



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 September 27, 2013

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 11:06 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

President Larsen called the meeting to order at 11:06 a.m.

First order of business was to review the current soon to be expired lease of office equipment with Brad from Metro Sales. The Local spends approximately \$8600 per year to lease copy machines for the Local and Branch and offices. The Executive Board was presented a new lease proposal for cost conscience machines that were determined by Metro Sales to be more in line with what is needed rather than the high level machines currently deployed throughout the Local. The proposals yearly cost was about half of the cost of the current lease. The Board reviewed the proposal and determined that more time was needed to go over the Locals office expenses to see if a better alternative could be found. It was proposed to buy multi-purpose machines at a fraction of the new proposals cost thus saving the Local thousands more per year. This suggestion was well received by the Board. The next step would be to look at the cost of purchasing and maintaining the machines vs. lease. As of the drafting of these minutes, no decision has been made.

The Local Executive Board reviewed the previous meeting minutes from June 17th, 2013. Treasurer John Frey motioned to accept the minutes and was seconded by NDSR Brock Engstrom. There were no objections and the motion carried unanimously.

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

- Local 323 Compliment

- SAMLU – 2011 National Agreement Training
- Local Negotiations
- Local 323 Dental Plan
- Branch President’s Meeting
- PTF Conversions
- Fargo Branch Meeting
- Rochester Consolidation Status
- Mankato Consolidation Status
- Saint Cloud Consolidation Status
- Duluth Consolidation Status
- Labor-Management Meetings
- North Dakota Branch Issues

Local President Jeff Larsen submitted for review his Expense Report and Time Sheet. MNSEBM Shane Ryden moves to authorize the Local Presidents expenses for the time frame reported. Vice President Kathy Schultz seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Local President Jeff Larsen submitted for review his Leave Hours for 2013.

Treasurer John Frey reports:

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

Agenda Items:

- Review of the Locals Trash service
- Tree Removal from the back parking lot
- Protection for the newly installed A/C unit

President Larsen opens the floor for general discussion, comments, questions, hearing none, Vice President Kathy Schultz motions to adjourn the Local Executive Meeting.

John Frey seconds, Motion carries meeting adjourns at 1:23 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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September 27, 2013

Local President's Report

Local 323 Complement:

According to the reports, the Local 323 career complement as of PP-19-13 is 599 (547 MN & 52 ND) and the MHA complement is 81 (72 MN & 9 ND). Combined Membership is 593. 1187's for MHA's continue to be processed.

Local Activities:

- **SAMLU - 2011 National Agreement Training**

In late August I was in attendance at the Semi-Annual Meeting of the Local Unions in Chicago, IL. The attendees receive reports from the National Officers, a Legislative and Political Report, a Litigation Report, the Mail Handler Benefit Plan Report, an update on the MHBP Partial Reimbursement Program, and the report of the Contract Administration Department.

The final day consisted of a training session concerning the 2011 National Agreement. This primarily involved the changes resulting from the award of the arbitration panel.

- **Local Negotiations**

Local Negotiations have been opened by the Local Union in the Minneapolis and NDC Branches. Both management and the Union provided notice of opening Local Negotiations in the St. Paul Branch and management opened Local Negotiations in the Bismarck Branch. This process is in its beginning stages and further information will be provided as it become available.

Jeff Larsen

Local President

Kathy Schultz

Vice President

Dean Abatte

Recording Secretary

John Frey

Treasurer

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Board Members

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Minnesota

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- **Local 323 Dental Program**

This dental plan is available to all Members including MHA's. Any newly hired Members who are interested in this plan should contact me at the Local Office.

- **Branch President's Meeting**

On August 15th the metro area Branch Presidents met once again to continue our ongoing dialog concerning implementation of the 2011 National Agreement. Specific issues such as, MHA's and PTF conversions were the primary topics on the table in this most recent meeting. Our previous issue of retreat rights for former PTF's who had been excessed is near completion. Branch President's meeting will continue to be scheduled as needed.

- **PTF Conversions**

As provided for under the terms of the Fishgold award, all PTF's in 200 man year offices have been converted to full-time regular. Some of these Mail Handlers had been excessed as PTF's and it was necessary to implement seniority adjustments. It should also be noted, that the Union was able to persuade management to allow all PTR's to change to PTF prior to this conversion. All of the PTR's accepted this opportunity; and consequently, there are no longer any PTR's within the territorial jurisdiction of Local 323.

Branch Activities:

- **Fargo Branch Meeting**

On September 14th I was in attendance at a meeting of the Fargo Branch. Several issues, such as the possibility of a new building, ND Priority mail at the annex, the timeframe for Members receipt of their contract books, forklift license issues, MHA's, and Local Negotiations, were discussed. Grievance activity in the Fargo Branch has gotten the attention of district management.

- **Rochester Consolidation Status**

As previously reported, the consolidation of mail processing operations from Rochester into the Saint Paul P&DC has been completed. However, grievance activity for Rochester Steward Jim Crawley and MN State Executive Board Member Shane Ryden remains ongoing.

- **Mankato Consolidation Status**

The partial consolidation of mail processing operations from Mankato into the Minneapolis P&DC has been implemented. This partial consolidation involved the originating mail. The 3 Mail Handlers excess to that facility were reassigned to the NDC effective June 1st. As previously reported, management has identified the Mankato installation for a full consolidation at some future date.

- **Saint Cloud Consolidation Status**

Article 12 meetings concerning the partial consolidation of Saint Cloud operations into the Minneapolis P&DC are nearing completion. The originating mail operations (010) were relocated to the Minneapolis P&DC and 4 Mail Handlers were reassigned to the NDC effective September 7th. This event is experiencing results similar to the Rochester and Mankato events, both in the gaining and losing installations. MN State Executive Board Member Shane Ryden has been tasked with assisting the St. Cloud Branch with the inevitable issues which result from this type of an event.

- **Duluth Consolidation Status**

Meetings concerning the consolidation of Duluth operations into the Saint Paul P&DC remain suspended as of this date. As previously reported, management has identified the Duluth installation for consolidation at some future date.

- **Labor-Management Meetings**

I'm continuing to attend Labor-Management meetings in the Minneapolis, the NDC, and St. Paul Branches as my schedule permits. So far this year I've attended several monthly meetings at the NDC and numerous weekly meetings in Saint Paul.

- **North Dakota Branch Issues**

ND State Executive Board Member Brock Engstrom and I have been engaged in discussions with Dakotas District management in an attempt to resolve several longstanding issues. Whether these discussions will ultimately lead to a resolution remains to be seen.

Upcoming Events:

General Membership Meeting – September 28th.

FEHB Open Season – November 11, 2013 through December 9, 2013.

Fraternally,

Jeff Larsen
Local President

cc: All Branches
File