

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



### *President's Report*

March 2012

Greetings Sisters and Brothers,

So I just read a story about a group of Senators in Washington being upset with the Postal Service's plan to close processing plants and offices - there is a moratorium in place on closures until May 15 after all. USPS has announced plans to close some processing plants on – yes, May 15.

How long, I wonder, did they think the postal service would wait? Apparently they don't know postal managers like we do.

It will literally take an act of Congress to save the Postal Service, and they must act soon or it will be too late. Why is saving thousands of jobs while maintaining first class service – at no cost to the taxpayer - a bad thing? Wouldn't you think that a Senator or Representative would jump at the chance to vote for a bill that would do just that? Especially in an election year? Is it because the first jobs that will be saved are UNION jobs? Clerks and mail handlers represented by our sister unions will be hit first, and then letter carriers in short order will be next. Say it isn't so!

It seems that there are many lawmakers willing to inflict higher unemployment numbers and another jolt to the economy in order to weaken unions. When they get rid of unions entirely then they will have silenced the voice of the working men and women. Do you really think that this is not on the agenda?

We all need to start paying close attention to what is going on with postal reform and contact our Senators and Representatives to tell them we need common sense solutions to the burdens placed on the Postal Service. Sign up to receive E-Activist alerts so you can stay informed.

S 1853 and HR 3591. There is no cost to tax payers, there is no bail out, and it would save hundreds of thousands of good jobs – not only postal jobs, but jobs in mail related industries. Go to [www.nalc.org](http://www.nalc.org) for the latest legislative updates.

As a reminder, our spring training session is coming up shortly – April 29 to May 1 at Adventureland Inn in Altoona. Hope to see you there.

In Unionism,

Jim Beach

President

Iowa State Association of Letter Carriers, AFL-CIO

[www.iowalettercarriers.org](http://www.iowalettercarriers.org)