



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 29, 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 09:50 a.m.

The Local Executive Board meeting kicked off with a retirement presentation by representatives Andrew Stringer and Richard Corral from Federal Employees First Alliance (FEFA). The presentation covered all issues pertaining to USPS employee retirement. The expectation was for the executive board to hear the presentation and review the information to determine the benefits of holding a Mail Handler Union sponsored retirement seminar for its members. After the representatives gave their presentation and left, President Larsen conducted a roll call vote for or against the seminar. All in attendance voted in favor.

President Larsen also stated that it is not the policy of Local 323 to give retirement advice, not officers, Stewards or other representatives. All representatives acknowledged this policy.

The Local Executive Board reviewed the previous meeting minutes from June 16th, 2017. The Chair motioned to accept the minutes. The motion was second by MNSR Ryden. No objections, the motion carried unanimously.

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

- Local 323 Complement: 675 FTRs and 105 MHAs were reported as on the rolls.

Local Issues:

- Installation of Officers
- 2017 Local 323 Scholarship

- Semi – Annual meeting of the Local Unions (SAMLU)

Branch Activities

- Metro Area Representative Appointments
- St. Paul Intervention
- Labor Management meetings

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

President Larsen presented the Board with issues related to 1187's being delayed in processing at HRSSC. Due to the issue there has been a flux in MHAs not being signed up for the Union. A membership drive was discussed with possible incentive (Local Union T-Shirt) for the person signing up new members and the new member as well.

Article 12 issues were discussed

Treasurer's report:

Local Treasurer John Frey submitted the Local's Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Statements. NDSR Engstrom 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.

NDSR Engstrom motions to adjourn the Local Executive Meeting.

The motion was seconded by President Larsen. Meeting adjourned at 2:52 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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September 29, 2017

Local President's Report Local Executive Board

Jeff Larsen
Local President

Kathy Schultz
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Dean Abatte
Recording Secretary

John Frey
Treasurer

State Executive
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St. Paul

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Gary Tollefsrud
Fargo

Local 323 Complement:

The Local 323 career complement as of Pay Period 17-17 is 675 (603 MN & 72 ND) and the MHA complement is 105 (90 MN & 15 ND). Combined Membership as of Pay Period 18-17 is 681.

Local Issues:

- **Installation of Officers**

On July 30, 2017, National President Paul Hogrogian and National Secretary – Treasurer Tim Dwyer were in Saint Paul for the Installation of the Local 323 Officers. This represents a new three year term in which we'll strive to protect the rights and advance the interests of our Members. Through our oaths of office each of us sanctifies their individual commitment to the performance of our duties. I would like to express my personal thanks to both National President Hogrogian and National Secretary – Treasurer Dwyer for personally attending our event.

Per the authorization of National President Hogrogian, on August 5, 2017, I administered the oath of office to Dean Abatte as Local 323 Recording Secretary and Minneapolis Branch President.

- **2017 Local 323 Scholarship**

The 2017 Local 323 Scholarship was awarded to Zaley Hansen. Zaley is the daughter of Saint Paul Branch Mail Handlers Barb and Mike Hansen. The entire Local Union Council wishes Zaley the best in the pursuit of her education.

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

In late August I was in attendance at the SAMLU which was held in Washington, DC. A significant amount of time was dedicated to



presentations and discussions concerning the finances of the Postal Service. The prevailing opinion among the attendees seemed to be that the Postal Service was implementing changes via the Function 1 Scheduler as a reaction to the current financial situation. Some argued that this implementation was the Postal Service's over reaction. Whatever the case, there will continue to be many issues to address in this regard.

The SAMLU also included the usual reports from the National Officers, Contract Administrations Department, Legislative Coordinator, and MHBP.

The final day of the meeting consisted of a training session on article 12; and more specifically, reassignment within and installation employees excess to the needs of a section.

Branch Activities:

- **Metro Area Representative Appointments**

The process of appointing, re-appointing, promoting, and adjusting Representative positions has almost been completed. The Minneapolis Branch has added an Alternate Steward on tour 1; the Saint Paul Branch has added Alternate Stewards on tour 3 at the plant and at the L&DC. Final appointments for the NDC will be completed in the near future.

I would like to express my thanks to those who stepped forward to join with us in Representing Mail Handlers.

- **Saint Paul Intervention**

Earlier in the year I requested that the National Union initiate the intervention initiative in the Saint Paul Branch. My request was the result of ongoing, repetitive problems that were not being addressed by repeated Labor – Management meetings. That request was granted; however the National parties suggested that the Area be given an opportunity to address the issues.

The process was initiated earlier this month and involved Local and Area Representatives from both parties. Sometimes it's easy to resolve issues in the conference room; but, it remains to be seen whether any significant or lasting change will occur on the workroom floor. This process continues to be ongoing with the option of requesting the involvement of the National Parties in the future.

- **Labor – Management Meetings**

Since the last meeting of the Local Executive Board, I've participated in several Labor – Management meeting in the Saint Paul Branch. I had planned to attend a couple of

Labor – Management meeting at the NDC; although, those were cancelled by management due to scheduling conflicts. In addition, I attended a joint Labor – Management meeting which was held between the Saint Paul and NDC installations that was related to issues involving transportation between the buildings.

- **Branch Meetings**

Earlier this month I attended meetings of the Saint Paul and NDC Branches. While both these meetings were sparsely attended, productive discussions were held concerning the issues presented by the Members and Representatives present.

Upcoming Events:

MHBP Open Season Seminar

FEHBP Open Season - November 14th through December 12th

Arbitration – Fargo Branch – November 20th

Fraternally,

Jeff Larsen
Local President

cc: All Branches
File