



# 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

## Minutes of the Local Union 323 Executive Board Meeting ST. PAUL, MN December 30, 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 10:36 A.M.

Recording Secretary Brian Newhouse took the roll call.

### Review of the Previous Minutes

The Board reviewed the minutes from the previous meeting on September 29, 2022. MN SEBM Rep. Ryden made a motion to accept the minutes. That motion was seconded by Treasurer Frey, motion carried.

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

- 323 Compliment
- Tentative National Agreement
- Local Activities
  - Career Conversions
  - Semi-Annual Meeting of the Local Unions (SAMLU)
  - Mail Handlers Benefit Plan (MHBP) Seminar
  - Open Season Activities
  - Dental Program
  - Computer Upgrades
- Branch Activities

### Upcoming Events

- Fiscal Year Change – January 1st
- NDC Branch Stewards Meeting – January 7th

## **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 Vice President Abatte. The motion carried.

## **Local President's Agenda Items**

- Tentative Agreement
- Membership Review
- Computer/Tech Issues
- Picnic
  - Coke Zero will not be served.

## **Treasurer's Report**

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

## **Executive Officer's Report**

- Vice President Abatte spoke about orientation issues and LDRC disputes in Minneapolis and St. Paul.
- ND SEBM Engstrom discussed issues in Bismarck.

## **Open Discussion**

ND SEBM Engstrom 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 12:28 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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December 30, 2022

## Local President's Report Local Executive Board

Jeff Larsen  
*Local President*

Dean Abatte  
*Vice President*

Brian Newhouse  
*Recording Secretary*

John Frey  
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State Executive  
Board Members

Shane Ryden  
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Tony Stickler  
*NDC*

Brock Engstrom  
*Fargo*

### Local 323 Complement:

The Local 323 career complement as of Pay Period 25-22 is 749 (672 MN & 77 ND) and the MHA complement is 98 (93 MN & 5 ND). Combined Membership as of Pay Period 25-22 is 779.

### Tentative National Agreement

- On December 15, 2022, the National Union held a teleconference during which it was announced that a Tentative Agreement had been reached over the terms of the 2022 National Agreement. Several Officers joined me at the Local Office for this teleconference. The summary of the Tentative Agreement along with some initial analysis has been posted on the Local 323 website. Additional information will be posted after the first of the year.

The Tentative Agreement is subject to Membership ratification. It is expected that the National Union will be sending ratification materials in January.

### Local Activities:

- Career Conversions**

Career conversions are continuing in all Branch offices. To say that management has been inconsistent in implementing these conversions would be an understatement. Grievances have been filed in several Branches over specific issues throughout 2022 and assistance from the Article 12 Task Force was requested on some of the more troublesome issues. I don't expect that management will be getting their act together anytime soon and pursuing these issues will remain part of our permanent industry.

- **Semi-Annual Meeting of the Local Unions (SAMLU)**

From October 30<sup>th</sup> through November 3<sup>rd</sup>, I was in Washington, DC for the second SAMLU of 2022. I was accompanied to this meeting by Vice President Dean Abatte. Rather than providing a summary of the activities, I've included a copy of the minutes in the meeting file.

- **Mail Handlers Benefit Plan (MHBP) Seminar**

From October 6<sup>th</sup> through the 9<sup>th</sup>, I attended the MHBP seminar, which was held in New Orleans, LA. Also attending this seminar were Dean Abatte, Kathy Schultz, Brock Engstrom, Brian Blatchford, Delicia Johnson, and Mike Alvarez. This was the first in-person seminar following the COVID-19 pandemic. The presentations outlined the plan changes as well as open season marketing strategies. Of particular importance was an evaluation of the rate increases among the various carriers in the FEHB marketplace. Some carriers implemented double digit rate increases, and this should provide a competitive advantage to the MHBP.

- **Open Season Activities**

This year's open season ran from November 14<sup>th</sup> to December 12<sup>th</sup>. Being well taught at the seminar, and armed with a competitive price advantage, the Local 323 marketing team hit the ground running as Local 323 redoubled its efforts during this first full-blown open season since the COVID-19 pandemic. Open season health fairs were attended as scheduled and a particular emphasis was placed on educating Mail Handlers about the benefits of the MHBP. The results of our efforts should be available by the end of January, and we'll see how we did.

- **Dental Program**

Local 323 continues offering our dental plan for 2023. New enrollment is limited to the Regular Membership. The 2023 plan is being offered without any changes to benefits.

- **Computer Upgrades**

Most computers being used in the Branch offices are beginning to reach the end of their service life. Several new computers have been purchased and deployed in the metro area Branches. This process will be continuing in 2023

### **Branch Activities:**

My schedule has included numerous Branch activities since the last meeting of the Local Executive Board. In addition to working with the Branch Representatives, and in several cases Branch Members, Branch activities from my calendar include:

MN-ND District & Midwest Processing Peak Season Planning Meeting – October 28<sup>th</sup>  
PSA visit – November 10<sup>th</sup>  
St. Paul Branch Labor – Management Meeting – November 17<sup>th</sup>  
NDC Branch team meeting – December 8<sup>th</sup>

**Upcoming Events:**

Fiscal year change – January 1<sup>st</sup>  
NDC Branch Stewards Meeting – January 7<sup>th</sup>

Fraternally,

Jeff Larsen  
Local President

cc: All Branches  
File