

# *Iowa State Association of Letter Carriers*



## *President's Report*

November 2009

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Where do I begin this month? Frustration, apprehension, what other words can I use to describe the feelings of Letter Carriers in today's work force? Without going %\$##@ AGHHHH, That's the feeling from Letter Carriers around the country. IRAP, MIRAP, DOIS, PIVOT, MANDATORY OT, we all know the drill. Having just returned from Washington D.C. and the State Chairs meetings and discussing with other state leaders their problems it's the same all across the country. Not GOOD! So let's start with MIRAP good or bad I have to admit it's better than the old days of a six day count and inspection. With MIRAP it's your own numbers not some pulled out of the air Ops support numbers. How many times has your Branch leaders told you to carry your route everyday just like it was check week? Those of you that have been doing that probably have come out pretty well with MIRAP those of you that haven't well you probably haven't fared to well. Bottom line here folks it up to each and every one of you to protect your route. Make sure you get credit for all of your volume, and when they do a 3999 on you make sure you document everything you can that day did you curtail mail was the mail extremely light that day was it a day you had business closed. It's kind of like ole Smokey the Bear saying "Only you can protect your route from management abuse" Remember an Injury to ONE is an Injury to ALL. We all have to stick together in these tough times.

Onto the Legislative front FERS employees the House passed the bill to get half credit for unused sick leave through 2013 and full credit in 2014 to bill now goes to the Senate it's outcome is anyone guess the good news is its part of a DOD appropriations bill. Healthcare finally came out of the Finance Committee and now will be merged with House bills and Senate bills. The healthcare debate is very heated with the insurance companies spending millions of dollars every day to defeat a public option which must be included in the final bill. We cannot afford to not fix health care when it keeps going up 7-8% each and every year. How many of you realize the true cost of your healthcare? If you had to purchase your plan outright it would cost you very close to \$1000.00 per month! The NALC can be proud of helping save the Postal Service from a 5.4 Billion dollar retiree health care pre-funding payment down

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to a 1.4 Billion dollar payment. Having been on Capitol Hill and talking with our Congressman and Senators, everyone seemed to grasp the problem but Grassley and his staff didn't think that H.R. 22 should be included in the Senate version even though it was passed 388-32 out of the House. But it passed anyway 61-39 and of course Grassley voted against us. The good news everyone I talked with is on our side with the continuation of six day delivery. This is vital to the Postal Service if it is to survive these tough economic times. It sure seems to me that craft employees have taken the blunt of this downsizing. Let's start with the dead wood at the top of the heap we all know that's where the cuts should start with. But when will this happen? It seems that we can't live without all the documentation that upper management has to pore over to justify their jobs. It's a very simple job to us get us the mail and we deliver it, but no they got to weight it measure it fondle it analyze it. Then tell us what we already know how to deliver it. Hang in there Brothers and Sister remember an "Injury to ONE is A Injury to ALL" Support COLCPE it's our way of fighting back! Isn't \$5.00 a payday worth your JOB & Benefits? Donate today!

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