

Iowa State Association of Letter Carriers



President's Report

November 2015

Greetings Sisters & Brothers,

For those of you planning your annual leave calendars for 2016:

- Feb. 27 & 28 is the Regional Rap Session in Kansas City,
- May 1 – 3 is the Iowa Spring Training in Altoona,
- Aug. 15 – 19 is the NALC National Convention in Los Angeles, and
- Oct. 16 – 18 is the Iowa fall training session in Coralville.

Immediately after the recently concluded fall training session, Herb Copley, Tom Kinn, Eddie Lofland and I joined about 200 other carriers from across the country for 3 days of training dedicated to legislative and political activism. I'm pleased to see that NALC is sponsoring some formal training in this arena. I was also pleased to see that there are many talented men and women willing to take on this task. There was a range from CCA's to retirees and experienced to newcomers. All participants will be better prepared to take our message to Congress and to educate voters about candidates in the upcoming elections.

As for the election – have you read the most recent Postal Record? It contains 3 presidential candidates' responses to a questionnaire sent to them by the NALC. 14 candidates did not respond while 3 replied that they would not be responding. It is intended to show the candidates stance on issues affecting our jobs so that NALC and its members can decide who will best support us and a strong postal service. I encourage you to take the time to read about the candidates and return the post card so our legislative department knows who you would like to see in the Oval Office.

And that first step to the Oval Office is taken right here in Iowa. You can help guide the country by participating in the caucuses that will be held Feb. 1. It's easy – some would say enjoyable? How about interesting? If you've never been to a caucus, why not try it out this time around? Be a part of history.

Don't want to be that active? Don't want to bother contacting your representative in DC? How about throwing a few bucks into The Letter Carrier Political Fund (formerly known as COLCPE) to support the political activists who look out for your interests on the legislative front? Here is a link that shows you how:

<https://www.nalc.org/government-affairs/political-activity>

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By paying union dues you help your national officers represent you in contract negotiations, or your steward in grievance processing. Maybe those are things you don't have a desire to do or don't feel qualified to do. By paying into The Letter Carrier Political Fund, you help the political activists represent you in Washington. Maybe you don't have the time nor the desire to do that either, so help support those looking out for your job by making a donation.

Congratulations to Herb Copley of Mason City Branch 471 who was featured in the October Postal Record in an article about contacting your Congressman about postal issues. Congratulations also to Chrissy Kilgore and Eddie Lofland of Sioux City Branch 69 who were featured in the same issue in an article about a fun way of raising funds for MDA. These are great examples of why I'm proud of Iowa's letter carriers.

Jim Beach

President

Iowa State Association of Letter Carriers, AFL-CIO

www.iowalettercarriers.org