



Mail Handlers Local Union No. 323

1602 Selby Ave., Suite 5 St. Paul, MN 55104
(651) 646-2827 Fax (651) 646-0991 www.local323.org

Minutes of the Local Union 323 Executive Board Meeting ST. PAUL, MN June 29, 2023

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

Tony Stickler

NDC

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 10:31 A.M.

Recording Secretary Brian Newhouse took the roll call.

Review of the Previous Minutes

The Board reviewed the minutes from the previous meeting on March 30, 2023. ND SEBM Engstrom made a motion to accept the minutes. The motion was seconded by MN SEBM Ryden, the motion carried.

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

- 323 Compliment
- Local Activities
 - Semi-Annual Meeting of the Local Unions (SAMLU)

Local President Larsen called for the meeting of the Local 323 Executive Board to recess at 10:36 A.M. for the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Mail Handlers Local 323 Building Corporation, Inc.

Local President Larsen called for the Local Union 323 Executive Board meeting to reconvene at 11:17 A.M.

Local President's Report (continued):

- 2023 NPMHU Legislative Conference
- 2022 National Agreement - Implementation
- 2023 Local 323 Election of Officers

- Postal Service Health Benefit Plan
- 2023 Metro Area Picnic
- Branch Activities
 - Parcel Support Annex (PSA) Closure – NDC Branch
 - Branch Events and Branch Visits

Upcoming Events

- Duluth Branch Meeting – July 8
- Local Election – Counting of Ballots – July 21
- Local 323 Installations of Officers – July 30
- Semi-Annual Meeting of the Local Unions – August 21 - 23

President’s Expense Report

Local President Jeff Larsen submitted for review his Expense Report. ND SEBM Engstrom moved to authorize the Local President’s expenses and was seconded by Treasurer Frey. The motion carried.

Local President’s Agenda Items

- Administrative Issues
 - Credit Card – Credit Union – Associated Bank
 - Account Signatory Motion

President Larsen made two motions to the Board:

- 1) That the Local Union continue the policy of using an external auditor to prepare the financial statements.

The motion was seconded by ND SEBM Engstrom. The motion carried.

- 2) That, effective July 31, 2023, the Local Executive Board authorize the following change to the signatories for the Local Union’s accounts at Associated Bank:

Nonprofit Checking

Remove John Frey and replace him with Jarred Hoover.
Remove Douglas Vitek with no replacement.

Business Savings – Primary

Remove John Frey and replace him with Jarred Hoover.
Remove Douglas Vitek with no replacement.

Business Savings – Convention Fund

Remove John Frey and replace him with Jarred Hoover.
Remove Douglas Vitek with no replacement.

The motion was seconded by VP Abatte. The motion carried at 11:55 A.M.

- Membership Review
- National Arbitration Award – MHA Reappointments
- Postal Service Health Benefit Plan

Treasurer’s Report

Local Treasurer (aka, Local 323 Man of the Year) John Frey submitted the Local's Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Statements for the final time of a storied career. Vice President Abatte motioned to authorize the Treasurer’s last Profit and Loss Statements of the Local Union, for the time frame. The motion was seconded by ND SEBM Engstrom. The motion carried.

Executive Officer’s Report

- Vice President Abatte spoke about rumors of consolidation to a RPDC
- MN SEBM Ryden discussed issues regarding the backdating of recently converted FTR Mail Handlers. They have not necessarily been made whole. There is an upcoming branch meeting in Duluth. Mankato has a new steward.

Open Discussion

Treasurer Frey 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 12:47 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,



Brian Newhouse
Recording Secretary Local 323
National Postal Mail Handlers Union

cc: **Local Union Council**
All Branches
File



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June 29, 2023

Local President's Report Local Executive Board

Jeff Larsen
Local President

Dean Abatte
Vice President

Aaron Kobes
Recording Secretary

Jarred Hoover
Treasurer

State Executive
Board Members

Shane Ryden
Minnesota

Brock Engstrom
North Dakota

Branch Presidents

Dean Abatte
Minneapolis

Edward Yun
St. Paul

Aaron Kobes
NDC

Brock Engstrom
Fargo

Local 323 Complement:

The Local 323 career complement as of Pay Period 12-23 is 777 (696 MN & 81 ND) and the MHA complement is 92 (86 MN & 6 ND). Combined Membership as of Pay Period 12-23 is 820.

Local Activities:

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

Shortly after the last meeting of the Local Executive Board, I traveled to Reno, NV for the SAMLU. Believe it or not, the weather there was worse than it was in Minnesota.

There was an extensive presentation regarding the Postmaster General's 10-year plan and its potential to impact Mail Handlers across the country. The Postal Service has stated that the location of future installations is being driven by truck routes; and it was emphasized that the planned implementations are extremely fluid, often changing on a day-to-day basis. The Postal Service has informed the National Union that all NDC's would be converted into RPDC's and that this would create a significant impact in each location.

The recently ratified 2022 National Agreement, and the specific timelines for implementation, were discussed in detail. Although, that information was subsequently disseminated to the field and provided to the Branch offices. The details of other specific contract changes were also discussed; in particular, the auto-convert and the creation of the Full-Time Regular category of Mail Handler.

The report of the Contract Administration Department covered topics such as the NDC redevelopment, new equipment being deployed to the field, and issues related to Article 12.

The SAMLU attendees received a report from Aetna concerning the results of the 2022 Open Season and the upcoming roll-out of the Postal Service Health Benefit Program. In addition, there was a Legislated and Political report in preparation for the then-upcoming NPMHU Legislative Conference. The final day consisted of training on Local Negotiations (as everyone knows, local negotiations were not opened by either party in the Local 323 Branches).

- **2023 NPMHU Legislative Conference**

The 2023 NPMHU Legislative Conference was held on May 2nd and 3rd in Washington, DC. Vice President Dean Abatte and ND State Executive Board Member Brock Engstrom attended on behalf of Local 323. During the Legislative Conference the attendees spend a day becoming familiar with the NPMHU Legislative Agenda and, then the following day, they carried the message to our elected representatives on Capitol Hill. A copy of the NPMHU Legislative Agenda for the 118th Congress was provided at the last meeting of the Local Executive Board.

- **2022 National Agreement – Implementation**

The implementation of the 2022 National Agreement is well underway. For the most part, everything is proceeding as expected. Most recently, the new Step B for MHA's, the eliminations of Step BB for Mail Handlers covered by wage scale M7, and the change in the waiting periods of wage scale M7 from 52 to 48 weeks, were implemented (effective PP-13-23 – 6/17/23). Retroactive pay remains scheduled to be received on PP-19-23 (check dated 9/15/2023). Any Mail Handler or MHA who has a question, or who feels that their pay has not been properly adjusted, should contact their Union representative immediately.

- **2023 Local 323 Election of Officers**

The Local 323 2023 Election of Officers is drawing nearer to a conclusion with a count of the ballots scheduled for July 21st. Nicole Rodriguez of the St. Paul Branch, Anab Mohamed of the Minneapolis Branch, and Alejandra Hernandez of the NDC Branch, continue to perform their duties as the Judges of Election. Any Member who did not receive a ballot may contact Nicole Rodriguez as outlined in the posting provided to each Branch.

- **Postal Service Health Benefit Plan**

The Postal Service Reform Act of 2022 (PSRA) was signed into law in April 2022. Since then, the Office of Personnel Management (OPM), in conjunction with the Postal Service, has been working to implement a new Postal Service Health Benefits (PSHB) Program, as required under the new law. PSHB is a new, separate program within the Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) Program and will be administered by OPM.

The first opportunity to select a PSHB plan will take place during Open Season in late 2024, and coverage under the PSHB health benefits program will begin January 2025.

Eligible Postal Service employees and Postal Service annuitants must enroll in a PSHB plan during the PSHB Program Open Season in late 2024. Postal Service employees and Postal Service annuitants currently enrolled in FEHB plans who do not enroll in a new PSHB plan during Open Season in 2024 will automatically be enrolled in a PSHB plan.

- **2023 Metro Area Picnic**

The 2023 metro area picnic was held on June 11th at Como park in St. Paul. The picnic staff was comprised of Dean Abatte, Shawn Wicks, Jonta McPherson, Jordan Yaritz, Brian Newhouse, Shane Ryden, Jarred Hoover, John Frey, and Jaqueline “PP” Loken; I’d like to express my gratitude to every one of them for a well-planned and well-run event. Many Members and their families enjoyed the day as well as fellowship with their Union Brothers and Sisters.

Special thanks to the “Yo-Yo Guy” Brandon Pankratz for his enthralling performance at this year’s event. The Members were captivated by his award-winning mastery of the Yo-Yo arts. There’s a good chance you’ll see the “Yo-Yo Guy” back next year.

Pictures from this year’s picnic have been posted to the Local 323 website.

Branch Activities:

- **Parcel Support Annex (PSA) Closure – NDC Branch**

Much activity has centered around management’s decision to close the PSA. There were many meetings which I attended personally to ensure that things were handled consistent with the National Agreement. When such events occur, our objective is to minimize the impact on the regular workforce. This required an evaluation of the changes using Article 12 to determine whether a duty assignment had to be reposted or if a Mail Handler should be afforded incumbency rights. This is a relatively straight forward process; although, I’m sure there were some who were unhappy with a change to their work location and work hours. Yet now that everything is said and done, every Mail Handler received the rights to which they were entitled under the National Agreement.

- **Branch Events and Branch Visits**

Since the last meeting of the Local Executive Board, I have participated in Labor – Management meetings in both the St. Paul and NDC Branches. As always, I remain committed to working with Branch Representatives and Members as specific issues arise.

Upcoming Events:

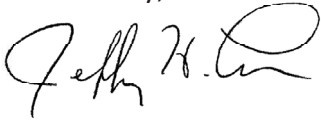
Duluth Branch Meeting – July 8th

Local Election – Counting of Ballots – July 21st

Local 323 Installations of Officers – July 30th

Semi-annual Meeting of the Local Unions – August 21st – 23rd

Fraternally,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff H. Larsen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jeff" being the most prominent.

Jeff Larsen
Local President

cc: All Branches
File