

Iowa State Association of Letter Carriers



President's Report

March 2009

Well, have you heard the news? The Postal Service is closing 6 District Offices and says they are going to eliminate 15% of the managers in the District Offices that are left. That's barely a good start, hardly enough! Most of us I'm sure could think of a district we'd like to see closed immediately, will they take suggestions?

I'd like to think that the Postal Service was doing this because of the current economic crisis facing the country and the postal service, however, I've become way to cynical for that. I believe the only reason they're closing those offices and eliminating positions is because the facts recently became public. Every craft employee group, both in numbers and costs is down. Management numbers and costs are up. Also recently released were the costs of relocating managers and moving expenses. Apparently instead of moving companies they're using limo's!

I've said many times before, that this organization cannot sustain overwhelming numbers of bureaucrats who do nothing productive and in most cases, are nothing more than anchors around the necks of the craft employees. How many trivial, useless bits of information can they possibly track? How many useless reports be written and reviewed? How many....

Well, you get my drift. It's time for the postal service to decide what's important and start decreasing the management positions in delivery offices. Let's see... we need one to run the schedule and..... Sorry, I can't think of another reason to have any more!

As most of you know, one of the recent national agreements was concerning new deliveries. Notify your steward or branch president of any new deliveries that are going to the rural craft as opposed to city delivery. They can investigate and decide if it's been given to the right craft or not. Basically, absent a local agreement concerning boundaries, all new deliveries not considered "in growth" on a rural route, should be assigned to city delivery.

Iowa State Association of Letter Carriers



President's Report

Legislatively, the Employee Free Choice Act has been introduced in congress and currently Congressmen Bruce Braley, Dave Loebsack and Leonard Boswell are signed on as co-sponsors of the bill. On the Senate side, Senator Tom Harkin is managing the bill for Senator Ted Kennedy. We still need Congressmen Tom Latham and Steve King to sign on, as well as Senator Grassley. I urge you to contact their offices and ask them to support the EFCA.

If you'd like to keep up to date with what's going on in the state, take a look at our Iowa Letter Carrier Hall of Fame, or review NBA Mike Weir's or my past articles, you can check out our web-site at: www.iowallettercarriers.org

On a personal note, Derrek Drexler, 21, the son of long-time Branch 257 Trustee, Dave Drexler, passed away March 23 after a short and unexpected illness. I'd ask all members statewide to not only keep Dave and Ann Drexler, as well as Derrek in their thoughts and prayers, but all of our members who have lost a child.

Mike Birkett
President,
Iowa State Assoc. of Letter Carriers
www.iowallettercarriers.org