

Iowa State Association of Letter Carriers



President's Report

May 2014

Greetings Sisters & Brothers,

To those of you who could not be at our Spring training session in Altoona – we missed you. Our national Vice-President, Lew Drass, talked on Sunday about topics ranging from CCA rights and grievances to legislation and COLCPE. We are always pleased when a national officer can make the trip to Iowa to give us an update in person.

Our National Business Agent, Dan Pittman, and RAA's Mike Birkett and Mark Sims continued with training aimed at new stewards, as well as retirement and OWCP. We also talked about the new safety task force in Hawkeye that will be jointly (that's the union and management working together) finding safer ways to do our job. Legislation, politics and MDA were on the agenda as well.

I hope you took home some useful information, I heard many positive comments about the subjects covered (and the quality of the food.) I would like to hear from you. What did you like, how might we have done better and what you would like to see at our fall training session in Coralville this Oct. 26 – 28? If there is something you thought was awful - let me know about that as well. You can e-mail me at jbeach@machlink.com or send me a note at PO Box 644 in Muscatine, Iowa, 52761.

The night before our training, the Iowa Federation of Labor honored retiring Senator Tom Harkin by inducting him into Iowa's Labor Hall of Fame. Lew Drass was invited to speak at the dinner and was seated with Senator Harkin, his wife Ruth, and Congressman Bruce Braley. The Iowa State Association of Letter Carriers was represented by a group of 10 who attended the dinner. We were pleased to hear Senator Harkin and Congressman Loeb sack make comments about the importance of Iowa letter carriers' efforts during the campaign season.

Speaking of campaigns – the Iowa State Association has made the following endorsements: Bruce Braley for Senate, Jack Hatch for governor, Pat Murphy in Iowa's 1st Congressional District, Dave Loeb sack in the 2nd, Staci Appel in the 3rd and Jim Mowrer in the 4th. The primary election in the 1st district is particularly important as there are several candidates seeking the nomination. If you live in the 1st please remember Pat Murphy – he knows about and supports issues important to letter carriers.

Iowa State Association of Letter Carriers



President's Report

May 2014

We would like to see national release several letter carriers in Iowa to work with labor's get-out-the-vote effort and would also like to see some big financial contributions to our endorsed candidate's campaigns.

Where does national come up with the money for political efforts? It does not - it cannot - come from our dues. The money for release staff and contributions comes from COLCPE dollars. More carriers giving means more money working towards electing men and women who support our legislative goals. After Lew made a few points about COLCPE and "connected the dots" during Sunday's session we received commitments from 15 carriers to sign up as automatic contributors and commitments from 3 carriers to increase the amount they are giving to COLCPE.

Thank you!

Unfortunately Lew can't get out to every branch meeting! Tell your fellow letter carriers why you give to COLCPE and explain why they too should join with us. We need to elect the people who will work to preserve the future of the postal service, our jobs and a secure retirement. By contributing to COLCPE we can reach that goal.

And a final note... I thought I would be reporting on another awful bill from Congressman Issa. It was set to be marked up May 7th but due to overwhelming lack of support from anyone, it was postponed, permanently I hope. Just another benefit of having a strong legislative presence in Washington!

Stay informed – sign up to be an [eActivist](#).

Preserve your future – sign up to give to [COLCPE](#).

In Unionism,

Jim Beach
President

Iowa State Association of Letter Carriers, AFL-CIO
www.iowalettercarriers.org