



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 September 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 10:32 a.m.

The Local Executive Board reviewed the previous meeting minutes from July 12, 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
- National Convention
- LIUNA Convention
- PMG visit to North Dakota

Branch Activities

- Fargo Branch Meeting

Local President Jeff Larsen submitted for review his Expense Report and Time Sheet. Recording Secretary Dean Abatte moves to authorize the Local Presidents expenses for the time frame reported. Vice President Kathy Schultz 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 MNSR Shane Ryden, motion carried.

Recording Secretary Dean Abatte motioned to continue funding the National Convention account at the current rate of \$100 per pay period. The motion was seconded by Vice President Kathy Schultz. Motion carried.

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

A proposal to explore the possibility of a Union Picnic for the summer of 2017 by Vice President Kathy Schultz was entertained by the board. Local President Larsen appointed VP Schultz chair person of the picnic committee and Recording Secretary Abatte the co-chair. A comprehensive plan for a 2017 Union picnic will be assembled and presented to the board for review and consideration before the next Executive Board meeting.

NDSR Engstrom motions to adjourn the Local Executive Meeting.

The motion was seconded by Recording Secretary Abatte and the meeting adjourned at 1:10 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 29, 2016

Local President's Report

Local 323 Complement:

The Local 323 career complement as of PP-19-16 is 669 (596 MN & 73 ND) and the MHA complement is 77 (67 MN & 10 ND). Combined Membership is at 637.

Local Issues:

- **2016 National Agreement**

Following the issuance of the interest arbitration award between the Postal Service and the APWU, our Union has returned to the bargaining table and is attempting to finalize a negotiated National Agreement. Discussions I've had with the National Office have indicated that there are only a handful of issues remaining to be resolved. We should know in the near future whether a negotiated agreement is reached or if we will be heading to arbitration.

In the event that we reach a negotiated agreement it will be subject to a nationwide ratification vote of the Membership. The question at that point will be whether to accept the agreement or proceed to arbitration. Should we reach that point I'll put something out on the web site evaluating the agreement and weighing the pros and cons. For what it's worth, it should be noted that the APWU has described their arbitration decision as a concessionary award.

Keep your eyes on the Local web site and your bulletin boards for additional information on this important issue.

- **National Convention**

The Local 323 Delegation was in attendance at the 2016 NPMHU National Convention which was held in Chicago, IL during August. Our Delegation was comprised of Vice President Kathy Schultz, ND State Executive Board

- 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



Member Brock Engstrom, St. Paul Branch President Jerry LaBarre, Minneapolis Branch Member Elizabeth Dunning, and me.

The National Convention provides the Delegates the opportunity for input into the inner workings of the National Union as well as the Local Unions. The Delegates heard the reports and recommendations from numerous committees. In particular, the Credentials Committee, the Rules Committee, the Constitution Committee, the Resolutions Committee, and the Political and Legislative Committee. Each committee plays a role in how we will move forward and into the future.

In addition, the Delegates participated in the process to select our National Officers for the next four years. National President Paul Hogrogian, National Secretary Treasurer Mark Gardner, Southern Regional Vice President Lawrence Sapp, and Northeastern Regional Vice President David Wilkin were reelected by acclamation. I would like to express my congratulations to these Officers on their reelection and wish them the best as they continue working for a better future for our Union and its Members.

The Delegates voted in primary elections for the positions of Western Regional Vice President and Central Regional Vice President. The Members in those regions will be voting to fill those positions in October. Additionally, there is an election for Eastern Regional Vice President; although, it was unnecessary to hold a primary election for that position at the convention.

It's always a pleasure to work with our fellow Mail Handlers to ensure a strong future for our Union; and, I would like to express my gratitude to the Local 323 Delegation for their time and attention to this important business.

- **LIUNA Convention**

Recently, Recording Secretary and Minneapolis Branch President Dean Abatte and I served as Delegates to the convention of our parent organization the Laborers International Union of North America. As an "International" convention, this was quite a monumental event which included over 4,000 Delegates and guests.

This convention was in part similar to the NPMHU Convention in that it included Committees concerning Credentials, the Constitution and Resolutions. In addition, there were numerous guest speakers and entertainers. I've attached as an addendum to this report a news release from the Laborers' web site concerning the Convention.

Branch Activities:

- **Postmaster General visit to North Dakota**

North Dakota State Executive Board Member Brock Engstrom recently was in Bismarck to participate in meetings with Postmaster General Megan Brennan and Senator Heidi Heitkamp. These meetings were the result of problems which continue to plague mail delivery in North Dakota. Local 323 represents Mail Handlers working in the North Dakota facilities of Bismarck, Grand Forks, and Fargo. These Mail Handlers play an important role in the mail processing function which forms the foundation on which delivery operations depend.

By participating in these meetings Brock was able to bring the concerns of Mail Handlers to the forefront of the discussion.

- **Minnesota Branches**

In addition to attending a Labor – Management meeting in the Saint Paul Branch I'm continuing to work with each individual Branch to address specific issues. Attendance at these meetings will continue to be scheduled and if management stops cancelling them I'll be attending more.

Upcoming Events:

Marketing Strategy Meeting – Local Dental Program – October 3rd
MHBP Seminar – October 6th – 8th – Pittsburgh, PA
General Membership Meeting – October 29th – Eagan, MN
FEHB Open Season – November 14th – December 12th
SAMLU December 8th – 12th – Tucson, AZ
Local Union Council – December 29th
Local Executive Board – December 29th

Fraternally,

Jeff Larsen
Local President

cc: All Branches
File