



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 April 10, 2012

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

Douglas Vitek
St. Paul

Mike Straiton
BMC

Gary Tollefsrud
Fargo

Local President Jeff Larsen called the Executive Board to order at 09:54 a.m. Roll call was taken by Recording Secretary Dean Abatte.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Local President: Jeff Larsen

Vice President: Kathleen Schultz

Recording Secretary: Dean Abatte

Treasurer: John Frey

MN SEBM: Shane Ryden

ND SEBM: Brock Engstrom

The meeting opened with discussion on Parliamentary Procedure and conduct of the Board meetings. Local President Larsen handed out literature explaining the procedure which defines how groups of people, no matter how formal or informal, can most effectively meet and make decisions in a fair, consistent manner and make good use of everyone's time.

The Local Executive Board reviewed the previous meeting minutes. ND SEBM Brock Engstrom made a motion to accept the minutes which was seconded by Treasurer John Frey. There were no objections and the motion carried unanimously.

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

- Fiscal year change
- Election of Delegates – 2012 National Convention
- Local 323 Dental Plan
- District Labor Management Meeting
- Semi- Annual Meeting of the Local Unions (SAMLU)

Branch Activities

- St. Cloud AMP meeting
- Minot AMP teleconference
- Current status of proposed consolidations
- Upcoming events

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. MN SEBM Shane Ryden seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Treasurer John Frey reports:

Treasurer John Frey submitted for review the Local's Profit and Loss Statement. ND SEBM Brock Engstrom motioned to authorize the expenses of the Local for the time frame enumerated. The motion was seconded by MN SEBM Shane Ryden and carried unanimously.

Local President Larsen continued with a Contract Update. The Board also reviewed a copy of the January bank statement based upon a recommendation from our accountants. Discussion ensued as to the value of this document to the Executive Board's oversight function.

Local President Larsen presented the Board with an update on the MHBP. The Board then reviewed the expenses from marketing the health plan during 2011.

Agenda item regarding the scheduling of upcoming meetings was discussed. President Larsen asked the Board to review their calendars and suggest a date and time for future Board and Council meetings. Due to the varied schedules of all Board members it was determined that every meeting would be an inconvenience for someone no matter when it was scheduled. President Larsen would do his best to accommodate everyone's schedule.

The next Executive Board meeting is scheduled for June 26th at 9:00 a.m. This meeting will occur in conjunction with a meeting of the Building Corporation.

President Larsen opens the floor for general discussion, comments, and questions. Hearing none, Vice President Kathy Schultz motioned to adjourn the meeting. ND SEBM Brock Engstrom seconded the Motion which carried and the meeting adjourned at 1:57 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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April 10, 2012

Local President's Report

Local 323 Complement:

The current Local 323 career complement as of PP-06-12 is 699 (629 MN & 70 ND) with Membership at 639.

Local Activities:

- **Fiscal Year Change**

The Uniform Local Union Constitution identifies January 1st as the change in the Local Union's fiscal year and it has become the practice during my first report of the year to outline the steps taken by myself and Treasurer John Frey in response to this change. Essentially we close the books on the preceding year 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. Closing the books on the preceding year also means preparing for our annual audit and the subsequent filing of our LM-2 with the Department of Labor as well as our State and Federal taxes on unrelated business income. Towards those objectives, Legacy Professionals was in our office in late February to conduct the annual audit.

We filed our LM-2 electronically with the Department of Labor on March 30th and we are currently awaiting the receipt of our State and Federal taxes. Legacy Professionals will attend a future meeting once everything has been completed.

- **Election of Delegates – 2012 National Convention**

In early January the Judges of Election held a meeting for the purpose of nominating candidates seeking to be elected as the Delegates that would represent Local 323 at the 2012 National Convention. Following the

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nomination meeting, the number of people nominated equaled the number of Delegates sought and the Judges declared them duly elected. Consequently, the Local 323 Delegation to the 2012 National Convention will be comprised of Local President Jeff Larsen, Local Treasurer John Frey, and St. Paul Branch President Doug Vitek.

- **Local 323 Dental Program**

Local 323 is continuing to offer our Dental Program to the Regular Membership as well as Postal and Federal employees who chose to affiliate as Associate Members. The process of billing associate dues is currently in the second round and this process will be completed within the next couple months.

- **District Labor Management**

On February 9th, Vice President Kathy Schultz and I attended the Northland District Semi-Annual Labor-Management Meeting. Topics included an overview of the USPS financial situation, a review of service standard compliance, the potential change of service standards, revenue from sales, complement assessment, delivery unit optimization, PEER, and the potential consolidation of mail processing facilities.

- **Semi-Annual Meeting of the Local Unions (SAMLU)**

In early March I was in attendance at the SAMLU which was held in San Diego, California. In light of the numerous issues currently pending there was quite an extensive agenda.

The first day included the reports of the National President and the National Secretary-Treasurer. President Hegarty provided detailed information concerning the USPS declared impasse over the terms of the 2011 National Agreement, the likely causes of the impasse, and the mechanisms available to resolve the matter. In addition, President Hegarty discussed closures and consolidations as well as the potential for an early retirement offer. Secretary-Treasurer Gardner provided an overview of the financial status of the National Union as well as the revenue trends for both the National and Local Unions. The legislative report followed and revealed that the 112th Congress had, up to that time, introduced 33 separate pieces of Postal legislation. The number of pieces of this legislation which Congress has passed, however, remains at 0.

The second day's agenda was comprised of the Litigation Report, the Contract Administration Department Report, the Mail Handlers Benefit Plan, as well as reports from the Article 12 and Discipline Task Forces. It should also be noted that during the second day's proceedings the attendees were addressed by Congressman Bob Filner (D-CA).

The third day centered on an Article 12 workshop during which the attendees gained insight into the implementation of the National MOU's on Excessing and Transfer Opportunities.

Branch Activities:

- **St. Cloud AMP Meeting**

In late December, I attended a Labor-Management as well as a town hall meeting related to the proposed consolidation of the St. Cloud installation into the Minneapolis P&DC. This meeting followed the same format as previous meetings in other Branches.

- **Minot AMP Teleconference**

In March, North Dakota State Executive Board Member Brock Engstrom and I participated in a teleconference with Dakotas District and Minot management as well as the Mail Handlers potentially affected by the AMP study. While you wouldn't think it would be appropriate to handle such a matter via telephone, I must admit that this format was very effective. The Mail Handlers received answers to all their questions, were thoroughly apprised of their rights, and explored the effects of the options which are available.

- **Current Status of Proposed Consolidations**

In early March the Union received withholding notices at the regional level concerning the facilities of Rochester and Mankato in the State of Minnesota as well as Minot in the State of North Dakota. The initial notices set forth a 35 mile withholding radius for all of these affected facilities. Subsequently, we received notices expanding the Minot, ND withholding, first to 100 miles, and then to 130 miles. With respect to the facilities of Rochester and Mankato, this last week we received notices for each facility expanding the withholding radius to 100 miles.

Developments concerning the remaining facilities which were under consideration for consolidation revealed that Grand Forks, ND has been removed from the list and will remain unaffected. In addition, it has recently been confirmed that no action will be taken during 2012 with regard to the St. Cloud or Duluth facilities.

Upcoming Events:

Local Union Council Meeting – Scheduling to be determined

General Membership Meeting – Scheduling to be determined

Fraternally,

Jeff Larsen
Local President

cc: All Branches
File