



London Ambulance Service Unison Branch Committee Meeting

10th August 2010 10.30- Conference Room LAS HQ

Present: Eric Roberts - Branch Secretary
Eddie Brand - Chair
Phil Thompson - Regional Organiser
George Achilles - Treasurer
Sarah Hardy - Vice Chair
Ian Lee - Health and Safety Officer
Pete Hannell - Equalities and Pensions Officer
Mark Lione - Membership Officer
Mark Belkin - Education Officer
Michael Apps - Retired Members
Richard Chow - EOC
Claudette McNaughton - EOC
Marcus Davis - Central Sector
Linda King - North West sector
Rob Mathews – North West Sector

Apologies: Dave Lamey Paul O'Neill
Andrea Gibbs Gary Edwards
Rob Sydney Julie Shirt
Bryan Robinson Clare Hodgson

Previous Minutes

- Minutes from Committee held on 16th July agreed as a true record. Agreed

Matters arising

- Pension age to be raised to 66 as of 1st April 2016 not April 2011 (PH)

Regional Officer's report (PT)

- PT raised the issue that reps need to ensure that the correct paperwork is sent on with case forms; letter of dismissal, management's statement and member's statement. Also the rep needs to check that the member's membership is valid and that they have been a member for four weeks prior to the incident. The member needs to be made aware that a case form is not an application for legal assistance. Guidance will be issued.

Branch Secretary's report (ER)

- Legal report and running total of compensation distributed. Compensation totalling £2,150 has been awarded to LAS members since the last meeting. Running total of compensation from March 2010 is £54,263.78. Compensation since March 1999 awarded to members: £1,612,392.39.
- **Branch Secretary's report continued -**
- Government white paper on the future of the NHS.

- Report to the Health Service Group Executive meeting 21st/22nd July 2010 NHS pay.
- Thank you letter received from Regional Welfare Committee for the donation of raffle prize money of £50 for the Committee's Centenary Cruise Event held on 23rd July.
- Request made to offer honorary membership to Maria Del Carmen General Secretary of the Cuban Health Workers Union SNTS (PT to forward this on) - Agreed by the committee
- Retirement grant request made for Janet Hollyhead - Agreed by Committee.

Partnership Forum/constitution (ER)

- Health and Safety Partnership Agreement accepted by all unions.
- Waiting for dates from Tony Crabtree for Operational H&S Partnership Forum and Corporate Health and Safety meeting.
- Branch to nominate Unison members to the Corporate H&S group in accordance with agreement.

Foundation Trust Update (ER)

- Staff Council Governor Seat to be confirmed soon. Unison accepts the offer of one seat and will take the decision to staff side of Staff Council.

Branch Officer Reports;-

Health and Safety (IL)

- Experiencing problems with the chair trial which was supposed to last 4 – 6 weeks but the vehicle keeps going missing.
- IDR – Informed that these can be manually triggered by the driver.
- New vehicles ongoing rollout
- As a result of the HSE report, risk assessments will be completed locally by the complex H&S rep and a DSO, any issues will be taken to area meetings then on to Operational Partnership meetings.
- A pack will be distributed to all H&S reps and includes details of courses, Unison guide for H&S reps, 3 booklets re H &S assessments, a poster detailing reps legal rights, an individual poster for each rep with their contact details and a poster entitled *We did not vote to die at work* campaign.

PH raised his concern that H &S reps in the North West perceive there to be a break down in communication IL replied that hopefully the pack would help.

Membership (ML)

- Membership list distributed for approval – Agreed by Committee

Treasurer (GA)

- No report

Pensions (PH)

- Las pensions' officer Martina Govindraj is currently touring stations discussing pension options with members. Please direct members to one of her meetings.

Equalities (PH)

- The Talent management Programme is now open to applicants. The application period closes 10th September. You can nominate yourself or another and the nominee must not have any significant performance issues.
- Equality Impact Assessments are ongoing; key points to have come out of EIAs; Reasonable time off to complete statements in TPO15, encouraging staff to disclose alcohol/drug misuse or addiction issues to their

line manager in TPO67, a serious training requirement identified in OP009. The Motorcycle Response Unit strategic plan EIA has been adjourned as not enough time was set aside for it.

Education (MB)

- There has been a reduction in funding under the new government and so running courses will be more difficult. There are two courses planned to be run over 5 days; One course of 2 days for new stewards “handling Grievance and Disciplinary course” planned for 3rd and 4th November and the second course is to be run over 3 days and is a refresher course for reps hopefully which will involve experienced reps giving advice on best practice. ER has had discussions with Jason Killens regarding time off for reps to attend the courses.
- MB will write to all new reps with the dates for the courses.
- New poster designed for display on stations and the LAS Unison website.
- Book Grants ongoing.

Retired Members (MA)

- Hotel booked for visitors and delegates to the retired member’s conference.
- Greater London Region newsletter sent out to all retired members.
- MA requested ML provide him with a list of names of newly retired members.

Senior Sector Representative Reports

North East/East Central (ML)

- The Three members suspended are now back at work and the cases will be dealt with at station level.
- Rota review ongoing and currently in dispute over 2 rotas
- Area meetings going ahead

Central (MD)

- Currently there are two members suspended and there is one hearing on Thursday 12th August

North West (PH)

- There are no suspensions
- Friern Barnet and Camden adopting NWOW. Concern about consultation.
- Rotas are a widespread issue in the North West, currently there is an impasse at St John’s Wood, Brent and Kenton and this was taken to the joint secretaries on Wednesday 28th July. The issue is mainly around three o’clock finishes.
- PH raised concerns about a poster displayed on the Pinner Complex entitled the Pinner complex ‘Sort It’ working group.
- PH passed on the sad news that a member of staff from St Johns Wood stn Pat Hoare (Unison member for 24 years) has been taken ill whilst travelling in America with his wife Marina. AG, Welfare Officer, has secured £1,000 from Unison Welfare. ER asked Branch to match this figure and this was Agreed by Committee. AG also secured £2000 from the LAS benevolent fund. Thanks to AG and the Branch for £4000 total and wishes Pat a speedy recovery on behalf of the Branch.

PTS (ER)

- South London Healthcare trust lost the tender to a firm called Savoy Ventures.
- 6 members from Unison are affected alongside members of GMB

PH commented that this is the first time that such a large number of staff will be transferred over as the LAS can no longer redeploy large numbers of staff.

EOC (RC)

- No Report

Staff Council (EB)

- The next staff council will be held within the next few months

AOB

- None submitted

Date of Next Meeting

- 9th September 2010