

Iowa State Association of Letter Carriers



President's Report

March 2013

Greetings Sisters and Brothers,

We are at a crossroads. Who is going to point us in the right direction? Who is going to guide us? NALC has some good ideas, check www.nalc.org.

As I write this, the House has passed a bill containing a mandate for 6-day delivery. House Republican leaders say that even with that language that the Post Office can go ahead with their plan to cut back to 5-day delivery with parcel delivery on Saturday. After all, there will still be delivery on 6 days. Senate leaders say that their version will contain strong, clear language that the Post Office cannot ignore. Postal management says they are going ahead with their plan to cut service even though they might initially lose a court challenge, should one arise. Confused yet?

CCA's may have the most to lose if the Postal Service eliminates a day of service. Will the Postal Service see a need for CCA's at all? Would routes simply be pivoted when a regular carrier is on leave? Would management simply utilize the overtime list for Saturday parcel delivery?

The New Zealand Post Office has announced plans to go to 3 day a week delivery. Think it can't happen here? What would your work week look like then? What would our workforce look like? CCA's are the future of this union – if there is one. If CCA's want a union that will continue to fight for them, they need to realize that they will be the leaders of that union and need to get involved now. Are we the last of the career workforce, the last union workers to deliver mail?

I don't care to find out, I would like to see Congress use some common sense and pass a bill that eliminates the ridiculous pre-funding of health benefits for people who are not yet born. There is a reason no company anywhere does this – it would force them into bankruptcy in short order. I would like to see a bill passed that returns the money to the Postal Service that has been overpaid into retirement funds. When more taxes are taken from your paycheck than what you owe, don't you expect a refund at the end of the year? At this time Dave Loebsack is the only Iowa Congressman who is a co-sponsor of HR 630. This bill would take care of the problems mentioned, and more. It would not cost taxpayers a cent – and would save hundreds of thousands of jobs in a fragile economy. Just a little common sense would go a long way. Senator Harkin is a co-sponsor of S 316 – the senate's version of a bill that would do the same.

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Send Congress a message. Attend the Delivering for America Rally in Des Moines on March 24th. It will be outside the Main Post Office, 1165 2nd Ave at 1 PM. Tell Congress 6-day delivery does matter, and keep telling them after the rally is over. Keep telling them until they fix the problem.

As a reminder, our state convention is coming up shortly – May 5 to May 7 at Prairie Meadows in Altoona.

Hope to see you at the Delivering for America Rally on March 24.

In Unionism,

Jim Beach

President

Iowa State Association of Letter Carriers, AFL-CIO

www.iowalettercarriers.org