

Iowa State Association of Letter Carriers



President's Report

May 2011

Greetings Sisters and Brothers,

Our state convention is behind us and now we have work ahead of us - besides delivering phone books. As I write this it looks like 3 of Iowa's congressmen are co-sponsors of HR 1351. If you live in the district represented by Congressman Boswell or Braley or Loeb sack, please take a moment to call their office or send them a note to thank them for their support of this vital piece of legislation. Contact information for your Congressman can be found under the "Legislative News" tab at www.iowalettercarriers.org.

If you are not familiar with HR 1351, please take a look at the NALC website at www.nalc.org. If enacted, this bill will ensure the survival of the US Postal Service by putting us back on solid financial ground. The bill would require OPM to determine the amount that the Postal Service has overpaid into the Civil Service and FERS pension funds for postal employees and allow the Postal Service to apply that money to its obligation to pre-fund retiree health care benefits. It would move money paid by the Postal Service from one fund to another, and it does not score on the budget.

Maybe, if this is put into place, the Postal Service will stop some of their misguided attempts to save money in the short term - like 5 day delivery - that will cause even greater losses over the long term.

Rep. King and Senators Harkin and Grassley have co-authored letters to the Postal Service expressing their concern for degradation of service if the Sioux City processing plant is closed and operations combined into Sioux Falls. If you are in the 5th District, now is the time to contact Congressman King (202-225-4426) and ask him to co-sponsor HR 1351 so that the Postal Service will stop trying to move to a 5 day work week. Wouldn't missing a day of delivery be an even greater degradation of service? It only takes a few minutes to make a phone call.

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I want to take a moment and thank Clinton Branch 126 for hosting the convention this year. It is a big time commitment to make sure everything is covered – job well done! We crammed in as much training as possible and took care of the business of the Iowa State Association of Letter Carriers.

As you saw in the Postal Record, Iowa squeaked by Kansas in the recent COLCPE contest and as a result we received three \$200 gift cards. The first of these gift cards was won by Keith Harvey of Ames Branch 1081. The winners of the other two cards will be drawn at our fall training session in Coralville on November 1st. You will be eligible to win if you are donating to COLCPE at the “Gimme 5” level by then - so sign up today.

Thank you to all of the Iowa letter carriers that have done a good job supporting COLCPE - but we do need to continue to get more people involved. Encourage those around you to step up to the plate.

In Unionism,

Jim Beach

President

Iowa State Association of Letter Carriers, AFL-CIO

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