



Mail Handlers Local Union No. 323

1602 Selby Ave., Suite 5 St. Paul, MN 55104
(651) 646-2827 Fax (651) 646-0991 LocalOffice@local323.org

Minutes of the Local Union 323 Executive Board Meeting ST. PAUL, MN March 24, 2018

Jeff Larsen

Local President

Kathy Schultz

Vice President

Dean Abatte

Recording Secretary

John Frey

Treasurer

State Executive

Board Members

Shane Ryden

Minnesota

Brock Engstrom

North Dakota

Branch Presidents

Dean Abatte

Minneapolis

Gerald LaBarre

St. Paul

Mike Straiton

NDC

Gary Tollefsrud

Fargo

IN ATTENDANCE:

Local President: Jeff Larsen

Vice President: Kathleen Schultz

Recording Secretary: Dean Abatte

Treasurer: John Frey

MN State Representative: Shane Ryden

ND State Representative: Brock Engstrom

Local President Jeff Larsen called the Executive Board to order at 11:00 a.m.

Review of the December 13, 2017 minutes.

A motion was made to accept the minutes by NDSR Engstrom and 2nd by Treasurer John Frey. Motion carried.

Local President Jeff Larsen reports: (see attached for full report)

- Local 323 Complement reports 651 FTRs and 117 MHAs. Combined Membership is 690.

Local issues:

- Fiscal year change
- Grievance Activity
- Staffing impact
- Local 323 Dental Plan
- Federal Employees Financial Advisors (FEFA)

Branch Activities:

- Arbitration- Fargo Branch (Scanning Grievance)
- Labor Management
- Additional Activities

Local President Jeff Larsen submitted for review his Expense Report and Time

Sheet. Vice President Kathleen Schultz moves to authorize the Local Presidents expenses for the time frame reported. MNSR Shane Ryden seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Review of the Local Presidents leave hours.

MHBP - Local Union Enrollment January 2018.

The Postal Service Reform Act of 2018; Improving Postal Operations, Service and Transparency Highlights (see attached)

Art. 32 Issues – Reports of Contract drivers performing Mail Handler duties (other than assisted loading/unloading) on Postal Dock Platforms where Mail Handlers are staffed.

Retirement letters: Leggett, Brink, Payton, Lang, Grotte, Hillestad, Yu, Sprouls, Jacobson, Schnieder, Francis and Dunning. Congrats to all.

Treasurer’s report:

Local Treasurer John Frey submitted the Local's Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Statements. NDSR Brock Engstrom motioned to authorize the expenses of the Local Union for the time frame enumerated. The motion was seconded by VP Schultz, motion carried.

Local Scholarship: Mid May

President Larsen opens the floor for general discussion, comments, and questions.

NDSR Engstrom motions to adjourn the Local Executive Meeting.

The motion was seconded by MNSR Ryden. Meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dean Abatte
Recording Secretary Local 323
National Postal Mail Handlers Union

cc: **Local Union Council**
Branch Leaders
File



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March 24, 2018

Local President's Report Local Executive Board

Jeff Larsen
Local President

Kathy Schultz
Vice President

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Recording Secretary

John Frey
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State Executive
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Local 323 Complement:

The Local 323 career complement as of Pay Period 05-18 is 651 (573 MN & 78 ND) and the MHA complement is 117 (102 MN & 15 ND). Combined Membership is 690.

Local Issues:

- **Fiscal Year Change**

The Uniform Local Union Constitution identifies January 1st as the start of the Local Union's fiscal year. This change requires Treasurer John Frey and I to prepare for our annual audit and take the actions necessary to ensure that Local 323 remains in compliance with all applicable laws and regulations. This includes issuing W-2's to Representatives, 1099's to vendors, and filing these documents with the respective State and Federal agencies. The tasks related to the W-2's and 1099's are done "in house" independent of our accountants; however, our accuracy is confirmed during the audit process. Nick Hudek of Legacy Professionals conducted this audit from February 12th through the 14th. This is the starting point for the preparation of our LM-2 as well as our State and Federal taxes.

Our LM-2 has been completed and was provided to the Members of the Local Executive Board for their review and/or comments. Treasurer John Frey and I will be filing this report with the Department of Labor by March 30th. We are currently awaiting the receipt of our State and Federal taxes. These filings are due by May 15th. As always, Legacy Professionals will attend a future meeting of the Local Executive Board to report on the audit results.

- **Grievance Activity**

Grievance activity throughout the Local Union has not in any way subsided. Many people continue to see grievance payments regularly on their pay checks, Membership involvement in the grievance procedure continues to increase, and Representatives remain committed to addressing issues. This is how it's supposed to work and I'm very encouraged to see people working together.

- **Staffing Impacts**

While there is a dispute between the Local Union and management regarding the propriety of the notices given, the Union is nonetheless addressing proposed excessing events in the St. Paul P&DC as well as at the Minneapolis/St. Paul NDC. The event proposed for the Minneapolis P&DC has been rescinded. The two remaining events present distinguishable circumstances in that the NDC has experienced internal sectional excessing along with possible installation excessing, while the St. Paul facility has only informed Mail Handlers of possible installation excessing. Of course, our objective is that no one is excessed from their installation.

Finally, these events have brought the conversion of MHA's to a standstill. This has not gone unnoticed by our Representatives or those awaiting conversion. Consequently, I will be continuing to work with our Branch Representatives to address these and all related issues.

- **Local 323 Dental Program**

The Local 323 Dental Program continues to be offered to the Regular Membership as well as any Postal or Federal employee who chose to affiliate as an Associate Member. The 2018 billing of Associate Member dues is in the process of being completed. Any newly hired Members who are interested in this plan should contact me at the Local Office.

- **Federal Employees First Alliance (FEFA) Retirement Seminar**

Local 323 sponsored another two days of retirement seminars which were conducted by FEFA earlier this week. The increase in the number of people attending seems to suggest that they are gaining in popularity. We are attempting to get some seminars scheduled for our Members in North Dakota and it is possible that we'll have an event in Fargo this June.

Branch Activities:

- **Arbitration Award– Fargo Branch**

As previously reported a regular regional arbitration hearing was held in the Fargo Branch on November 20th. The case involved scanning. By award dated January 26th, Arbitrator Gallagher denied our grievance. Still, I would like to express my thanks to all the Branch Members and Representatives who participated in taking this fight to management’s doorstep.

- **Labor – Management Meetings**

Since the last meeting of the Local Executive Board I’ve been in attendance in several Labor – Management meetings at the St. Paul P&DC as well as one at the NDC. I will continue my attendance at these meetings as time permits.

- **Additional Branch Activities**

I’m continuously working with the Representatives of all Branches concerning a wide range of issues. Recently I’ve been assisting the Mankato Branch with management’s belated implementation of the Function 1 Scheduler.

Upcoming Events:

Semi Annual Meeting of the Local Unions – April 9th – 11th
Arbitration St. Paul Branch – May 9th

Fraternally,

Jeff Larsen
Local President

cc: All Branches
File