

Draft/ **MINUTES** of the 66th Annual General Meeting of the Civil Service Pensioners' Alliance (Scotland Branch) held on Thursday 8th March 2018 in the Golden Lion Hotel, Stirling.

Michael Kirby agreed to be Fire Marshal for the meeting and it was confirmed that there were two qualified first aiders present.

Officers present: John McGiveron (Chair), Cherry Dolan, Treasurer, Michael Kirby, Membership Secretary, Christine McGiveron, Administrator.

Members present: There were 46 members present. There were also 6 Guests present this year.

The Chairman announced the closure of the West Fife Group. Their Committee members all 'stood own' and none of their group members came forward to serve. All members in the KY postcode have been informed of this closure and have been invited to a meeting in Carnegie Conference Centre, Dunfermline on Thursday 18th April at 1.30 pm. Members attending the AGM were told they are welcome to attend this meeting. This confirms the importance of Outreaching and Recruitment. We lose members for various reasons, mainly those who have died and new members are not moving in to replace them so It is imperative that we keep campaigning for new members.

1. Welcome by Chairman – John McGiveron:

The Chair welcomed all members present and encouraged them to look at the stalls during their break for lunch.

He particularly welcomed Ralph Groves who had come from HQ to give us an update of their work on our behalf.

2. Apologies:

Edinburgh: Margaret Maxwell, Tricia & Jim Henderson, John McDonald, Joe Wright, Phil & Chris Chester, Fred & Edith Merrett, Cath Andenberg and Brian & Anne Otway.

Glasgow: Joan Russell, Sam and Elizabeth Mennie

3. Minutes of the 65th CSPA Scotland Branch AGM:

A copy of the Minutes of the previous AGM held in the Golden Lion |Hotel, Stirling, on Thursday 9th March 2017 had been circulated to members present.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes:

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

The Minutes were adopted on the proposal of Roger Harrison, seconded by Jim Reid.

5. **Chairman's Report:**

Succession Planning is vitally important for the survival of any Group. Should members fail to take up Group Committee positions, that group is in danger of closing. Unfortunately, this has already happened with the Group formerly known as West Fife who were forced to close at their Group AGM on 1st February as no group can survive without a Group Committee. The Branch Executive Committee in conjunction with Head Office have completed the necessary procedures to conclude this closure. All members living in the KY postcode area of Fife, should have received by now, a letter from the Branch Chair advising them of this closure and inviting anyone interested in further discussion to the possibilities of starting a new group. A Meeting will take place at the Carnegie Conference Centre, Dunfermline, on Wednesday 18th April commencing at 13.30 (1.30 pm). The outcome of his meeting will form part of the Branch Report to the NEC and will be posted on the Branch Website and the CSPA National facebook page.

Should it prove unworkable to open another Group, the Branch Executive have made the decision to carry on at this time, with the two remaining places of meeting 'in Glasgow and Edinburgh'.

It is to be part of the consideration, when opening a Group, that the venue chosen should have adequate parking spaces, disabled access and access to regular public transport. The venue must have first aiders on the premises to comply with Health and Safety Legislation. The timing of meetings must be set to enable members to easily attend Group Meetings. It is to be remembered that the first function of a Group is to assist in attracting new members (Scottish Constitution Section 5 a (1)).

Just before Christmas 2017, The Royal Overseas League announced that at the end of January 2018 it would be closing its doors indefinitely, due to structural reasons. This left the Edinburgh Group with no meeting venue, with less than a month to find one suitable. After many enquiries the Group Secretary, Muriel Haig, approached the Eric Liddell Centre, Morningside Road, Edinburgh and found this to be the most suitable to the Group's needs. The Executive Committee were delighted that this problem had been resolved so quickly and the Edinburgh Group have had their first meeting there (unfortunately their second meeting on 1st March had to be cancelled due to extreme weather conditions). The Executive Committee will be using this venue for their meeting in September. This has now raised the possibility that a venue could close without warning. The Executive have now inserted this into the Risk Management Plan and will put this to the AGM that Groups in the Branch must have an alternative venue in place in case of such closure. taking place.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank the Edinburgh Group for their positive response on his matter.

At the 2017 February Executive Committee Meeting, the Branch had received one application for the position of Branch Administrator. This position was filled by

Christine McGiveron, Glasgow Group Secretary, who officially took on the position of Branch Administrator at the 2017 Branch AGM.

At this time, only the Branch Chair attended all National Executive Council Meetings in London, but at the Branch Executive Committee Meeting on 8th February this year (2018) as the Branch still has two positions on the National Executive Council, it was decided that the Administrator should fill the other vacancy, thus bringing the Branch back to its full representational capacity. This will free up both the Delegate and the single sponsored Observer. This requires a Constitutional alteration to be authorised by this AGM.

In July a copy of 'Guidance for Branch and Groups' in Scotland was emailed to Group Secretaries with the intention that this was to be issued to Group Committee Members only at that time, as the book had now been approved by Head Office. This was to give Group Committees time to digest its' contents as it now replaces the Blue Book It was also stated that the content had been taken from the new and up to date version of 'The Guide to Groups in England and Wales'. The Guide was sectioned out and was printed, one copy to be given to each group. The Guide supplements both the Scottish and National Constitutions and Branch Risk Management Plan and, like the 'Plan' is a 'live' document which will be reviewed each year. There should be no major alterations in the first year, bearing in mind that any alterations have firstly to be approved by the Branch Executive and submitted to Head Office for their approval and printing. I had originally said that the book would have to be agreed at the November 2017 SEC Meeting but from the favourable feedback that I received, the Branch approved the Guide immediately. The Guide was ratified at the 2017 National AGM in Coventry.

Questions were raised on the increase in cost of CSIS Travel Insurance – it was explained by the Deputy General Secretary, Ralph Groves, that this was due to general rising costs and that members were still getting an excellent deal.

John McGiveron

Chair, Scotland Branch

The Chairman's Report was agreed by the AGM.

6. Membership Secretary's Report:

The decline in membership is still the number one problem in the Branch, however steps are being taken to redress the deficit. At a recent Branch Officer's Meeting, it was agreed that a programme of Outreach and Recruitment would be undertaken in the central belt of Scotland. In October 2017 Portcullis House in Glasgow was visited where there were plenty of enquiries into joining the Alliance. In April, Glasgow Group Members will be carrying out a local O & R at Cotton House. If anyone knows of any Government Building worthy of an Outreach and Recruitment exercise, or has any ideas, please contact me and recruitment packs, Banner and CSPA pop-up can be made available.

If any member of the Branch wishes to participate in this please do not hesitate to contact me.

The table below gives an indication of the Branch membership over the last year.

	Feb. 17	Jan. 18	+/-
Aberdeenshire	266	268	-2
Ayrshire	213	210	-3
Dumfries & Galloway	145	137	-8
Edinburgh	1218	1202	-16
Falkirk	219	228	+9
Glasgow	669	675	+6
Highlands	246	240	-6
Lanarkshire	128	132	+4
Lothian & Borders	100	100	0
Orkney	45	42	-3
Perthshire	191	183	-8
Renfrew & Argyll	238	241	+3
Shetlands	8	8	0
Tayside	191	200	+9
West Fife	446	445	-1
Western Isles	20	19	-1
	4343	4330	-13

Michael Kirby

Membership Secretary

The Membership Secretary's Report was agreed by the AGM

7. Treasurer's Report (including Group Grants):

A copy of the Treasurer's Accounts had been circulated to Members.

2 payments of Honoraria were proposed for Treasurer and Minute Secretary amounts as last year plus 3% increase in line with Triple Lock on State Pensions and which was endorsed by Branch Committee d on 8th February 2018

Agreed by the AGM.

Income & Expenditure Account:

Subscriptions increased with effect from 1/1/16 so our income was up 28.7% in 2016, however we only saw a small rise of 1.5% in 2017. This means we had to register for VAT with effect from 1/2/17 – We made payments in May, September and December amounting to £8,704.19.

Interest has fallen by just over 5%. Also bank rates paid on interest continue to fall so no really good investments to be found.

Turning to expenditure, we gave a little more 'back' to CSPA HQ this year but it was less overall because of falling membership numbers – requested by Christine Alderson, National Treasurer, as felt due, and to help their finances keep afloat.

We also gave a donation of £2,000 to SPF to help keep them afloat during a time of uncertainty because we do campaign closely with them. We additionally donated £300 in memory of Syd Ashby, our late President, who sadly died during the year.

The Pensioner magazine was up by 5% on last year.

The cost of the AGM rose last year, mainly due to higher printing and bus costs.

Affiliation fees went up over 13% as other organisations also saw rising costs.

Computer costs rose as we needed to provide a laptop for the Administrator and a new printer for Treasurer. Additionally, I have included related costs in the column this year.

All that was paid to the three groups was the cost of room hire, but actually paid in 2018 financial year. Of course, requests for necessary additional funds will always be considered sympathetically and this is something the EC reviews continuously.

Travel and subsistence and honoraria were also down slightly as we continue to tighten our belts.

Miscellaneous expenditure rose because of £900 auditors' costs and £2,580 paid for lection leaflets. Now I have a new accounts book I am changing the columns so that detailed expenditure can be more easily identified.

In fact, the only things to go up were as detailed above and corporation tax (up about 33%)

The Balance Sheet was self-explanatory. The Bank of Scotland Corporate Bond matures shortly and we will discuss investment once we know the rate on offer for another year.

H Treasurer was asked what would be done with the remaining West Fife money. She replied that this was 'on hold' pending the outcome of the forthcoming meeting in Dunfermline and if a new group was established this would be given over to them and if not, the money would be invested as agreed by the EC

Cherry Dolan

Branch Treasurer

Auditors Report and Adoption of Accounts to 31/12/2017:

The Auditors had examined the documents, record books and supporting vouchers together with the bank statements for the year ended 31 December 2017 and have found

them to be clear, accurate and in good order. We certify that the Income and Expenditure Account and Finance Sheet are correct to the best of our knowledge and belief.

Signed by:

On behalf of EQ Accountants City Quay, Dundee.

The Accounts were adopted by the AGM.

8. Administrator's Report:

Political Background:

The General Election on 8th June last year has changed our political landscape for some time to come with a minority Conservative Government being reliant on the Irish DUP to get many issues passed in the House of Commons.

We also saw more 'devolved' powers being given to the Holyrood Parliament, now with a minority remit to the SNP. Unlike Westminster however, the 'cross party' arrangements work very well in Scotland. The pledge to remove PIP or people in Scotland, already in receipt of Disability Living Allowance (DA) is still ongoing as this is a universal benefit. The promise of the removal of the 'bedroom tax' was however achieved. Parliament also officially launched the integration of Health and Social Care, the only one of its kind in Europe. Some Executive Committee Members have been to Holyrood with the SPF to debate with the Transport Minister, Humza Yousaf the future of concessionary travel (the bus pass). Both the SPF and their affiliates together with the Alliance have robustly defended the status quo but the Minister has stated that in its present form it is unsustainable. He intends to extend the scheme to apprentices and disabled children below the age of five, which is to be applauded but not to the detriment of pensioners.

Pensions.

The state pension is still under the control of Westminster and there is much disquiet and confusion in respect of the 'moving' of the state pension age with women in their fifties having to work longer for less, and without proper time to make financial preparation for their retirement. Our own Alliance LLA campaign, WASPI and in Scotland SPF and their affiliates, are campaigning strongly to have the government consider their plans, but it has been stated by the Government that the state pension is unsustainable in its present form and has to be changed. It has been recently reported in the press that people under thirty now will have to wait until the age of 70 to be in receipt of the state pension, and much reduced one to that at present, especially in the light of there being no remaining 'final salary' arrangements with employers.

CSPA (Scotland) Activities

During the last year, along with other Executive Committee Members, I have attended the Age Scotland AGM in Glasgow and their Annual Conference in Perth and the Scottish Pensioners' Forum Conference in Dundee, at which we were delighted to hold a Stand for

the first time. The Branch Chair and myself also attended the SPF event in Dumfries which was focused on isolation and loneliness in relation to how people adjusted from their work place into retirement. The Branch Chair and myself are on the SPF Executive Committee and attend most of their meetings in Glasgow, and when whenever possible, we work closely with them on their campaigning, especially with Ministers in Holyrood. We are very grateful for the work of the SPF as they are our 'political arm' and hope to continue this special relationship. The SPF and their affiliates have also campaigned regarding fuel poverty and the alarming rise in funeral costs and the Alliance fully support this. Members of the Executive Committee arranged Outreaching/Recruitment events in various HMRC offices due for closure, and some attended an event in Holyrood regarding 'Safer Communities' , once again attended in conjunction with the SPF.

Members at Group Meetings are informed about the activities of our colleagues in England and of the lobbying of Westminster by our Headquarters in London.

Much of this work is mentioned in the Pensioner Magazine, but Group Circulars are more detailed and read out at Group Meetings. Our Scottish Website is also a very good source of information on our Scottish activities and over recent months we have been placing articles on the Alliance National Facebook which is controlled by staff at Headquarters.

Christine McGiveron

Administrator

The Administrator's Report was agreed by the AGM

A presentation was given by Laura representing Thomson's Solicitors.

She emphasised the importance of having a Power of Attorney in Place as no one knows when they may be incapable of handling their own affairs and it can cause serious problems. She took us through the various types of Power of Attorney. She gave an interesting and detailed account of some case histories to illustrate the importance of having your affairs in good order. She answered members questions and was most helpful in giving advice and information.

9. Website Report:

This period has been a bit disappointing as the Scotland Branch Website was only visited by 437 users, which is down by 536 from the period last year. However, we are recruiting via the web, so the fact that hits overall are down, the hits are mostly UK generated, 152 of which were Scotland generated, and you will see below the Branch breakdown. 89% of visitors were new = 389 with returns being 11% = 48.

The breakdown of countries visiting the Branch Website is as follows: UK = 236; Spain = 56; USA = 46; Brazil = 16; Eire = 5 and France, Italy, Japan and Taiwan = 2.

Once again, I have broken down the UK figures and separated out Scotland as follows:

Edinburgh = 41; Glasgow = 29; Dunfermline= 15; Ayr = 11; Livingston = 8; East Kilbride and Paisley = 6; Cumbernauld, Dundee, Kilwinning, Kirkintilloch, Motherwell and Perth = 3; Aberdeen, Falkirk, Greenock, Kilmarnock, North Berwick, Sandbank and Stirling = 2; Alexandria, Coatbridge, Dornoch, Dumbarton, Elgin, Forfar, Glenrothes, Hamilton, Inverurie, Irvine, Kirkcaldy, Montrose, Musselburgh and Prestwick =1.

Demographics

66 of our visitors were 65 and over.

32 were between the ages of 55-64.

21 were between the ages of 23-34.

13 were between the ages of 45-54

42.8% were Female.

57.2% were Male.

Browsers:

Here are some of the main browsers that were used:

Google Chrome; Internet Explorer; Safari; Firefox; MS Edge.

Desktop Computers = 303; Tablets =64; Mobiles = 32.

Some of the Devices:

Apple iPad; iPhone; Tesco Hudl; Galaxy; Acer; MS Xbox1; Vodaphone.

Pages Visited:

Home Page = 743; Branch Page (2) = 201; Glasgow Page (3) = 178; Edinburgh page (4) = 176; Gallery page (9) = 82 and AGM 2018 Page (10) = 38

This concludes the Webmaster's Report for the period February 2017 to February 2018.

John McGiveron

Webmaster

10. Amendments to Constitution and Rules:

RA1 That this AGM agrees the following changes to the Constitution and Rules

Rule 4(d) after 'The Chairman''and Administrator....' Line 2 after 'Chair' insert'Administrator or both' Alter 'then another nominated Branch Committee Member may attend' To read'then other nominated Branch Committee members may attend'.

[Rational]: This would allow the Scotland Branch to fill its second place on the NEC and also free up the position of 'Branch Sponsored Observer' (at the National AGM)]

RA2 That this AGM agrees the following changes to the Constitution and Rules:

Rule 4(k) end of line 2; amend '....Rules of the Constitution and Data Protection Act Scotland' to read '....Rules of this Constitution and the General Data Protection ~Regulations 2018'

[*Rational* This is to comply with the new Data Protection Regulations coming into force in May 2018. Until then the Data Protection Act Scotland 1998 will remain in statute.]

RA3 That this AGM agrees the following changes to the Constitution and Rules;

Rule 5© after'as soon as possible' delete the rest of that rule and insert....'preferably by the third week of January in order that the assessment of the Group Grant can be carried out.'

(*Rational*) The Branch Treasurer must be given as much time as possible to assess how much money is required to be given to each group for the following year.

11. Amendments to the Risk Management Plan:

1. Both Glasgow and Edinburgh are struggling to increase their member attendees at their meetings to take on Committee positions and responsibilities for the Committees and also the Branch EC with requirement of IT skills. At this time, this is our only source for succession planning of committees, and the constitutionally required Officers. Our 'discernment' choices are now critical, especially in the light of the forthcoming Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) in May 2018.

2. Loss of meeting venue. This has now happened to Edinburgh without warning and at a critical time of year and with Pensioner Magazine deadline looming. It should now be a requirement that Glasgow and Edinburgh have a second venue in sight should their present one be closed for whatever reason.

Agreed by the AGM.

12. Motions for this AGM:

The Scotland Branch has a total of 4430 members. Of those, 484 are classified as Life Members. With the closure of a Group in Scotland, we have been advised by one member's relative, who received the letter informing of the group closure, that the member died in 2005 and the Alliance had been informed when this happened.

Bearing in mind that printing costs alone for the Pensioner Magazine in 2017 was £84,811.00 the Scotland Branch now asks this AGM to instruct the NEC to undertake an exercise to contact Scotland Life Members, asking them if they still wish the Pensioner Magazine, and to reply within 30 days. If no reply is received within this timescale, the Alliance would then remove them from the mailing list.

Notes: Total Branch Membership = 4330

Branch Life Membership = 484

Died in summer 2005 and Alliance were notified – where did all the magazines go?

How many others are out there?

Ralph Groves said that the Motion was unacceptable for the NEC in its present form and would be thrown out. The EC will have to re-draw this.

13. Motions or CSPA National AGM being held in the Chesford Grange Hotel, Kenilworth:

14. 111 Election of Office Bearers:

Office Bearers were nominated, elected and agreed by this AGM as Follows:

Scotland Branch Officers:

Chairman: John McGiveron.

Vice Chair: Julia Grier

Administrator: Christine McGiveron

Membership Secretary: Michael Kirby.

Treasurer Cherry Dolan

Agreed by AGM

Executive Committee: (Elected Members) – up to 4 (1 by each Group for 2018/19)

Heather Robertson.

Agreed by AGM

National Executive Committee Delegates:

Branch Chair – John McGiveron.

Branch Administrator – Christine McGiveron.

Agreed by AGM

National Pensioners' Parliament (2) 12/13/14 June.

Christine McGiveron

John McGiveron

Agreed by AGM

CSPA National AGM (2) 9/10/11 October:

Delegate – Cherry Dolan

Observer – Julia Grier.

Agreed by AGM

PSPC Reps (1)

John McGiveron

Agreed by AGM

External Auditors:

E.Q

City Quay

Dundee.

Agreed by AGM

Positions NOT decided at AGM:

Group nominated representatives (1 by each Group) to serve on the ranch Executive Committee:

Edinburgh – No nominations.

Glasgow – Christine McGiveron, Group Secretary.

Branch Executive Committee Appointees:

Minute Secretary: Muriel Haig.

15. Nominations for Executive Committee Members:

Heather Roberson (Edinburgh)

Agreed by AGM

GUEST SPEAKER: RALPH GROVES, DEPUTY GENERAL SECRETARY:

Ralph started off by thanking the Branch Officers and committee for their invitation to the Branch AGM. He commented that although he had a broad understanding of the English versions for power of attorney, listening to the presentation made by the previous speaker from Thompsons Solicitors, clearly the Scottish arrangements were much more complicated or at least sounded much more complex.

He said that it was six or seven years since he had last attended the Scotland Branch AGM and that although there were a few faces that were familiar there were a lot of new ones as well.

During the intervening period in terms of campaigning, matters had moved on to a considerable degree with the creation of the Later Life Ambitions (LLA) campaigning umbrella which involved the Alliance working in concert with the National Federation of Occupational Pensioners (NFOP) formerly Unite representing BT, Royal Mail and Post Office pensioners and subsequently a much wider range of pensioners from occupational pension schemes), and the National Association of Retired Police Officers (NARPO). The coming together of the three organisations and their families were represented which was a very considerable block of pensioner opinion.

Ralph said he was aware that some steps had been taken by the Scotland Branch to establish relations with the Scottish Association of Retired Police Officers which was a very helpful development.

The key aspect of the LLA campaign agenda was that it concentrated on five or six key policy issues, which included the NHS, Social Care, Universal Pensioner Benefits, Housing provision and the State Retirement Pension to mention just some of the issues being pursued. Ralph advised he was aware that the Scotland Branch had drawn up its own campaigning manifesto which in part followed the LLA campaigning agenda.

In addition to campaigning Ralph advised he had responsibility for membership recruitment, group organisation and the provision of membership benefits, and he noted that the Branch were undertaking a fair degree of work to encourage new members to join the Alliance in Scotland and that given the uncertainties presented by the current political developments, especially Brexit, it was very important that the Alliance, both in Scotland and throughout the United Kingdom be both strong in terms of membership but also committed to a strong campaigning agenda because without strong representation by organisations such as the Alliance and the Scottish Pensioners Forum, the interests of pensioners would not be promoted by either politicians or the press and the media who seem determined to create tensions between the older and younger generations because that deflected blame away from those in positions of power. It was essential for the Scotland Branch to be well organised and also to pursue issues on the basis of a united front.

Ralph concluded his talk by saying that he believed the Scotland Branch should be congratulated on a well-run AGM which had dealt with a wide range of important issues.

16. Group Reports (Edinburgh and Glasgow):

Edinburgh Group:

The Edinburgh Group had a busy and enjoyable year with fairly steady attendances. I am pleased to say that our postcode areas are all represented – EH, FK and TD. We much appreciate our members who travel from West Lothian and the Borders to join our group.

We have had interesting speakers from RNIB and BHF and it is amazing the amount of work that goes into fundraising to continue the vast amount of work carried out by those organisations.

During the summer of 2017 we had our first outing to Mellerstain House in the Borders near Lauder. This is a beautiful, well maintained property with the most amazing ceilings and it is well worth a visit. Sadly, the rain was torrential that day and we could only view the magnificent gardens from indoors. We ended the day with a most enjoyable meal in Carfraemill Lodge. Our next outing to Loch Lomond started off with grey skies and heavy showers. However, we arrived at Loch Lomond to blue skies and sunshine and enjoyed a boat trip round the Loch after which we had a lovely drive over to Helensburgh where we had an enjoyable High Tea in the Commodore Hotel. Our final Outing took us to Teviot Water Gardens and Bowhill House in the Borders near Selkirk. Although it was overcast and showery, the showers were infrequent and we enjoyed being shown round another well-maintained property. Once again, we had an excellent High Tea at Carfraemill Lodge – a favourite eating place for our members. We ended the year on a high note with our Christmas Lunch in the Bruntsfield Hotel who always make us most welcome.

Two of our members helped to ‘man’ a stall at the SPF Conference in Dundee as an Outreaching and Recruitment venture. We also, along with other EC members managed to lobby Shona Robison, Health Minister. Two of us also attended an event in Parliament on the subject of ‘Safer Communities’. Both events were interesting and helpful information was passed on to our Group Members.

2018 started with a bang- having to find an alternative meeting place due to the closure of The Royal Overseas League. I found that although there are venues a-plenty they are either cost wise exorbitant or they do not fulfil the standards laid down in our Risk Management Plan so it was a great relief when I found alternative premises which covered the criteria laid down in the Risk Management Plan and we now meet in the Eric Liddell Centre in Morningside.

We had our Group AGM in February which was well attended. Our Committee all agreed to serve for another year and a new Treasurer was appointed as this post had been carried out by the Secretary for a number of years.

Outings and Speakers for 2018 are in the pipeline and when finalised will be advertised in the Scottish Website Edinburgh District page.

Muriel Haig

Group Secretary

Glasgow & District:

2017 was a busy enjoyable year for our Group, with our attendee numbers remaining high for most of the year, only dropping in the winter when some of our members encountered the usual seasonal illnesses. We had some very interesting speakers at our meetings, some of whom are proving so popular that they have been invited again this year. Our summer outing to Oban unfortunately was a very disappointingly wet experience. We did however enjoy a good meal in The Royal Hotel before returning home. Our visit to the Museum of Rural Life in East Kilbride in September was very much enjoyed by all and we had a lovely meal in the Holiday Inn Hotel.

Our Christmas Lunch at the Redhurst Hotel, Giffnock was again a great success and we will be returning there again this year.

Our Group administratively covers a wide area, and we are lucky that numbers in the postcode areas of Glasgow, Renfrew & Argyll, Lanarkshire and Ayrshire continue to attend our meetings.

We had our Group AGM in February and although we had a few apologies, mostly due to illness, it was, as always, very well attended. The Committee Members and Officers all agreed to 'stay in post' for another year, with the exception of our Group Treasurer who intimated her intention of retiring at the AGM due to illness, and we were very fortunate that one of our Members stepped forward to take on this position on a temporary basis. Succession Planning continues to be challenging and we are extremely grateful to the members who make the commitment to serve on the Group Committee in order to keep the Group alive.

We will by now have had our first ordinary meeting of the year, discussing and preparing for this AGM and we are looking forward to our Speakers from the TSB, Glasgow Old Peoples Welfare Association and the Glasgow Children's Hospital Charity who will be attending three of our meetings. In April, instead of a meeting, we have been invited to the Sikh Temple in the south side of Glasgow, and we are very much looking forward to this.

Our summer outing this year is to the Devil's Porridge Museum, dining in the Solway Lodge Hotel in Gretna Green and in the autumn, we will be going to Loch Lomond Shores and dining in the Abbotsford Hotel in Dumbarton.

For full details of our Programme of Events for 2018 please go to the Scottish Website – www.cspascotland.org.uk and click the Glasgow & District page.

There are many challenges ahead of us, in the work to be done for the benefit of our Members, but we look forward to having some fun along the way.

May we continue to have the very good and supportive attendance at our meetings, and I wish to thank everyone in the Glasgow Group.

Christine McGiveron

Group Secretary

17. Recruitment and Outreaching Projects:

In an endeavour to attract new members, the following advertisement has been approved by HQ and will appear in the next issue of the Pensioner magazine:

CALLING ALL MEMBERS LIVING IN SCOTLAND

The Scotland Branch Executive Committee is collectively responsible for Alliance Policy in Scotland, and the lobbying of local politicians, Holyrood Parliament Ministers and MSP's regarding pensioner matters affecting the welfare of all Scottish Members. Meetings are held 4 times a year in either Glasgow or Edinburgh, with travel expenses paid.

Historically, we have elected this Executive Committee from within existing Groups and their attending members at meetings.

This is an appeal to any members interested in participating in the work of our Branch Executive Committee. Computer skills are essential as most of the work is done by email to particular time constraints.

If interested, please contact me, or make application and supply a short personal profile, outlining what you feel you can offer the Branch.

John McGiveron

Scotland Branch Chair

Email: john.mcgiveron2@tinternet.om

Phone No. 01292 618329

18. Branch and Group Welfare:

No points raised.

19. Branch and Group Committee Members (Seat Desk) Notes:

The Chairman had given the Group Secretaries copies of the relevant Seat Desk Notes.

20. Appointments required to attend NPC Convention held in Blackpool in June 2018:

Christine McGiveron'

John McGiveron.

Agreed by AGM

21. Approval of 1 Delegate and 1 Observer to attend CSPA National AGM in Kenilworth on 9th/10th/11th October 2018:

Delegate – Cherry Dolan

Observer – Julia Grier.

Agreed by AGM

22. Approval for 1 representative to attend 2018 PSPC AGM in May:

23. John McGiveron

Agreed by AGM

24. Presentation, and congratulations:

Branch Chair, John McGiveron congratulated Muriel Haig, Edinburgh Group Secretary for having very quickly found a new meeting venue for the Edinburgh Group due to closure of The Royal Overseas League at very short notice.

25. Any other relevant competent Business:

No further business was discussed.

26. Thanks by Chairman:

The Branch Chair, John McGiveron, thanked all the members for attending, and hoped they had managed to view the Stalls which were a new innovation this year. He thanked Ralph Groves for giving us such a good insight into the work carried out at HQ on our behalf. He thanked Laura for her interesting and informative presentation on Power of Attorney. He also thanked CSIS, SPF and BC Technologies for 'manning' stands at the meeting. Thanks was also given to the Hotel and catering staff.

27. Next Scotland Branch AGM to be held on 14th March 2019 in the Golden Lion Hotel, Stirling.

28. Close of Meeting 16.00 hrs.

