



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 30, 2022

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

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 (via phone)

ND SEBM Representative: Brock Engstrom

Local President Jeff Larsen called the meeting to order at 10:29 A.M.

Recording Secretary Brian Newhouse took the roll call.

Also present as guests: St. Paul Branch President Edward Yun and retired NDC Branch President Mike Straiton.

Legacy Professionals – Larry Wood

Discussion of the Audit and related issues.

President Larsen motioned to adopt and incorporate the response to the memorandum provided to the Local Executive Board by Legacy Professionals. Vice President Abatte seconded the motion. The motion carried and the response which follows incorporated.

The Executive Board has discussed the options concerning the Local obtaining the capabilities of preparing financial statements that would not require significant changes by the auditor. The Board has decided that it would not be cost beneficial to hire another employee to perform such a task or train current employees to be able to do so. The Board believes it is in the best interest of the Local to continue to retain the auditing firm to prepare the Local 's financial statements in conjunction with the year end audit.

Review of the Previous Minutes

The Board reviewed the minutes from previous meeting on March 31, 2022. ND SEBM Engstrom made a motion to accept the minutes. That motion was

seconded by Treasurer Frey, the motion carried.

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

- 323 Compliment
- 2022 National Agreement
- “2020” National Convention
- Semi-Annual Meeting of the Local Unions (SAMLU)
- Career Conversions
- FEFA Retirement Seminar
- 2022 Metro Area Picnic
- Branch Activities

Upcoming Events

- 2022 Matt Lopez Scholarship Award – Mid July
- National Convention Delegates Meeting – July 28
- “2020” National Convention – August 8 - 11
- Mail Handler Benefit Plan – Open Season seminar October 7 and 8
- Local Executive Board – October 27
- SAMLU – October 31 – November 2

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 MN SEBM Ryden. The motion carried.

Local President's Agenda Items

- Membership Review
- National Convention Planning
- Technology Issues
- Conversion and Benefits Issues
- THS Issues

Treasurer's Report

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

Executive Officer's Report

- MN SEBM Ryden discussed St. Cloud staffing issues.

- Vice President Abatte spoke about the picnic and thanked all volunteers, humbly forgetting to thank himself for all his time and efforts spent he festivities.

Open Discussion

ND SEBM Engstrom made a motion to adjourn the Local Executive Board Meeting. That motion was seconded by Vice President Abatte. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 1:24 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brian Newhouse
Recording Secretary Local 323
National Postal Mail Handlers Union

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



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Local President's Report Local Executive Board

Local 323 Complement:

The Local 323 career complement as of Pay Period 12-22 was 734 (660 MN & 74 ND) and the MHA complement was 55 (50 MN & 5 ND). Combined Membership is currently 772.

Local Activities:

- **2022 National Agreement**

There is no issue which we are watching more than the negotiations over the terms of the 2022 National Agreement. The process of securing our next contract began with the solicitation of proposals from the Membership across the country. These proposals were reviewed and refined by the Field Negotiation Committee and finalized by the National Union.

Negotiations with the Postal Service began on June 10th and will continue through expiration of the contract on September 20th. The national parties may continue negotiations beyond the expiration date should they conclude that further negotiations may result in an agreement. The Membership is entitled to vote on whether to ratify a negotiated agreement. If the parties are unable to reach a negotiated agreement, they will adopt procedures up to and including arbitration to resolve the dispute.

Contract updates are being circulated to the Branches for posting as they are received. Further information concerning the status of contract negotiations may be found on the National Union's web page.

- **“2020” National Convention**

The “2020” National Convention will be held in Denver, CO, from August 8th through the 11th. This convention was delayed two years because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Local 323 Delegation will consist of myself, Vice President Dean Abatte, ND SEBM Brock Engstrom, Recording Secretary Brian Newhouse, St. Paul Steward Delicia Johnson, and St. Paul Branch President Edward Yun. The NPMHU convention is essentially a Constitutional Convention. The Delegates will debate and vote on the proposed amendments which will govern the operation of our Union in the future.

It should be noted that during the week of June 13th I was in Washington, DC serving as a member of the Constitution Committee. This committee reviewed and recommended many of the Constitutional amendments that will be presented to the Delegates in Denver.

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

From April 25th through the 27th, I attended the SAMLU which was held in Louisville, KY. The agenda included reports from the National President and the National Secretary – Treasurer. Significant discussions were held concerning the upcoming contract negotiations as well as the “2020” National Convention.

The attendees received a report concerning the Mail Handlers Benefits Plan and much discussion centered around the future integration of retirees into Medicare. There are a few things which currently remain unclear.

The Legislative Director reviewed the legislative agenda that had been adopted by the Committee on the Future, and a report was provided on the activities of the NPMHU Women’s Committee.

A report from the Contract Administration Department was reviewed and the attendees were given the opportunity to ask questions. In addition, reports were given regarding RI-399 and the Article 12 Task Force.

- **Career Conversions**

There have been several grievances filed at the NDC related to the conversion MOU of March 25, 2022. The NDC was required to convert 27 MHAs to FTR and post a corresponding number of duty assignments to increase the installation complement. Suffice it to say that management’s implementation fell short of their obligations under the MOU.

Other facilities within the Local Union continue to receive career conversions through a so called “advanced conversion” mechanism; although, these conversions are already

owed under the Filing of Residual Vacancies MOU. Perhaps, they should start referring to these as “catch up conversions.”

- **FEFA Retirement Seminar**

The Federal Employees First Alliance (FEFA) held two sessions of retirement seminars on Sunday, April 24th. While I did not attend due to being on travel, the feedback indicated that the information was well received. This was the first in-person retirement seminar since the onslaught of the COVID-19 pandemic. Additional retirement seminars will be held in the future as time and scheduling permit.

- **2022 Metro Area Picnic**

Back by popular demand, the Metro Area Picnic was held last Sunday (June 26th). The event was cancelled last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. When all was said and done, the event was a complete success. Members and their families had an enjoyable day of fun, fellowship, and prizes. This event would not have been possible if not for the hard work of the many volunteers. And I would like to express my gratitude to picnic coordinator Dean Abatte as well as to the picnic team of Shane Ryden, Shawn Wicks, Jonta McPherson, Jordan Yaritz, Jackie Loken, Brian Newhouse, and the esteemed John P. Frey.

Branch Activities:

Since the last meeting of the Local Executive Board, I have participated in several Labor – Management meetings in the St. Paul and NDC Branches. I continue to assist Branch Representatives with grievance appeals to Step 2 and Step 3 as well as disputes being processed through the RI-399 Dispute Resolution Procedures. I’ve even processed some Step 2 grievances recently.

Some recent items from my schedule include:

Mankato Branch Meeting – April 9th

St. Paul Branch Meeting – April 23rd

SAMLU – April 25th through the 27th

St. Paul “Green Zone” Meeting – April 29th

Fargo Branch Meeting – April 30th

NDC Branch Stewards Meeting – May 18th

St. Paul Branch Stewards Meeting – June 8th

Constitution Committee - June 13th through the 17th

Minneapolis Branch Steward Meetings – May 18th, May 25th, June 1st, June 8th,
June 22nd & June 29th

Upcoming Events:

2022 Matt Lopez Scholarship Award – Mid July

National Convention Delegates Meeting – July 28th.

“2020” National Convention – August 8th through the 11th.

Mail Handlers Benefit Plan Seminar – October 7th & 8th

Local Executive Board – October 27th

SAMLU – October 31st through November 2nd

Fraternally,

Jeff Larsen
Local President

cc: All Branches
File