

Iowa State Association of Letter Carriers



President's Report September 2017

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

I had the privilege to represent the ISALC in August, as a delegate, at the Iowa Federation of Labor AFL-CIO convention, held in Des Moines. One focus of the convention was the legislative procedure to gut collective bargaining in Iowa's public-sector unions this year, and the problems now being faced by these unions moving forward. The other focus was a Political Survival Plan for 2018, as we prepare for elections. No matter how difficult things have gotten for our public-sector workers, the plan is to push back in 2017, and push forward in 2018.

One of the best examples to explain the damage done by our State Legislators this year was presented by Danny Homan, President of AFSCME Council 61. Homan held up the previous contract with the state in his right hand. This contract's content was comprised of over 256 pages. In his left-hand Homan held the new contract, which consisted of 26 pages. The contents of this contract, contains THREE paragraphs, and the rest is comprised of pay grades. In just a few days of debate, our State Legislators stripped away all the rights of public sector workers that had been in place for 40 years!

I heard the following quote during a presentation that does a good job of summing up the attitude exhibited at the convention. It goes like this, "They tried to bury us. They didn't know we were seeds." The lives of our brothers and sisters in these affected unions have literally been turned upside down. They have gone from enforcing a contract, and protecting their members, to ensuring survival of the union itself. They are facing certification of their unions, while collecting dues from their members. The certification process has many pages of instructions, and to retain a union in a bargaining unit, there must be 51% of employees in

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favor. If an employee does not return a ballot, that's a no vote. Oh, and the union has to pay for these certifications. In spite of all the obstacles, the courage and the willingness to fight, those speakers exhibited, was extraordinary.

Maybe we didn't directly have a dog in this fight, but the threat to our existence is also always one signature away. One bad piece of legislation introduced is all it takes. Our union also has plans in place to move forward politically. Plans to preserve the USPS, and your jobs are always on the agenda. To promote these plans, the NALC has a political PAC in place called LCPF, Letter Carrier Political Fund. Learn from our brothers and sisters in Iowa's public sector, who have watched as their unions were stripped of everything they have fought for, the last 40 years. Go to the [NALC website and sign up today](#). Give us the tools to protect your jobs, before someone tries to bury us too.

In solidarity,

Herb Copley, President
Iowa State Association of Letter Carriers, AFL-CIO
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By making a contribution to the LCPF, you are doing so voluntarily with the understanding that your contribution is not a condition of membership in the NALC or of employment by the USPS, nor is it part of union dues. You have a right to refuse to contribute without any reprisal. The LCPF will use the money it receives to contribute to candidates for federal office and undertake other political spending as permitted by law. Your selection shall remain in full force and effect until cancelled. Contributions to the LCPF are not deductible for federal income tax purposes. Federal law prohibits the LCPF from soliciting contributions from individuals who are not NALC members, executive and administration staff, or their families.