

Iowa State Association of Letter Carriers



President's Report

October 2014

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

-or should I say "union members" or "messengers in blue"?

Recently there was a post from a family member on a social networking website about a report by an Iowa television station concerning a Nebraska school district that didn't want its teachers to refer to their grade school students as "boys and girls." Instead, they suggested gender neutral terms such as "campers" or "readers" or "purple penguins."

The comments that followed were, entertaining? Someone wanted to know if the teacher was to be called Head Purple Penguin. Another wanted to know if all the penguins were going to use the same bathroom. One blamed Iowans for allowing this to happen because they voted for it. (Iowans can vote to set school policy for Nebraska?) Yet another swore it was Obama. Really? Yes. Ahh, election season. With all the back and forth political ads from outside parties "not associated with any campaign" I guess I shouldn't be surprised.

People see a blip of information, selectively hear, and filter with what is already in their mind, and then share the "facts."

Well, I have never seen Nebraska school policy on an Iowa ballot. I have seen Obama on the ballot - but don't recall gender neutral terms for schools being a campaign issue.

There are, however, some very important issues to consider in this election, like the future viability of the Postal Service, your job and your retirement.

Who we elect is very important to our future.

Now, you can decide not to vote because of all the negative ads, or decide "they" are all the same and declare that it doesn't matter. It's much easier to just complain, no responsibility for voting for someone who didn't live up to your expectations. You get two more years to bitch and moan.

But it really isn't hard to vote. You can do it by mail in the privacy of your home - and support the Postal Service while doing so.

You do of course have to decide who will get your vote, and there are many issues that you can consider.

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When it comes to your job and the future of the Postal Service, I can tell you that Bruce Braley understands our issues and will continue to support legislation that will ensure the survival of the Postal Service, that is why he has earned our endorsement for the Senate race. Dave Loebsack in the 2nd District has also supported our issues in the past and will continue to do so. Staci Appel in the 3rd District, Jim Mower in the 4th and Pat Murphy in the 1st have all indicated their support for our issues, and that is why our union has endorsed these candidates. It's our jobs and our future.

So, brothers and sisters, messengers in blue, please consider why our union has made endorsements in this election and take the time to vote – and then hold our Senators and Representatives accountable to you once they are in office by reminding them to vote for legislation that will ensure the continuation of the Postal Service – and our job.

In Unionism,

Jim Beach

President

Iowa State Association of Letter Carriers, AFL-CIO

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