

## ***Iowa State Association of Letter Carriers***



### *President's Report*

April 2018

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

In March I attended a Committee of Presidents Meeting in Jacksonville Florida. I had the opportunity to visit with William Cook, Director of Legislation out of the New York State Association of Letter Carriers, about the Vote By Mail Project. There is a new movement called Vote at Home. It is a new title for what we have called Vote By Mail, or absentee ballots. In Iowa's last general election in 2016, there were close to 700,000 absentee ballots cast out of 1.6 million votes. We are fast approaching the 50% mark, which is used as a gauge for going all absentee for elections. States like Colorado, Oregon, and Washington currently have 100% Vote At Home.

Returning to Des Moines on March 21<sup>st</sup> I scheduled a meeting with Ken Kline the Deputy Commissioner of Elections in Iowa, to discuss Vote At Home implementation here in Iowa. This meeting included ISALC officers Eddie Lofland Vice-President, Jim Beach Secretary, Ken Kline, and me. Mr. Kline offered much information to us and suggested that we find a county auditor that would be willing to be a test, or model site in Iowa to conduct an election using universal absentee ballots. We were successful in obtaining a willing participant in Jamie Fitzgerald, Polk County Auditor. Mr. Fitzgerald has suggested starting at the level of a school board election for starters. Des Moines Branch President Vic McCuen has offered to facilitate between the Des Moines Post Office, and the Polk County Auditor's officer, to make sure returned ballots are easily obtained. We will also be looking to ISALC Treasurer Keith Brown to lend his expertise to this process. We will keep everyone informed as we move forward with this team effort endeavor to bring Vote By Mail to Iowa.

In solidarity,

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