

# *Iowa State Association of Letter Carriers*



## *President's Report*

July 2014

Greetings Sisters and Brothers,

COLCPE – elections – contractual rights.

What do they have in common? You and me.

Who can do something about it? You and I.

We all have the same contractual rights, so long as we know what they are; and we are willing and able to defend them. You can do something about your contractual rights. Most of us are not the steward who files the grievance, but you must educate your steward about what happened if you think your rights have been trampled on. If your rights have been violated, then you must stand with and support your steward as he advances your grievance.

You give your steward the facts, she does some work on your behalf and hopefully, you will have your rights restored or the violation remedied. This benefits you as well as your sisters and brothers who follow.

Dollars you donate to COLCPE go to protecting your job. Plain and simple. Mine too, and our brothers' and sisters' jobs.

Some is used to pay people to educate our elected representatives about issues important to the survival of the Postal Service – and our job. Or perhaps they will show them how a particular piece of legislation could be improved with (or without) key amendments that could retain our benefits. Benefits that were gained by those who negotiated the contract on our behalf, but that could be taken away by legislation passed in Congress.

Some is used to pay letter carriers to work during an election season (that seems to get longer and longer) to educate union voters about where the candidates stand on postal issues and workers' rights.

Some is used to contribute to the campaign funds of those candidates who support legislation that will benefit the Postal Service, and again, our job – and our pay and benefits.

All of us joining together to contribute a little.

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We give to COLCPE, COLCPE pays out to get some work done on our behalf. Hopefully, we will retain our rights, our negotiated benefits and the continued existence of our employer, if we stand with and support those who do the work made possible with COLCPE dollars. This benefits you and me, and our sisters' and brothers' future.

Thank you to all who have given, and continue to contribute to COLCPE. You allow it to work for all of us.

Haven't made the commitment yet? It isn't too late. Please join the effort to protect the job that is so important to you and your family and your future. It's also important to me, and to our brothers and sisters.

Let's all stand shoulder to shoulder to retain what we have.

In Unionism,

Jim Beach

President

Iowa State Association of Letter Carriers, AFL-CIO

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