

**MINUTES OF SOUTH WEST REGIONAL FORUM**  
**Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2014, 1:00 – 2:30**  
**Bro Myrddin Indoor Bowls Club, Carmarthen**

Item No.	Agenda Item
	<p><b>Present:</b></p> <p><i>Staff:</i> Elaine Topping (Learning Manager), Dafydd Rhys (Democracy Manager), Ray Neil (Regional Essential Skills Coordinator), Eleanor Jones (Development Worker), Rhian Liddiard (RES DW), Peter Gwynne WEA Cymru (RES DW), Martyn Reed (DW).  <i>Learner Forum Reps:</i> Roger Jones Wales TUC  <i>Branch Reps:</i> Steve David (Port Talbot), Dorothy McCormack (Neath - dormant branch), Ken Owen (Llanelli), Caroline Streek (Llanelli) Branch Jane Carter (Llanelli).  <i>Individual Members:</i> Sonia Reynolds  <i>Translator:</i> Siôn Aled Owen</p> <p><b>Apologies:</b> Mo Davies (WEA Cymru RES DW), Derrick Edwards (Unit 10 Branch, Port Talbot).</p>
	<p><b>Agenda</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Welcome</li> <li>2. Election of Chairperson</li> <li>3. WEA Cymru's new democracy</li> <li>4. Provision and plans for the region</li> <li>5. Election of regional member for the Council</li> <li>6. Date of next meeting</li> <li>7. Any other business</li> </ol>
1	<p><b>WELCOME</b></p> <p>Dafydd Rhys (DR) opened the meeting and asked every one present to introduce themselves. As this meeting was the first of the Regional Forum's, there were no previous minutes. Ray Neil agreed to take the minutes.  Ken Owen (KO) raised a question regarding the translation facility at the meeting. DR stated that this service was provided to ensure a parity of status between the Welsh and English language and to offer an opportunity for those present to use their language of choice.</p>
2	<p><b>ELECTION OF CHARIPERSON</b></p> <p>A question was asked if it was constitutional to elect a chair and who was eligible to vote. Dafydd Rhys (DR) stated that the forum could elect its own officers and explained the process of voting, those eligible to vote and the number of votes different categories of representatives were entitled. SD recommended that a chair should not be a staff member and should come from one of the four individual areas of representation. This is</p>

	<p>something that had been recommended by Stephen Thomas (DR). Sonia Reynolds was elected to the chair.</p>
<p>3</p>	<p><b>WEA CYMRU'S NEW DEMOCRACY</b></p> <p>DR presented to the meeting via power point how the new council would look like following the merger and the role of council members in an all Wales organisation. This included how many were appointed and elected onto council and the nomination and electoral process for securing regional representatives. Election results would then be confirmed at the AGM on March 29<sup>th</sup>.</p> <p>KO raised the issue regarding whether someone can represent two branches at the same time. It was decided that this should be discussed with the Clerk.</p> <p>KO asked who appointed the 9 appointed members of the WEA Cymru Council and raised concerns about a possible eroding of accountability and democracy and a diminished voice for branches. Elaine Topping outlined the reasons behind having the 9 appointed members. Steve David (SD) pointed out that two motions were passed at the WEA South Wales EGM and it was accepted at the EGM that four nominations be appointed to the board.</p> <p>SD asked what the time scale is for meetings of the regional forum. DR stated that the standing orders of the constitution demands that they meet at least three times annually. SR and SD recommended that a set of standing orders be drawn up, which could be agreed at a future meeting, so that there is a clear direction on how to proceed. DR would be happy to take this forward with a small working group. SR recommended that these could be offered as good practice for other regions.</p> <p>SR gave her thanks for the hard work of staff and representatives who had secured the merger.</p> <p>ET stated that one of the reasons for having a Regional Forum was to give branches an opportunity to develop closer working relationships. KO recommended that there should be a separate meeting of Branch representatives.</p>
<p>4</p>	<p><b>PROVISION AND PLANS FOR THE REGION</b></p> <p>ET explained to the meeting the WEA's provision in line with the Welsh Government's priorities, which were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Basic Skills – for people lacking essential skills in Literacy, Numeracy and ICT.</li> <li>• ESOL – English for speakers of other languages.</li> <li>• NEETS – Not in education, employment or training.</li> <li>• 50 plus – Not in full time employment or previously engaged in learning.</li> </ul> <p>From this presentation questions were posed to the meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>What courses would you like? 20% of Welsh Government funding can</b></li> </ul>

	<p><b>be used for innovative ideas / courses.</b></p> <p>Suggested were:</p> <p>Residential to develop ideas to raise funds. Tasters to develop activity. Trips to build learning potential for the future.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Do the courses you want fit the Welsh Government priorities?</b></li> <li>• <b>If not, how do we pay for them? Where can we access additional funding?</b></li> <li>• <b>What support do you need from the regional team?</b></li> </ul> <p>Suggestions and points of discussion were:</p> <p>Make Development workers more prominent in Branches – ET explained that there was only one Development worker per region which stretched.</p> <p>How many branches in the region? Llanelli and Port Talbot were active, Neath and Swansea were dormant but we were hoping to resurrect both. New branches ‘Crafty Crue’ in Ystalefera, Lampeter and Unit 10 in Port Talbot. ET explained that due to the merger Lampeter had moved into the Ceredigion/Powys region. Help branches come together to share experiences and to help them develop.</p> <p>Collaborative communities.</p> <p>Promoting activity through social media.</p>
5	<p><b>ELECTION OF REGIONAL MEMBER TO THE COUNCIL</b></p> <p>The only nominee was Derrick Edwards (DE) who was not present. It was confirmed by SD that he was aware of being nominated, had two years of previous experience as a WEA South Wales Council member and would happily present the views of the forum to Council. DE was elected as the South West’s Region’s representative with the support of 19 votes.</p>
6	<p><b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b></p> <p>Next meeting to be held at 1.30pm on May the 14<sup>th</sup> 2014. It was agreed meetings should be held at different locations in the region, and Port Talbot would host the next meeting (venue to be confirmed). It was requested that Minutes and Agenda be sent out early.</p>
7	<p><b>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</b></p> <p>7.1 Regional Activity Flyers were distributed by the Llanelli branch. SD suggested that ‘regeneration of branches’ could be a future agenda item.</p>

7.2 Advertising of Forum

There was also a recommendation to publicise the next South Wales Regional forum in the Evening Post.

Dafydd thanked everyone for attending. The meeting ended at 3.15 pm