

## Minutes of the Unite Glasgow Retired Members Branch Meeting 7<sup>th</sup> February 2019

Chair welcomed 41 members to the meeting.

1. Apologies: Allan Cameron, Archie Henderson, Margaret Campbell, Rosemary Carmichael, Colin Clark, Victor Defazio, Jim Docherty, William Farrell, Irene Graham, Noelle Harvey, Alex Howie, Joe Keenan, Robert Littler, Katrina MacCuish, James McGregor, Joe McDonald, Terence McGahan, Marie McGhee, John McKechnie, John McLaren, Dennis McLellan, Jim O'Rourke, James Patrick, Mark Reilly, Brian Robb, John Robertson, Donald Sime, Robert Smyth, John Thomson, Lilian Thomson, Terence Tochel, Jenny Webb, James Ito, Bernard Beagan, Jim Friel, William McEwan, Jim Bell.

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 10<sup>th</sup> January were agreed as correct.

4. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising not otherwise covered on the agenda.

5. Correspondence

a) Invitations, open to all branch members, received from Age Scotland to attend the National Conference in the Radisson Blu Hotel, Glasgow on 20<sup>th</sup> February.

b) Request from Peoples Assembly Scotland to reaffiliate. Branch agreed to donate £50.00.

6. Reports from Meetings / Conferences attended

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

1) Protocol for election of Branch Delegates to CLPs: Unite Political Officer Jackson Cullinane remains in disagreement with parts of the protocol. The Secretary agreed to prepare a report on the situation for discussion at the next Branch Meeting.

2) Unite Area Activists: Members were informed that an open meeting of Area Activists would be held at 6pm this evening (7<sup>th</sup> February). Interested members were encouraged to attend.

- 3) **Pensioners' Parliament 10<sup>th</sup>-13th June 2019: Delegates to the Blackpool conference were agreed as – Mick Rice, Susanna Rice, Sammy Morris, John Rodger and Gerry Wilson.**
- 4) **Union Song Club: Next session on 21<sup>st</sup> February will include a talk by Dave Sherry on the Scots poet and songwriter Hamish Henderson. The March Song Club is planned to celebrate International Women's Day with invited women singers and musicians. Further updates would be given at the February Song Club and upon the website.**
- 5) **Summer Outing: It was noted that a number of venues had been suggested by members as alternatives to the 'Doon the Watter' trip to Dunoon. Branch discussed and voted as follows:**  
Summerlee Coatbridge - 8 votes  
Kelpies - 4 votes  
V&A Museum Dundee - 7 votes  
Doon the Watter - 16 votes

The Secretary agreed to proceed with booking the Dunoon trip accordingly. Trips to the alternative venues would be considered for the future.

- b) **David Paterson reported on the Action Sub-Committee Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2019. (copy attached to agenda papers). Next meeting will be held on 14<sup>th</sup> February at 12.30pm (all members welcome).**
- c) **Maureen Gardner reported on the Scottish Pensioners Forum Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2019 (copy attached to agenda papers). Maureen thanked members who attended the demonstration against the withdrawal of free tv licences for over 75s at BBC Scotland HQ on 1<sup>st</sup> February.**
- d) **Bill Newman reported on the Trades Council Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2019 (copy attached to agenda papers). It was noted that the May Day march and rally would now be held in George Square on 5<sup>th</sup> May – not in the Tramway as previously planned. The theme will be 'Red Clydeside'.**

## **7. Education Officer Report.**

David Paterson reported that he had attended a meeting with the STUC 'Unions into Schools' team on 19th January. The STUC team supported the idea that retired members could participate in the scheme. Further meetings would be held to agree procedures. David circulated a list of upcoming Union education courses including a residential course to be held in Eastbourne in October. David asked interested members to see him directly after the meeting.

## **8. Equalities Officer Report**

**Irene Graham currently on assignment in Bangladesh therefore no matters to minute.**

## **9. Awards for All Application.**

**The Assistant Secretary gave an update on progress with the application for Awards for All funding. A draft application has been prepared requesting grant funding for approximately 40 interested members to actively participate in an educational project studying the history, legacy and impact of the transatlantic slave trade. The study is planned to include coordinated visits to:**

**Glasgow University**

**Glasgow Merchants House**

**International Museum of Slavery, Liverpool**

**Peoples History Museum, Manchester**

**On the visits to Liverpool and Manchester it is planned to meet and liaise with retired members from their respective local Branches.**

**The study would record its findings within a text document and video which would be submitted for possible inclusion in Black History Month, Glasgow. Relevant media outlets, including Unite Works magazine would be notified accordingly.**

**Branch agreed with the principal aim of the application.**

**The Assistant Secretary agreed to finalise the application and submit it asap.**

## **10. Pensioner Issues.**

**No new issues other than those previously reported.**

## **11. Disputes**

**Noted that the GCC equal pay claim has been settled.**

**EIS, UCLU and Glasgow Life Workers disputes currently ongoing.**

## **12. Rule Change Proposal (copy attached to agenda papers)**

**Moved by Bill Newman.**

**Seconded by Bobby Brennan.**

**Approved by Branch unanimously.**

## **13. Motion regarding Union Diary and Retired Members (copy attached to agenda papers).**

**Moved by Maureen Gardner  
Seconded by Ian Findlay  
Carried by Branch unanimously.**

**14. Motion regarding UN Day of Older Persons (copy attached to agenda papers)**

**Moved by Maureen Gardner  
Seconded by Frank McLaren  
Carried by Branch unanimously.**

**15. Any Other Business**

- a) **Dave Sherry reported on the Unite against Racism and Fascism conference held on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2019. The conference was well attended with good contributions from a variety of speakers. Dave distributed leaflets advertising the Unite against Racism and Fascism March to be held in Glasgow on 16<sup>th</sup> March. Members were encouraged to attend.**
- b) **Robert Buirds updated members on the campaign to save Inchgreen Drydock. One positive to have emerged is the proposal for City Deal Funding for marine engineering training facilities however the funding does not currently include the Inchgreen Drydock. Further meetings are planned with the Scottish Government.**
- c) **Robert Buirds raised an issue concerning Unite Travel Insurance Services. Robert stated that cover duration had apparently been reduced to 31 days (previously 40 days). The Secretary agreed to investigate this.**
- d) **There being no further business the meeting closed at 2.15 pm with a vote of thanks to the Chair.**