

## ***Iowa State Association of Letter Carriers***



### *President's Report*

October 2009

Dear Brothers and Sisters

As the newly appointed President of the ISALC I welcome our upcoming challenges for the coming year. While attended a couple of Health Care rallies I have been so impressed with the conviction of our Democratic Senator and Congressmen. They have stood fast under some of the most unrelenting and vicious and blatant lies brought forth from the far right wing. Attending these functions has shown me how wrong and miss guided some of these folks can be. A gentleman obviously on Social Security screamed he didn't want this country to become a socialist regime. I had to shake my head, and then what is what social security and Medicare? If we look back in time to 3 major political events that have shaped this country they would be Interstate Highways, Social Security, and Medicare/Medicaid. Now ask yours self "what do they all have in common?" First we all know who wanted the Interstates. It was Dwight Eisenhower right? Do you realize that his own Republican party fought against the interstates? Under Franklin Roosevelt Social Security was passed and guess who fought so hard against it. Yep, the Republicans. Under President Johnson Medicare was also fought hard against. Do you see the pattern? Now I ask you all this very simple question. We're would this country be without these three important pieces of Legislation? Public Option Health Care is the next piece of defining legislation for this country. The Insurance Companies are spending millions a day to defeat a Public Option. Wonder why? Hello, just look at the salaries of these CEOs. How many millions of Americans will go without health care? If we do not fix Health Care NOW when will it ever be the right time? Postal Front H.R. 22 passed the House 388 to 32. All 5 of Iowa's Congressmen voted for its passage. Yes even 5<sup>th</sup> District Steve King. I know I was just as shocked! The Senate version was passed on September 30<sup>th</sup> and signed by President Obama at 11:45 PM. The Postal Service was saved 4 Billion dollars with this piece of Legislation. A special

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thanks goes out o all of you e-activists who called or e-mailed our Senators and Congressman. This just goes to show how very important our e-activists network is. This was just a stop gap measure the Postal Service will still need more long term relief from this pre-funding of retiree Health Care. Having just returned from Washington D.C. and talking with the Iowa delegation I made sure that all the Senators and Congressman understood that the NALC will be back come spring making the hard ask to support a new long term bill to help with the long term financial viability of the Postal Service. Many of you may ask why is this so important. The answer is with a National contract looming and the Postal Service in financial trouble what would our chances of getting a pay increase be?

Yours In Unionism,

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