



# 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 December 29, 2016

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 meeting of the Local Union 323 Council at 11:40 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

**St. Paul Branch President:** Gerald LaBarre

**Minneapolis Branch President:** Dean Abatte

**Fargo Branch President:** Gary Tollefsrud

Review of the Previous Minutes:

The Council reviewed the minutes from the last meeting of March 26, 2015. MNSR Shane Ryden motioned to accept the minutes of the previous meeting and was seconded by NDSR Brock Engstrom. The motion carried.

### Presidents Report:

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

### Local Activities

- 2016 National Agreement
- SAMLU
- MHBP Open Season Marketing Efforts
- Partial Reimbursement Program
- Local 323 Dental Program

## **Branch Activities**

- Minnesota Branches
- North Dakota Branch Issues

## **Treasurers Report**

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

## **Fargo Branch President Tollefsrud Reports:**

(See attached)

## **Open Discussion**

President Jeff Larsen asked if any of the Branch offices had a desire to open LMOU discussions. Each Branch presented their issues and whether or not there was a need to open.

Picnic discussion continued from the Executive Board as Vice President Kathy Schultz presented documents to the Council.

Letter on work place violence.

Feb. 9<sup>th</sup> 2016, Letter. Re: Step 4 Settlement

A motion was made by Recording Secretary Dean Abatte to amend the By-Laws and change the retirement award from a \$75.00 gift card to a \$100.00 check from the Local Union. Motion was seconded by NDSR Brock Engstrom. Motion carried.

NDSR Brock Engstrom motioned to adjourn, Fargo Branch President Tollefsrud 2nd, motion carried and meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dean Abatte  
Recording Secretary Local 323  
National Postal Mail Handlers Union

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



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December 29, 2016

## Local President's Report

### Local 323 Complement:

The Local 323 career complement as of PP-25-16 is 659 (588 MN & 71 ND) and the MHA complement is 80 (69 MN & 11 ND). Combined Membership is at 637.

### Local Issues:

- **2016 National Agreement**

On December 16<sup>th</sup> the National Office announced that a tentative agreement over the terms of the 2016 National Agreement had been reached with the Postal Service. This tentative agreement will now be subject to ratification by a majority vote of the Union's membership. The ratification process will begin in early January and will have a 30 day period in which to return ballots.

If ratified, the 2016 National Agreement will have a term of three years and four months expiring on September 20, 2019.

The tentative agreement includes:

- General Wage Increases
- Cost of Living Adjustments
- No Layoff Clause

In addition, the tentative agreement included significant improvements for MHAs.

A summary of the tentative agreement is available on the National Union's web site.

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*Fargo*



- **SAMLU**

In early December I attended the SAMLU which was held in Tucson, AZ. The agenda for this meeting included the reports of the National Officers, the Litigation Report, the Legislative and Political Report, the Contract Administration Report, and an update on the Mail Handlers Benefit Plan. Of course, the most pressing topic concerned negotiations over the terms of the 2016 National Agreement. During the third day of the meeting I attended a training session on Local Negotiations.

### **MHBP Open Season Marketing Efforts**

In preparation for this years' open season, Health Plan Representatives Kathy Schultz and Brad Kaluza attended the Mail Handler Benefit Plan Seminar which was held in Pittsburgh, PA. Subsequently, the Local 323 Health Plan Representatives embarked upon another open season of attending health fairs. Kathy Schultz and Brad Kaluza traversed the State of Minnesota, while Brock Engstrom and Brian Blatchford hit the trail in North Dakota. Significant efforts have been expended to provide the Mail Handlers Benefit Plan with as much exposure as possible.

An initial report provided at the SAMLU indicates positive trends in enrollment. The final numbers should be available sometime after the 1<sup>st</sup> of the year and that information will be shared with all who are interested.

### **Partial Reimbursement Program**

Local 323 continues its participation in the partial reimbursement program which has been established by the National Union. This program is designed to lessen the financial impact on Local Unions by reimbursing some of the costs associated with marketing the MHBP. On October 17<sup>th</sup>, Treasurer John Frey and I participated in a teleconference with the National Office concerning revisions to the submission procedures for this program. The process of preparing our submission will begin after the 1<sup>st</sup> of the year and we will be filing our request for reimbursement by January 13, 2017.

### **Local 323 Dental Program**

In addition to the Mail Handlers Benefit Plan, Local 323 continued to offer our Dental Program to the Regular Membership as well as Postal and Federal employees who chose to affiliate as Associate Members. The 2017 plan included a 5% increase in premiums; however, there were no changes to benefits.

On October 2<sup>nd</sup>, Kathy Schultz, Brad Kaluza and I, met with Chris Kallaus from HealthPartners to discuss increasing the exposure of our Dental Program during the open seasons. This gave rise to a decision of offering materials at some of the

Minnesota health fairs we would be attending. To date, these additional marketing efforts have not produced any results. I continue to serve as the plan administrator.

**Branch Activities:**

- **Minnesota Branches**

I'm continuing to work with each individual Branch to address specific issues as needed. Hopefully, Labor – Management meetings will be more frequent in 2017.

- **North Dakota Branches**

I continue working with the Representatives as needed and I look forward to being invited to a meeting in North Dakota in the future.

**A Final Thought:**

I would be remiss if I did not express my personal gratitude to all of the Members who served as Officers, Chief Stewards, Stewards, and Alternate Stewards during 2016. Without their efforts it would be impossible to accomplish our goal of representing the Membership. My thanks go out to all of you.

**Upcoming Events:**

Fiscal Year Change – January 1<sup>st</sup>  
Metro Area Branch President's Meeting – Pending

Fraternally,

Jeff Larsen  
Local President

cc: All Branches  
File



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## Memo from Local 323

**Date:** December 29, 2016

**To:** Local 323 Secretary

**From:** Gary Tollefsrud

**RE:** Fargo Report

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- 1 – 45 FTR, 4 MHA Goal – 48 FTR & 7 MHA
- 2 – Retirees – 2 in 2016 – Both Non Union  
Newly Hired MHA's – Union Members
- 3 – New Building in West Fargo as of July 2016  
Now primary facility with APBS & AFSM  
Frequent cross-craft & Article 1.6 violations
- 4 – Tentative Contract posted for review by members.
- 5 – Attendance Discussions – Concern of Management