

Iowa State Association of Letter Carriers



President's Report

May 2018

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

We recently completed Spring Training at Adventureland Inn, Altoona, Iowa. Based on the responses I have received, this was one of the best trainings we have had. Thanks to all those in attendance. We were very fortunate to have National Officer Manny Peralta, Director of Safety and Health, NBA Mike Birkett, RAA Stephanie Stewart, RAA Charles Sexton, Regional Workers Compensation Specialist Dave Teegarden, Brent Fjerestad Legislative Political Organizer, and Jennifer Sherer from the University of Iowa Labor Center as our presenters this year. It was not just the material they covered that made our training successful, but rather the passion, and style with which they introduced it. It was also great to see so many new faces this year. Remember to take the information back to your branches and share with your members.

President Trump's executive order, which followed his inaccurate postal tweets, provided incentive to 18 attendees to sign up for the Letter Carrier Political Fund (LCPF). While his personal tweet attacks against Amazon founder Jeff Bezos, who also owns the Washington Post, might be amusing, they are filled with inaccurate information about the Postal Service. The President's executive order forms a task force charged with evaluating the finances of the Postal Service, including pricing, policies, and workforce costs.

The task force will provide a thorough evaluation of the operations and finances of the USPS in a report no later than August 10th. Once that evaluation is completed, the task force will develop recommendations on administrative and legislative reforms to the USPS. Also, on March 22 Senate bill S 2629 "The Postal Reform Act of 2018" was introduced. This bipartisan bill contains improvements over prior reform efforts,

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including, securing universal delivery, rejecting changes to door delivery, a 2-year moratorium on changes to service standards, granting the Postal Service the ability to innovate, and exempting annuitants from the proposed Medicare part B mandate. We have been working on Postal Reform for over a decade, and this legislation could finally move forward. Stay tuned.

Are you registered to vote? If not, you can still register online, and request an absentee ballot from your county auditor. We are working on Vote By Mail here in Iowa, and we are closing in on 50% of the ballots cast, are absentee. The Iowa State Association of Letter Carriers is working with Polk County Auditor Jamie Fitzgerald to have an all absentee election conducted in 2019. We need to draw attention to the high percentage of absentee ballots cast, and the money saved by doing so. We should all be encouraging our family, friends, and neighbors to cast absentee ballots.

The drawing for the \$1000 Joseph Miller Scholarship was held on the last morning of training. Congratulations to this year's winner, Sierra Wright, daughter of Branch 373 member Lynn Wright. The scholarship honors Joe Miller, our State Director of Retirees, and former Iowa State Chair, and Region 5 NBA. We wish Sierra continued success at the collegiate level, and future endeavors. Hope you all have a successful Food Drive! Happy Mother's Day to all you mother's out there.

In solidarity,

Herb Copley, President
Iowa State Association of Letter Carriers, AFL-CIO
www.iowalettercarriers.org