



IWGB TRADE UNION – Foster Carers Branch

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MINUTES 16/09/2020

10:30pm / Zoom

QUORATE? Y

ATTENDEES

Foster care worker's branch members (including committee members): Andrew Gale, Bobbie Smith, Bruce McDowell, Carole Young, Colin Tregenza Dancer, Doreen Wallace, Elaine Watson, Gina Jarvis, Giles Lane, Janine Recchia, John Collier, Karen Lucas, Karen Burton, Kathleen Hudson, Kenny Millard, Melanie Tregenza Dancer, Pauline Graham, Susan Merkell, Sharon Anderson, Sue Hunter, Tahra Anitya

Branch officers: Annie Quick, Leanne Morton

IWGB officials: Henry Fabian Chango Lopez, Jason Moyer-Lee,

AGENDA

- Overview and update from IWGB general secretary Jason Moyer-Lee on the general union:
 - IWGB represents workers who aren't traditionally unionised, not represented by other unions and often denied worker's rights. The union consists of 12 branches. The foster care workers branch is the second biggest branch after the cleaners and facilities branch.

- Each branch has an elected leadership. Representatives from these sit on the IWGB executive committee, which takes decisions on behalf of the whole union. The AGM of the IWGB will be held in November, including delegates from each branch.
 - We now have over 5k members and over 30 staff. Three new branches have opened in the past year - charity workers, cycling instructors, and a “holding branch.” We are currently restructuring the staff to improve the support branches get from the central union.
 - The union has made a strong response to Covid - a benefits programme, pressuring government on issues related to key workers. This includes putting pressure on the government to improve the self-employed income support scheme, including taking a legal case (which ultimately lost).
 - Had weekly calls open to members and the public to give updates on what the union was doing.
 - Won an anti-outsourcing campaign at the University of London. They are being brought in-house. At UCL, outsourced workers won sick pay. Won a campaign at City Sprint. Won jimmy case.
- Update from Andrew:
 - Pay tribute to Jane.
 - Jimmy case.
 - Local campaigns, for example where carers’ pay is cut over time as childrens behaviour improves
 - Doing lots of casework throughout the year
 - Sick pay campaign
 - Update from Bruce on finances:
 - We are in a good position financially. Our current bank balance is at 23.5k. Regular monthly income is about 4k, and we are currently matching income and expenditure. Expenditure may

increase when we travel more, but that should increase membership members.

- We have loaned money to the central union 6.5k for a new head of HR and compliance. This will be paid back to us during 2021.
- Finances are stable.
- Update from Pauline Graham:
 - There was a split last year, some members left, but members are continuing to grow.
 - Most of our members join through word of mouth - but we need more members to join so please.
 - Need more members in particular area to put pressure on Local Authorities
 - Local groups - invitation to
- Update from casework officer:
 - Achieved key wins - challenging referral to the DBS, challenging allegations and deregistration
 - Urge members to take good record keeping
 - Very effective getting wins when sending things from union with a union letterhead
 - Cases continue to grow. In order to open a case you need to have been a member for two months.
 - Thank you to the casework team
- Kenny, vice-chair for Scotland and Northern Ireland, report given by leanne
 - Meeting with Maree Todd: she promised that they would be delivering a central register for foster carers in scotland, as a result of their review. They understand the need for a central licensing body. We've been invited to be part of the feedback on

the creation of that and feed into that. We'll be setting the stage for something similar to be introduced across the UK.

- Elections of committee members:
 - Tribute to Kathleen who's stepping down from each position
 - Andrew elected unanimously to the role of chair with 18 votes. (without Carol)
 - Pauline was elected secretary with 18 votes
 - Giles Lane was unanimously elected as assistant secretary with 19 votes
 - Sharon Anderson was unanimously elected to stand as BAME officer with 18 votes
 - Elaine Watson was unanimously elected as women's officer with 19 votes
 - Kenny Millard was unanimously elected as vice-chair for Scotland and Northern Ireland with 19 votes
 - Melanie was unanimously elected to vice-chair for England and Wales with 19 votes
 - Bruce was unanimously elected as treasurer with 19 votes
 - Colin was unanimously elected as IT officer with 19 votes
 - There is a vacancy for the casework officer, which we will attempt to fill outside of this meeting, and will obviously continue to do casework in the meantime, run by the casework committee.

- 15 delegates were elected:
 - Kathleen
 - Andrew
 - Pauline

- Melanie
- Colin
- Elaine Watson
- Giles
- Annie
- Kenny
- Sharon
- Bruce
- Bobbie
- Susan
- Janine
- Leanne
- IFA debate. Opener from Andrew, followed by a personal experience from Janine and Pauline.
 - Different experiences:
 - Local authorities need to do better.
- Closing words and thanks from Henry Chango Lopez