**Minutes of the Unite Glasgow Retired Members Branch 12th January 2017**

**Chair Jake McLeod welcomed everyone to the meeting by wishing them a Happy New Year and also welcomed new member, Denis O’Donnell. 24 members in attendance.**

1. **Apologies – Gerry Wilson, Charles Taylor, John Craig, Jim Friel, May Finlay, May Plummer, Anita Shelton, Mike Rice and Susanna Rice. Irene Graham pointed out that when in Bangladesh she had a standing apology, and this should be included.**
2. **Minutes of previous meeting accepted as correct – moved and seconded by Ian Findlay and Charles Buchanan after a correction to the spelling of Sammy Morris’s name.**
3. **Matters arising – Dave Sherry reported that he had handed over our cheque to the Wishaw and District Housing Association Branch.**
4. **Correspondence – Notification of candidates for the election of General Secretary, Len McLuskey, R.O. Edward Coyne and lay member Ian Allinson. Timetable for election read out and agreed to discuss at next meeting. Notification that we had 7 delegates to the Glasgow North West CLP and we are only allowed 5. Selected 5 who were known to members but secretary to write inviting them to Branch meetings. Secretary also to find out which other constituencies we had delegates to.**
5. **Reports**
6. **Action Sub-Committee – David Paterson reported that if anyone wanted to attend a repeat of the Stage 1 Course this could be arranged. He circulated a sheet for those to add their names and would produce it again at the next branch meeting. WE wanted a stage 2 course but Education officer needs to look at budget for year to see if any money is available. He also raised the “Awards for All” application including the suggestion of visiting the Manchester People’s History Museum and The Liverpool Dockland Regeneration Site. Irene Graham suggested that the Liverpool visit could also include “The Slavery Trail” and that she was willing to help make the application. A decision on what we should do would be decided at a later meeting.**
7. **Trades Council – Bill Newman reported that this year’s May Day rally will be held on 30th April and the theme is “Glasgow, Our City “and various venues are being looked at. There will be an “Anti-Cuts March and Rally” on 4th March organised jointly with The Joint Community Unions. The Council was updated on the dispute by IT workers against the privatisation of this service, who were also looking for letters of support to be sent to Unison. Agreed to do so and Dave Sherry will let our “rapid Response Team know when they next take action so that we can show our support. Agreed we donate £100 to Trades Council as a contribution for May Day.**
8. **Area Activists – Charles Buchanan reported that members were concerned about cuts to bus services, the continuing problem of backlisting, the recommendation for people to see the “I, Daniel Blake” film. He also attended the St Andrews Day March and highlighted some of the speakers’ comments, particularly the reference to Jo Cox who was murdered.**
9. **Any other business**
10. **Next branch meeting will need to decide on a motion to submit to the Regional Retired Members Committee for consideration for the Scottish Policy Conference in September. Maureen Gardner had drafted 3, one on Fuel Poverty, one on Funeral Poverty and one on the Extension of the Concessionary Travel Scheme. Any other motions should be submitted to the Branch Secretary so that all can be printed on agenda for the next meeting.**
11. **National Pensioners’ Convention People’s parliament in Blackpool. We need 4 delegates. This takes place in June. Chair explained that branch pays for accommodation, BB and evening meal and transport. Like a mixture of old and new delegates. Several members stated that they were willing to pay own expenses. Noted that NEC had made a large donation to the NPC but they don’t cover Scotland where the Scottish pensioners Forum (SPF) is the organisation for older people. It was felt that the Scottish Executive of Unite should be asked to make a reasonable donation to that body.**
12. **Speakers for future meetings – we have Eileen Cawley of the SPF for our February meeting. Agreed to ask Gordon Sampson of the Dundee Pensioners Forum to our March meeting and someone from “The Stand Up to Racism.” Also, agreed to affiliate to “Stand Up To Racism” at a cost of £2.**
13. **Song Club – Irene Graham felt that this benefitted from having a “choir master “ present. Although we cannot have a separate bank account it was agreed that the club should be self-financing. Maureen Gardner pointed out so far it was. We should ask for donations at the club and seek donations from other sources. Frank Murphy raised the issue of copyright and Maureen explained that Mick Rice had already checked this out. It was felt that situation should be reviewed after a year, since Song Club only started in May last year.**
14. **Irene reported that the ACTSA Annual Ceilidh was being held on Saturday 14th January at the STUC and people could just turn up. Also Women’s Support Project Fund Raiser on 18th January in The Stand Comedy Club**
15. **Frank Murphy asked that the Christmas Lunch Venue be put on agenda for next meeting**
16. **Summer Outing – Chair suggested that we consider what we want to do at next meeting. The Waverley trip was very successful but booking early can sometimes save money. We should think seriously on what we want to do for next meeting.**
17. **Bernie Beagan stated that he had been unhappy with some of the comments made by Jim Aitken at last Branch meeting and after reading up about pole dancing as a fitness regime, he still thinks it is a very sexual type of activity. It was reported that Education Officer had apologised.**

**Meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the chair**