

Iowa State Association of Letter Carriers



President's Report

August 2018

Greetings Brothers, and Sisters,

In an award issued on August 6, 2018, national arbitrator Stephen Goldberg vacated the Postal Service's unilateral changes to certain provisions of the Employee and Labor Relations Manual. These changes would have restricted employees' right to take union leave without pay (LWOP) to participate in partisan political campaigns. NALC continues to discuss issues raised in the OSC Report with the Postal Service. Any agreements or other developments resulting from these discussions will be reported immediately. In the meantime, NALC members who have any questions regarding participation in political campaigns should contact the Department of Legislative and Political Affairs at NALC Headquarters at 202-393-4695. It will be nice to get some clarity concerning our rights to actively participate in partisan political campaigns, without violating the Hatch Act. It is hard to imagine that this is a result of an individual letter carrier complaining about a coworker being released to work a campaign to improve, and strengthen the USPS, and our jobs! Sadly, there are too many members selfishly seeking benefits for themselves, as our activists sacrifice their time, and energy for the benefit of all.

My daughter recently posted a meme which said, "If cursive writing, and standard transmissions in automobiles were mandatory, we would cripple a generation." I enjoy poking fun at the younger generation. I take a lot of hits from them as well for being old, so it all evens out. But for all the differences we exhibit as individuals, we all come together as one under the NALC banner. The National Convention in Detroit was a great reminder of the ability of so many diverse individuals to join together to promote an agenda to benefit all its members. The NALC is the most organized, educated, and respected union in the world today, and I am very proud to be a part of it. As we face so many obstacles in maintaining our jobs, educating politicians, and promoting the USPS, we can rest assured that our National leadership has got our backs. There is a plan in place to promote, and protect our jobs, and our members. Pay heed to their requests, and act when called upon.

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The greatest threat to our jobs at this time is the suggestion by the current white house administration to pursue the idea to privatize the USPS. House Resolution 993 is legislation that has been introduced to counter any moves to do that. At this writing only, Representative Dave Loebsack was included as a cosponsor of the bill. While privatization is the most serious new threat, we continue to look for legislation to stop the crippling effects of the 2006 healthcare prefunding requirement that is 90% of the USPS annual red ink. Attacks on our retirements, wages, and bargaining rights are always at risk of being destroyed. Negative reports on the status of the financial situation of the post office can be found daily in the media. Even though we know where the problem lies, it will be a continuing problem until members of congress accept the fact that it is their responsibility to fix the problem. Until that happens we have a legislative department within the NALC that educates the members of congress, and our members, about what the correct remedy should be, for the most popular federal agency in the country.

So, once again, I encourage all members to step up and support our legislative department by contributing to the Letter Carrier Political Fund. We need to finance our leaders that carry the fight to congress. I encourage all LCPF coordinators to reach out to each member to make the 35 cent a day donation to protect their jobs. The reason most have not signed up is because they have not been asked. So please ask! If they do not want to join the fight to protect their jobs, ask them to contact their U.S. Representative to cosponsor USPS legislation that our union has promoted. They can no longer have a free ride on the backs of their brothers and sisters of this great union.

Remember to get registered for fall training and check our ISALC website for information.

In Solidarity,

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