



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 Council Meeting ST. PAUL, MN December 28, 2018

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

Local President, Jeff Larsen called to order the
Local Union 323 Council at 11:43 a.m.
Recording Secretary Dean Abatte took roll call.

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 (Absent)

NDC Branch President: Michael Straiton (Absent)

St. Paul Branch President: Gerald LaBarre (Absent)

Minneapolis Branch President: Dean Abatte

Fargo Branch President: Gary Tollefsrud (Absent)

Review of the Previous Minutes:

The Council reviewed the minutes from the last meeting on August 22, 2017. Vice President Schultz motioned to accept the minutes of the previous meeting and was seconded by MNSR Shane Ryden. The motion carried.

Treasurers Report

Local Treasurer John Frey submitted the Local's Balance sheet and Profit and Loss statement for review by the Board and Council

Presidents Report:

President Larsen provided the Council a copy of the President's report. (See attached copy).



Open Discussion

The Council followed up on the agenda and considered the following items:

- 2019 Picnic
- Contract proposals

There were no proposals to amend the by-laws.

Recording Secretary Abatte motioned to adjourn, Vice President Abatte 2nd, motion carried and meeting adjourned at 1:11 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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December 28, 2018

Local President's Report

Local 323 Complement:

The Local 323 career complement as of Pay Period 25-18 is 637 (556 MN & 81 ND) and the MHA complement is 92 (84 MN & 8 ND). Combined Membership is 665.

Local Issues:

- **Career Conversions**

The process of converting MHAs to regular is ongoing. These conversions continue in relatively small numbers; but, are occurring with more regularity. I can only attribute the progress made on this front to the efforts of Branch Representatives who continue filing grievances which concern other crafts or management performing Mail Handler work.

We will be continuing our efforts at MHA conversions in 2019. This will occur in the form of contract enforcement on the work floor and in form of contract negotiation at the bargaining table.

- **Regional Instruction 399 Training**

In early November, the USPS, along with the NPMHU and the APWU, conducted RI-399 training in Las Vegas, NV. I was in attendance for this event as was Recording Secretary and Minneapolis Branch President Dean Abatte, North Dakota State Executive Board Member Brock Engstrom, NDC Branch President Mike Straiton, St. Paul Branch Chief Steward Eddie Yun, Duluth Chief Steward LeeAnn Johnson, Mankato Steward Peter Hagert, and St. Cloud Steward Justin Bistodeau. The logistics of this event left a lot to be desired. Still, it was worthwhile and will help our Representative fulfill our obligations in this regard.

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- **Presidential Task Force on the USPS**

On December 4th the Presidential Task Force on the USPS released its report. Unfortunately, many of the recommendations made in this report would have a negative impact on the USPS, it's customers, it's employees, and the American people. It will ultimately be up to Congress what, if any, of the recommendations will be enacted into law. If ever there was a time to keep an eye on the legislative front it is now.

- **Contract Proposals**

In mid-September National President Hogrogian issued the call for bargaining proposals. Since that time, I've been discussing possible proposals internally with our Officers and Representatives as well as with the Membership during the Branch Meetings in October. Proposals are due at the National Office by January 18, 2019 and will be reviewed by the Field Negotiating Committee in early February. I will be serving as a Member of that Committee. Bargaining over the terms of the 2019 National Agreement will begin several months prior to the expiration date of September 20, 2019.

- **Open Season – Mail Handler Benefit Plan Marketing**

Federal Employee Health Benefit Plan Open Season was held from November 13th through December 11th. The Local 323 MHBP marketing team consisting of Kathy Schultz, Brock Engstrom, Brad Kaluza, and Brian Blatchford, attended numerous health fairs throughout both States.

- **Local 323 Dental Program**

Along with marketing the Mail Handler Benefit Plan, our Minnesota marketing team promoted our Dental Program to the Regular Membership as well as Postal and Federal employees who chose to affiliate as Associate Members. Initial results seem to indicate a slight gain in enrollment.

- **FEFA Retirement Seminar**

On November 11th and 13th Federal Employees First Alliance conducted retirement seminars in St. Paul. I was in attendance for two of the sessions and attendance was good. Ongoing feedback from the attendees indicates that they are finding these seminars informational and worth their time. There have not be any dates scheduled yet for 2019. Although, I anticipate these seminars will be continuing.

Branch Activities:

- **Branch Meetings**

On October 13th I attended a meeting of the St. Paul Branch and on October 20th I attended a meeting of the NDC Branch. While the St. Paul meeting saw some attendance, the NDC meeting turned into a Stewards meeting. Still, they were good opportunities to solicit contract proposals.

In addition, on October 20th I was in Fargo for a meeting of the Fargo Branch. A thorough agenda was discussed by the Members at the meeting. Of course this included contract proposals.

- **Labor – Management Meetings**

Since the last meeting of the Local Executive Board I've attended a couple of Labor – Management meetings at the St. Paul P&DC.

Upcoming Events:

Fiscal Year Change – January 1st
Field Negotiating Committee - February 4th – 8th
Annual Audit – February 25th & 26th

Fraternally,

Jeff Larsen
Local President

cc: All Branches
File