



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 30, 2014

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 10:52 a.m. Roll call was taken by Recording Secretary Dean Abatte.

The Local Executive Board reviewed the previous meeting minutes from June 27, 2014. Vice President Kathy Schultz 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)

- MHA Conversions
- Installation of Officers
- Semi-Annual Meeting of the Local Unions (SAMLU)
- Open Season Preparations
- Local 323 Dental Program
- American Income Life Insurance

Branch Activities

- Minneapolis Branch Retreat Rights
- Minnesota Branches
- North Dakota Branch Issues
- Labor-Management Meetings



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. MNSR Shane Ryden seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Local President Jeff Larsen submitted for review his Leave Hours for 2014.

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 NDSU Engstrom, motion carried.

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

MNSR Ryden seconds, Motion carries meeting adjourns at 12:30 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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September 30, 2014

Local President's Report

Local 323 Complement:

The Local 323 career complement as of PP-19-14 is 596 (532 MN & 64 ND) and the MHA complement is 86 (77 MN & 9 ND). Combined Membership is 612.

Local Activities:

- **MHA Conversions**

All Branches continue making progress in the conversion of MHA's to career employees. The National Union has recently secured two Memoranda of Understanding concerning MHA's. The first allows newly converted full-time regulars to bid during their probationary period and the second clarifies issues concerning relative standing as well as seniority. These Memoranda represent an important expansion of MHA rights from those initially set forth in the Fishgold award.

- **Installation of Officers**

On July 30th the Officers of Local 323 were sworn in by Central Regional Vice President Jeff Peppers. I would like to express my gratitude to Mr. Peppers for joining us as we embark upon another term of challenges.

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

In late August I attended the SAMLU which was held Washington DC. The agenda for this meeting included the reports of the National Officers, the Litigation Report, the Legislative and Political Report, the Contract Administration Report, an update on the Mail Handlers Benefit Plan, and a report from the Article 12 Task Force. During the third day of this meeting I attended a training session concerning issues related to MHAs.

Jeff Larsen

Local President

Kathy Schultz

Vice President

Dean Abatte

Recording Secretary

John Frey

Treasurer

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Shane Ryden

Minnesota

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Minneapolis

Gerald LaBarre

St. Paul

Mike Straiton

NDC

Gary Tollefsrud

Fargo



- **Open Season Preparations**

Local 323 is preparing for another season marketing the Mail Handlers Benefit Plan. The members of the Local 323 marketing team will be in attendance at this year's MHBP seminar in order to be well prepared for marketing the plan.

Treasurer John Frey and I have been taking the steps necessary to facilitate our participation in the partial reimbursement program related to the marketing of the MHBP.

- **Local 323 Dental Program**

Local 323 will continue to offer our Dental Program to the Regular Membership as well as Postal and Federal employees who chose to affiliate as Associate Members. I am in receipt of the renewal documents and they are currently under review. The initial indication is that there will be no increase in premium. I will continue to serve as the plan administrator for this program.

- **American Income Life Insurance**

For many years Local 323 has been working with the Union insurance company American Income Life to provide a no cost accidental death and dismemberment benefit to our Membership. Our National President John Hegarty and LIUNA President Terry O'Sullivan both serve on the labor advisory board to this organization. What originally began as a \$1,000.00 benefit has increased over the years to the current amount of \$3,000.00. It has been several years since this benefit was offered; so, in order to ensure that the Membership is aware of the availability of this no cost benefit, a mailing will be sent to the Membership within the next month.

Branch Activities:

- **Minneapolis Branch Retreat Rights**

The process of offering retreat rights to people previously excessed from the Minneapolis installation has been completed. Many of our Branches have been through this process; but, the magnitude of this process in Minneapolis warrants some acknowledgement. It is difficult for any organization to maintain a long term focus on a single objective, a focus that had to be maintained through numerous rounds of excessing, a focus that had to consider multiple Postal installations separated by hundreds of miles, and a focus that had to be maintained.

- **Minnesota Branches**

Uncertainty remains the order of the day in out-State Minnesota. Will the Postal Service go forward with the proposed consolidations of Duluth, St. Cloud, and Mankato in 2015, or will these actions be stopped by some intervening action by Congress? It's hard to bet on Congress getting something done these days.

After years of debating Postal Reform, Congress remains unable to get the ball across the goal line. There was a glimmer of hope recently when 50 Senators called for a one year moratorium on closures and consolidations. These Senators proposed to tie this moratorium to legislation required to fund the continuing operation of the government. The end result was that once again we were left out in the cold. So for now we continue to wait.

- **North Dakota Branch Issues**

Grievance activity in the North Dakota Branches remains brisk. ND State Executive Board Member Brock Engstrom has been busy addressing issues in Bismarck, Grand Forks, and along with Branch President Gary Tollefsrud, in Fargo. In addition, the Minot facility remains slated for consolidation in 2015.

- **Labor-Management Meetings**

I'm still attending almost all of them. This includes the monthly meetings at the NDC, numerous weekly meetings in Saint Paul, and one meeting in Minneapolis.

Upcoming Events:

General Membership Meeting – November 1st.

Fraternally,

Jeff Larsen
Local President

cc: All Branches
File