



# Mail Handlers Local Union No. 323

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## Minutes of the Local Union 323 Council Meeting ST. PAUL, MN January 13, 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*

Local President, Jeff Larsen called the meeting of the Local Union 323 Council to order at 10:28 A.M. Recording Secretary Brian Newhouse took roll call.

### IN ATTENDANCE:

**Local President:** Jeff Larsen

**Vice President:** Dean Abatte

**Recording Secretary:** Brian Newhouse

**Treasurer:** John Frey

**MN State Representative:** Shane Ryden

**ND State Representative:** Brock Engstrom

**St. Paul Branch President:** Ed Yun

**Minneapolis Branch President:** Dean Abatte

**Fargo Branch President:** Brock Engstrom

**NDC Branch President:** Mike Straiton

### Review of the Previous Minutes:

The Council reviewed the minutes from the previous meeting on May 27, 2021. Fargo Branch President/ ND SEBM Engstrom motioned to accept the minutes of the previous meeting and was seconded by VP/Minneapolis Branch President Abatte. The motion carried.

### President's Report:

President Larsen provided the Council a copy of the President's report. (See attached copy).

- Local 323 Complement
- Membership Campaign
- Career Conversions
- Local Website
- Arthur S. Vallone NPMHU National Scholarship

Upcoming Events:

Annual Audit – To be scheduled  
Local Executive Board Meeting – March

**Officer Reports**

**Vice President/Mpls Branch** – Staffing Issues

**Recording Secretary** – COVID Issues

**Treasurer’s Report** - Review of the Profit and Loss Statement, Year-to-Year Comparison

**MN SEBM** - St. Cloud: New steward; Mankato: Staffing issues

**St. Paul** – THS issues at LDC; daily assignment issues; mask issues

**NDC** – Congratulations, Mike Straiton is officially retired (from USPS); staffing issues

**President’s Agenda Items**

- Contract Administration
- Membership Levels
- Scholarship Rules
- Contract Proposals

**Those items reserved for the Local Union Council**

- Local 323 Bylaws

VP/Minneapolis Branch President Abatte raises several questions concerning Article 6 of the Bylaws which pertains to the Salary and Benefits of the Local President. He began with a question about the meaning of full-time in Article 6, Section 6.1 (A). President Larsen explained that full-time, as the term is used in this Section, has a specific meaning derived from the NPMHU National Constitution, the Uniform Local Union Constitution, and Article 24 of the National Agreement. He explained further that a Form 50 is cut which places the Local President in a LWOP status for an undetermined period and the Local Union becomes the primary employer. President Larsen added that the Salary rate of Article 6, Section 6.1 (A), only applies “provided” that the Local President is a full-time Officer.

VP/Minneapolis Branch President Abatte inquired specifically as to whether a full-time Local President could work overtime at the Postal Service. President Larsen answered no and stated that a full-time Local President was not eligible or available to work overtime at the Postal Service. He added that he has not worked overtime or a holiday at the Postal

Service since assuming office.

Fargo Branch President/ND SEBM Engstrom proposed increasing the initial rate used to calculate the Local President's salary from Level 5 Step O to Level 5 Step P. Discussion ensued and it was determined that this would result in a \$374.00 annual increase in the Local President's salary. President Larsen discouraged the Council Members from making this change, and as discussion persisted, stated that he would find it personally humiliating having to request the National President approve an annual increase of \$374.00 to his salary. The matter was dropped.

President Larsen stated that if anything, the Council should look to the future regarding the Local President's salary. He stated that if the current salary reflects what he is worth with 22 years of experience, then the Council should add a provision reducing this amount by \$5,000.00 to \$7,000.00 annually for a rookie Local President who takes office in the future. President Larsen added that he received a lower salary during his first term and did not receive compensation under the current formula until his second term. Neither President Larsen nor any Member of the Council proposed to add language in this regard.

#### **Additional Items**

- **Picnic** - to be discussed at Executive Board Meeting, March 2022

VP/Minneapolis Branch President Abatte motioned to adjourn, Fargo Branch President/ND SEMB Engstrom seconded the motion, motion carried, and meeting adjourned at 2:46 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brian Newhouse  
Recording Secretary Local 323  
National Postal Mail Handlers Union

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