

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



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

October 2013

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

Time marches on and no solution to the financial problems facing the Postal Service is in sight.

Instead, Congress has manufactured another crisis. Drama in D.C.

It seems that Congress can't agree on the details of how to fund the operation of the federal government, so various agencies must cease at least part of their operations. Someone wants to prove a point, and the common men and women suffer.

Perhaps a law should be passed that requires the men and women who we elected to do this job be sent home (at their own expense) to face a referendum when a shutdown happens. A simple ballot wouldn't take long to print, actually a piece of note book paper would do.

Do you want Congressman \_\_\_\_\_ to return to Washington as your elected representative?  
yes no (circle one)

How about Senator \_\_\_\_\_? yes no (circle one)

Or Senator \_\_\_\_\_? yes no (circle one)

Those who get a simple majority of "yes" votes go back to Washington and have 2 weeks to agree to a budget and re-open the federal government, and face another referendum vote if they fail.

Those who don't get a majority of "yes" votes vacate their position lose all future benefits – and are banished from holding any federal office for life.

Think anyone would be so eager to prove a point? Would time be wasted on a filibuster? Or would they try a little harder to find a solution?

Maybe they would take their responsibilities a little more seriously.

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If they faced serious and real personal consequences as a result of their actions, maybe they would realize that the laws they pass cause serious and real consequences for the people they represent.

My fear is that once Congress resolves the budget problem, they will try to demonstrate that they can work together by finding a bill they can agree on, then offer up the Postal Service as a sacrificial lamb.

As disgusting as you may find “politics as usual” to be, you must remain vigilant. Keep yourself updated by checking [www.nalc.org](http://www.nalc.org) frequently. If you are not an [e-Activist](#), sign up – and make the call to your Congressman and Senators when you receive the message.

In Unionism,

Jim Beach

President

Iowa State Association of Letter Carriers, AFL-CIO

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