

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



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

May 2013

Greetings Sisters and Brothers,

I'll take this opportunity to send a BIG 'Thank You' to everyone in Branch 352 who took part in making the recent state convention a memorable one. We took care of business and had some fun along the way.

I also want to thank you for allowing me to continue to serve as your president. It's a position that I need everyone's help with - and we have a big job ahead of us.

We must continue to communicate with our elected officials in Washington until they pass meaningful postal reform that will put an end to the pre-funding of future retiree benefits at a rate that is proving to be fatal to postal operations. The money came from postal customers and Congress took it for their make-believe budget. The overpayments made by the postal service into both the FERS and CSRS funds must be returned. That money came from postage, not taxes. It belongs to the postal service; it's not for Congress to use to shore up their budget mess.

When the postal service is allowed access to its own money, Congress must prohibit our managers from slashing service. Post offices and mail processing operations must remain intact so that delivery standards will not be downgraded and letter carriers can continue to deliver 6 days a week. Our customers depend on it. Our future depends on it.

Our future: somewhere in a post office near you is a recently hired CCA who will someday serve as a steward, branch secretary, state chair or national officer. We have to protect their contractual rights in a hostile environment, show them what it means to be part of a union. We have to educate them about what a union does for working men and women so that they can assume their role as leaders of the next generation of letter carriers. Talk to your CCA's, your sister and brother letter carriers. Show them how to work safely and how to provide good customer service – and how to be a member of our union. If we don't show them, who will?

In Unionism,

Jim Beach

President

Iowa State Association of Letter Carriers, AFL-CIO

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