

London Ambulance Service Unison Branch Committee Meeting

26th May 2010 1030hrs – Conference Room LAS HQ

Present:

- Eric Roberts - Branch Secretary
- Eddie Brand – Chair
- George Achilles - Treasurer
- Sarah Hardy – Vice Chair
- Andrea Gibbs – Welfare Officer
- Ian Lee – Health & Safety Officer
- Peter Hannell – Equalities & Pensions Officer
- Mark Lione – Membership Officer
- Mark Belkin – Education Officer
- Paul O'Neill – Minute Secretary
- Brian Robinson – East Central Sector
- Clare Hodgson – East Central Sector
- Tim Stephens – Central Sector
- Rob Matthews – North West Sector
- Richard Chow - EOC

Apologies:

Dave Smith	Julie Shirt
Hannah Curror	Michael Apps
Linda King	Rob Sydney
Gary Edwards	

Introductions and Welcome	Action
<p>Previous Minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minutes from Committee Meeting held on 15th March 2010 <u>agreed</u> as a true record. 	Agreed
<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 totalling £35,289.78p has been awarded to LAS Unison branch members since the last meeting. Running total of compensation from March 2010 is £35,289.78p. <u>£1,558,128.61p</u> of compensation has been obtained by the branch on behalf of its members since 1999. Six legal forms have been processed since the last meeting. - Staff Council Bullet points from 13th May distributed. - Unison Greater London Region training conference will be held on 8th October 2010. Please ask the Branch Secretary for an application form. - Results of 2010 Labour Link elections distributed. - Regional Welfare Sub Committee election result – Congratulations to Andrea Gibbs on being elected. - Receipt and thanks received for the Branch's donation to the National Ambulance Workers Hardship Fund. - Invoice received for the bench and plaque to be placed at Hanwell Ambulance Station in memory of Bryan Arnold. A separate request for a flagpole at Hanwell was also received. The committee agreed to cover the cost of the bench and plaque. Following a discussion and vote the committee is not able to cover the cost of the flag pole as requested. 	ER/GA

<p>Branch Secretary's report continued -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Talent Management programme update. - LAS Estates strategy – A 10 year strategy has been written by the trust board. It suggests moving away from small local ambulance stations to fewer and bigger “super stations”. - After attending the NEC ER believes 2011 will be a difficult year in terms of Public Services. There may also be changes to the foundation trust application process and terms. - Book grant request brought to the committee by MB. The committee voted in favour of the request. The committee agreed that a disclaimer be added to the book grant form stating that claimant must be a current member of the Branch. 	
<p>Partnership Forum/Constitution (ER)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sector meetings and elections are underway. Peter Hannell (Unison) has been elected as senior rep for the North West sector, Tim Stephens (Unison) for the Central sector. East senior reps will be decided at beginning of June. South Sector results to be advised. - HSE have proposed certain clarifications regarding the H&S Partnership Agreement. These have been accepted and added to final document. - Minutes from the Meeting of the Operational Partnership Forum held on 29th March distributed. <p>Foundation Trust Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Staff side have been offered a governing seat on the FT board which is separate from staff side seats. The Branch has put forward its views on Foundation Trust and if it is introduced it will be a valuable seat that Unison has argued for. PH stated that ongoing talks are very difficult despite Unison offering to support the other trade unions. ER explained in detail the importance of having a quality argument from one seat rather than none. 	
<p>Branch Officer Reports:-</p> <p>Communication (RS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No Report. 	
<p>Retired Members (MA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No report. 	Agreed/GA
<p>Health and Safety (IL)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - HSE audit report has been received. The Trust board needs to address 61 issues that have been raised in the report. Four main areas have been highlighted and an improvement notice has been served in regards to manual handling training. - New vehicle have now been signed off and should be delivered at a rate of 5 per week. - Incident Data Recorders on vehicles. - The current High Risk register for crews attending possibly dangerous patients is currently illegal. The Trust is failing to write to individuals who have been placed on the list. The list should also be reviewed every twelve months. - Mechanical chair trial. - IL thanked Tim Stephens for assisting in the election of Richard Baxter as H&S rep. - To attend H&S conference in Stoke – report to follow. 	
<p>Membership (ML)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 54 New members applied to join the Branch – <u>Agreed</u> by committee. 	
<p>Treasurer (GA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hotel for the Unison Conference in Bournemouth has now been booked. 	
<p>PTS (ER)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ER gave an update on behalf of GE. Shire Lane, Greenwich and Barnehurst PTS contracts (South London Health Care) have been lost to a private company <i>Savoy Ventures</i>. Unfortunately this means 79 members of the LAS will be placed on the TUPE list. The majority of these are GMB members, the remaining Unison members will be assisted by 	

Gary Edwards.	
Welfare (AG) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - AG has been elected to the Regional Welfare Sub Committee. - Regional Welfare cruise on the Thames to raise money for Unison Welfare. Branch has been asked for a donation towards prizes for a raffle. Committee agreed a donation of £50. - Unison Welfare is to be rebranded as “There for You” - Welfare conference at Croyde Bay – topics included debt, domestic violence and Credit Unions. - ‘Money Made Clear’ booklets distributed. - Octopus Lottery which raises funds for Unison Welfare. AG suggested that the branch joins or may be easier if branch members sign up individually. - Application for financial form has been revised – questions not as invasive. 	Agreed/AG
EOC (RC) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No report from EOC. - RC successfully completed his charity abseil and thanks every one for their sponsorship. 	
Diversity/Equalities (PH) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PH has been nominated by ER to sit on the Equality and Inclusion steering committee in his place. 	
Education (MB) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An internal steward’s course will not be run for the time being as we would not be able to fill a course. Instead the newly elected reps will attend the external TUC Introductory Stewards course. Hopefully an internal course may be viable in October. - Discussion took place about running a Grievance and Disciplinary course for established reps. - Intermediate level computer course being planned. 	
Labour Link <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No report. 	
Pensions (PH) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pension Choice packs should have been distributed to all staff aged 50+ of which there is approximately 700. GA stated that some stations have not yet relieved packs for eligible staff. - Regardless of age staff can contact the LAS Pensions Officer Martina Govindraj. She is willing to visit stations to meet with individuals and groups. Contact her direct to arrange - The Government may extend the deadline for staff to decide whether or not to move over to the new pension scheme. This is probably due to poor uptake by members of the old pension scheme and government issues. 	
Regional Organiser (PT) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No report. 	
Staff Council (EB) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minutes from Staff Council 9th March distributed. 	
Talent Management Programme <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It is a NHS wide initiative to promote staff who are sometimes missed through traditional promotion/recruitment pathways. It would also reduce costs. - Will be launched in August with nominations opening in August and closing in September. - “A framework that will deliver continual enhancement of the future leadership capability, performance and effectiveness of the organisation. This will be achieved through a tailored programme of development designed to maximise the potential of talented individuals”. - Individuals can self nominate or be nominated by a colleague or Line Manager. - Staff side can influence by ensuring the right people are put forward into senior roles. - The Branch is fully supportive of the scheme. 	

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- As of the 1st April 2010 no further Student Paramedic courses will be run by the LAS. The skills gap between a LAS Student Paramedic and A&E Support is too wide. The LAS is looking to reduce that gap by possibly creating an A&E Support Team Leader role. This would only assist a few members of staff in terms of improvements in pay. Another option would be to support individuals who wish to attend an external course to achieve Paramedic registration i.e. a Diploma in Paramedic Science. A major stumbling block would be making a smooth transition from a “secure” job in A&E Support through to Paramedic. Approved prior learning by individuals may assist in promotion to specific courses. ER stated that we are trying to bridge that gap and reiterated that in some ways the current situation has been caused by trying to do the right thing by retaining PTS staff from lost contracts.

Date of Next Meeting

- 29th June Loman Street SE1– Branch Officers only