



Branch Newsletter



Nov Issue
No 20 2008

Leave it with me, I'll get back to you ...

And she always did.

That well known phrase or saying was never as true as when left with Gwen Williams. Nobody grew old waiting for a back call from Gwen, if she did not know, she said so, and you could be confident of a swift quality connecting response, uncluttered by the wonders of modern voice mail technology. Gwen was one of today's ever diminishing short list of instant voices on the other end, just when one was losing all hope of gaining a timely response.

Gwen Williams will be well known to literally hundreds of both NUPE and UNISON members for over 30 years, working out of the Bury St Edmunds Office's, as Secretary to former Regional Officer Dennis Packham, and also to our current Regional Officer John Toomey.

Gwen is no longer staying in her current role but simply moving across the office to another venture where her vast experience of problem solving will be applied to other members fortunate to benefit from her services.

We shall miss her helpful unflappable manner and practical advice, wishing her well in her new role.



Thanks



When considering Gwen's unstinting commitment over the years, the Branch Committee felt, and agreed that we should present her with a gift in recognition of her support to all of the recent 'Eastern' branch membership of whom have since been merged to form the East of England Ambulance Branch UNISON 20106.

Bury Office is currently organising for Gwen's replacement and members will be informed as soon as that has been agreed, meanwhile members are reminded that contact numbers are as normal, and the UNISON Direct Number is 0845.355.0845

Vouchers & a Drink



Secretary's Corner

Do a little– Help a lot



We are constantly trying to improve the way we communicate with our members. As you can imagine, communicating a vast amount of information to over 5000 members of staff across the huge and diverse geographical area in which we work is no mean task. However, we have come a long way from where we were 12 months or so ago, we now have a first class newsletter, one of the best Websites in the region, our E-news service that our members can sign up to, special bulletins, the 'Your Shout' forum, station visits, well publicised phone numbers, and e-mail addresses of all the committee members for those personal issues/advice, and the local staff partnership forums.

The only slight problem with some of these methods is that they rely heavily on IT and they rely on a small handful of people doing all the work.

To overcome this problem it would be ideal if we had a representative at every department that we could feed information to for them to post on notice boards, or disseminate to staff. We currently have somewhere in the region of 120 departments with only about a quarter having a named rep for us to contact.

We will soon be sending out the annual nominations for departmental representatives, and, (as I seem to do every year) I must urge staff to elect their rep and send back the form for accreditation.

If it really is not possible that someone is willing to put their name forward, then this year we will also be inviting expressions of interest from members that are prepared to be a departmental contact, that we can send information to 'hot off the press'.

I would also like to add that communication is a two way street, if for example, a rep would like information on a latest policy position, and that policy has not yet dropped on the doormat, then try contacting your County Lead and asking the question, after all we are here to help.

This is your Union, and by more people getting involved and sharing the workload, we will become more efficient, and everyone will benefit.

As the saying goes, "don't be a part of the problem, be a part of the solution"

The UNISON Diaries are with us and will be issued out to members over the next few weeks, look out for yours.

K Risley Branch Secretary

Act now to prevent assaults

Latest UNISON Press Release

"I've been punched kicked and spat at, just last month one of the crew had a knife pulled on him".

That's just one of the realities behind the statistic that 55,993 English NHS Staff were physically assaulted in 2007-8.

That comment from a Paramedic is backed up by an Accident & Emergency Nurse who says, "The A & E department on a Saturday night is a nightmare to work in, I just dread it"

UNISON is calling yet for tougher action to cut down on violence in the wake of the statistics released today by the NHS Security Management Services, which show more than 284 more assaults than the previous years.

"The catalogue of assaults is shameful," declared UNISON head of health Karen Jennings after the figures were revealed.

"What sort of injury do we have to wait for before tough action is taken against violent offenders? Health care workers are four times more likely to be the victims of assault than any other workers."

"I fear that the all night drinking culture and lack of respect is fuelling violence against dedicated NHS Paramedics, Nurses, and Health care staff who need to be given the protection they deserve."

"Zero tolerance should mean, ZERO tolerance" she added.

Ms Jennings called for more prosecutions of those involved in assaults, together with tougher penalties for anyone convicted.

"Many of these assaults are preventable," she added, calling on the NHS to look at measures to protect their staff.

"In some places, that might mean more Police and security staff working in A & E, in others, staff training, more CCTV, better alarms, better co-ordination between police and Ambulance staff, flagging up dangerous areas or building safety features into hospitals and wards," she said.

End

East Herts Locality puts the Trust Dynamic Deployment plan 'on trial'

The stations of East Herts locality sites of Welwyn Garden City– Hertford– Ware– Hoddesdon– Chestnut– Potters Bar– and Hatfield have reacted with their written responses in relation to the Trusts recent Draft Harmonisation Deployment Plan.

Other more diverse responses have also been received from crews across the region who clearly consider that having had more than adequate warning of the arrival of the Call Connect target stimulus, the Trust has been unusually slow to respond under the circumstances thereby missing the opportunity to engage its Operational Managers, down to and including Team Leaders to plan in advance.

Some members of the former EAAT regions, NFK– SFK Cambs, commented. “having already been through the process only a few years ago, System Status Management is nothing new, we have already worked the system for nearly 8 years, and having done the all the homework and the assessments, we should by now have learnt enough from that exercise to be able to produce a 95% finalised working document.”

“ It is the Operational Management of this trust that have the necessary authority and full responsibility to carry out the research into what sites would be appropriate and fit the criteria as stated within the current proposals, it is not up to the Staff to engage in a trial and error, do it yourself exercise which will inevitably result in confusion, delays and variegated options.” surely we have a more than adequate spread of Operational management conversant with their own areas to be able go out there and carry out the risk assessments to complete this exercise,” this would avoid all the inevitable arguments,”

The East Herts locality has submitted a 24 point written response that brings into question many areas of Trust Operational Strategy in relation to deployed operational patient care, Clinical evidence and Staff welfare, this awaits a response.

As is normal with any diverse controversial policy documents involving mixed change, the further it gets away from the Boardroom, the more the support and ownership wanes, with the responses from many Operational Managers and Team leaders varying from the defensive to the “nothing to do with me” its difficult to see how real success can be achieved when even the management themselves cannot agree, and stand four square behind it.

The ‘Consultation’ exercise meanwhile continues, and Staff are advised to feed their comments back to their representatives or managers (preferably in writing), all Staffside Unison contacts are on the back page of this newsletter.

Or use the dedicated website contact at:-
deployment@eastamb.nhs.uk

E.M Communications

September Legal cases for the Eastern Region

BRANCH	AMOUNT
Bedfordshire County	3.7000.00
Cambridgeshire County	1950. 00
Colchester PCT	2500 00
East & North Herts NHS Trust	9000. 00
East Coast health	2800 . 00
East Coast Health	2500 . 00
East London Mental Health	2320. 00
Essex County	8500 . 00
Harlow Local Government	2250. 00
Hertfordshire Police	3000. 0
Herts Com Healthcare	3000.00
London Electricity	3600 00
Queen Mary’s Hospital—Sidcup	6500. 00
South Essex Community	4900 .00
Southend Hospital	2184. 46
Southend– on Sea BC	1300 . 00
Suffolk County	5250 . 00
University Essex	1500 00
University Essex	6500 00
University of Hertfordshire	2500. 00
University of Kent	2200 00
Unknown at Press	550. 00
Waveney District Council	6000 00
West Norfolk & Wis Kings L Health	1250 00
Totals	£ 85.754.46

Branch activity for November 2008

Please note for the time being, the back page of the Monthly newsletter will be devoted to a rolling record of the standard items relating to the current activity of Branch officers on the members behalf. For as long as the item remains current, it will serve as an update and also as a reminder to us as branch officers, for the continuity of communications. The contact points for all these items are also available below.

Mealbreak Policy



The group met on 31st Oct at UNISON Bury office. All six attended, even though two of those were on annual leave. Those attending were:- Barry Jarvis- Frank Ward - Staffside Leads John Davey ,Essex- Tim Killick Cambridge- Paul Hatch Beds & Herts- Stuart Reeves Beds & HEOC.

We re-affirmed our position as the same as the last proposal to the Trust, which had been rejected by them. We also agreed that whatever position we may come too in the negotiations, it would still be contentious for our members, as it would be a harmonised East of England Agreement, so there would be changes in current practice's for all staff.

This means there will be a need for full consultation before signing up to anything. That process would require at least six weeks from the release of any document. The Trust indicated that they wished to meet the following Monday, but this was too short notice for staff-side so we await a further full meeting. End

The Deployment plan



The Draft Deployment Plan has gone out to staff as a Draft Pilot Consultation exercise.

Given the controversy surrounding the Harmonised Document and its affects on Operational Staff, it is advised that Staff do respond by using the dedicated website contacts as already circulated:- deployment@eastamb.nhs.uk Better still, or as well as, convey your responses to your Branch Secretary- Divisional Secretaries' - County Leads- Station representatives, preferably in writing PLEASE.

Annual Leave

As already advised within the Oct 26th Flier, this Policy has been released as a FINAL DOCUMENT, and a number of WORKSHOPS have already taken place during November around the region for briefing sessions to enable proper understanding, and clarity for the administration of its contents. It is reviewable in January 09. If you are unclear on any aspect of either of these points then contact Barry Jarvis for further advice. Tele number or e-mail below.

Branch Contact Details

Our branch website provides the most up-to-date information on Unison's work within the Trust. Visit it at: www.eeas-unison

Position	Name	Telephone	Email address
Chairman & Equalities Officer	Ross Stanton	01493 730092	rstanton@eeas-unison.com
Branch Secretary	Kevin Risley	07866 573149	krisley@eeas-unison.com
Treasurer	Steve Beckley	01692 582913	sbeckley@eeas-unison.com
Divisional Sec Herts & Essex	Frank Ward	07767 754590	fward@eeas-unison.com
Divisional Sec Norfolk & Suffolk	Barry Jarvis	01485 600801	bjarvis@eeas-unison.com
Divisional Secretary Beds & Cambs	Jackie Robinson	07890 357493	jrobinson@eeas-unison.com
Patient Transport Officer	Ross Stanton	01493 730092	rstanton@eeas-unison.com
Norfolk Lead County Representative	Carole Taylor	07745 549287	ctaylor@eeas-unison.com
Suffolk Lead County Representative	Stuart Edwards	07985276372	sedwards@eastamb.nhs.uk
Cambs Lead County Representative	Peter Davis	01480 451288	pdavis21@ntlworld.com
Beds Lead County Representative	Jackie Robinson	07890 357493	jrobinson@eeas-unison.com
Herts Lead County Representative	Stuart Reeves	07772 479434	sreeves@eeas-unison.com
Essex Lead County Representative	John Davey	07713 259924	jdavey@eeas-unison.com
Branch Pensions Officer	Ian Mc Kenna	07870544241	imckenna@eeas-unison.com
Health & Safety & Welfare Officer	Alan Chamberlain	01480 451486	achamberlain@eeas-unison.com
Membership Officer	Stuart Reeves	07772 479434	sreeves@eeas-unison.com
I.C.T Officer and Branch Website	Darren Meads	01707880920	dmeads@eeas-unison.com
Communications Officer -Newsletter	Eric Miller	07789 723387	Eric-miller@talk21.com
Disabled members Officer	Dave Edwards	01603 422717	dedwards@eeas-unison.com
Womens Officer	Leslie Hilton		lhilton@eeas-unison.com
Lesbian- Gay- Bisexual Members	June Felstead	07903585081	lfelstead@eeas-unison.com

www.eeas-unison.com

Staff Representatives

All Staff Representative's Nomination Forms will be going out this month for your consideration. Please consider nominating a rep for your Station or Workplace. Do remember its better to be involved during the events, when the negotiations are in progress rather than afterwards.

Conference Motions

Branch officers are currently compiling Draft motions to forward to the December 8th Branch Committee meeting.

Once these are agreed they will be published in full within the Newsletter and Website. Please make contact if you have any items in this respect.

E-news Service Available now-

e-news is our new service that offers members up-to-date information via emails as soon as decisions are taken.

After registering your email address, you can be sure to receive the most relevant and factual information about changes occurring within the Trust and learn about what action UNISON will be taking on them.

For more information about e-news and to register your email address, visit www.eeas-unison.com/e-news



UNISON DIRECT 0845.355.0845

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