



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 Council Meeting ST. PAUL, MN August 22, 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

Local President, Jeff Larsen called to order the
Local Union 323 Council at 09:29 a.m.
Recording Secretary Dean Abatte took roll call.

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

NDC Branch President: Michael Straighton (*Absent*)

St. Paul Branch President: Gerald LaBarre

Minneapolis Branch President: Dean Abatte

Fargo Branch President: Gary Tollefsrud

The meeting began with informational review from American Income Life Marketing Specialist Nicole McCarthy. Pamphlets of the free Accidental Death and Dismemberment benefit provided to all Local 323 dues paying Mail Handlers was passed out and questions answered by Nicole.

Review of the Previous Minutes:

The Council reviewed the minutes from the last meeting on December 29, 2016. NDSR Brock Engstrom motioned to accept the minutes of the previous meeting and was seconded by MNSR Shane Ryden. The motion carried.

Treasurers Report

Local Treasurer John Frey submitted the Local's Balance sheet and Profit and Loss statement for review by the Council

Membership review:

Discussion addressing the non-members within the local and orientation. Non-members will be identified and Branch Presidents will make contact with those

not signed up.

President Larsen disseminated three documents for discussion to the council. MHA Orientation 2017, Steward Orientation 2017 and the Steward Workshop 2017.

Presidents Report:

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

Local 323 Complement

Local Issues:

- Installation of officers
- 2017 Local 323 Scholarship
- Re-postings, start time changes and sectional excessing
- Grievance activity
- MHA Developments

Branch Activities

- Minnesota Branches
- North Dakota Branch Issues

Fargo Branch President Tollefsrud Reports:

(See attached)

Open Discussion

Article 12 review

A Proposal was made by Recording Secretary Dean Abatte to change the name of the Local Union Scholarship to, The Matthew Lopez Local 323 Mail Handlers Union Scholarship. This would be contingent upon approval of the family. The proposal was made to honor Minneapolis Steward “Matt” Lopez who recently passed away unexpectedly. The proposal was seconded by St. Paul Branch President Gerald LaBarre and passed unanimously.

NDSR Brock Engstrom motioned to adjourn, Fargo Branch President Tollefsrud 2nd, motion carried and meeting adjourned at 12:30 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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August 22, 2017

Local President's Report Local Union Council

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Local President

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Fargo

Local 323 Complement:

The Local 323 career complement as of Pay Period 15-17 is 678 (607 MN & 71 ND) and the MHA complement is 104 (90 MN & 14 ND). Combined Membership as of Pay Period 16-17 is 686.

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.



Branch Issues:

- **Re-postings, Start Time Changes, and Sectional Excessing**

The impact of the Function 1 scheduler is being felt in facilities across the country as well as in Local 323. This program was designed to align staffing to the time frames of the operational workload. Nothing is currently causing more disruption to the lives of Mail Handlers.

Reversions, abolishments, start-time changes, off-day changes, and reposting, have become the order of the day. Some places are experiencing excessing outside of the installation. The installations within Local 323 have not been impacted to that extent; at least, not yet.

Meetings with management are ongoing in all affected locations. Yet, no one can seem to put rhyme or reason to the situation. In fact, it has been noted that the Function 1 Scheduler is "far from perfect." And, that appears to be a kind statement. We've been through these types of events before; however, I've never seen management go about implementing changes in such a confused and disorderly fashion. We'll be continuing our efforts in this regard with the intention of minimizing any adverse impact. Grievances will be processed as necessary to protect the rights of impacted Mail Handlers.

- **Grievance Activity**

Many Branches continue to see high levels of grievance activity. Much of this activity continues to center around cross-craft issues resulting from staffing inadequacies. I seriously doubt whether there will be any reduction in these grievances in the near future. If anything, I would expect that the changes made by the Function 1 Scheduler will exacerbate the situation.

- **MHA Developments**

While the hiring of MHAs continues, conversions have slowed recently. This is the direct result of the Function 1 Scheduler impact. We will be continuing to press for additional MHA conversions along with addressing the issues relating the Function 1 Scheduler. These two objectives go hand-in-hand in many regards.

Upcoming Events:

SAMLU – August 24th – 26th
Article 12 Training – August 26th
Saint Paul Branch Meeting
Minneapolis Branch Meeting
NDC Branch Meeting

Fraternally,

Jeff Larsen
Local President

cc: All Branches
File