

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



## ***President's Report***

February 2013

Greetings Sisters and Brothers,

No doubt about it, things are going to be interesting – and rough.

The PMG has announced to Congress and the rest of America his intent to ignore the law. President Rolando informed us that the PMG intends to discontinue 6-day delivery even if Congress includes language in the next appropriations bill that would mandate 6-day delivery – as they have done for the past 30 or so years.

Apparently he believes he can ignore law and the will of Congress.

Maybe he can get away with it. Perhaps he thinks that our Congress is so dysfunctional that they won't block his move and relieve him of his duties. Will Congress call his bluff and fix the problems that they created in the first place?

It will be a battle to be sure.

We must convince Congress to do what is right for the postal service, for the American public and the economy by fixing the pre-funding and over-funding problems that have left the postal service on the brink of failure.

We must convince some of our co-workers that having Saturday off is not necessarily in their best interest. If doing away with Saturday delivery saves money – how much more money could be saved by doing away with Tuesday and Thursday delivery as well? We know how the postal managers operate; give them 1, they'll think they can take 2, but will take 3 instead.

Some of our seasoned carriers who are close to retirement think they will be OK, maybe even get an early out offer. I'm thankful that letter carriers who came before me thought about a future for all of their brothers and sisters and didn't take the easy way out. If there is no postal service, is your retirement secure?

Some of our newer employees, the TE's who will become CCA's, are unhappy with the pay cut imposed on them by the arbitration decision. I can't blame them, I wouldn't be happy

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either, but the pay cut would have been much larger if not for the NALC making its case before the arbitrator. The postal service wanted a much bigger cut than the arbitrator imposed. This is a group that has even more to lose. No Saturday delivery? No job, no path to a career position.

We must convince ourselves not to be complacent. If you are not an e-activist, sign up now. It has never been more important to be informed about what is happening to your job. There will be demonstrations, there will be legislation proposed. There must be input from letter carriers or it will get uglier fast. The most important part of being an e-activist is making the call or sending an e-mail to your Congressman and/or Senator when the need arises.

The battle is ours to lose, complacency will get you nowhere. Now is not the time to sit back and watch. Now is the time to pay attention to what is happening to our employer and do something about it. Get involved - get your co-workers involved. Educate your friends and your family so that they don't lose their postal service. Collectively we must demand that Congress fixes their mistake.

In Unionism,

Jim Beach

President

Iowa State Association of Letter Carriers, AFL-CIO

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