

# EAST MIDLANDS REGION

## LINCOLNSHIRE AREA ACTIVISTS

Bentley Hotel, Lincoln  
Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2010



### COMMITTEE

#### **Attendees:** Delegates:

Adrian Axtell (Regional Secretary)  
Dave Roome (Regional Officer)  
Steve Syson (Regional Officer)  
J Hughes (Chair)  
M Devine, S Evison, C Grimshaw, N Johnson, P McGill, M Taylor,  
A Todd, S Hewson, P Hayward, D Webber

#### 1 **Welcome**

Dave Roome (Regional Officer) welcomed and thanked the delegates for their attendance to the Committee Meeting.

#### 2 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from, Andy Shaw (RIO), D Crisp, Dawn Nelson, M Wood, Dave Delacey (EC), Steve Hibbert (EC)

#### 3 **Previous Minutes**

The previous minutes were taken page by page and adopted as a true record.

#### 4 **Matters Arising**

None

#### 5 **Regional Industrial Reports**

Dave Roome and Steve Syson reported on their work at companies and organisations including Bourne Salads, Cottam and West Burton Power Stations, Premier Foods, Caledonian, NHS and MOD. There is an ever increasing number of individual members requiring representation. Steve Syson's 100% target is Caledonian. Dave Roome's is SERCO which operate at various RAF bases.

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#### **Delegates Industrial Reports**

Siemens –: Chris Grimshaw and Pat McGill reported on redundancies, pay rises, proposed move of part of the business to new site and proposed changes to terms and conditions, policies and procedures. Chris announced that he was to take redundancy and would be leaving Siemens very soon.

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Bakkavor Pizza:- Neil Johnson reported on a substantial number of temporary workers being given permanent contracts and a Unite event over 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> November at the site. New stewards were now in place on night shift.

Bourne Composite Branch:- Pete Hayward reported on possible changes to the Branch. Regional Secretary advised on procedure to be followed.

Lincoln City Council:- Dave Webber reported on the Lean System Project which had gone very well in 2 areas. Hopefully this will be rolled out and reduce the possibility of future outsourcing.

Centrebus :- Alwyn Todd reported that the company were expanding and doing well but were taking an aggressive stance over pay.

Market Rasen Branch:- Shirley Hewson reported a very small reduction in membership and that some members still paid subs in cash.

Alstom Power UK:- Stuart Evison reported on the current industrial dispute over their pay rise. Management were inexperienced which was extending the dispute. They were also being obstructive over granting time off to Reps attending union courses.

Unite Lincolnshire Hospital Trust:- Martin Taylor reported on Sterile Services, possible outsourcing of the switchboard at Lincoln and Grantham and problems in pharmacies over the trust reneging on an agreement to resolve outstanding TOIL owed.

Caledonian:- John Hughes reported on the latest redundancies but the positive news was that some new orders were likely to be obtained. Due to a member winning his appeal against redundancy selection some people had joined the union.

Dynex:- Mick Devine reported that the company had only given 3 months notice instead of 6 months to people retiring at age 65, this had now been rectified and people paid the outstanding 3 months.

### **7 Regional Secretary's Report**

Adrian Axtell gave a verbal report on the following:-

**Strategy for Growth**:- It was explained that this is one of Unite's most important policies, AA Committees are being asked in the first instance to identify companies where there is potential for organisation and membership growth.

**100% Campaign**:- Seminars for reps explaining how the campaign works are being held in the region. The Lincoln seminar will be held at the

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Bentley Hotel. All reps will receive details.

**General Secretary Election:-** 4 Candidates gained sufficient nominations to stand. The ballot opens on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2010 and closes on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2010.

**Executive Council:-** Nominations are expected to be sought in January 2011 with the ballot held in March 2011.

**Health & Safety Conference 13<sup>th</sup> October 2010:-** This year has over 300 delegates which is an impressive achievement for our Region.

**Lincoln Office:-** Information has been received that some progress is being made into the development of the proposed new office. In the meantime security and fire safety issues at the present office are being addressed.

**Retired Members:-** Both former union sections now share common rules, subs and benefits.

**Area Activists and RISC Meetings:-** The Equalities Council are requiring attendance figures. The EC are also proposing Area Activists conferences each quarter, details to be confirmed.

**Lobby of Parliament 19<sup>th</sup> October 2010:-** If there is sufficient numbers then coaches will be organised, if not then members can apply for rail warrants.

**New Office Telephone Numbers:-** These were now in use in most offices in the region. Initial teething problems have now been resolved.

### **8 Any other Business**

The Regional Secretary wished to put on record his appreciation to Chris Grimshaw for all his loyal service to the union and labour party for many years. Chris had held office and represented the union at local, regional and national level. He hoped that Chris would continue to attend AA meetings. The Committee agreed that light refreshments be provided at the next meeting in recognition of Chris's service to the union.

Stuart Evison asked what progress was being made over the Region's Web Site. The Regional Secretary explained that this was in hand but there was a lack of IT support at present to push this forward.

Date of next meeting to be announced.

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### **9 *Closure of Meeting***

There being no other business, the meeting closed.