



NATIONAL UNION OF RAIL, MARITIME AND TRANSPORT WORKERS
NATIONAL LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL & TRANSGENDER MEMBERS' ADVISORY
COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting Held on 26th November 2009

Present

Name	Branch	
Mark Beresford	Bedlington	Present
David Bickerstaff	Euston No. 1	
Lesley Bush	Cardiff Rail	Present
Karl Davies	Blackpool & Fylde Coast	Present
David Edwards	Dorset Rail	
Elizabeth Fraser	North Clyde	Present
Ceri Goode	Cardiff Rail	Present
Trevor Green	Bristol Rail	
Peter Heyes	Stratford No. 1	
Mathew James	Blackpool & Fylde Coast	
Martin Lambert-Atkins	Andover & Salisbury Rail	Present
David Miller	Aberdeen No. 1	
Joanne Parry	TfL No. 1	Present
Shaun Plume	Plymouth No. 5	Present
Adrian Rowe	Neasden	Present
Russell Wolfe	Doncaster	Present
Adam Wright	Waltham X & District	
Richard Veitch	Edinburgh No. 1 & Portobello	Present
Mick Lynch	Council of Executives	Present
Pat Wilkinson	Equal Opportunities Officer	Present

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from members of the Equal Rights Sub-Committee.

2. Minutes of Meeting Held on 6th August 2009

The minutes were agreed

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Equal Rights Sub-Committee Report

Bro. Lynch presented the report as shown in Appendix 1 to these minutes. In relation to item 1 of the report, Bro. Lynch said that he had not expected a supportive response from Alan Johnson.

In relation to the item on Proud Heritage, Bro. Lynch was pleased that the experience of ordinary people was to be recorded. He added that *RMT News* could be used to promote the toolkit.

There were no questions.

5. Resolutions

i) ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRPERSON

Submitted by Neasden Branch

Moved by Bro. Rowe and seconded by Bro. Lambert-Atkins

“That we note that the National LGBT Advisory Committee does not have a Vice-Chair position. Every Branch throughout our membership has the position of vice-chair, this is important in case the Chairperson is sick, unable to attend the meeting for various reasons, or in rare cases, is ruled to be removed from the chair.

If the Chair of a committee submits resolutions to conferences or committees, then to ensure impartiality the Chair is required to stand down for that resolution. The same is said if the Chair wishes to stand for re-election.

With all the above in mind, it seems appropriate to request that the National LGBT Advisory Committee should elect a Vice Chairperson, from members of the National Committee at every annual LGBT Conference.”

Carried Unanimously.

ii) DELEGATES' ALLOWANCES FOR ATTENDING CONFERENCES

Submitted by London Transport Regional Council

“That we note that at present, Branches, but not Regional Councils, can claim an allowance towards the cost of delegates attending conferences such as the LGBT Members Conference. We would like the Council of Executives to consider extending this facility to Regional Councils.”

As the General Secretary informed the Committee that this matter was in fact on the Council of Executives' agenda that day, the motion was not dealt with.

6. R.M.T. National LGBT Members' Conference, 2010

A joint social was to be held with delegates to the Biennial Shipping Grades Members' Conference. Bro. Beresford said there were concerns about terrorism and that he did not want people to be deterred because of this. Sister Parry pointed out that London too was a terrorist target. The General Secretary agreed that attacks can happen anywhere. He had been invited to lead a May Day rally in Belfast. This he said was a good opportunity for different sections who would not normally meet to come together. Although Bro. Beresford wanted to inspect the venue, the General Secretary was clear that this had already been done and therefore there was no need for a second inspection.

It was agreed that a speaker from the Society of Friends (Quakers) be invited to address Conference on the theme of their decision to conduct same sex marriages. In addition, a speaker from MOJO (Miscarriage of Justice campaign) was to be invited to speak on miscarriages involving LGBT people.

The Committee also wanted a workshop session on organising and recruitment.

7. Pride Events 2010

In deciding what events to support, Bro. Beresford spoke about attending Manchester Pride. Concern was expressed that it was a commercial event but Bro. Plume reassured the Committee that it was not. Sister Parry informed members that although there was a charge for the Brighton Pride, it was levied to pay for the clean up after. Bro. Plume spoke of the good day had at Plymouth Pride which was shared under the umbrella of the Regional TUC.

Following the discussion, the Committee agreed to support two Pride events in 2010. The following events were proposed and a vote taken to determine which two. The result was as follows:-

Event	Votes
Manchester	4
London	3
Brighton	2
Birmingham	5

Birmingham and Manchester Pride events would therefore be supported by the Committee. Sister Parry volunteered to be the contact person for Birmingham and Bro. Lambert-Atkins for Manchester.

8. Regional Reports

Bro. Veitch informed members that the STUC LGBT Conference would take place on 26th February 2010.

Bro. Beresford said that there had been cutbacks in the sexual health budget in the North East.

Sister Parry spoke of LGBT History Month and a new DVD called "Fit" made by and for Stonewall to be shown in schools aimed at school children tackling homophobic bullying. She advised that Stonewall had also produced guidance on bisexuals in the workplace. Sister Parry also informed members that Transport for London and First Scotrail appeared in the Stonewall Top 100 Employers, Workplace Equality Index.

Bro. Lambert-Atkins said that Wiltshire Police wanted to attend a meeting and give a presentation. Sister Parry wanted the presentation to focus on hate crime.

9. Dates for 2010 Meetings

The following dates were agreed: 24th February, 16th August and 16th November 2010.

10. Organising

It was agreed that an organising workshop be arranged prior to the next meeting.

11. Any Other Urgent Business

Mention was made of World Aids Day held each year on 1st December.

EQUAL RIGHTS SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT

26th November 2009

1. STOP DEPORTATION OF LGBT FOREIGN NATIONALS

The Council of Executives adopted the following recommendation from the Equal Rights Sub-Committee at the September meeting:-

“That the General Secretary is instructed to write to the TUC stating what our policy is and asking what their policy is.

The General Secretary is also instructed to write to the Parliamentary Group stating what our policy is and asking that they actively raise these issues and work to prevent deportations.

A letter setting out our policy should also be sent to the Home Secretary, Alan Johnson.”

These actions have been carried out. The response from the TUC is attached. Our Parliamentary Group has been contacted in accordance with the decision. As the new Parliamentary year started this week, it is too soon to provide a report on progress. The Committee will obviously kept informed of progress. Finally, a letter (see attached) was sent to the Home Secretary and a response is still awaited.

2. PROUD HERITAGE – ADDRESSING NATIONWIDE INSTITUTIONAL HOMOPHOBIA

The Council of Executives adopted the following recommendation from the Equal Rights Sub-Committee at the September meeting:-

“That we agree to donate £500 to Proud Heritage, with the proviso that we receive a draft copy of the toolkit before publication.”

An email was sent to Jack Gilbert on 8th October, asking that assuming the above was acceptable, could he kindly confirm the details regarding the cheque, etc. As no response has been received, a further email has been sent.

3. LGBT REPS

A Circular was sent out giving details and an article is to appear in the next *RMT News*.