

Iowa State Association of Letter Carriers



President's Report

February 2011

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

Wouldn't you like to see the managers at the Post Office do the right thing – at least once? The recent blizzard that resulted in record snowfalls in some parts of the Hawkeye District (and a good part of the rest of the country) left many carriers unable to report for work due to this "Act of God." Why not recognize this and pay those affected carriers administrative leave as called for in the ELM? Do they think it improves morale to come up with creative ways to ignore reality and try to make us believe that it was business as usual? Management couldn't get the mail to some of the post offices, but the clerks and carriers were supposed to be there? To do what?

President Rolando and the staff at headquarters have updated our political field plan and we will be learning the details at the end of this month following the rap session. I look for some positive changes to take place that will keep our membership better informed. If you have not signed up to be an e-activist, please take a moment to do so. At www.iowalettercarriers.org click on the e-activist banner.

You will not be bombarded by countless e-mails that are a waste of time. You will receive updates only from the NALC concerning pending legislation that will have an effect on your career - and a request for you to contact your Senator or Congressman when appropriate. The job you could save will be your own.

I know that some of you find politics boring or disgusting – maybe both, but the fact is that we are dependent on Congress to make the rules by which we live. We want to let them know what will work best for the Postal Service and us. There are many politicians across the country who think that the Postal Service runs on tax dollars. They believe that fixing the overpayment to the Civil Service Retirement Fund or changing the schedule of pre-funding retiree health benefits is a bailout at the expense of the taxpayer. We need to educate those representatives who are misinformed.

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I have appointed Jeff Erickson of Central Iowa Branch 352 as CDL for Iowa's 3rd Congressional District. His interest in political matters will be an asset in keeping letter carriers informed about legislation that will affect our jobs and the postal service. At the same time he will be able to effectively communicate our concerns to 3rd District Congressman Leonard Boswell. Welcome Jeff.

As you may have seen in the news recently, Iowa will lose a Congressional District. This is due to the fact that Iowa's population growth was comparatively less than other states over the last ten years. We will likely know by the time we meet for our state convention in Clinton in May what the new district boundaries will be. At least one of the new districts will have two incumbents; and it's possible that one of our districts will be left without a resident incumbent which could result in a wide open race. Stay tuned...

In Unionism,

Jim Beach

President

Iowa State Association of Letter Carriers, AFL-CIO

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