

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



### *President's Report*

November 2019

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

I was fortunate enough to secure a meeting with Congressman Steve King this week just blocks from my home here in Clear Lake. The reason for the meeting was to encourage the Congressman to sign onto NALC backed legislation concerning repeal of the postal pre-funding mandate from 2006 called, the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act. The legislation to repeal is, House Resolution 2382, and it currently has 272 co-sponsors. If the Resolution gets 290 signatures it will be addressed on the floor of the House of Representatives. Congressman King signed onto House Resolution 23 earlier this summer which ensures the continuation of door delivery for business, and residential customers. I was encouraged by his actions on HR 23, because it was the first piece of legislation he has signed since becoming our District 4 Representative.

I arrived at the meeting site early to secure a table that provided privacy, pulled out my folder that I brought with NALC Fact Sheets from our Legislative Department, and started to review my notes for the meeting. Behind the Fact Sheets, I found a copy of a letter from the Congress of the United States, dated January 25<sup>th</sup>, 1985. I recognized it immediately. It was a letter addressed to me from Congressman Berkley Bedell's office explaining the process needed to request information to be an applicant for the space shuttle. Attached to that letter was a letter I received months later from Alan Ladwig, Manager, Space Flight Participant Program, explaining that the first citizen to participate on a mission would be selected from the nation's elementary and secondary school teachers. In other words, it was a rejection letter to me concerning my request to fly on the Challenger Space Shuttle, that months later exploded 73 seconds after launch, on January 28<sup>th</sup>, 1986.

Seeing those letters were a good reminder to be careful what you wish for, and set the mood for my meeting. The last time Congressman King and I were together it was to have him visit the Mason City Post Office, and then go out and deliver mail. It had been a good meeting, but I had requested his signature to repeal the pre-funding that day also. Our meeting in Clear Lake lasted an hour and a half. I did a lot of listening, and now have a new nickname. I am now referred to as "The bartender on wheels". This is in reference to listening to my customer's, and now my Representative's issues, and offering advice. The meeting went well, and we will meet in a couple of weeks in D.C., when I attend my State Chair Meeting at Headquarters. Hopefully he will sign on to HR 2382 after that. Have a wonderful Thanksgiving!

In Solidarity,

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