

Minutes of the Unite Glasgow Retired Members Branch 11th January 2018

Chair Jake Mcleod wished everyone a Happy New Year and welcomed all to the first meeting of the year.

1. Apologies- A. Ayr, J. Banner-Rall, C. Boyd, J. Byrne, A. Cameron, M. Cochrane, G. Convery, J. Docherty, K. Doran, D. Douglas, D. Edwards, W. Farrell, A. Henderson, J. Hislop, H. Hutcheson, I. Jerret, G. Kirk, R. Littler, F. Murphy, W. Oswald, J. Partick, R. Power, T. Prele, P. Rankin, S. Rice, D. Sharpe, G. Stewart, M. Vass, G. Yuille.
2. Minutes of previous meeting accepted as correct after altering the spelling of C. Screen's name.
3. Matters arising – Jim Ito was entitled to 50-year badge and chair would present at end of meeting.
4. Correspondence –
 - a) Letter from Daniel Cawley, pupil at Holyrood School, seeking donation to help with trip to Malawi. Agreed £50
 - b) Letter from Finance Dept. seeking information on Branch Assets. This consisted of Branch Banner and Hi Fi System.
 - c) Letter from Theatre Group asking for financial help to stage play on Miners' Dispute. Agreed £25.
 - d) Greenfell Fire Appeal – noted.
 - e) Age Scotland Magazine – circulated and notification of Scottish Conference in March. Elect delegates at next meeting.
 - f) Stand Up To Racism Scotland – Conference on 3rd February. Agreed to send J. McLeod, D. Sherry, A. Shelton, B. Newman at a cost of £5 per delegate.
5. Reports
 - a) Branch Committee – M. Gardner reported that the Housing Association Branch will be donating a £1000 to branch. On 17th March Stand Up to Racism have organised a demonstration from Holland St to George Square at 11.00am. Recommend that we send 3 delegates to NPC meeting in Blackpool -agreed. Looking for suggestions for summer outing. The V & A Museum in Dundee will not be opened on time. Branch members to be asked to submit amendments to Constitution (circulated with meeting paperwork) to Secretary for discussion at February meeting (see also A.O.B.). Jim Friel's name had also been submitted for a Gold Badge Award. Dave reported that at Fujitsu in Manchester Ian Allinson had been sacked/made redundant after returning to work having attended a funeral. Message of support to be sent to strikers. Today at 4.00pm there will be a demo by "Equal Pay Strikers" at City Chambers and members requested to support. The Committee also recommended that the Branch should donate £150 (same as Community Branch) to the Song Club Xmas Buffet.
 - b) Equalities Officer – Anita reported that there is a film being made of the life of Jayaben Desai about the strike she led and which unionised Asian women workers and it will be shown at the GFT sometime this year.
 - c) Trades Council – May Day discussed, Equal Pay dispute with City Council and reminder of demo today at 4.00pm at City Chambers. Ian Findlay reported that

he is trying to get Area Activists Committee to affiliate and send donation. He also intends to raise the issue of why he was not allowed to attend the Scottish Conference.

- d) Action Sub-Committee – David Paterson reported that next meeting will be on Thursday 18th March at 10.30am. Mandela Monument – Branch can best help by participating in Fund Raising events. The Annual ACTSA Ceilidh will be held on Saturday 13th January at the STUC Offices – tickets £6. Consideration of Branch Committee composition and the possibility of an Education and a Media Officer. Consideration should be given to inviting a speaker from the STUC to inform us about talking to schools. Still no word from Amanda Campbell on Bobby Brennan’s article for Unite Works. Also considered what the Branch name should be. Chair advised we should check with area office on our official title.
- e) Regional Report – Maureen reported on Mary Alexander’s report on mainly Royal Bank of Scotland Branch and ATM closures. Jake expanded on the effects of ATM closures, especially in areas where there are no banks or Post offices. This was a deplorable situation considering 75% of the Bank is owned by Tax Payers. Many employees are likely to take the Redundancy Package. Maureen also referred to the Ayrshire branch having a “Song Event” on 25th February from 2.00pm – 5.00pm as a fund raiser for “Justice for Columbia”. It was also agreed that the Regional Motion to the Unite National Policy Conference should be on “Funeral Poverty” with Maureen providing a draft for amendment by Committee Members.
6. Financial Report – Maureen had produced a detailed report of the Finances for 2017 but pointed out that this had still to be audited. A date would be arranged at end of meeting for this purpose.

Carried Forward from 2016	£4886.11	
Income	£7052.54	£11,938.65
Expenditure		£5,593.30
Balance		<u>£6,345.35</u>

Since the Song Club cannot have a separate account, part of our balance is “earmarked” song club funds, made up as follows

Carried forward from 2016	£226.76	
Income	£821.50	£1048.26
Expenditure		£700.00
Balance earmarked for 2018		<u>£348.26</u>

7. Any other business

- a) Mick reported that he had handed out 50-year badges at the Christmas lunch but he had missed out Jim Ito and Jake and Bernie Beagan. Bobby Brennan thanked Branch for his.

- b) Mick had produced a paper about the branch and the Committee structure which had been circulated with Branch Agenda. He suggested having an Education Officer and IT Officer, as well as an Assistant Secretary. There is much talent within the branch and we should look at what we want to do in the next 2- 3 years. He posed various questions including “Do we need a Fund-Raising Committee” and “Should there be a limit on the size of Branch Committee”. All members should look at the Constitution and put forward amendments to the Secretary for discussion at the February meeting and decisions at the Triennial Meeting in March.**
- c) Billy Foster raised the issue of VAT on Gas and Electricity and argued that it was a disgrace that such a Tax is charged for services which are essential to life. He stated that if we leave Europe, then there is no necessity to pay this tax. He wanted the union to take this issue up and raise with the Labour Party and other appropriate bodies. He pointed out that even those in work sometimes have to choose between eating and heating. This was agreed, and a suitable motion will be forwarded as requested.**
- d) Bobby Brennan gave apologies for non-attendance at next Branch meeting. Meeting closed at 2.00pm with a vote of thanks to the chair.**