



# 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 June 16, 2017

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 10:30 a.m.

The Local Executive Board received the annual audit from Legacy Professionals, LLC. The accountants reviewed the content of the audit and the Board was provided the opportunity to ask questions.

The Local Executive Board reviewed the previous meeting minutes from March 30, 2017. NDSR Brock Engstrom motioned to accept the minutes. The motion was second by Treasurer John Frey. No objections, the motion carried unanimously.

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

Local 323 Complement Reported 689 Mail Handlers (619 MN& 70 ND)

### Local Issues

- SAMLU
  - The report of the National President Paul Hogrogian
  - The report of the National Secretary -Treasurer Tim Dwyer
  - The Litigation report
  - The Legislative and Political report
  - The Mail Handler Benefit Plan report
  - MHBP Accreditation and Partial Reimbursement Program
  - Report of the CAD
  - Report of the Article 12 Task Force
  - Local Union discussion items
- Legislative Conference

- Local Elections
- 2017 Local 323 Scholarship

Branch Activities

- Fargo Branch meeting

Local President Jeff Larsen submitted for review his Expense Report and Time Sheet. NDSR Engstrom moves to authorize the Local Presidents expenses for the time frame reported. MNSR Ryden seconded, motion carried unanimously.

**Treasurer's report:**

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

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

Recording Secretary Abatte motions to adjourn the Local Executive Meeting.

The motion was seconded by President Larsen. Meeting adjourned at 1:00 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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June 16, 2017

## Local President's Report

### Local 323 Complement:

The Local 323 career complement as of Pay Period 11-17 is 689 (619 MN & 70 ND) and the MHA complement is 77 (64 MN & 13 ND). Combined Membership is at 670.

### Local Issues:

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

In early April I was in attendance at the SAMLU which was held in Hollywood Florida. Following the welcome remarks of Local 318 President Nick Mosezar, the attendees observed the ceremonial Installation to Office for National Secretary – Treasurer Tim Dwyer. Additional items on the Agenda included:

- The report of National President Paul Hogrogian
- The report of National Secretary – Treasurer Tim Dwyer
- The litigation report
- The Legislative and Political report
- The Mail Handler Benefit Plan report
- MHBP Accreditation and Partial Reimbursement Program
- Report of the Contract Administration Department
- Report of the Article 12 Task Force
- Local Union discussion items

The final day of the SAMLU consisted of a training session on the implementation of the 2016 National Agreement. This training was both well prepared and informative.

- **Legislative Conference**

The National Postal Mail Handlers Union conducted its 2017 Legislative Conference on May 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> in Washington, DC. In attendance for Local 323 were Recording Secretary Dean Abatte and North Dakota State

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*NDC*

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*Fargo*



Executive Board Member Brock Engstrom. These gentlemen met with their respective Congressional Delegations so that the voice of the Local 323 Membership could be heard on many important Postal Issues.

Following our participation in the Legislative Conference President Trump introduced budget proposals which have the potential to significantly impact Mail Handlers and retirees. In particular, increasing employee retirement contributions, reducing annuities by changing to a "high 5" rather than a "high 3" computation, elimination of the social security supplement for FERS employees who retire before the age of 62, and the elimination of FERS cost of living adjustments as well as the reduction of CSRS cost of living adjustments for current and future retirees. With respect to the Postal Service, the President's budget proposes \$46 billion in cuts over the next decade, reductions in the frequency of mail delivery, and corresponding cuts to mail processing. Suffice it to say that we'll be keeping a close eye on the potential enactment of any of these proposals.

- **Local Elections**

On May 15<sup>th</sup> the Judges of Elections held the nomination meeting for the Officer positions that comprise both the Local Executive Board and the Local Union Council. All of the current Officers were nominated and no offices were contested. Accordingly, and following the expiration of the time period allowed for filing protests, the Judges declared all Officers elected by acclamation.

- **2017 Local 323 Scholarship**

The 2017 Local 323 Scholarship program was announced near the end of May. This program provides for a 4 year \$800.00 annual Scholarship which begins in September of this year. Copies of the rules and applications are available on the Local 323 web site. Opening date for the acceptance of applications is June 1, 2017. The closing date is June 30, 2017.

Any graduating senior who is the son, daughter or legal ward of any regular member in good standing of Local 323 of the National Postal Mail Handlers Union may apply. Good standing is defined by Article V, Section 1, of the Uniform Local Union Constitution of the National Postal Mail Handlers Union. Applicants must file an Official Application with the Local Union Office.

**Branch Activities:**

On April 29<sup>th</sup> I was in Fargo, ND, for a meeting of the Fargo Branch. The meeting was, as usual, well attended. Several issues of concern to the Members were addressed and it was good to see level of interest people are taking in their Union.

Since the last report, I've attended several labor – management meetings at the St. Paul P&DC and one at the NDC. In addition, I spent some time in Mankato working on their computer and helping the Steward with a step 3 appeal. I continue working with the Branch Representatives as needed to address specific concerns.

**Upcoming Events:**

Metro Area Members Event – June 25<sup>th</sup> – Como Park in St. Paul  
Local Scholarship Award - July  
Installation of Officers – July 30<sup>th</sup>

Fraternally,

Jeff Larsen  
Local President

cc: All Branches  
File