



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

September 28, 2023

IN ATTENDANCE:

Local President: Jeff Larsen

Vice President: Dean Abatte

Recording Secretary: Aaron Kobes

Treasurer: Jarred Hoover

MN SEBM Representative: Shane Ryden

ND SEBM Representative: Brock Engstrom

Local President Jeff Larsen called the meeting to order at 10:24 A.M.

Recording Secretary Aaron Kobes took the roll call.

Review of the Previous Minutes

The Board reviewed the minutes from the previous meeting on June 29, 2023. ND SEBM Brock Engstrom made a motion to accept the minutes. The motion was seconded by MN SEBM Shane Ryden, the motion carried.

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

- Local 323 Compliment
- Local Activities
 - Local Election
 - Installation of Officers
 - Moving Forward

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

- Semi Annual Meeting of the Local Unions (SAMLU)
- Local Website and Computer Updates
- Mail Processing Facility Review (MPFR) study in Minneapolis Branch
- Local 323 Dental Program
- Branch Activities
 - Duluth facility visit and Branch Meeting
 - St. Paul Branch Meeting
 - NDC Branch Steward Training
 - Meetings and Branch Visits

Upcoming Events

- MHBP Seminar- October 6th and 7th
- Local Union Council Meeting- October 26th
- FEFA Retirement Seminar- November 12th
- FEHB Open Season- November 13th through December 11th
- 2023 Steward Dinner- December 2nd

Local President's Agenda Items

- Membership Review
- Administrative Changes/Planning
 - Local President Jeff Larsen implemented, by email an Executive Board Poll, from September 22 through September 25, 2023. The purpose of the Poll was to authorize the withdrawal of all funds and the closure of the account with Ideal Credit Union, with deposit of funds be made to Associated Bank. The motion passed unanimously. Local President Jeff Larsen presented both the poll and account transactions to the board for their review.
 - Local President Jeff Larsen set forth a proposal of maintaining a Safety Deposit box at Associated Bank, to hold important materials as a matter of contingency in the event of an unfortunate event befall either the Local Headquarters or the Local President. The matter was met with no objection.
- Legislation We're Watching
- Women's Committee Pilot
 - Tabled until Council convenes.

Local President's Expense Report

Local President Jeff Larsen submitted for review his Expense Report. ND SEBM Brock Engstrom motioned to authorize the Local President's expenses and this motion was seconded by Vice President Dean Abatte. The motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Local Treasurer Jarrad Hoover submitted the Local's Expenses and Profit and Loss Statements. MN SEBM Shane Ryden moves to authorize expense account for time given by Treasurer. The motion was seconded by Vice President Dean Abatte. The motion carried.

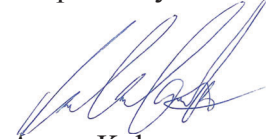
Executive Officer's Report

- Vice President Dean Abatte reported that there were numerous applicants for Steward appointments. Additionally, Vice President Dean Abatte spoke about the increased EEO filings against a particular Supervisor, and a 408 Study beginning the day prior in Minneapolis wherein all Outgoing Priority Mail will be run through St. Paul P&DC from now through Peak Season. Vice President Dean Abatte closed out his report by stating that he has signed off on off on the SIPS ADUS and FRS inventory in St. Paul, all of which the APWU has refused to sign, with the SPSS under continued dispute.
- MN SEBM Shane Ryden reported that his work at the Minneapolis/St. Paul NDC for Mail operations to fit inventory is progressing positively, with Bullpen set-up of Scan 1st belong to Mail Handlers. Additionally, MN SEBM Shane Ryden reports success in Duluth with having the Linear Spider belonging exclusively to the Mail Handler Craft with a signed inventory, and new mail at SDUS.

Open Discussion

ND SEBM Brock Engstrom motioned to adjourn the Local Executive Board Meeting. The motion was seconded by Treasurer Jarrad Hoover. The motion carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 1:10 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,



Aaron Kobes

Recording Secretary Local 323

National Postal Mail Handlers Union



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September 28, 2023

Local President's Report Local Executive Board

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Local President

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Jarred Hoover
Treasurer

State Executive
Board Members

Shane Ryden
Minnesota

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North Dakota

Branch Presidents

Dean Abatte
Minneapolis

Edward Yun
St. Paul

Aaron Kobes
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Fargo

Local 323 Complement:

The Local 323 career complement as of Pay Period 19-23 is 816 (655 MN & 76 ND) and the MHA complement is 85 (83 MN & 2 ND). Combined Membership as of Pay Period 19-23 is 762.

Local Activities:

- **Local Election**

The 2023 Local 323 Election of Officers concluded with the counting of ballots on July 21st. I would once again like to express my thanks to Nicole Rodriguez, Anab Mohamed, and Alejandra Hernandez who served as the Judges for this election.

- **Installation of Officers**

On July 30th, National President Paul Hogrogian, National Secretary-Treasurer Kevin Tabarus, and Central Region Vice President June Harris, visited Local 323 for the Installation of Officers. National President Hogrogian administered the Oath of Office to the reelected and newly elected Officers of Local 323. This was the first time in our history that we've had three National Officers attend our installation ceremony; and it was an honor to have them here as we embark on the next three years of providing representation to the Membership.

- **Moving Forward**

A well-deserved retirement along with the Local Election has resulted in some changes to the Officers who comprise the Local Executive Board and Local Union Council. I would like to express my gratitude to former Treasurer John Frey, former Recording Secretary Brian Newhouse, and former NDC Branch President Tony Stickler, for their service to the Members. Moreover, I would like to welcome Treasurer Jarred Hoover

and Recording Secretary as well as NDC Branch President Aaron Kobes to the Local Executive Board and Local Union Council.

The transition from Treasurer John Frey to Treasurer Jarred Hoover was a significant undertaking. Still, the transition was seamless as it was well planned.

The Local Union recently solicited Representative applications from the Membership in all metro area facilities. All current Representatives were required to re-apply. The applications are currently being reviewed with the Branch Presidents and it is anticipated that appointment letters will be sent out within the next couple of weeks.

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

In late August I attended the SAMLU which was held in Portland, OR. There were several extensive reports concerning the financial condition of the Postal Service, mail volume, and Postal operations. In addition, there were reports from the National Secretary – Treasurer, the contract administration department, the Legislative Director, and the Mail Handlers Benefit Plan. The final day consisted of training on addressing issues related to the roll-out of the Sorting and Delivery Centers.

- **Local Website and Computer Updates**

Earlier this week, the National Union released a pdf version of the 2022 National Agreement. This document has been temporarily added to the Local 323 website on the front page, on the Member's Page, and in the Steward's database. This will be changed to a copy containing bookmarks and links as soon as possible. In addition, an updated Step 3 appeal form reflecting the address change of the Denver Field Office has been published to the Steward's database.

The Local Office continues to replace Branch computers which have reached the end of their service life. Several computers have already been replaced and the process is ongoing.

- **Mail Processing Facility Review (MPFR) study in Minneapolis Branch**

On September 27, 2023, the Postal Service announced that it would be conducting an MPFR at the Minneapolis P&DC. According to the Postal Service and under Handbook PO-408 an MPFR determines the feasibility of changing mail processing operations to improve operational efficiency and/or service. An MPFR involves the consolidation of all originating and/or destinating distribution operations from one or more facilities into other automated processing facilities for the purpose of improving operational efficiency and/or service. The intent is to use Postal Service equipment, facilities, staff work hours and transportation more efficiently.

Service talks given to employees at the Minneapolis facility have indicated that management is evaluating whether to consolidate the remaining outgoing operations into the St. Paul P&DC. Only limited information is currently available as this study was just announced; but suffice it to say that we are watching this matter very closely.

- **Local 323 Dental Program**

For more than 20 years the Mail Handlers Local 323 Dental Program has provided dental coverage to our regular membership as well as to Federal employees who chose to affiliate as associate members. The plan was initially offered because there was a lack of dental coverage available to Postal and Federal employees. Over the decades, however, circumstances have changed and now many health insurance providers have made dental plans available.

The Mail Handlers Local 323 Dental Program has seen its enrollment dwindle and interest in our plan steadily decline over the last few years. We have unfortunately reached a point where it is no longer practical to continue offering the plan and it will not be renewed for 2024. All dental plan coverage will be discontinued at the end of 2023. Any claim for services occurring up to and on December 31, 2023, will be covered even if the claim is not received until after January 1, 2024. A letter has been sent to all enrollees informing them of the Dental Programs discontinuance.

Branch Activities:

- **Duluth facility visit and Branch Meeting**

On Saturday, June 8th, MN State Executive Board Member Shane Ryden and I traveled to Duluth where we visited the facility and then attended a Branch Meeting. The primary purpose of the facility visit was to make some updates to the computer. During the Branch Meeting we discussed issues involving Postal operations, attendance related job discussions, and the timeliness of grievance payments.

Shortly thereafter, long term Duluth Steward LeeAnn Johnson decided to step down from her position. A letter was sent to all Members of the Duluth Branch which informed them of the Steward vacancy and invited them to apply for the position. As of this date, no applications have been received. In any case, I would like to thank LeeAnn for her many years of service to the Mail Handlers of the Duluth Branch.

- **St. Paul Branch Meeting**

On Saturday, August 5th, a meeting of the St. Paul Branch was held at the Local Office. While this meeting was sparsely attended, there was thorough discussion regarding issues of concern to the St. Paul Membership.

- **NDC Branch Steward Training**

On Saturday, August 12th, a training session was conducted at the Local Office for the NDC Branch Stewards. Topics included information requests, grievance processing, and specific areas of contract administration. The training was attended by a majority of the NDC Branch Stewards, and despite being subjected to a lengthy power outage, we were able to cover all the topics on the agenda.

- **Meetings and Branch Visits**

Since the last meeting of the Local Executive Board, I have participated in several Labor – Management meetings in the St. Paul and NDC Branches and held numerous meetings with Branch Representatives to address specific issues. I continue working with Branch Representatives and Members as needed.

Upcoming Events:

MHBP Seminar – October 6th and 7th

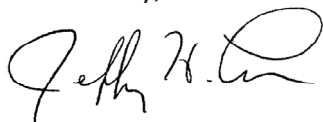
Local Union Council Meeting – October 26th

FEFA Retirement Seminar – November 12th

FEHBP Open Season – November 13th through December 11th

2023 Steward Dinner – December 2nd

Fraternally,



Jeff Larsen
Local President

cc: All Branches
File