

Iowa State Association of Letter Carriers



President's Report

April 2014

Greetings Brothers & Sisters,

Our Spring training will soon be here – a time to absorb some new information, refresh your commitment to helping your fellow letter carrier and reconnect with letter carrier activists from across Iowa. We are pleased to welcome Vice-President Lew Drass to Iowa for our training.

The day before our training starts, the Iowa Federation of Labor will be holding the COPE convention. Delegates from unions throughout Iowa will gather to endorse candidates for office in this fall's elections and Senator Harkin will be inducted into the Hall of Fame.

Confused by what is going on – or not – in Washington?

In January the spending bill that was signed into law had language that retained six day delivery.

In February a bi-partisan bill passed out of committee in the Senate that would, among other things, phase out Saturday delivery. Many believe this bill goes too far and would cause damage and eventual failure of the Postal Service -while many others believe it doesn't go far enough because it doesn't shut down the Postal Service fast enough. So for now it looks as if postal reform may go nowhere, again. And please remember "bi-partisan" is not the same as "good." A bad bill is worse than no bill.

In March, President Obama released his 2015 budget and it calls for eliminating six day delivery and going to centralized and curbside delivery. But House Republicans have assured the public that this bill will get nowhere although it is not because of the elimination of Saturday delivery. Here's a question – why, when the Postal Service receives no tax money to fund its operations, is this kind of proposal even in the budget?

So while politicians bicker - the Postal Service suffers.

Keep reminding your elected officials that it is past time to correct the pre-funding issues that are a crushing burden on the Postal Service.

Best way to stay informed – sign up to be an eActivist, and go to www.nalc.org and look for "Legislation & Politics" under the Departments tab.

In Unionism,

Jim Beach

President

Iowa State Association of Letter Carriers, AFL-CIO

www.iowalettercarriers.org