

## *Iowa State Association of Letter Carriers*



### *President's Report*

June 2017

Greetings Brothers & Sisters,

I had the opportunity to be part of a Congressional tour in Cedar Rapids on May 31<sup>st</sup> with Representative Rod Blum from Iowa's 1<sup>st</sup> District. The congressman's visit included walking part of a route, a visit with postal inspectors, and tours of the N.E. Station, and the mail processing plant. The highlight of the event was definitely street delivery with Letter carrier Pierre Saba. Pierre stole the show with his fun-loving personality, and sense of humor. He presented the Representative with an autographed souvenir LLV as a parting gift. Thank you, Pierre, for getting us off to a good start, and leaving a great impression on the entire entourage. You set the tone for the rest of the visit. Well done.

It is always a positive event when a U.S. Representative takes the initiative to come to our workplace, and spend several hours trying to understand our jobs. Blum has been supportive of the Postal Service in the Oversight Committee, but as of this writing has not signed on to NALC desired legislation. We will stay in contact with his office as legislation moves through the process. We must be ever mindful that members of Congress control our jobs, and our future. Political activism must be our main focus to preserve the Postal Service, and our jobs. We can never leave our destiny to others.

President Trump has released his FY2018 budget proposal. As suspected there are many areas of concern for the NALC, and the Postal Service. The budget proposal includes cuts to delivery frequency (Saturday delivery?), and cuts to pensions. The general consensus of Congress tends to be "dead on arrival", as stated in the Postal Record. It does however show us the direction the administration plans to go, and the battle we face. On a positive note, Vote by Mail legislation was recently introduced in both the U.S. Senate, and House of Representatives.

The release of the Trump budget makes me think of the story of a survivalist explaining how to survive a bear attack. He stated that if attacked by a bear in the wild, you should curl up, and play dead. The bear will claw and chew on you but assume you're dead, and move on. The question from the audience was, how long do you play dead? Do you play dead until you lose a finger, an ear, a leg, or until you are actually dead. You have to know when to fight for survival if you have an aggressive bear. Folks, we have a bear in our path with a name. It's called Congress. Do we play dead until we lose part of our pension, wages, or benefits? Do we wait until our coworker loses their job? At what point do we fight to survive? Join the fight. Sign up for LCCP. If not you, who? If not now, when?

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I love this country! Are we perfect? No. But nowhere in this world do we have more freedom than here in the United States of America. Our freedom was fought for with the blood of many. It was not given to us. With Memorial Day behind us, and The Fourth of July approaching, it is a good opportunity to reflect on the abundance of what we have, and unfortunately take for granted much too often. It is also an opportunity to thank a veteran for their service to this country. Be safe over the holiday.

In solidarity,

Herb Copley, President  
Iowa State Association of Letter Carriers, AFL-CIO  
[www.iowalettercarriers.org](http://www.iowalettercarriers.org)

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