

Iowa State Association of Letter Carriers



President's Report

April 2009

I'd be remiss if just a week before our state convention, if I didn't thank the entire state executive board, for their efforts over these past two years and for their friendship. They are from branches across the state, which have joined for the common causes of; the advancement of the agenda for letter carriers; labor; the working class; the state association and the NALC. You'll not find a more dedicated or more devoted group. Some say that the true measure of a man's wealth is the number of friends he has, if so, I've been truly blessed and increased my wealth by having served with them over these past few years.

OK, enough of the sappy ___p! What's new or more to the point, where to start.

The new Modified Interim Alternate Route Adjustment Process (MIRAP). I think all of us understand, in today's economy, with mail volume still decreasing, the need to adjust routes in a simpler and easier manner than under the M-39 route inspection process. I recently questioned the members of my own branch, on which method they preferred and was surprised when no one preferred the old process to the new. I believe that the only real problems come from data anomalies and in offices where management has manipulated the data. Hopefully, these can be identified and fixed. This process can also work in the future, when mail volume increases. Let's hope that we don't have to drag management, kicking and screaming the whole way, to adjust routes when mail volume increases.

New deliveries. If there are new deliveries in your city (area), and they are not in the middle of a rural route, it probably should be assigned to city delivery! Branch officers should make sure they read the national memo on new deliveries and contact NBA Weir if they have any questions. Most of all new deliveries should be ours!

They're still at it. I recently observed a supervisor checking for "sleepers" in cases. He took about 5 minutes per case, looking slowly at each separation. Now, we all know that 99.999% of sleepers are normally caught the next day by the carrier. Do we really need a supervisor, to check the cases daily, then fill out a "sleeper" log, file that report and probably file the report on the computer as well. This is exactly what I've been talking about (okay - screaming about). It's time management stop chasing USELESS data! At the National Rap Session, we heard they're still putting GPS in vehicles! More useless data, more reports, more micro management! **God, I need a Tylenol!**

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President Bill Young announced his imminent retirement at the Rap Session. While not giving a specific date, he did assert that it would be in the near future. Whether or not you agree with Bill Young on every decision he's made in his tenure as President, Executive Vice President, Vice President or NBA in this organization or not, you cannot question his commitment to letter carriers and their issues. He's been the key NALC witness at numerous arbitrations over the years which have greatly improved the conditions and working lives of letter carriers. He has refocused and reorganized the state associations until we are second to none in the AFL-CIO for involvement and political power. He understood years ago that we could not continue to increase our wages and benefits, without bringing along the other labor organizations and the middle class. That everything we gain through negotiations could be wiped away by the stroke of a pen in Washington, D.C. With levity he announced that he has been referred to as "poodle-head" by some on the Internet. So, let me finish by saying, Bill, with that head, nothing would look good, so, consider it a term of endearment. For the Letter Carriers of Iowa, let me wish you a retirement as long as your tenure as a leader in our organization, whenever you decide to step down.

As I've written before, I'm still looking for biographies for some members who have been inducted into the Iowa Letter Carriers, Hall of Fame. If you know one of the members who as of yet does not have a bio linked to their name on our web-site, and can write one up, please do so and send to me at mbirkett@iowalettercarriers.org You can view the Hall of Fame at www.iowalettercarriers.org

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