



# Mail Handlers Local Union No. 323

1602 Selby Ave., Suite 5 St. Paul, MN 55104  
(651) 646-2827 Fax (651) 646-0991 Local323@ix.netcom.com

## Minutes of the Local Union 323 Executive Board Meeting ST. PAUL, MN December 27, 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*

Gerald LaBarre

*St. Paul*

Mike Straiton

*BMC*

Gary Tollefsrud

*Fargo*

Local President Jeff Larsen called the Executive Board to order at 12:03 p.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 State Representative:** Shane Ryden

**ND State Representative:** Brock Engstrom

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

The Local Executive Board reviewed the minutes of the Special session to discuss the St. Paul Branch President vacancy. MN State Rep. Shane Ryden motioned to accept the minutes, Local V.P. Kathleen Schultz 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. No objections were raised and motion carried.

The Local Executive Board reviewed the membership totals and the percentage of which that were not members. The Board reviewed how to improve the membership totals. A non-member list vs. direct contact to inquire as to if those not currently members would be interested in joining the Union.

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

- Open Season Activities
- Local 323 Dental Program
- AFCS 200 Jurisdictional Determination
- Semi-Annual Meeting of the Local Unions (SAMLU)

## **Branch Activities**

- Rochester Consolidation
- St. Paul Branch President Installed
- Fargo Branch meeting
- Labor Management meetings
- Status of Proposed Consolidations

Local President Jeff Larsen submitted for review his Expense Report and Time Sheet and Leave report. N.D. State Rep Brock Engstrom moves to authorize the Local Presidents expenses for the time frame reported. Local Vice President Kathleen Schultz seconded, motion carried unanimously.

### **Treasurer John Frey reports:**

Treasurer John Frey submitted for review the Local's Profit and Loss Statement. Local Recording Secretary Dean Abatte motioned to authorize the expenses of the Local for the time frame enumerated. The motion was seconded by N.D. State Rep Brock Engstrom, motion carried.

Local Recording Secretary Dean Abatte motioned to begin contributing to the Local's convention fund. The proposal was for contributions of \$100 per pay period to begin as soon as possible. N.D. State Rep. Brock Engstrom 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion carried.

President Larsen opens the floor for general discussion, comments, and questions. Hearing none, MN State Rep. Shane Ryden motions to adjourn the Local Executive Meeting.

Dean Abatte second, Motion carries meeting adjourns at 1:27 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dean Abatte  
Recording Secretary Local 323  
National Postal Mail Handlers Union

cc: Local Union Council  
Branch Leaders  
File



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December 27, 2012

## Local President's Report

### Local 323 Complement:

The current Local 323 career complement as of PP-25-12 is 633 (576 MN & 57 ND) with Membership at 577.

### Local Activities:

- **Open Season Activities**

The Local 323 Health Plan Representatives have been busy attending open season health fairs throughout the States of Minnesota and North Dakota. Specifically, Kathy Schultz, Brock Engstrom, and Brad Kaluza, have been traveling the highways and byways to provide the Mail Handlers Benefit Plan with the most extensive exposure possible. The open season health fairs have been completed and we will be receiving the results of our efforts sometime after the 1<sup>st</sup> of the year.

- **Local 323 Dental Program**

In addition to the Mail Handlers Benefit Plan, Local 323 offered our Dental Program to the Regular Membership as well as Postal and Federal employees who chose to affiliate as Associate Members. This year's plan was offered without an increase in premiums. I continue to serve as the plan administrator for this program.

- **AFCS 200 Jurisdictional Determination**

The national level decision by the Postal Service to award craft jurisdiction for the AFCS 200 to the clerk craft has required a coordinated effort between the Local Office, the Saint Paul Branch, and the Minneapolis Branch. The Saint Paul and the Minneapolis Branches are the only installations within Local 323 in which the AFCS 200's are installed. We will be challenging this management decision through the appropriate procedures. This matter is not likely to be resolved at the Local level and we have to be prepared to pursue it over the long term.

Jeff Larsen

*Local President*

Kathy Schultz

*Vice President*

Dean Abatte

*Recording Secretary*

John Frey

*Treasurer*

State Executive

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Shane Ryden

*Minnesota*

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Gerald LaBarre

*St. Paul*

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*BMC*

Gary Tollefsrud

*Fargo*



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

In early December I was in attendance at the SAMLU which was held in New Orleans, LA. There can be no doubt that the primary concern of the attendees was the ongoing interest arbitration over the terms of the 2011 National Agreement. In this regard the National Union reported that multiple hearing dates have been held through and on November 27, 2012. At the time of the SAMLU, additional hearing dates were scheduled for December 12, 13, and 14, as well as 6 additional days during January of 2013.

**Branch Activities:**

- **Rochester Consolidation**

During the last several months weekly meetings have been held concerning management's decision to consolidate mail processing operations from Rochester into the St. Paul P&DC. It is anticipated that this consolidation will be effected by the end of February of 2013. In addition to me, Recording-Secretary Dean Abatte, and MN State Executive Board Member Shane Ryden have been participating in these meetings. It should be noted that while the mail processing operations will be consolidated into the St. Paul P&DC, the Rochester Mail Handlers will be excessed onto the NDC. In light of these circumstances, the representatives of the St. Paul and NDC Branches have been working with the Local Officers concerning specific aspects of the implementation which are relevant to their respective installations. This represents the first event which is occurring under the provisions of the National MOU Re: Excessing and this agreement produces its own peculiarities regarding implementation. The process will continue with goal of the Local Union being to ensure that all affected Mail Handlers receive the rights to which they are entitled.

- **St. Paul Branch President Installed**

The Local Executive Board unanimously selected Gerald LaBarre to fill the vacancy in the office of Saint Paul Branch President. Mr. LaBarre is a long time representative who has served as a Chief Steward for numerous years. On October 29<sup>th</sup>, per the instructions of National President John Hegarty, I administered the oath of office.

- **Fargo Branch Meeting**

On November 17<sup>th</sup> I was in Fargo, ND for a meeting of the Fargo Branch. Attendance at this meeting was unusually sparse which may have resulted from the heavy work schedules being performed by the Fargo Mail Handlers. Nevertheless, Branch President Gary Tollefsrud provided valuable information to the Membership.

- **Labor-Management Meetings**

I'm continuing to attend Labor-Management meetings in the Minneapolis, the NDC, and St. Paul Branches as my schedule permits.

- **Status of Proposed Consolidations**

The potential consolidations of Mankato, St. Cloud, and Duluth, remain distinct possibilities in the future. However, it currently appears that no action will be taken with respect to the consolidations of these installations until sometime in 2014.

**Upcoming Events:**

Fiscal Year Change – January 1<sup>st</sup>

Fraternally,

Jeff Larsen  
Local President

cc: All Branches  
File