IIRSM East Midlands Branch Meeting Minutes

Meeting held 8 January 2014, 7pm, Swadlincote Town/Market Hall

Present
Kevin Swift  Matt Barker  Gary Musson
Phil Wilson  Catherine Wilkes  Carl Williams
Dennis Johnson  Roger Rees

Apologies
Gordon Stokes  Graham Mellor  Edward Braisher
Roy Cheevers  Bronwen Macarthur-Williams  Lizz Fields-Pattinson
Anthony Southwell  Peter Bayleigh-Bligh  John Johnstone
Mark Creed  Peter Morley

Welcome by Chair
Gary Musson (GM) welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Minutes of the Last Branch Meeting
The minutes of the last branch meeting (6 November 2013) were read and signed off as a true record.

Christmas Social
- GM noted that the second branch Christmas Social had been a great success and it was planned to hold another in 2014, hopefully with even more members and guests in attendance.
- It is planned to upload a selection of photos onto the IIRSM branch web page.

IIRSM Members Survey
- GM conveyed to the meeting that IIRSM members are urged to complete this survey (see IIRSM website for further details) in order to help IIRSM improve its services to members. The deadline is 31 January 2014.

Branch Forum
- GM & Phil Wilson (PW) had attended this meeting on 15 November 2013, attended by representatives of IIRSM branches both within the UK and abroad. The purpose of the forum is to allow direct contact between branches and the IIRSM, encouraging feedback from members on what they want from the Institute. It is planned to hold these branch forums regularly going forward. GM & PW fed back on the topics discussed:
  - IIRSM focussing on risk management rather than just safety in order to strengthen its brand and distinguish itself from IOSH and other safety focussed organisations.
  - Currently no legal connection between IIRSM and its branches – this requires addressing going forward.
o Branch expansion – currently 725 members within the East Midland branch postcode area but no way of reaching them. It is expected that this will be resolved soon.
o In order to help raise the profile of IIRSM and its branches, IIRSM have offered to assist where it can in getting branches involved with local press.
o The prospect of making branch membership and IIRSM CPD mandatory was discussed.
o Currently the Institute does not offer branches any financial support – this is going to be looked at further, which will make a huge difference to existing branches who have to raise their own funds.
o Provision of promotional packs for branches e.g. containing banners, IIRSM branded signage for meetings etc. is being considered.

- GM drew everyone’s attention to the resources and services available to members, all accessible via the IIRSM website. These include: links to social networking sites, online training, corporate e-learning, training approval, blog and helpline.
- This gave rise to some discussion at the meeting – all of which GM took note of to feedback to the Forum.

Meeting Presentation Topics
- It was suggested that a ‘Legal Update’ presentation at a future meeting would be useful to members. Another suggestion was that we invite someone from the Local Authority to give an update on recent changes.

**Action:** All members – if anyone has any contacts with individuals who may be prepared to present on these topics, or any other topics at future meetings please contact GM (gary@gsmusson.com)

Meeting Venues
- It was noted that branch meeting attendance might be boosted if the current meeting venue could be reconsidered. GM noted that this could be considered, however the branch would be required to meet any cost associated with this (currently relying on Committee members to sponsor meetings to cover the cost of venue hire).
- Roger Rees (RR) suggested that if a number of members could volunteer their workplaces as venues then this could be rotated throughout the year.

**Action:** All members – Please could those with access to venues who could volunteer them for branch meetings (preferably at no cost) please contact GM (gary@gsmusson.com)

Any Other Business
None

Next Meeting:
Wed 5 Feb 2014, 7pm at Swadlincote Town/Market Hall, 16 Midland Road (The Delph), Swadlincote, Derbyshire, DE11 1SR.

Meeting Closed 8.55pm