

London Ambulance Service Unison Branch Committee Meeting

9th November 2010 1030hrs – Conference Room LAS HQ

Present:

- Eric Roberts - Branch Secretary
- Eddie Brand – Chair
- Sarah Hardy – Vice Chair
- Phil Thompson – Regional Organiser
- George Achilles – Treasurer
- Mark Lione – Membership Officer
- Bill Leaning – East Central Sector Health & Safety
- Pete Hannell – Equalities & Pensions Officer
- Andrea Gibbs – Welfare Officer
- Rob Sydney – Communications Officer
- Paul O'Neill – Minute Secretary
- Richard Chow – EOC
- Michael Apps – Retired Members
- Dave Smith – North East Sector
- Brian Robinson – East Central Sector
- Rob Matthews – North West Sector
- Tim Stephens – Central Sector
- Gary Edwards – West Sector

Apologies:

- Ian Lee
- Mark Belkin
- Julie Shirt
- Dave Lamey

Introductions and Welcome	Action
The Committee were introduced to Bill Leaning - Senior Health & Safety Representative from East Central Sector.	
Previous Minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minutes from Committee Meeting held on 9th September 2010 <u>agreed</u> as a true record. 	Agreed
Matters arising <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - None 	
Branch Secretary's report (ER) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Legal report and running total of compensation distributed. Compensation totalling £1482.53p has been awarded to LAS Unison branch members since the last meeting. Running total of compensation from March 2010 is £65,438.53p. <u>£1,623,438.06p</u> of compensation has been obtained by the branch on behalf of its members since 1999. Five legal forms have been processed since the last meeting. - Minutes form the Unison Health Care Ambulance Sector: English Employers Sub Group held on 30th September distributed. - Health & Safety report to the Ambulance Sector; Young report and HART Team fitness test discussed. - Unison response to the Department of Health White Paper: Equity & Excellence Liberating the NHS (www.unison.org.uk/file/A5252.pdf) - Minutes form the Unison Health Care Ambulance Sector meeting from 15th July distributed. 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Letters of thanks received for Michael Apps. - Thanks received for donations from the Branch to the ASWHF and Unison Welfare. - Re-affiliation to the Cuba Solidarity Campaign at a cost of £40. <u>Agreed</u> by the committee. - Retirement function grant request received on behalf of Charles Pereira form St Helier Station who has completed over 35 years service. <u>Agreed</u> by the Committee. 	<p>GA</p> <p>GA</p>
<p>Partnership Forum/Constitution (ER)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No report from the Partnership Forum. - ER is currently working with management on the H&S part of the constitution. ER is compiling a record of relevant training that current H&S reps have undertaken. He has only received 2 responses so far. ER reiterated the importance and need of getting the H&S within the LAS running properly again with trained and qualified reps. <p>Foundation Trust Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No report, however ER stated that our stance on Foundation Trusts still stands. However, the Coalition White Paper has stated that all NHS Trusts will be Foundation Trusts. Because of this it is even more important that staff side have a voice on the Council of Governors. 	<p>ER</p>
<p>Branch Officer Reports:-</p> <p>Communication (RS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The committee thanked RS. 	
<p>Retired Members (MA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Greater London Region members were sent a report outlining MA's Unison activities for the past year. Report distributed to the committee. - National Pensioners Convention canvassing to protect the 'Freedom Pass'. - Request to re-affiliate to the National Pensioners Convention at a cost of £50 – <u>Agreed</u> by the committee. - Support of a government bill Against Elder abuse. 	<p>GA</p>
<p>Health and Safety (WL)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Four Health & Safety reps are currently working towards the Level 1 Certificate for H&S representatives. - WL briefed the committee about IL – the committee sends its best wishes to Ian and his family. 	
<p>Membership (ML)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 33 New members applied to join the Branch – <u>Agreed</u> by committee. Of note the majority of new members this month had applied online. - The committee discussed the Union Reps that are now in place at M&L workplaces. ER stated that there is a good rapport developing with some employers thanks to work being done by EB and the Senior Reps. 	
<p>Treasurer (GA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Audit for 2009 still ongoing. - Reminder to cash cheques promptly as this ensures up to date accounts for the branch. 	
<p>PTS (ER)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The South London contract will go over to Savoy Ventures on 1st December 2010. Of the 70 staff 36 will be TUPE'd over. Five of these staff are Unison members, two of which have been taken on roles elsewhere within the LAS, one has moved on to A&E Support with the last two awaiting re-deployment 	
<p>Welfare (AG)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - AG attended her first Unison London Region Welfare Committee meeting since being elected. 	

<p>EOC (RC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Command Point training scheduled to be rolled out in January with a provisional go live date of 8th June. - Demand Management plan has been released. 	
<p>Equalities (PH)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Talent Management programme – Four female members of staff have been selected following the application process. No positive action was used to select those who were successful. - All Equality Strands are part of Equality Law. - Equality Impact Assessment for MRU has been completed. Recommendations include the fitting of a ‘cutaway’ seat on the Honda Pan-European and a non residential course based in London. PH stated that the MRU group has come a long way. - PH went into the EOC as a ‘critical friend’ where he engaged with staff from Control Services. 	
<p>Education (MB)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No report. 	
<p>Labour Link</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No report. 	
<p>Pensions (PH)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Unison response to the Hutton report on Public Service Pensions. - PH stated that employees can expect a rise in pension contribution rates in order to receive the same benefit. - The Hutton review is expected in March 2011. 	
<p>Regional Organiser (PT)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More information is required on case forms that are submitted. We are still receiving incomplete case forms. PT will discuss the issue in January 2011. - PT talked about the Branch Assessment process which is in two stages. The first being a review the second being the allocation of work and projects. - Proposed dates for the Branch AGM and election dates. Nominations for the Branch Committee will open on 10th January 2011 and close 1700hrs on 4th February 2011. If a ballot is required it will open on 14th February and close at 1700hrs on 11th March 2011. The AGM will be on 23rd March 2011. - Ideas were discussed on how to increase interest in the process and increase the turnout at the AGM. A change of venue is being investigated. 	
<p>Staff Council (EB)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No report. 	
<p>Senior Sector/Area Representatives Reports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - North East – 0 Suspensions 0 Disciplinary 0 Capability. Nearly finalised the Whipps Cross rotas. - East Central – 0 Suspensions 0 Disciplinary - West – 2 Suspensions 2 Capability. All new rotas have been agreed. - Central – 1 Suspension 0 Capability 1 Disciplinary. It was reported at the South Area meeting that the CRM Trial was not working effectively. - North West – 2 Suspensions 2 Capability. RM stated that there were issues around the MAP. New Pinner rota starting in January. A discussion took place around the recent recruitment for Student Paramedics from the A&E Support group. There were 115 applicants for the Student Paramedic Training course. Of these 56 were short listed for assessment centre and 12 were successful in being offered a place. Literacy and numeric 	

standards were cited as the main reason for the low success rate.	
<p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Request for sponsorship received. Paramedics Paul Broadway and Nick Gray are organising a clinical review meeting/workshop about asthma. There will be a presentation from Asthma UK and a case study. The sponsorship is needed to host the event at the Curzon Cinema in Wimbledon. The committee agreed in principal however have asked for more information from the organisers before agreeing an amount. 	ER
<p>Date of Next Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 9th December 2010 1500hrs at Fielden House London Bridge. 	