

Iowa State Association of Letter Carriers



President's Report

July 2008

As I write this month's article in the middle of the prime time vacation, your state officers wish to send our best wishes to all our members across the state. You all deserve a respite from the stresses of the past year. May your vacations be long and restful.

Iowa Letter Carriers have dealt with one of the worst winters in recent history, battled tornados this spring and flooding earlier this summer. On top of that, carriers in many offices have had to do daily battle with uninformed, number crunching, over-paid and under-worked managers. Perhaps an extra week of vacation would be in order!

Branch leaders from across the state recently attended the National Convention in Boston. The training sessions put on by national prior to and after each session was invaluable. The legislative staff did an excellent job of keeping the attendees to their training classes interested and involved. The Convention was once again a success as letter carriers from across the nation convened, argued, cajoled and in the end, chartered the course of the NALC for the next two years.

Senator Hillary Clinton arrived at the convention on the first day and was immediately made a honorary member of the NALC. After which, she immediately made a motion to endorse Senator Barrack Obama for President. The motion passed unanimously.

This was an easy decision for the delegates as Sen. McCain (McSame) has a pitiful AFL-CIO voting record. Just for a quick review on health care. Sen. McCain's health plan will raise your taxes! Your income will be taxed pre-health benefit reduction. His plan will shift the burden from employers to workers. It will make health care premiums part of taxable income, essentially creating a new tax for working families. His plan is similar to President Bush's failed plan. His plan undermines existing employer based health care and pushes workers into the private market to fight big insurance companies on their own. It will reduce benefits, increase costs and leave many with no health care at all.

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For those of you in the Sioux City area, I recently had the opportunity to speak with the Congressional Candidate for the fifth district, Rob Hubler. He seems to be a perfect candidate for office. He's the son of a minister; a US Navy veteran; a political activist for 30 years; a former union member; a Pastor; and has been an instructor for disabled children. Compare those qualifications against Rep. King; an embarrassment to all Iowan's; who can only seem to work on one issue, building a fence along the southern border; and who tirelessly supports President Bush and his policies. If you agree a change is needed in the 5th District, sign up for carrier corp (see www.nalc.org) and make a difference.

Mike Birkett

President

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