

Iowa State Association of Letter Carriers



President's Report

April 2008

I'd like to start out this article by thanking all of you who participated in the rallies and attended the caucus in support of the NALC candidate, Hillary Clinton.

I recently returned from the State Chairs meeting in Washington, D.C., where all of the state presidents gathered to get the latest news concerning the legislative and political agenda of the NALC. Rather than re-hash the legislative agenda here in this article, I'd like to direct you instead to the NALC web-site and in particular, the legislative department page. Here you'll find up to the date news on the legislative front.

While in Washington, President Young challenged all of the states to increase the percentages of members contributing to colcpe thru automatic deductions. Nationally, 6.69 % are giving, in our region, 6.73 percent of members contribute and in Iowa, 6.71%. So, we're right in the middle of the pack. However, I don't think any of us can be proud of the fact that so few are contributing. Whether Democrat or Republican, there is no excuse for not giving. So, I urge you to sign up. The forms can be found in the postal record, on the NALC website, or can be obtained from one of your branch officers.

President Young also has challenged the membership to get involved by signing up for carrier corps. Currently there are only 2.66 % of our members signed up. I certainly understand how with forced overtime daily, no scheduled day off, and being short on complement has diminished the number of people volunteering to 10 hours of work on behalf of the NALC and Labor. However, that 10 hours can be scattered over the next 8 months and includes attending rallies (in your NALC t-shirt), besides door knocking, phone calling or helping out in some other way. As I've stated before, when NALC President Bill Young's field plan for the future is complete, the NALC will have an incredibly powerful tool to advance its legislative and political agenda. So, please reconsider and sign up.

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In state, both your Vice-President, Mark Fallis and myself, met with the leaders of the Iowa House (Pat Murphy) and Iowa Senate (Mike Gronstal) concerning Vote by Mail. I don't think we could have been more pleased with the reception. While nothing may happen this cycle, both leaders are committed to at least going forward on a trial basis in the near future. Besides the savings associated with Vote by Mail, the data from Oregon (initial state conducting its elections by mail) shows a greater percentage of its citizens voting (84% last election).

The Iowa Spring Training will be held this coming May 4-6 th, at Adventureland Inn in Altoona. While the State Association has been directed to work in the legislative and political arena (by-law changes at the 2006 National Convention), we certainly are aware of the contractual violations and discipline being issued around the state. Believe me, the State Association is not going to give up on making our stewards and branch officers the best in the country. There will be training that will cover a wide range of topics that focus's on the daily lives of Iowa Letter Carriers. As this state's arbitration advocate, I'll commit to you that we cannot afford to forget the dispute resolution process and we won't.

I've do have some great news for a change. The Iowa State Association of Letter Carriers has launched our own web-site. You can find the site at www.iowalettercarriers.org. While it is still under construction, I believe you'll find the site informational as to the happenings going on around our state. While the data is currently a bit dated, we will begin to update monthly and hope that you stop in to see what's going on.

One thing that I'm quite proud concerning our web-site is the link to the Iowa State Association of Letter Carriers Hall of Fame. While the inductee's names have long been printed in our state convention booklet, those members not in attendance haven't known who our Hall of Fame members are. Hopefully in the future we'll be able to give a bio on each of the members.