



# 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](http://www.local323.org)

## Minutes of the Local Union 323 Executive Board Meeting ST. PAUL, MN September 29, 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*

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 10:34 A.M.

Recording Secretary Brian Newhouse took the roll call.

### Review of the Previous Minutes

The Board reviewed the minutes from previous meeting on June 30, 2022. ND SEBM Engstrom made a motion to accept the minutes. That motion was seconded by Vice President Abatte, motion carried.

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

- 323 Compliment
- 2022 National Agreement
- "2020" National Convention
- Conversion Grievances
- Matt Lopez Scholarship
- NDC Branch President Change
- Mail Handler Benefit Program (MHBP) – Open Season Preparations
- Branch Activities

### Upcoming Events

- Mail Handler Benefit Plan Seminar – October 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>
- SAMLU – October 31<sup>st</sup> – November 2<sup>nd</sup>
- FEHBP Open Season – November 14<sup>th</sup> – December 12<sup>th</sup>
- Mail Handler Benefit Plan – Open Season seminar October 7 and 8

- Local Executive Board – December 30th

### **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**

- Transition to New Treasurer
- Holiday Branch Steward's Event(s)

### **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 Recording Secretary Newhouse. The motion carried.

### **Executive Officer's Report**

- MN SEBM Ryden discussed conversion issues.
- Vice President Abatte spoke about orientation reconfiguration, ADUS arbitration award, conversion confusion, LDRC meetings in Minneapolis and St. Paul Branches.

### **Open Discussion**

MN SEBM Ryden made a motion to adjourn the Local Executive Board Meeting. That motion was seconded by Treasurer Frey. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 12:02 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 bargaining unit complement as of Pay Period 19-22 was 771 (695 MN & 76 Membership is currently 744.

### Local Activities:

- **2022 National Agreement**

The 2022 National Agreement expired on September 20<sup>th</sup>. On September 23<sup>rd</sup> I participated in a zoom meeting with the National Union on status of negotiations. The National Union has reported that negotiations will continue if the parties feel that progress is being made. Should a negotiated agreement be reached, it will be subject to a ratification vote by the Membership.

- **"2020" National Convention**

The Local 323 Delegation attended the "2020" National Convention which was held in Denver, CO, from August 8<sup>th</sup> through the 11<sup>th</sup>. The convention was delayed two years because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Our Delegation consisted 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.

Shortly before the convention, a meeting of the Delegates was convened at the local office. During this meeting the Delegates explored the issues which would be addressed in Denver and discussed some possible approaches. Importantly, the Delegates adopted a guiding principle to govern their actions. That being, the Local 323 Delegation will make every decision based upon what is in the best interests if the Members of Local 323.

Throughout the convention the Local 323 Delegation supported the issues which will help build a stronger Union and better future for the Members of Local 323.

- **Conversion Grievances**

Most Branches have been experiencing difficulties with issues surrounding conversions. Many grievances have already been filed. The dynamics of our grievances vary depending on the circumstances involved in each installation. Some grievances involve the Filing of Residual Vacancies MOU contained in the National Agreement, some involve a National conversion MOU, and some involve both. Specific grievance issues include converting the appropriate MHA, providing notice of conversion, preferencing residual vacancies, and posting new duty assignments in response to complement increases. In addition, we are pursuing the conversion of MHAs after 1 pay period in situations where insufficient MHAs were available to be converted under a National conversion MOU. All of this is really a mess, and it is likely that more grievances will have to be filed.

- **2022 Matt Lopez Local 323 Scholarship Award**

In early July a poll was taken among the Members of the Local Union Council to select the recipient of the 2022 Matt Lopez Local 323 Scholarship. In the history of the Scholarship Program, we were never required to choose from a more qualified group of candidates. This made our decision difficult. In the end, no candidate was without a vote.

The Local Union Council awarded the scholarship to Leah Maslowski. Leah is the daughter of Minneapolis Branch Member Mike Maslowski. Best wishes to Leah as she pursues her education.

- **NDC Branch President Change**

In August the Local Executive was polled to fill the vacancy in the office of NDC Branch President. A unanimous vote of the Local Executive Board selected Tony Stickler as the new NDC Branch President.

Per the authorization of National President Hogrogian, on August 31, 2022, I administered the oath of office installing Tony Stickler as Branch President of the NDC Branch.

- **Mail Handlers Benefit Program (MHBP) – Open Season Preparations**

This year's Open Season starts on November 14<sup>th</sup> and runs through December 12<sup>th</sup>. Both ND State Executive Board Brock Engstrom and I have been working on scheduling our participation in health fairs for the open season. In addition, the Postal Service has informed the Union that it will be sending informational materials to employees prior to the Open Season.

Local 323 will be attending the MHBP Seminar next week in New Orleans, LA. This event will provide us with further information concerning plan changes for 2023 and allow us to finalize our scheduling and marketing plan.

- **Branch Activities:**

I have attended several Labor – Management meetings in the St. Paul Branch and continue to assist Officers and Representatives of all Branches with the issues which arise in their Branches. I have put a particular emphasis on the training of Representative new to processing grievances at Step. Step 2 training for the metro Branches was held on the following dates.

July 13<sup>th</sup> – NDC Branch Step 2 Training  
July 19<sup>th</sup> – Minneapolis Branch Step 2 Training  
July 20<sup>th</sup> – NDC Branch Step 2 Training – continued  
July 23<sup>rd</sup> – St. Paul Branch Step 2 Training

In addition, it is my hope that at least a one-day training session can be schedule yet this year for all Stewards in each of the metro Branches.

The National Union and the Postal Service have entered a Memorandum of Understanding for a one-year pilot program to return Terminal Handling Services (THS) work to Postal facilities. The facilities to be included in this program are identified by the National Parties.

On July 21<sup>st</sup>, St. Paul Branch President Edward Yun and I visited the THS facility at the airport. For several months, Mail Handlers from the St. Paul P&DC and the Twin Cities L&DC have been assigned to work at this facility. Many issues have arisen as the result of these assignments. The work performed involves the transition of packages from the FedEx network to the Postal Service. I have requested that the National Union attempt to have the local THS included in this program.

**Upcoming Events:**

Mail Handlers Benefit Plan Seminar – October 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>

SAMLU – October 31<sup>st</sup> through November 2<sup>nd</sup>

FEHBP Open Season – November 14<sup>th</sup> through December 12<sup>th</sup>

Local Executive Board – December 29<sup>th</sup>

Fraternally,

Jeff Larsen  
Local President

cc: All Branches  
File