



# 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 24, 2020

Jeff Larsen

*Local President*

Dean Abatte

*Vice President*

Brian Newhouse

*Recording Secretary*

John Frey

*Treasurer*

State Executive

Board Members

Shane Ryden

*Minnesota*

Brock Engstrom

*North Dakota*

Branch Presidents

Dean Abatte

*Minneapolis*

Edward Yun

*St. Paul*

Mike Straiton

*BMC*

Brock Engstrom

*Fargo*

### IN ATTENDANCE:

**Local President:** Jeff Larsen

**Vice President:** Dean Abatte

**Recording Secretary:** Brian Newhouse

**Treasurer:** John Frey

**MN SEBM Representative:** Shane Ryden

**ND SEBM Representative:** Brock Engstrom

Local President Jeff Larsen called the meeting to order at 10:23 a.m.

Recording Secretary Brian Newhouse took the roll call.

### Review of the Previous Minutes

The Board reviewed the minutes from previous meeting on June 26, 2020. MN SEBM Ryden made a motion to accept the minutes. That motion was seconded by ND SEBM Engstrom, motion carried.

**Local President's Report:** (see attached for full report).

- Local 323 Compliment

### Local Issues

- USPS Issues
- COVID-19
- Congressional Lobbying
- Mail Handlers Benefit Plan (MHBP)
- Local Dental Program

### Branch Activities:

- Branch Visits
- Local Negotiations

## **Upcoming Events**

- Zoom SAMLU, November
- FEHB Open Season November 9 – December 14, 2020

## **President's Expense Report**

Local President Jeff Larsen submitted for review his Expense Report and Time Sheet. ND SEBM Engstrom moved to authorize the Local President's expenses for the time frame reported and was second by Vice President Abatte. The motion carried.

## **Treasurer's report:**

Local Treasurer John Frey submitted the Local's Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Statements. ND SEBM Engstrom motioned to authorize the expenses of the Local Union for the time frame. The motion was seconded by Vice President Abatte. The motion carried.

## **Officer Reports**

### **President's Agenda Items**

- Preparedness Issues
- On the Job Injuries
- Postal Issues

### **Additional Items**

- Local 323 Shirts
- Steward Portfolios

## **Open Discussion**

Vice President Abatte made a motion to adjourn the Local Executive Board Meeting. That motion was seconded by President Larsen. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 12:03 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brian Newhouse  
Recording Secretary Local 323  
National Postal Mail Handlers Union

cc: **Local Union Council**  
**Branch Leaders**  
**File**



# 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

September 24, 2020

Jeff Larsen

*Local President*

Dean Abatte

*Vice President*

Brian Newhouse

*Recording Secretary*

John Frey

*Treasurer*

State Executive

Board Members

Shane Ryden

*Minnesota*

Brock Engstrom

*North Dakota*

Branch Presidents

Dean Abatte

*Minneapolis*

Edward Yun

*St. Paul*

Mike Straiton

*BMC*

Brock Engstrom

*Fargo*

## Local President's Report Local Executive Board

### Local 323 Complement:

The Local 323 career complement as of Pay Period 18-20 is 599 (523 MN & 76 ND) and the MHA complement is 123 (106 MN & 17 ND). Combined Membership is 649.

### Local Issues:

- **USPS Issues**

Anyone paying attention to the news knows that the Postal Service currently occupies a place in the national spotlight. This is the result of a new Postmaster General and the upcoming election. To be sure, the Postal Service will be under an unprecedented level of scrutiny up to and through the election.

The NPMHU, the other Postal Unions, and USPS Headquarters are assembling local task force teams to help ensure that the election mail process runs smoothly; and to identify areas that can be improved. The National Union has asked me to identify people from the processing facilities and the NDC who will serve as members of the task force. Consequently, our Branch Presidents have been selected for this purpose. A Zoom meeting will be set up soon to get the ball rolling and it is anticipated that weekly meetings will be held, at least in the beginning. It will be interesting to see how this develops.

- **COVID-19**

The facilities in both States continue to see new cases of COVID-19. This has required people to quarantine due to infection and exposure. I cannot emphasize strongly enough the importance of complying with the guidelines established for the workplace. Protect yourself, protect your coworkers, and protect your family. Please report any violation of workplace protocols to your Union representative.

- **Congressional Lobbying**

Calls for Congressional contact have subsided since my last report. This is likely the result of a shifting focus as we approach the upcoming election as well as some other issues. While the Postal Service remains of paramount importance to Congress, it seems unlikely that we'll see Postal reform moving forward anytime soon. Considering that the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act was passed by a lame duck Congress, I'm concerned that Congress may act hastily to address Postal reform before the year's end. Regardless, we remain prepared to act on a moments notice should the need arise.

- **Mail Handlers Benefit Plan (MHBP)**

The FEHBP Open Season will run from Monday, November 9, 2020, through Monday, December 14, 2020. Some minimal preparations have already been made. Although, we continue to await information concerning a virtual MHBP seminar, this year's rates, and specific marketing dynamics.

- **Local Dental Program**

Preliminary preparations are underway for marketing the Local 323 Dental Program. I'm currently in the process of reviewing this year's plan utilization report and it appears we'll see a 7% increase in monthly premiums. We'll continue to use mailings and the Local website as our primary marketing tools again this year. More information will be provided as we approach the enrollment period.

#### **Branch Activities:**

- **Branch Visits**

I have visited all the metro area Branches on several occasions since the last meeting of the Local Executive Board. In addition, I attended a Labor – Management meeting in the St. Paul Branch.

- **Local Negotiations**

Letters have been delivered opening Local Negotiations in the St. Paul and NDC Branches. Negotiating teams have been assembled for each Branch and we're preparing to put our best foot forward.

#### **Upcoming Events:**

Zoom SAMLU, November  
FEHBP Open Season November 9<sup>th</sup> – December 14<sup>th</sup>

Fraternally,

Jeff Larsen  
Local President

cc: All Branches  
File