

Iowa State Association of Letter Carriers



President's Report

April 2013

Greetings Sisters and Brothers,

The Board of Governors announced that there will continue to be Saturday mail delivery – at least until February of 2014. Is there any doubt that the Postmaster General has already assigned someone the task of how to transition to 5 day delivery in February? Congress must realize that they must pass a bill that fixes the financial burdens that have been imposed upon the Postal Service. If they don't, then the PMG will continue with his misguided plan to downsize service.

I recently stopped for lunch at a local pizza restaurant. While there the manager said she hoped I would soon enjoy having Saturdays off and went on to say she guessed she didn't really need to receive her mail on Saturday anyway. I asked why she didn't close one day during the week; after all couldn't her customers find somewhere else to eat? She said she wanted to have her restaurant open every day so that she could serve her customers anytime they wanted to eat there - instead of going to a competitor. But wouldn't you save money by closing down for a day, I asked. She said with the investment in the building and kitchen that she couldn't leave it idle, she needed the cash flow 7 days a week to continue, and besides she didn't want to risk losing customers on other days. So you would probably lose money by cutting back on service, I said. I think the same is true for the Postal Service.

Then to the workroom floor – some carriers are grumbling because of the announcement by the PMG to continue Saturday delivery. It seems that having Saturdays off is more important than having a job down the road, not only for themselves but for future union brothers and sisters. I sure am glad that the carriers that went before me didn't grab what they could and leave us with nothing. I would like to have Saturdays off too, but I also want to be able to retire from a Postal Service that can pay my retirement; and until I do retire, I want to work for a Postal Service that actually lives up to its name. Service is what we offer, no other company reaches every door in America 6 days a week at an affordable price.

We and the rest of the public should demand that Congress quit robbing from the Postal coffers and return what they have already taken so that the Postal Service can continue to provide efficient, affordable service for everyone.

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Congressmen Braley and Loebsack are co-sponsors of HR 630, a bill that will preserve 6-day delivery if passed. If Congress doesn't act, the PMG will go on with his plan to cut back service, and everyone will lose.

I want to thank Jeff Erickson and the rest of the crew from Branch 352 who worked on making the Delivering for America Rally on March 24th a success. Hopefully those in Congress were paying attention to our message.

Hope to see you at the state convention that will be held May 5 to May 7 at Prairie Meadows in Altoona.

In Unionism,

Jim Beach

President

Iowa State Association of Letter Carriers, AFL-CIO

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