

Minutes of the Unite Glasgow Retired Members' Branch 3rd August 2017

Chair suspended Standing Orders so that we could hear Branch member Irene Graham's presentation on her project work in Bangladesh. Her main input had been on the teaching of English and Computing and she had also become the project leader. She also showed various pictures including the ongoing work of building the Assembly Hall. Various questions were asked of Irene and the branch agreed a collection which raised £185.

Chair welcomed 37 members to the Branch meeting, including one new member Alan Cameron, who had been an officer within the Union.

1. Apologies – J. Friel, J. Convery, H. Cowan, D. Denholm, J. Docherty, D. Edwards, W. Farrell, J. Ferguson, A. Gleadhill, D. Kerr, W. McEwan, D. Paterson, J. Patrick, P. Rankin, G. Scott, J. Stewart, J. Thomson, M. Weightman.
2. Minutes of previous meeting accepted as correct.
3. Matters Arising
 - a) Summer outing – Mick reminded us that The Waverley left from the Science Centre at Lancefield Quay at 10.00am and that we were booked into the Rio Restaurant in Dunoon for lunch.
 - b) Several members had attended the WASPI demonstration and Dave Sherry recommended that we invite one of their members to speak at our November meeting and this was agreed.
4. Correspondence – Copies of Scottish Left Review, Age Scotland Newsletter and SPF Newsletter.
5. Reports
 - a) Branch Committee – Secretary Mick Rice explained what intended doing for UN International Day of Older Persons on 30th September. We will assemble outside Boots in Sauchiehall St, have speakers and sing a few songs. We will also update our leaflet from last year. Mick had also written to the FGP committee asking for financial support. He had also checked on those members who are entitled to 50-year Badge and it was agreed to present these at the Branch Christmas Lunch. Those who could not attend will be invited to a future Branch meeting for presentation. He also reported that May Plumbers' husband had attended the last Song Club and bought everyone a drink in thanks for the Branch's support for May. He had also asked Dave Sherry to prepare and deliver 10-minute pop-ups on labour movement songs and singers. He had checked who were delegates from the branch to Labour Party CLP's (42) and it was agreed that he should write to them and if they wished to continue with their delegation, that should attend a couple of branch meetings. It was agreed to formally write to the Ayr Retired Members Branch, inviting them along to the Song Club.
 - b) Action Sub-Committee - A written report was submitted and in the absence of David Paterson, Bill Newman highlighted the upcoming Education Courses for our retired members and the work so far done on the "Awards for All" application. Dave Sherry also drew our attention to the BA Cabin Crew strike and recommended that we go and help from 16th – 24th August at the roundabout near the airport.
 - c) NPC Parliament – Blackpool. Ian Findlay had provided a full Report to Committee members and this had been included on E-Bulletin

- d) **Scottish Pensioner' Forum – John Rogers reported on the Conference in Dundee referring to the defeat of the Lanarkshire Retired Members motion and the fact that Sam Gibson refused to leave the rostrum. He also referred to the discussion on funeral poverty. Maureen Gardner supplemented and referred to her motion submitted as an individual member. This requested the STUC to encourage all affiliates to have retired members sections in order to combat loneliness and isolation. Maureen also reported that the function which the SPF had hoped to host at Holyrood for UN Day would not be taking place. Still to decide what should be done.**
- e) **Area Activists – Ian Findlay had provided written report supplemented by Bobby Brennan. He referred to the fact that female sanitary products are not luxury items and should not be subject to VAT. Made Donation of £500 to Grenfell Tragedy Fund. Problems with lack of local authority finance from central Government. Ian was elected delegate to Scottish Policy Conference in Aviemore.**
- f) **Trades Council – Dave Sherry reported that the last meeting had discussed their motions which had been accepted by the STUC conference, May Day and finances (our affiliation fees have been paid). Also discussed the Closures of Job Centres and the EIS College Lecturers Dispute which is now over. Also talked about sponsoring a meeting against the cuts.**

6. Motions –

a) Submitted by Bill Newman

“This Retired Members’ Branch urges, as a matter of priority, that a unified system of funeral benefits be proposed for all members. The complexity of the present system is acknowledged, but members, not least retired members, need to know what their entitlements are rather than relying on ad hoc interpretations made following death. Thus, in the interim before a unified system can be introduced, a schedule of current entitlements should be made available to all members.”

Bill referred to the fact that we get different advice from different people and this needs to be clarified. The advice received from Mary Alexander is confusing. If FGP can decide, then let us all know. One member had received benefit, yet another didn't. But then after saying yes, was then told no, and then yes again. Irene Graham seconded motion. Jim Inverarity referred to people needing help with funeral costs and some local councils chasing people for financial help even though they were divorced from the deceased. This was carried unanimously.

b) Motion submitted by Dave Sherry

This union branch notes:

- The provision, by Theresa May, of £1 billion for the Democratic Unionist Party in exchange for their votes, to prop-up her weak government.
- That one of the first acts of this new Tory/ DUP government was to vote in favour of continued public sector pay restraint and to keep the 1 percent pay cap.
- That it is clear that the Tories are split over the pay cap.
- That the 13 million votes for Jeremy Corbyn's Labour represent a desire for change and a break with austerity.
- That shadow chancellor John McDonnell has called for 1 million in the streets against May's government.

This union branch believes:

- That when Theresa May needed the “Magic Money Tree” she found it!

- That if there's money for the DUP, then there's money for health, homes, education and welfare.
- That the devastating fire at Grenfell Tower showed-up the rottenness of austerity, and the impact of neoliberalism.
- That we should all see Grenfell as a reason to redouble our efforts to fight back against the Tories.
- That we need more protests and strikes against the Tory/ DUP government, we can't just wait for the next general election.
- That the demonstration called by The People's Assembly at the Tory Party conference in Manchester on Sunday 1 October needs to be a massive demonstration.

This union branch resolves:

- To give £_____to organise and pay for our own transport/ or help to sponsor other transport going to Manchester on 1 October.
- To organise a branch delegation and send our union banner to the demonstration in Manchester on 1 October.
- To call on the TUC to support this demonstration and to throw its full weight behind mobilising for it.

Seconded by Bill Newman and carried.

7. Any other business

- Reference was made to the recent death of Mary Turner of the GMB**
- Anita Shelton was seeking information for Branch on "Hearing Loss".**
- Chair stated that we should recognise the work done by UNISON in getting Industrial Tribunals restored to being free. It was noted that the Judge talked about European Law and English Common Law in his comments against the Government.**
- Dave Shery reported that there was a week-end of action in Govanhill on 28th and 29th August. Jeremy Corbyn would be one of the speakers and music would be provided by ASWAD**
- Secretary Mick Rice asked if anyone could help on the "computing" side of the Branch work and Jim Ito volunteered.**

Meeting closed at 2.15pm with a Vote of thanks to the chair.

**GLASGOW RETIRED MEMBERS BRANCH
ACTION SUB COMMITTEE
MINUTE OF 10TH AUGUST 2017**

- Attendance:** D. Paterson (Chair); J. McLeod; H. Hutcheson; I. Woodward; I. Findlay; R. McKenna; & James Banner-rall.
James was welcomed to his first meeting of the ASC.
- Apologies:** B. Newman; I. Graham; & B. Brennan.
- Matters arising from ASC of 6 July:** Page 2 Activist Committee – It was noted that the evidence from the Rule Book has been done by Bill.

4. **Events:** It was noted the 28th September Lobby to the Scottish Parliament has been cancelled. However, the campaign planned for Older People's Day on 30th September outside Boots in Sauciehall Street will take place. Final notice to members at the September Branch meeting once Anita can get clearance from the City Council to run it.
5. **Information Flyer:** The Chair issued draft copies, which will be given to members attending Branch meetings, in particular new members. Comments were asked for regarding additions/alterations. There were 2 points for addition and one to be checked.
 - a) Two Branch members indirectly attend the Regional Retired Members Policy conference through being delegates to other committees.
 - b) To include – "The Committee is elected every 3 years at its Triennial general meeting.
 - c) To check at next Committee meeting whether Irene Graham is a member of the Committee or not.
6. **Awards for All:** The 1st draft paper was circulated proposing the outing to Blackpool, Liverpool, & Manchester in 2018. The paper has been to the Branch Committee and there are several changes/additions:-
 - a) It is to be 4 not 3 days
 - b) The base is Blackpool at the Savoy Hotel
 - c) Fairfields Govan Museum has no researched material on Glasgow' Slave Trade and therefore this can be deleted.
 - d) Maureen' work on travel & hotel costs to be added in.

However the Committee will have to determine members interest at the September meeting to determine costs, that is for: size of coach; hotel and meals; no. of room subsidies required, and lunches required. Still to be determined is cost to each individual ie. 5% or 10%. Averaging all this on 40 people this would come to less than £10,000 the maximum awarded by AfA.

David to liaise with Irene Graham and Ian's son on taking this to its next stage.

7. **Learning Courses:** The next course for those who attended the course last October is on the 4th and 18 October. David to contact those members and then Jim Aitken. A 3rd attempt is to be made at the September Branch meeting to ascertain numbers for the other course which will cover:-
 - The History of the British Labour Movement
 - Definitions of socialism
 - The Russian revolution and its impact
 No dates fixed yet for this Course.

8. **AOB:**

- a) Jake intimated that the Community Branch has asked us if our members would attend some action (held secret) on the 6th September. Everyone would meet at 8.30am in JSH. for a Continental Breakfast then move to the place of action.
- b) Jake mentioned a 10 minute film about the train guards in Liverpool. Our interest is in retired disabled members going on trains where there are no guards. Mick is trying to access a copy of the film for us to see.
- c) Jake concluded by talking about the Retired Members School at Eastbourne later this year. There will be 7 Regional delegates from Scotland, 2 of which will be women. There is a meeting on Monday to discuss preparations.

9. **DONM: 21st September at 10.30am.** Room 2.