



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 December 29, 2016

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 10:34 a.m.

The Local Executive Board reviewed the previous meeting minutes from September 29, 2016. MNSR Shane Ryden motioned to accept the minutes. The motion was second by NDSR Brock Engstrom. No objections, the motion carried unanimously.

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

Local 323 Complement Reported

Local Issues

- 2016 National Agreement
- SAMLU
- Mail Handler Health Benefit Plan Open season
- Partial re-imburement program
- Local 323 Dental Program

Branch Activities

- Fargo Branch Meeting

Local President Jeff Larsen submitted for review his Expense Report and Time Sheet. NDSR Brock Engstrom moves to authorize the Local Presidents expenses for the time frame reported. Recording Secretary Dean Abatte seconded, motion carried unanimously.



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 Recording Secretary Dean Abatte, motion carried.

Update on 2017 Union Picnic:

Vice President Kathy Schultz presented to the Executive Board a comprehensive plan for a Union Function/Picnic for the summer of 2017. Details on the specifics of how and what the picnic will consist of will be determined at a later meeting. Authorization was approved for a \$500 deposit to reserve the pavilion at Como Park on June 25th for the function.

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

NDSR Engstrom motions to adjourn the Local Executive Meeting.

The motion was seconded by Vice President Kathy Schultz. Meeting adjourned at 3:06 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 29, 2016

Local President's Report

Local 323 Complement:

The Local 323 career complement as of PP-25-16 is 659 (588 MN & 71 ND) and the MHA complement is 80 (69 MN & 11 ND). Combined Membership is at 637.

Local Issues:

- **2016 National Agreement**

On December 16th the National Office announced that a tentative agreement over the terms of the 2016 National Agreement had been reached with the Postal Service. This tentative agreement will now be subject to ratification by a majority vote of the Union's membership. The ratification process will begin in early January and will have a 30 day period in which to return ballots.

If ratified, the 2016 National Agreement will have a term of three years and four months expiring on September 20, 2019.

The tentative agreement includes:

- General Wage Increases
- Cost of Living Adjustments
- No Layoff Clause

In addition, the tentative agreement included significant improvements for MHAs.

A summary of the tentative agreement is available on the National Union's web site.

Jeff Larsen

Local President

Kathy Schultz

Vice President

Dean Abatte

Recording Secretary

John Frey

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- **SAMLU**

In early December I attended the SAMLU which was held in Tucson, AZ. The agenda for this meeting included the reports of the National Officers, the Litigation Report, the Legislative and Political Report, the Contract Administration Report, and an update on the Mail Handlers Benefit Plan. Of course, the most pressing topic concerned negotiations over the terms of the 2016 National Agreement. During the third day of the meeting I attended a training session on Local Negotiations.

MHBP Open Season Marketing Efforts

In preparation for this years' open season, Health Plan Representatives Kathy Schultz and Brad Kaluza attended the Mail Handler Benefit Plan Seminar which was held in Pittsburgh, PA. Subsequently, the Local 323 Health Plan Representatives embarked upon another open season of attending health fairs. Kathy Schultz and Brad Kaluza traversed the State of Minnesota, while Brock Engstrom and Brian Blatchford hit the trail in North Dakota. Significant efforts have been expended to provide the Mail Handlers Benefit Plan with as much exposure as possible.

An initial report provided at the SAMLU indicates positive trends in enrollment. The final numbers should be available sometime after the 1st of the year and that information will be shared with all who are interested.

Partial Reimbursement Program

Local 323 continues its participation in the partial reimbursement program which has been established by the National Union. This program is designed to lessen the financial impact on Local Unions by reimbursing some of the costs associated with marketing the MHBP. On October 17th, Treasurer John Frey and I participated in a teleconference with the National Office concerning revisions to the submission procedures for this program. The process of preparing our submission will begin after the 1st of the year and we will be filing our request for reimbursement by January 13, 2017.

Local 323 Dental Program

In addition to the Mail Handlers Benefit Plan, Local 323 continued to offer our Dental Program to the Regular Membership as well as Postal and Federal employees who chose to affiliate as Associate Members. The 2017 plan included a 5% increase in premiums; however, there were no changes to benefits.

On October 2nd, Kathy Schultz, Brad Kaluza and I, met with Chris Kallaus from HealthPartners to discuss increasing the exposure of our Dental Program during the open seasons. This gave rise to a decision of offering materials at some of the

Minnesota health fairs we would be attending. To date, these additional marketing efforts have not produced any results. I continue to serve as the plan administrator.

Branch Activities:

- **Minnesota Branches**

I'm continuing to work with each individual Branch to address specific issues as needed. Hopefully, Labor – Management meetings will be more frequent in 2017.

- **North Dakota Branches**

I continue working with the Representatives as needed and I look forward to being invited to a meeting in North Dakota in the future.

A Final Thought:

I would be remiss if I did not express my personal gratitude to all of the Members who served as Officers, Chief Stewards, Stewards, and Alternate Stewards during 2016. Without their efforts it would be impossible to accomplish our goal of representing the Membership. My thanks go out to all of you.

Upcoming Events:

Fiscal Year Change – January 1st
Metro Area Branch President's Meeting – Pending

Fraternally,

Jeff Larsen
Local President

cc: All Branches
File