



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 December 27, 2019

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

Edward Yun

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 SEBM: Shane Ryden

ND SEBM: Brock Engstrom

Local President Jeff Larsen called the Executive Board to order at 10:24 a.m.

A review of the previous minutes from October 17, 2019. A motion to accept the minutes by MN SEBM Ryden and 2nd by Treasurer Frey, motion carried.

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

- Local 323 Compliment

Local Issues

- NPMHU National Scholarship
- RI-399 Settlement appeal procedure
- District Labor Management meeting
- Open Season activities
- Local 323 Dental Program
- Federal Employees First Alliance (FEFA) retirement seminars

Branch Activities:

- Conclusion of 2019 Stewards seminar
- Review of St. Paul Branch President Gerald LaBarre resignation letter
- St. Paul Branch President appointment of Edward Yun

Presidents expense report

Local President Jeff Larsen submitted for review his Expense Report and Time



Sheet. ND SEBM Engstrom moves to authorize the Local Presidents expenses for the time frame reported and was second by Vice President Schultz. Motion carried.

Treasurer's report:

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

Review of retirement checks Copies of retirement checks were reviewed.

Upcoming Events

- **2020 Local Union 323 Picnic** Motion was made by Rec. Sec. Abatte to host the 2020 Local Union 323 picnic. Treasurer Frey 2nd, proposal passed by 5 members, Vice President Schultz abstained. Picnic to be held June 28, 2020 at Como Pavilion St. Paul.

MN SEBM Ryden motions to adjourn the Local Executive Meeting.

The motion was seconded by ND SEBM Engstrom. Meeting adjourned at 12:23 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dean Abatte
Recording Secretary Local 323
National Postal Mail Handlers Union

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



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

December 27, 2019

Local President's Report Local Executive Board

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

Edward Yun
St. Paul

Mike Straiton
NDC

Gary Tollefsrud
Fargo

Local 323 Complement:

The Local 323 career complement as of Pay Period 23-19 is 631 (553 MN & 78 ND) and the MHA complement is 102 (88 MN & 14 ND). Combined Membership as of Pay Period 24-19 is 664.

Local Issues:

- **NPMHU National Scholarship**

The National Union recently announced the 2020 Arthur S. Vallone National Scholarship Program. The purpose of this Program is to provide financial assistance to Mail Handlers and/or their family members who are seeking to further their education beyond high school. The program will award a minimum of 15 scholarships (3 per Region) in the annual amount of at least \$1,000, renewable for up to four (4) years or until the completion of the undergraduate degree, whichever occurs first (for a maximum of \$4,000 per recipient over 4 years). The deadline for the submission of an application is March 15, 2020, and a link to further information is located on the Local Union's website.

- **RI-399 Settlement Appeal Procedures**

The process of addressing the appeals resulting from the National RI-399 settlement is underway. The National Union has provided a list of the Mail Handlers within Local 323 who have initiated an appeal. These Mail Handlers may be contacted for clarification or to provide additional information. As always, the Local Union stands ready to assist any Mail Handler needing to perfect their appeal.

- **District Labor-Management Meeting**

On November 7th I was in Minneapolis for the Semi-Annual Northland District Labor Management Meeting. Also present were: Recording



Secretary Dean Abatte, MN SEBM Shane Ryden, NDC Branch President Mike Straiton, St. Paul Branch President Jerry LaBarre, and Edward Yun, who was the St. Paul Chief Steward at the time. There were several presentations concerning issues such as: safety, service, complement/retention, facility issue, and 2019 peak season. A particularly thorough presentation was made regarding EAP and Wellness Assessment.

- **Open Season Activities**

The 2019 open season occurred from November 11th to December 9th and gave us an opportunity to market the Mail Handler Benefit Plan. The Local 323 marketing team of Kathy Schultz, Brock Engstrom, Brian Blatchford, and Brad Kaluza attended health fairs throughout the States of Minnesota and North Dakota. In sum, we attended 35 health fairs in facilities which cover more than 18,000 Federal and Postal employees.

- **Local 323 Dental Program**

After getting off to a shaky start, we continued offering the Local 323 Dental Program to the Regular Membership as well as any Postal or Federal employee who chooses to affiliate as an Associate Member. The 2020 plan has roughly a 5% increase in monthly rates; but, was offered with the same annual benefits. I continue to serve as the plan administrator for this program. This dental plan is available to all Members including MHA's. Any newly hired Members who are interested in this plan should contact me at the Local Office.

- **Federal Employees First Alliance (FEFA) Retirement Seminar**

On October 27th and 29th, Local 323 sponsored two days of FEFA retirement seminars in St. Paul. The Members continue to show interest in attending these events and this round saw record numbers. I have not been contacted yet regarding 2020; however, I anticipate these events will be continuing. Congratulations to all those retirees who found this resource beneficial.

Branch Issues:

- **Conclusion of 2019 Steward's Seminars**

The final Steward's Seminar sessions were held on the evenings of October 23rd and 24th at the Local Office. This "night shift" session was comprised of Stewards from the NDC, St. Paul plant, and the Twin Cities L&DC. Like our previous sessions, we spent two days covering our history, our duties as a Union, and specific aspects of grievance processing. This session concluded our series of 2019 Steward's Seminars. The feedback received from these sessions has been positive and informative. This information will be helpful in developing future seminars. The slideshow utilized during each session is available in the Steward's Center on the Local 323 web site.

- **St. Paul Branch President Change**

The torch has been passed in the St. Paul Branch. Earlier this month, Jerry LaBarre retired from the Postal Service and relinquished his position as St. Paul Branch President.

This created a vacancy which was filled by the Local Executive Board under the provisions of the Local 323 Bylaws. I am pleased to announce that the Local Executive Board has selected Edward Yun to fill this vacancy. He will serve the Membership in the capacity of the St. Paul Branch President for the remainder of the term. The Local Executive Board's vote selecting Ed was unanimous. This underscores our confidence in Ed's ability; and, I stand ready to provide any support needed to ensure his success.

Turning to our esteemed retiree, Jerry LaBarre is certainly deserving of recognition. For more than 20 years he served the Members of the St. Paul Branch as a Steward, Chief Steward, and for the last 7 years, as Branch President. His accomplishments in addressing issues and processing grievances have greatly benefited the Membership. He can be proud of his record and we all wish him the best in his retirement. Congratulations Jerry, you will be missed.

Updated grievances forms which list our current Officers are available on the Local Union's web site.

- **Branch Activities**

Since the last meeting of the Local Executive Board, St. Paul, the NDC, and Fargo, have held Branch Meetings. I attended all these meetings. In addition, I've attended several Labor-Management meetings as well as a peak season meeting in St. Paul.

Upcoming Events:

Fiscal Year Change – January 1st
Nomination Meeting (Convention) – January 10th – Local office
Annual Audit – February 2019

Fraternally,

Jeff Larsen
Local President

cc: All Branches
File