

Minutes of the Unite Glasgow Retired Members Branch Meeting 7th June 2018

Chair welcomed 39 members to the meeting.

1. **Apologies:** Raymond Barrie, James Bell, Elizabeth Black, Joyce Bremner, David Brown, Robert Buirds, Allan Cameron, James Colville, Joseph Connelly, John Docherty, William Farrell, James Forsyth, J Hardie, Archibald Henderson, Josephine Hillcoat, Iain Hubbard, J Hughes, Gordon Kirk, Allen Lindsay, Robert Littler, William MacEwan, J Mallon, Gordon May, Joseph McDonald, James McGregor, Robert McKenna, Janette McLean, James Milligan, Sammy Morris, James O'Rourke, James Patrick, M Reilly, Davie Shankland, John Sharp, John Smith, A J Stewart, Christine Wakeling, Alex Watters, John Wood, Helen Hutchison, Charles Taylor, Mary Leggat, Jim Friel.
2. **Minutes of the previous Branch Meeting held on 3rd May 2018 were agreed as correct.**
3. **Matters Arising**
 - a) **Noted that the Fire Brigades Union would be leading a memorial to the victims of the Grenfell fire disaster to be held at the fireman's statue in Glasgow Central Station on Thursday 14th June at 12 noon. All members encouraged to attend.**
 - b) **The Secretary announced that additional tickets were available for the summer outing 'Doon the Watter'. Members requesting tickets would be required to pay in full at the earliest. Members were also reminded to submit their menu choices if they hadn't already done so.**
4. **Correspondence**
 - a) **Nominations for Labour Party Parliamentary Candidates. Branch agreed to support Committee recommendations – Siobhan McCready for Paisley South and Maureen Sharkey for Paisley North.**
 - b) **A petition was circulated amongst members requesting support for the EIS claim for a 10% pay rise for its Teacher members.**
 - c) **A request for support was received from the organisers of the Govanhill International Festival to be held between the 16th and 21st of August 2018.**
5. **Equalities.**

The Equalities Officer presented an overview of equality issues that all members should be made aware of. Copies of the Unite Equalities Policy were made available to members. The policy requires that dignity and respect must be afforded to all people, irrespective of age, disability, race, religion, ethnicity, gender or sexual preference. Any discrimination on such grounds is strictly proscribed. Furthermore, sexual harassment in any shape or form, including inappropriate gestures or remarks, cannot and will not be tolerated. Members

were reminded of their responsibilities towards these matters and the Branch agreed to formally adopt the Equalities policy. Equality issues affecting retired members will be addressed by the Branch and the Branch will promote the interests of retired people generally within the community.

6. Reports

- a) **The Assistant Secretary reported on issues discussed at the Branch Committee Meeting held on 7th June 2018. These were as follows:**

Recommendations agreed for the nomination of Labour Party Parliamentary Candidates for Paisley North and Paisley South.

Measures to ensure compliance with new legislation concerning data protection and the Branch use of databases. Committee is currently addressing the issue and will ensure that Branch practices and procedures are fully compliant.

The ‘Awards for All’ application for a grant to fund an educational trip to Liverpool. David Paterson and Irene Graham have agreed to review the application and report back as soon as possible.

Enquiries have been made regarding the costs of producing a new Branch Banner. Walter Wright, a guest from the Community Branch, commented that the Community Branch had recently obtained a new banner at a cost of £50. Agreed to continue enquiries, obtain estimates and report back.

A draft of a card proposed to be sent to all relevant Unite Branches inviting members to join the RMBG upon their retirement was presented. Agreed to redraft and seek support from the Regional Secretary.

- b) **David Paterson gave a report on the Action Sub Committee held on 10th May 2018 (copy attached to previous minutes). The next meeting will be held at John Smith House on 14th June at 10.30am. All members are welcome to attend.**

David also reported on the education courses on socialism, the history of the Labour Movement and the Russian Revolution, recently held in conjunction with City of Glasgow College. Members attending agreed that the courses were both enjoyable and informative.

- c) **The Education Officer gave an update on arrangements for the course to be held at Eastbourne on the 14th of October 2018. 3 members are attending the course and 2 members have been placed on a reserve list.**

- d) **Bobby Brennan reported on matters raised at the Scottish Pensioners Forum Annual Conference held at Glasgow City Chambers on 5th June 2018. These were as follows:**

RMBG motion passed as submitted by Maureen Gardner demanding the abolition of vat on domestic fuels.

Motion passed as submitted by Eleanor McKenzie demanding an end to austerity policies resulting in gross economic inequality.

Resistance was proposed to any attempt to impose national insurance contributions on occupational pensions.

- e) **Dave Sherry intimated that the Scotland Against Trump campaign was organising protests to coincide with Trump's proposed visit to Scotland. Latest information is that Trump will visit on 13th July 2018. A demonstration is planned to be held in George Square Glasgow on that day at 5pm.**
- f) **Bill Newman reported on the Unite Area Activists Committee Triennial Meeting held on 31st May 2018. RMBG nominees for election to this committee were not accepted on grounds that nominations require to be submitted in advance of the meeting. It was agreed to resubmit the nominations to the regional committee under protest.**
- g) **Frank Murphy reported on the Trades Council meeting. Discussions were held on costs of organising the May Day Rally. Costs totalled £8000, including a cost of £6000 for the hire of Glasgow Royal Concert Hall. Such costs are prohibitive and threaten the viability of next year's rally. It was agreed to appeal to all Union Branches to affiliate and pledge financial support. Next year's rally, funds permitting, would likely be held in a less costly venue, possibly the Tramway.**

- h) **Treasurer's Report.**

Maureen Gardner gave a detailed report to branch, summarised as follows:

Total Income	£9949.57
Expenditure	£2535.22
Balance	£7414.35

7) Motions

Motion submitted by Maureen Gardner (copy attached to agenda) condemning decision by Glasgow City Council to end free swimming for over

60s and under 16s was passed unanimously.

8) Disputes

**EIS claim (previously mentioned)
Equal pay for Glasgow City Council female employees.
RBS branch closures.**

9) Any Other Business

- a) Dave Sherry reminded members of the Govanhill International Festival to be held in August. Branch agreed to donate £100 to the Festival.**
- b) Chair pointed out that some NUM members remain victims of blacklisting because of their involvement in the miners' strike. The matter will be the subject of debate in the Scottish Parliament.**
- c) Chair reminded members that the anniversary of the Piper Alpha disaster is the 6th of July.**
- d) Speaker at next meeting – agreed to invite John Keenan, formerly of Rolls Royce East Kilbride.**

Meeting closed at 1.30pm with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

