

Iowa State Association of Letter Carriers



President's Report

November 2011

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

Did you find ten people to sign the petition to support the preservation of 6 day delivery? Did you read the letter attached to the petition that was sent to you in the mail by NALC President Fred Rolando? Or did you get a petition off the NALC website, or in a newsletter, or at a union meeting?

If you got 10 or more signatures – thank you. Thank you for making the effort to save our jobs and to preserve the Postal Service for another generation.

I continue to be amazed by the number of letter carriers who remain uninformed about the threat to our jobs, and even more by those who are aware but seemingly don't care enough to do anything about it. Some say they want Saturday off; maybe some don't think they can do anything that would make a difference. That must be a hopeless feeling.

So how do we get to those who are uninformed? If they don't read the mail they get from our own union, maybe they would read what's on a computer screen. I know that not many of our members check the NALC website often, but it really is a useful site (www.nalc.org) with a wealth of information about day to day contractual rights and efforts in Congress to destroy the Postal Service and our jobs. Tell your fellow letter carriers about the website and check it out yourself.

Hopefully each branch has a union bulletin board on which important information is posted; but you still can't make someone read it, even if they have a right to do so while on the clock.

Each member receives the Postal Record. Are we really too busy to read a few articles that tell us what is going on? The threat is very real.

If HR 2309 is passed and signed into law, the changes would be tremendous. If the vast majority of deliveries were converted to curbside and NDCBU's it would reduce the number of routes by about one third in the office where I work.

Iowa State Association of Letter Carriers



President's Report

November 2011

There's more: if the Postal Service is allowed to determine how many days that mail should be delivered do you really think they will go to 5 and give you Saturday off - because they have shown us over the years how concerned they are with our well being and desires? If given a choice they may go to every other day delivery. As a full time career employee you would still be working 5 days a week but on 2 or 3 different routes. A move like that would likely reduce the number of full time positions available in our office from 24 to 8.

That is assuming of course that career full time positions would still exist. The Postal Service wants the "flexibility" to determine the work schedule that best fits the business. Flexibility defined as a mostly part time, supplemental (underpaid, uninformed, un-union) workforce. Would you get Saturday off? Maybe – along with Tuesday and Thursday, too. Benefits? – a thing of the past, unless you count a uniform allowance and annual leave at the minimum allowance for as long as they want to employ you.

Maybe you're in the top third of the seniority list so you're still going to have a job? And you're protected by the no lay off clause in our contract you say? That's great, but too bad the contract has been eliminated by Congress. Now the Postal Service is to be given the opportunity to lay off senior employees first. Would you want to work for the Postal Service without a contract, without union protection?

So for those of you who just have that hopeless feeling – you do still have a union that you are a part of. There IS strength in numbers, especially in BIG numbers. We all have to do our part, not depend on someone else to do it for us. Get involved, tell your fellow letter carrier that you got 10 signatures and ask them if they got 10. Tell them that you called your congressman and asked them if they have done so yet. Tell them what you got in your e-activist message and ask them if they saw it. Tell them about the letter you got from the President of the NALC and ask them if they responded. Tell them about www.nalc.org and www.iowalettercarriers.org and ask them what they found on the websites. Go to your local union meeting and ask what you can do to help save our jobs. If you don't do it soon, it will be too late.

Iowa State Association of Letter Carriers



President's Report

November 2011

I'm not trying to scare you, just offering you the truth. Look at the bills being bounced around Congress if you want a scare. There are about a dozen, not many that we like. Do something about it – pick up the phone and tell your Congressman that you want a strong, financially sound Postal Service. Tell them they need to fix the retiree health benefits funding fiasco that was created by Congress so that we can get down to the business of providing universal first class service to the American public. Tell them to support HR 1351 and to vote against HR 2309.

Check the NALC website often to stay informed about what's going on in Congress. Action taken in DC during the next 30 days will determine the future of the Postal Service and your future. Make your voice heard.

In Unionism,

Jim Beach

President

Iowa State Association of Letter Carriers, AFL-CIO

www.iowalettercarriers.org