



Ambulance Employees Association of Western Australia

13th January, 2021 – AEAWA Committee Minutes

Meeting officially opened by the President and Executive Committee

The AEAWA Committee meeting was officially opened by the President.

Committee Attendees

John Thomas, Lee Waller, Marty Kelly, Craig Hubbard, Andrew Kerfoot, Clive Broome, Phil Stanatis and Justin Ingrey

Committee Apologies

Donelle Carver, Dave Higgings, Dave Abbott, Jon Flockton, Gary Davies, Troy Bates, Justin Brennan, Tim Dunlop, Cam Fiddock, Lee Mack, Gary Davies, Kam Phagura, and Brett Moore

Previous Minutes

Passed by Mr Thomas and Mr Waller.

AEAWA Membership

The membership has been increasing at a very fast rate, with up to 26 new members joining last month.

The AEAWA Treasurer Report

The accounts of the AEAWA are in a strong position and this was presented to the Committee. The question of keeping the fortnightly meeting room in North Beach for each meeting was discussed. The Committee decided that they would rather meet face to face than over Microsoft Teams (which will still be available for Committee members who cannot be present).

The AEAWA Secretary Report

The Secretary provided information on incoming and outgoing correspondence (discussed later in General Business).

Security Issues at East Bunbury Depot

This is still pending after a member of the public repeatedly tried to gain entry into the depot. For those who are not familiar with this depot, staff security does not exist. There is no secured parking and crews exit and enter the depot through a single door; often crews are near the bushes trying to access a lock box in order to obtain the depot keys.

The AEAWA will again write to Country Operations to ascertain when security will be upgraded. A further meeting will be arranged dependent on that response.

Acoustic Shock in the SOC

Again, SJA's poor failing equipment is injuring members within the SOC. WorkSafe WA has visited the Control Room on numerous occasions. These issues ceased for a period of time. Unfortunately, within the last week further injuries have been sustained. This on top of SJA failing to fix these issues, the organisation still have officers in the room who are owed time. This is unacceptable.

The Committee wants any SOC member who has lost time due to an acoustic shock injury to contact the AEAWA immediately. Working in such a poorly equipped area with limited resources and not being covered through Workers Compensation shows zero organisational support for these officers.

The AEAWA seek further WorkSafe WA meetings and meetings with SJA Executive Managers in order to once again rectify these incidents.

Officer in Quarantine

The AEAWA Committee has been in constant contact and would advise the membership to please respect the privacy of this individual. A hamper was sent to the officer concerned to assist during this stressful time.

This officer has support of the AEAWA Committee and the membership. We wish our member a fast return to duties, and for this issue to be resolved 'fairly'.

SJA protocols for PPE

Regarding recent events with PPE, the Committee find it strange that no real discussions have taken place on suspected COVID-19 patients transported in Ambulance and the cleaning of those vehicles.

The World Health Organization have written a protocol on cleaning Ambulances after transporting 'confirmed' and 'suspected' COVID-19 patients. The cleaning required takes approximately 30 minutes and should only be done with hospital grade detergents. At this stage there are no facilities or equipment for this to be done at hospitals.

Both the CEO and Premier Mark McGowan have both mentioned being 'complacent' around wearing PPE in an effort to reduce COVID spread; we believe this MUST also flow onto the cleaning of Ambulances.

The AEAWA will write to SJA Executive Management regarding this clear instruction to be followed.

Hospital Liaison Officer Instructions

Recently there has been instances where HLM's have organized crews to transport a patient out of the hospital whilst the crew is ramped; basically, instigating a one-for-one swap. This has caused some headaches for SOC members as dispatchers often assign these crews to community calls then find out they are now on a transfer. In the recent SOC meeting Management stated that crews take calls from dispatchers (inclusive or response time managers and duty managers) not HLM's.

The AEAWA would like to remind crews to clear the call they are on before accepting a one- for-one swap. If SOC assign the transfer we will do it, if not we will take the call we have been assigned.

Upcoming Paramedic EBA Negotiations

The AEAWA have compiled lots of information for the upcoming EBA negotiations. In order for us to progress in our profession we would plead for all members to stick together during these negotiations. They will be ongoing and we urge you to stay informed and support the cause through the entire process.

If you haven't done already there is a survey link for AEAWA members to provide input in our negotiations. If you have any ideas or suggestions please comment in the below link.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GG5VGQS>

Members talking with Management

Recently there have been issues with certain managers advising crews that the discussion they are about to have are "off the record". Member comments then seem to resurface during later disciplinary processes.

The AEAWA Committee would like to remind all members that there is no such thing as an "off the record" discussion. If you are approached to chat about work related matters, YOU ARE ENTITLED to be supported through this. Please contact an AEAWA delegate if you are concerned at any time.

Join the AEAWA Committee

The AEAWA now consists of 39 Committee members, some of whom are new, and others are well versed in industrial issues. If you would like to join this team and assist your colleagues in furthering our profession and keeping the establishment honest then contact a Committee member.

General Business

Item 1 - Corpuls Checks

A member wrote to the AEAWA with concerns over failed Corpuls checks. In light of recent SJA disciplinary actions on staff, this member was concerned with Corpuls's that fail on the first check. Staff generally do further checks until the Corpuls passes. The question was asked "what would SJA do if a failed defibrillation was investigated and they found out that the first shock test at the commencement of shift had failed. The AEAWA believe that if the Corpuls does fail, the vehicle should be put out of service until the failure has been resolved by workshops.

The AEAWA will write to Clinical Governance to clarify for future failures of this device.

Item 2 - Leave Department failing to respond to requests.

A member wrote to the AEAWA with concerns over leave failing to respond to emails, officers are asking for leave swaps and aren't even getting a response that an email has been received.

The AEAWA have written to SJA regarding the failure to respond to officers. The letter included quotes from the previous Inquiry into the organisation where SJA was found to be inflexible with leave requests.

Item 3 - Delayed Response Times

A member wrote to the AEAWA with concerns over patients in the community waiting for hours for a crew to arrive. Some of these patients are quite sick and often crews are met with angry responses. The Committee discussed the option of crews filling in Incident Reports for calls they attend in which patient detriment has occurred due to extensive delays in responding.

The AEAWA would like crews who attend such cases to email the AEAWA to state an incident report has been completed.

Item 4 - Extra Duties Whilst on the Ramp

A member wrote to the AEAWA with concerns over taking patients for X-Rays on hospital beds.

The AEAWA advise that patients on hospital equipment MUST be managed by hospital staff whilst being transferred within the hospital. We are NOT trained or authorised in using this equipment. WE ARE NOT HOSPITAL EMPLOYEES!

Next Committee Meeting

The AEAWA Committee will meet again Wednesday 27th February 2021 (09:00-11:00).

Meeting officially closed by the President

The Committee will re-convene in two weeks' time.



Contact Us

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