taking place in Westminster or if possible by visiting local picket lines.</li> <li>- ER proposes a striking workers fund of £5000 to be put aside.</li> <li>- Would like to meet with Tony Crabtree regarding highlighting the whole issue of pensions with staff.</li> </ul>	Agreed by Committee
<p><b>PTS (vacant)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No Report</li> </ul>	
<p><b>EOC (JE)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- EOC staff are not happy with the outcome of AfC and will follow the grievance procedure.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Regional Officer (PT)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No report.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Staff Council (EB)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No meeting.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>AOB</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- National Conference Delegates to be Gary Edwards and Andrea Shields.</li> <li>- Staff with Type II Diabetes – meeting planned for 2<sup>nd</sup> March did not take place. PH hopes that Dr Spencer will reverse his decision.</li> <li>- PH read out a letter received from Karen McDonald. PT stated that the branch has a duty to protect its members and the organisation.</li> <li>- The Branch sends its best wishes to Bryan Arnold.</li> </ul>	ER/PT
<p><b>Date of Next Meeting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 10<sup>th</sup> April 2006 – Branch Officers only.</li> </ul>	