

## *Iowa State Association of Letter Carriers*



### *President's Report*

July 2018

Greetings Brothers, and Sisters,

Iowa's labor force continues to be under attack. The University of Iowa's Labor Center director Jennifer Sherer had been informed July 6<sup>th</sup> that plans to close them down would be announced by the university on Thursday July 12<sup>th</sup>. However, because of public outcry the announcement was moved up to Tuesday July 10<sup>th</sup>. Calls to Kevin Washburn, new Dean of the College of Law, and President Bruce Harreld, were being forwarded to an answering service.

The Labor Center has been an integral part of our training programs for decades, as well as the state's other unions, and worker initiatives like the Iowa Worker Rights Project, or the Child Labor Public Education Project. The staff has worked with the Letter Carrier Executive Board to educate our members with critical education about worker rights and providing leadership development programs. We provide a topic, and the Labor Center develops a presentation adapted to our specific needs as federal employees, complete with manuals and curriculum. We have been instructed on labor law, labor history, political campaigns, speaking and writing skills, how to talk to your representatives etc., etc., etc. This past May Jennifer Sherer presented a fantastic 2hr program on FMLA, complete with a booklet, that our NBA took with them for reference. They are a priceless tool to us.

More than likely the university will site budgetary concerns in cutting the program, but the total budget for the Labor Center is less than one-thousandth of one percent (0.00075) of the college's annual General Education Fund. It should be noted that the Center's entire 2018 General Education Fund allocation is less than the UI President's annual salary. Phone numbers for Dean Kevin Washburn is 319-384-4658 (office) / 505-206-9834 cell, and President Bruce Harreld: 319-335-3549 (office). I urge you to make a call to request reconsideration of the Center's future and initiate a genuine dialogue about the Labor Center's future.

In Solidarity,

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