



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 June 26, 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 11:24 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 State Representative: Shane Ryden

ND State Representative: Brock Engstrom

The Local Executive Board convened during the Local Unions audit by Legacy Professionals LLP. CPA Eric Baertsch provided the Board with the Audit Documents. The oration began with the Audit communications letter required between the Auditors and Board and proffered the following:

- Our Responsibility under auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America
- Planned scope and timing of the Audit
- Significant Audit findings
- Difficulties encountered in performing the Audit
- Correction and uncorrected misstatements
- Management representations
- Management consultations with other independent accountants
- Other audit findings or issues
- Intended use of this letter
- Adjusting Journal Entries

The Local Executive Board was dismissed at 10:53 from the Building Corporation meeting and re-convened at 11:24 for the Executive Board meeting. For full review of the Audit, see attached and review the minutes of the Local Union 323 Building Corporation.

The Local Executive Board reviewed the previous meeting minutes. MN State Representative Shane Ryden motioned to accept the minutes and 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)

- 2012 National Convention
- Local 323 Dental Program
- Voluntary Early Retirement Authority (VERA)
- National Agreement Status

Branch Activities

- Labor Management Meetings
- 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 State Rep. Shane Ryden seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer John Frey reports:

Treasurer John Frey submitted for review the Local's Profit and Loss Statement. ND State Rep. Brock Engstrom motioned to authorize the expenses of the Local for the time frame enumerated. The motion was seconded by Local Vice President Kathleen Schultz motion carried.

Local President Larsen continued with a Contract Update. .

President Larsen opens the floor for general discussion, comments, questions. Hearing none, Treasurer John Frey motioned to adjourn the Local Executive Meeting.

Shane Ryden seconded Motion carries meeting adjourns at 12:44 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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June 26, 2012

Local President's Report

Jeff Larsen
Local President

Kathy Schultz
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State Executive
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Local 323 Complement:

The current Local 323 career complement as of PP-12-12 is 686 (618 MN & 68 ND) with Membership at 636.

Local Activities:

- **2012 National Convention**

Preparations continue for the 2012 National Convention. In this regard, I recently spent a week in Washington, DC, serving as a member of the Constitution Committee. This Committee reviewed and considered submissions from Mail Handlers across the country who submitted proposals to amend the National as well as the Uniform Local Union Constitution. Numerous issues were addressed. The Committees report and recommendations will be provided to the Delegate at the Convention. Treasurer John Frey, St. Paul Branch President Doug Vitek, and I will be serving as Local 323's Delegates to the Convention.

- **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 has been completed. I continue to serve as the plan administrator and any Member who has an interest or questions concerning the plan may contact me at the Local 323 office.

- **Voluntary Early Retirement Authority (VERA)**

Perhaps the biggest news of recent times came when a VERA was announced on May 24th. Vice President Kathy Schultz and I participated in a national teleconference concerning these matters immediately preceding the announcement. The information concerning the VERA has been thoroughly disseminated on the work floor and is also available

at www.liteblue.usps.gov. The decision to take the incentive, whether through retirement or resignation, is a personal decision that should be considered very carefully. The Local Union and its Representative do not provide retirement advice.

- **National Agreement Status**

The mediation process initiated in regard to the terms of the 2011 National Agreement has failed to produce an agreement. The impasse now proceeds to a final and binding interest arbitration. In interest arbitration the dispute goes before a three member panel. The panel consists of a neutral arbitrator serving as chairperson and two arbitrators representing each party. The neutral arbitrator may be selected by agreement of the parties, or from a list provided by the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service. Keep an eye on the web and your bulletin boards for further information.

Branch Activities:

- **Labor-Management Meetings**

I have continued to attend Labor-Management meetings in the Minneapolis and St. Paul Branches as my schedule permits. Hopefully, a meeting will be scheduled at the NDC Branch in the near future.

- **Current Status of Proposed Consolidations**

As previously reported, 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.

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. Currently, it appears that no action will be taken with respect to the consolidations until sometime in early 2013.

Upcoming Events:

2012 National Convention – August 6th through 12th – Portland, OR

Fraternally,

Jeff Larsen
Local President

cc: All Branches
File