

Iowa State Association of Letter Carriers



President's Report

August 2008

As these hot dry days of August come to a close, it's time to take a look at the upcoming elections.

I know everyone is looking forward to the extra mailings, the multiple phone calls, the door knocks and the television ads.

You'll hear from the candidates, the parties, 527's, your union and everyone else that has an opinion. You'll hear that Obama is a Muslim, McCain was brainwashed as a POW ("Manchurian Candidate"), Obama lacks the experience, McCain lacks judgment, won't vote for a black man, won't vote for anyone that old!

For the past few years, I've been warning our membership that the middle class in this country cannot continue to dwindle in numbers. As more people lose their healthcare, we will continue to pay more for ours until it too is gone. With a 9 plus trillion dollar debt, anything may happen. As real wages slip for the middle class, we'll be fighting at contract time to keep what we have. Don't think you'll get your pay cut? Talk to the rural carriers! As you are well aware, management has lost their COLA's already. If you don't believe we can be privatized, take a look at the military. The cooks, truck drivers and security are contracted out. We have recently stopped the post office's contracting out scheme, but for how long? A stroke of the pen in congress can affect your pension, your health care, your livelihood. All of these things and many more may well rest upon the outcome of this election.

On the first cold Tuesday in November, you will cast your vote! A vote that will chart the direction of this country for the next four, and perhaps the next eight years. I don't think there has been a more critical election in my lifetime.

I'm not going to tell you who to vote for! That is a decision that only you can make. My goal is to keep you informed of where the candidates stand on the NALC issues and where the NALC stands. So, here they are:

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- 1) Do the candidates support S. 1457, "**Mail Protection Act of 2007**" the Senate bill to stop contracting out letter carrier work?
 - NALC SUPPORTS S. 1457
 - Senator Obama has signed on as a co-sponsor of the legislation.
 - Senator McCain has not.

- 2) Do the candidates support S. 1041, "**Employee Free Choice Act**"?
 - NALC SUPPORTS S. 1041
 - Senator Obama has signed on as a co-sponsor of the legislation.
 - Senator McCain opposes it.

- 3) Do the candidates support S. 206, the repeal of the "**Government Pension Offset and Windfall Elimination Provisions**"?
 - NALC SUPPORTS S. 206
 - Senator Obama has signed on as a co-sponsor of the legislation.
 - Senator McCain opposes it.

- 4) Do the candidates support S. 979, the "**Vote by Mail Act**"?
 - NALC SUPPORTS S. 979
 - Senator Obama has signed on as a co-sponsor of the legislation.
 - Senator McCain has not.

At the recent National Convention in Boston, Senator Obama was endorsed by the delegates unanimously.

Mike Birkett

President,

Iowa State Assoc. of Letter Carriers