

Minutes of the Unite Glasgow Retired Members Branch Meeting 6th September 2018

Chair welcomed 38 members to the meeting.

1. **Apologies:** James Banner-Rall, Raymond Barrie, Margaret Beckett, Robert Buirds, Allan Cameron, Margaret Cochrane, Kenneth Doran, James Hagan, Peter Heaney, Archibald Henderson, J. Hughes, JG Johnston, Joseph Keenan, Gordon Kirk, Ludovic Lang, Robert Littler, Gordon McCance, Leslie McGuire, Janette McLean, Dennis McLellan, John McNally, Russell McLintock, James Patrick, Graeme Phanco, M. Reilly, B. Reilly, Mark Reilly, Donald Sime, Maureen Vass, Bobby Brennan, Jim Inverarity, Dennis O'Donnell, Janet Webb, J. Friel.
2. **New members and/or members attending a branch meeting for the first time were welcomed to the meeting.**
3. **Minutes of the previous Branch Meeting held on 2nd August 2018 were agreed as correct.**
4. **Matters Arising**
 - a) **The Secretary confirmed arrangements for the Christmas Lunch to be held at the Rhoderick Dhu in Glasgow City Centre on Thursday 6th December. Branch Committee agreed to recommend reducing the £17.99 price by subsidy to £10.00 per member. Members can also invite a friend / partner for a reduced price of £15.00 (strictly one friend / partner per member). Forms were circulated wherein members were asked to confirm their attendance as well as indicating their menu choices. Tickets would be made available at the October Branch Meeting and issued to members on payment.**
 - b) **The Secretary confirmed arrangements for the visit to the Forth Valley Branch on Monday 17th September. Members attending should assemble at stance 4 at Buchanan Street Bus Station at 12 noon to board the bus to St Andrews (service X24) at 12.20pm. Members will be met at Forth Valley Hospital by Forth Valley members who will provide transport to the Forth Valley British Legion Club where lunch will be served.**
5. **Treasurer's Report**

Copies of the Treasurer's report were distributed to all members present.
The report summarises cash balances of £6,760.56 for the branch and £350.88 for the song club.
6. **Correspondence**
 - a) **An invitation was received for branch delegates to attend a dinner and conference in honour of Nelson Mandela and the Anti-Apartheid struggle to be held in Glasgow. Rather than sending delegates to attend the dinner and conference at costs of £50 each and £75 each respectively, it was agreed to submit a single donation of £50 in support of the conference.**

- b) Members were informed of the upcoming Reid Foundation memorial lecture to be held on Thursday 27th September in the City Chambers at 7.00pm. The lecture will be delivered by TUC General Secretary Frances O’Grady on the themes of Brexit and the Scandinavian model of social democracy. A number of tickets could be available to members interested in attending.

7. Nomination and election of a Branch Education Officer

David Edwards nominated David Paterson, seconded by Bob McKenna. No other nominations came forward and David Paterson was elected unopposed.

8. Nomination and Election of a member of the Regional Retired Members Coordinating Committee.

Maureen Gardner nominated David Edwards, seconded by Irene Graham. No other nominations came forward and David Edwards was elected unopposed.

9. Nomination and election of 2 delegates to the Area Activists Committee

Branch agreed to postpone the election pending further clarification and agreement upon procedural matters. The Secretary agreed to contact the Regional Secretary accordingly.

10. Reports from Meetings / Conferences attended

- a) The Assistant Secretary reported on matters discussed at the Branch Committee Meeting as follows:

Branch delegates to the Area Activists Committee (procedural matters)

Proposed New Branch Banner

Arrangements for visit to Forth Valley Branch

UN Older Persons Day

Awards for All application to fund educational visits and research into the history of Britain’s involvement in the slave trade

- b) Maureen Gardner gave a report on the Scottish Pensioners Forum meeting with the Scottish Government Minister for Older People (copy attached to agenda papers).

- c) Maureen Gardner reported on the meeting of the Regional Retired Members Coordinating Committee held on Wednesday 22nd August (copy of minutes attached to agenda papers).

- d) David Paterson reported on the Action Sub Committee meeting held on 9th August (copy of minutes attached to agenda papers).

11. Constituency Labour Parties – Reports and Nominations

In accordance with the protocol adopted by the Branch at the August meeting CLP delegates came forward and reported to branch as follows:

For Argyll and Bute: Mick Rice (written report distributed)

For Glasgow Cathcart: Bob Gillespie (verbal report)

For East Kilbride: Gerry Convery (verbal report)

On behalf of the Branch, Chair thanked the delegates, both for attending and keeping the branch informed of their respective CLP activities.

12. UN Day for Older Persons

The Secretary confirmed arrangements for the Scottish Pensioners Forum lobby of the Scottish Parliament on Thursday 27th September. Members wishing to attend should assemble at Queen Street Station in time to board the 9.15 am train to Edinburgh Waverley. The Treasurer stated the Committee had agreed to

reimburse members' train fares (£8.60 for senior railcard holders or £15.00 standard fare).
The Branch would be holding its own demonstration in support of Older Persons Day on 6th October in Buchanan Street between 11.00 am and 1pm. All members were encouraged to attend.

13. Motion Proposing the establishment of a Scottish Heritage Committee of Unite the Union.

The above motion was submitted by Mick Rice and seconded by Bernie Beagan (copy attached to agenda papers). The motion was passed unanimously. The Secretary confirmed that the motion would be presented to the Regional Retired Members Coordinating Committee and, subject to approval, then submitted to the Regional Executive Committee.

14. Pensioners Issues.

Concerns were reiterated regarding fuel poverty affecting low income households and actions required to lobby government on this issue.

15. Disputes.

Disputes currently ongoing are:
EIS pay claim
GCC equal pay
UCU lecturers pay claim.

16. Any Other Business

- a) Dave Sherry announced his intention to attend the forthcoming conference on Confronting Racism and Fascism to be held in London on Saturday 20th October. Branch agreed to donate £50 towards his travel and subsistence costs.
- b) Branch agreed to donate £100 to support the publication of a book about the historic AUEW action in East Kilbride on 'Blacking Pinochet's Engines'.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 1.55pm with a vote of thanks to the Chair.
