

Minutes of the Unite Glasgow Retired Members Branch Meeting 1st August 2019

Chair welcomed 41 members to the meeting.

1. Apologies: Brian Burns, Allan Cameron, Margaret Campbell, Douglas Cruden, James Docherty, William Farrell, Janette Flynn, Agnes Fox, Albert Gleadhill, Jack Hunter, John G. Johnston, Hugh McLuskey, Mairi-Ann McGrath, Debbie McIntyre, Bob McKenna, Dennis McLellan, John McNally, Jim Payne, Brian Robb, George Scott, Robert Smyth, Joseph Tervit, Lilian Thomson, John Thomson, Jennifer Webb, Anita Shelton, Arthur Hughes, Jim 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 Thursday 1st August were agreed as correct.
4. Matters Arising
Reference Item 4 a) Summer Outing: Tickets would be issued in exchange for payment from members attending at the end of the Branch meeting.
5. Correspondence
The Secretary reported on correspondence received as follows:
 - a) Letter from Jim Friel thanking the Branch membership for the presentation to him.
 - b) Details of upcoming International Conference on opposing racism and fascism to be held in London on Saturday 19th October. This would be discussed further at the September Branch meeting.
6. Reports from Meetings and Conferences attended.
 - a) The Secretary reported on matters discussed at the Branch Committee meeting as follows:
 1. Final arrangements for the summer outing.
 2. Facebook page for retired members: The I.T. Officer confirmed that the page was now set up as a closed group. Members wishing to join should approach him at the end of the meeting for details. 12 members indicated their interest by a show of hands.
 3. Branch Recruitment Campaign: to be discussed and agreed by Branch
 - b) Action Sub-Committee Report: David Paterson reported on the Action Sub-Committee meeting held on Thursday 13th June 2019 (copy of minutes attached to agenda papers). David thanked Anita Shelton for chairing the meeting.
 - c) Report from National Pensioners' Parliament: Sammy Morris, Susanna Rice, John Rodgers and Gerry Wilson reported on the NPP held in Blackpool June 11-13 2019. Topics discussed included: housing, fuel poverty, digital exclusion, the social care crisis and public transport. A number of delegates also attended a demonstration outside the BBC's studio in Salford, protesting the removal of free TV licences for over 75's. Maureen Gardner stated that she had appeared on BBC Scotland representing the Scottish Pensioners' Forum on the TV Licence issue. Mick Rice reminded members of the motion to be submitted to the Scottish Policy Conference on this issue. The revised wording of the motion was read out as follows: -
"This conference supports the retention of the free TV licence for the over 75's. We believe that the responsibility for this benefit should be returned to the Department of Work and Pensions and be retained as a non-means tested benefit. For many pensioners, TV is their main form of companionship and is seen as part of the Government's wider role in tackling social isolation and loneliness. Conference notes that this is particularly relevant to pensioners living in rural areas of Scotland. The responsibility for free licences should not be passed to the BBC. Conference calls upon the Scottish Executive to urge Unite centrally to raise this issue with appropriate Scottish and UK politicians and campaign for this concession to be retained."
Branch agreed to the revised wording.
 - d) Motions to be submitted to National Retired Members' Conference on 20th November 2019: -
Each region is allowed to submit 2 motions to the National Conference. The Regional Committee meeting to be held on 21st August will consider and/or agree motions to be submitted. Suggested motion topics from the Branch were:
Climate Change, Recruitment Campaign, Fuel Poverty
 - e) Branch nominations for residential education course at Eastbourne: -
The Scottish Region is allowed to send a total of 4 members to the course. Nominees will be considered at the Regional Retired Committee meeting to be held on 21st August 2019. Branch nominees were agreed as follows:
Sammy Morris, John Rodgers, Susanna Rice
7. Treasurer's Report

The detailed report was attached to the agenda papers. The Treasurer summarised the Branch report as follows: -

Balance carried forward from 2018:	£6202.25
Income:	£4268.99
Total:	£10471.24
Expenditure:	£5304.75
Balance:	£ <u>5166.49</u>

Song Club report was summarised as: -	
Balance from 2018:	£331.38
Income:	£322.81
Total:	£654.19
Expenditure:	£458.98
Balance:	£ <u>195.21</u>

8. Branch Recruitment Campaign.

The Secretary presented proposals for a Branch Recruitment Campaign (detailed proposals attached to agenda papers). The proposals outline how, in addition to recruiting retired members, the Branch can assist in recruiting members from a number of sectors, particularly young people in precarious employment (i.e. those on zero-hour contracts). This would involve liaison with full time organisers and would require funding support from Unite. Branch agreed that the outline proposals be brought forward to Unite Scottish Region officials.

9. Education Officer's Report.

David Paterson reported that the half-day course on Equality issues is being rescheduled to take place in late October / early November. Members interested in attending should see David at the end of the meeting. Members interested in participating in the 'Unions Into Schools' initiative were asked to put their names forward for appropriate training.

10. Motion proposed by Dave Sherry on Global Day of Action on Climate Change, 20th September 2019.

"The global school student strikes over climate change and the actions by Extinction Rebellion have inspired millions of people. The situation is urgent and as our guest speaker at last month's meeting pointed out, a call has now gone out for a general strike in September. Accordingly, on Friday 20th September school students will walkout in another global day of action and have asked others to join them. In Britain the UK Student Climate Network has appealed for College and University strikes on the day and the UCU lecturers' union is backing the call. The trade-union based Campaign Against Climate Change, backed by Unite and many other organisations is backing this call too.

This branch meeting agrees to-

1. Back this call and encourage our members to join the demonstration in Glasgow on the day with our union banner present.
2. Send this motion and its action points to GTUC and the Glasgow Area Activists Committee of Unite asking them to back the call and mobilise for local action.
3. Affiliate to the Campaign Against Climate Change and order copies of its pamphlet 'One Million Climate Jobs' for branch members.

The motion was seconded by Bill Newman and carried unanimously.

11. National Retired Members' Newsletter

Irene Graham presented the newsletter (copy attached to agenda papers).

Irene confirmed that Retired Members now have delegate status at Unite Conferences.

12. Pensioner Issues

Fuel poverty, social isolation and loneliness were identified as critical issues.

13. Disputes.

Current disputes were noted as follows:

Lothian Buses

Harland and Wolf Belfast –agreed to send message of support

Havelock workers facing redundancy

Bi Fab – no movement yet on new orders

St Rollox – plant closing

Vauxhall Ellesmere Port – possible redundancies.

14. Nominations for delegates to CLP's

Nominees agreed as follows: -

Marlene Barrie – Anniesland Linda Clarke – Strathkelvin

15. Any Other Business

Ian Findlay agreed to make arrangements for a speaker from Beatson hospital.

Dave Sherry distributed flyers for the upcoming Govanhill Festival. Members were welcome to attend.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 14.05 with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 5th September 2019 at 12.30pm.