



Branch meeting minutes

Thursday 24 November 2022, 6.30pm in-person in Croydon Town Hall and by Zoom

- 1. Present:** Pete Raven (Branch Secretary), Maggie Hughes (Branch President), Branch officers: Matthew Connolly, Megan Dobney, Adam Hughes, Charlaine Nkum, plus 7 Branch members in the room and 11 online
- 2. Apologies:** Branch officers Terry Douglas and Jack Ryan, members: Bill Hyatt-Steel, Lazarus Mungure, Trevor Powell
- 3. Introductions** Maggie welcomed members to the meeting. It was the first time we had attempted a meeting both in-person and online.
- 4. Minutes of last meeting 29 September 2022:** agreed a true record
- 5. Delegates to Congress 2023:** Pete introduced the item – we have one delegate and a possible “10%” delegate – intended to ensure diversity amongst the delegation. He had asked before the meeting for expressions of interest and had received two. Hortense Silvera and Corinne Branthonne. Hortense was in attendance, but Corinne was neither in attendance nor had sent apologies. It was proposed by Julie Willoughby, seconded by Ray Eveleigh, and agreed that Hortense would be our delegate. Pete will have a conversation with Corinne and others about the possible second delegate.
- 6. Delegates to the Regional Women’s Conference** Pete had asked before the meeting for expressions of interest and had received six: Sarah Olaleye, Chika Reuben, Klara Rychtarcikova, Charlaine Nkum, Hortense Silvera and Mary Simon (who was neither in attendance nor had submitted apologies). We were entitled to two delegates but depending on uptake may be able to send more. Pete will submit names in order of priority and hope a larger delegation is possible.
- 7. Teaching assistants – update on term time only** Matthew updated on a recent court case that ensured term time only workers are allowed full holiday rights. Members will also benefit from this will being backdated.
- 8. Honoraria uplifts** Pete asked for support to increase the honoraria for Maggie Hughes and Matthew Connolly by c.£600 a quarter, and for himself c.£300. He pointed out that we deal with c.1,500 employers in the branch and need the extra resources. The meeting agreed and Pete said it would now go to the Regional Committee for endorsement.

9. Branch spend on promotional materials Pete requested support to spend c.£3,000 on materials (bags, badges, pens etc) promoting the branch and the union now we are getting out amongst the members again. The meeting agreed.

10. Branch update Pete reported quite a bit of movement with some branches closing (in Richmond, and the British Legion poppy factory) and members moving to us. We need another Accompanying Rep in the south west part of the branch for one day and he will seek this once the honoraria increases have been agreed. Membership is now around 7,100. This includes about 60 members from the former AA national branch – their needs are being met by a couple of reps on release. Any members with ideas for recruitment – at their place of work for instance – can contact Pete and he will be happy to meet up with them and discuss.

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11. Motions for Congress 2023 Maggie outlined the procedure and members made the following suggestions:

- **Charlaine Nkum** suggested a motion on race trauma citing a common lack of diversity within employee assistance programmes
- **Hortense Silvera** suggested a motion calling for menopause awareness training for all managers in the workplaces
- **Adam Hughes** suggested a motion on modern day slavery – there is new learning going on. Also one on compassionate mind training
- **Charlaine Nkum** suggested a motion on mandatory housing support for victims of crime

It was agreed that draft motions should be submitted to Pete. He will consult branch officers for consent/priority.

12. Any other business

- **Ray Eveleigh** said he had been on several picket lines recently and asked whether arrest was likely and what the law was on it. Pete responded that the union involved must be clear who its six official pickets are and that all others are there to support.
- **Adam Hughes** asked if there was any news on the regional equality forum. Pete said there was not but that there are over 1,000 disputes ongoing with officers conducting ballots and therefore very busy.
- **Adam Hughes** asked if it would be possible to have a picture GMB ID now that workplace visits have recommenced. Pete said it wouldn't be universal as not all want their photo on display, but that Adam could draft something for him to check out.
- **Hortense Silvera** asked if we had members in Southern Housing. Pete said he will check and let her know.

- **Pete** said there was a problem with GMB joining forms (lack of clarity) as you have the option to opt out of all contact which of course makes no sense!
- **Pete** reminded members to keep their membership up to date in terms of employer, hours of work etc – can be done via myGMB on the website.

13. Branch meetings 2023 the following dates were agreed, all at 6.30pm on a Thursday:

- 9 March
- 15 June
- 7 September
- 23 November

14. The meeting closed at 20.13