Choose Branch officers, tell us what to do next

THIS newsletter will reach you in the last dying days of 2009. We hope that you are enjoying the seasonal holiday, and that you actually remembered to take some time off.

The Branch meeting on Monday 11 January 2010 is its Annual General Meeting (AGM), which includes the election of new Branch officers and for members of the Branch committee.

We still need people to stand for committee posts. See below for what the Branch offers by way of support to its members considering standing for the committee, including (optional) NUJ Training courses or other Branch initiatives. You can read about a similar consultation LFB held previously at www.londonfreelance.org/fl/0604want.htm.

Details of the Branch meeting on Monday 8 February will be online shortly at www.londonfreelance.org/fl/ . This issue went to press on 9 December 2009. Deadline for the (online only) February 2010 issue is 20 January 2010.

Elections for members of the London Freelance Branch committee happen at our Annual General Meeting on Monday 11 January. We need people to stand for the committee: www.londonfreelance.org/flb/jobs.html for details.

The Branch committee members are all working journalists who volunteer to support fellow-members – assisted by John Toner and Pamela Morton, the NUJ’s full-time Freelance Organisers, and their assistant Andrew Dixon. Improving other journalists’ conditions of work, of course, does raise the bar for the way you are treated by clients.

The Branch is offering a free one-day course in minute-taking at the National Centre for Voluntary Organisations, for members who are considering standing for Secretary (including as a job share), or who feel they might want to support the Secretary with occasional minute-taking during Branch meetings.

We expect that there will be a free two-day NUJ Training course for freelance activists and officers during 2010: watch this space. For other support available to prospective committee candidates, see and on page 5...

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Breaking the back of the book?

THE WORLD of book publishing is about to be turned upside down, with most of the developments involving a famous web search engine. An amended Settlement Agreement in the Google Books case got preliminary approval by the court in New York on 19 November. All deadlines are put back.

Details: www.londonfreelance.org/fl/1001goog.html

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