

## **Unite Glasgow Retired Members' Branch Action Sub-Committee 9 November 2017**

10 members in attendance. Apology from Frank Murphy.

**Nelson Mandela Memorial:** The proposal to fund the erection of a statue to celebrate Nelson Mandela's trip to Glasgow was discussed and it was suggested that the Branch could best help in this venture by participating in other fund-raising collective efforts. The Branch should consider the possibilities.

**Awards for All:** It was reported that Pauline Kerrigan of the Big Lottery had suggested that in its current form a submission as currently formulated for a grant would be unlikely to be successful. In response to her comments, it was felt that we could adapt our application to augment our black history ideas not least on Glasgow's record. In addition we need to emphasise that the proposal is member-led and could both note our development of links with fellow branches and incorporate narratives of our members' extraBranch activities. In this context it was agreed that a questionnaire asking members for their community activities would be useful.

If the Branch felt that the concept of a visit to Liverpool and Manchester emphasising our shared history in black exploitation is not viable, then alternatives need to be explored by the Branch. It was suggested that a submission incorporating the Song Club could be considered perhaps featuring progressive singers and songs and/or the preparation of play lists of help to those suffering from dementia etc.

**Branch Constitution:** It was agreed that the formal name of the Branch should be Glasgow and Renfrewshire. It was further agreed that the Triennial meeting should consider increasing the number of Committee members to 10, possibly increasing including education and media officers. The Treasurer is to be asked whether the Branch's financial year should remain as the calendar year.

**School Education:** Arising from discussion at this year's Eastbourne Education Course, the importance of informing school children of the work of trade unions was discussed. It was emphasised that anyone getting the opportunity to address school children needs to be well prepared and authorised by the appropriate Union officials. It was pointed out that the STUC already had a programme for school children entitled A Better Way to Work In Scotland. It was agreed that Jim Aitken and perhaps Pat Rafferty

should be approached to ascertain what Unite is doing to approach school students in their upper years.

Glasgow's Black History: Dr Steve Mullen had responded to our request to speak to the Branch by suggesting a 45 minute address followed by questions at 17.30. It was pointed out that this time would present problems and that the Branch should be asked if it would be happy if such an hour were made available either before a Branch meeting or immediately afterwards. Clearly, if this were agreed, Dr. Mullen would have to be asked if this were convenient for him.

Demonstrations: There is to be a demonstration in Edinburgh on 6 December culminating in a call to Holyrood to ban contracts given by the Government to firms guilty of blacklisting.

Gold Badge: It was agreed that Jimmy Friel would be a worthy recipient of the Union's Gold Badge and that we should make an application for the award.

Date of Next Meeting: 18 January commencing at 10.30.