



London Ambulance Service Unison Branch  
Committee Meeting

20<sup>th</sup> February 2006 1030hrs – Partnership House SE1

- Present:**
- Eric Roberts - Branch Secretary
  - Eddie Brand – Chair
  - 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
  - Harry Day – Training
  - Joe Easterbrook - EOC
  - Richard Chow – EOC
  - Claudette McNaughton - EOC
  - John A Whiting – North East Sector
  - Julie Shirt – North East Sector
  - Peter Hannell – North West Sector
  - Nadine Poonawala – North West Sector
  - David Lamey – South West Sector
  - Karen Walling – West Sector

- Apologies:**
- Mark Lione
  - Phil Thompson
  - Michael Apps
  - Dave Smith
  - Sarah Hardy

<b>Introductions and Welcome</b>	<b>Action</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- The Branch offers its condolences to Pete Hannell and his family after the death of his mother.</li><li>- JG introduced guest speaker London Assembly Member Joanne McCartney. Representing the Labour Party for Enfield &amp; Haringey. She is a barrister specialising in employment law. She spoke mainly on the role of the London Assembly and how its members examine issues affecting the capital. As Chair of the Health and Public Services Committee she will forward any branch contact details on and inform the branch of any matters that may impinge on ambulance matters.</li></ul>	

<p><b>Previous Minutes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Minutes from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2005 <u>Agreed</u> as a true record with the following amendments;- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o GA was in attendance</li> <li>o H&amp;S 2000 questionnaires sent out not 200</li> <li>o Labour Link – Tribute to Tony Banks</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<p><b>Matters arising</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- JE problems in EOC – EB had met with senior management raising the branches concerns.</li> <li>- Maternity calls – EB Awaiting feedback from Jane Worthington</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>- Regional Council AGM 2006 – Election results.</li> <li>- European Trade Union Solidarity Conference with Cuba and Latin America, City Hall 24/25 February 2006.</li> <li>- Branch Appeal Sierra Leone Mental Health Project. Donation of £100 proposed.</li> <li>- Bolkestein Regional Update.</li> <li>- ASU/GMB. A paper was circulated outlining talks between the ASU and GMB. ASU are a non-affiliated organization without national recognition. They have no voice regarding Agenda for Change, no seat on the National Staff Council and are not recognized in any Ambulance Service apart from Mersey, where they have limited recognition. Surprise was expressed at the GMB as it had just recently voted with all the other recognized Trade Unions to reject an application from the ASU for entry into the Staff Council. Both Unison and the T&amp;GWU had written to the GMB nationally to register our concern.</li> <li>- Motion for National Delegate conference. To develop relations with the World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU) with a view to eventual affiliation.</li> <li>- Health Conference delegates. Mark Lione and Julie Shirt to attend.</li> <li>- ER nominated and unanimously elected to National Ambulance Sector.</li> </ul>	<p>ER to attend Agreed by Committee</p> <p>Agreed by Committee</p> <p>Agreed by Committee</p>
<p><b>Agenda for Change</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- West Midlands Ambulance proposal. Report circulated.</li> <li>- Report to the Health Service Group executive. Report circulated.</li> <li>- EMD banding. Reps in EOC have asked for a factor within the job evaluation to be re-looked at again.</li> <li>- HD stated that as a Trust, we have the most staff assimilated.</li> <li>- No discussions on meal breaks will take place until all staff within the Trust are assimilated.</li> <li>- Annual leave arrears and 1.5 hours accrued to be paid in the next two pay days.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Retired Members (MA)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Written report was submitted as MA not in attendance.</li> </ul>	

<p><b>Health and Safety (IL)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Absence Management to be discussed soon. Update to follow. Verbal report regarding Las issues.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Membership (FP)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- This month's new members accepted into the branch.</li> <li>- Remind representatives that application forms have to go through ER to be processed until new arrangements are in place.</li> </ul>	Agreed
<p><b>Treasurer (GA)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Yearly accounts have taken place, all books balance. Report for the AGM to be printed.</li> </ul>	GA
<p><b>Communications (RS)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No report</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Welfare (AS)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- AS was unable to attend the Welfare Conference. Verbal update regarding Las issues.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Equalities (DS)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No report.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Education (MB)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- MB suggested launching the book grant at the AGM. Verbal update regarding Las issues.</li> </ul>	Agreed.
<p><b>Labour Link (JG)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No report</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Pensions (PH)</b></p> <p>Paperwork was circulated outlining the Unions strategy regarding the Local Government Pension Scheme dispute. Unison is urging members to fight for equality within the LGPS. Ballot papers have gone out to relevant scheme members. More details about the ballot on the Unison website. A general discussion took place regarding the whole issue of pensions.</p>	
<p><b>PTS (vacant)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- EB to speak to staff on the newly appointed contract in Bromley.</li> </ul>	EB
<p><b>EOC (JE)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Issues regarding VCS failing to update status on MDTs.</li> <li>- Gold Suite issues were discussed with most present unhappy with some of the decisions being taken by management. The hard work of the crew staff was noted. EOC believe that it is a waste of resources and feel that a DSO roaming the sector and visiting hospitals would be more effective.</li> </ul>	

<p><b>Regional Officer (PT)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Branch Elections Returning Officers Report – As there was only one nomination received for each post, there is no need for a ballot. The list of nominees to be submitted to the AGM on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2006 as the 2006/7 LAS Unison Branch Officers.</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>- PH confirmed that the meeting regarding staff with Insulin dependant diabetes will take place on 2<sup>nd</sup> March. It is thought that evidence from the LFB may support our case in favour of these staff driving on blue lights. Unison is supporting the members of staff involved.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Date of Next Meeting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 1600, 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2006. Union Jack Club, SE1. Followed by the AGM.</li> </ul>	