

Iowa State Association of Letter Carriers



President's Report

January 2020

Greetings, and Happy New Year!

My Christmas experiences in 2019 brought back memories from my childhood. I was the youngest of seven, in a family I will describe as turbulent. There were many rules governing our behavior, with penalties for not following them. If the infraction was from the mouth, such as talking back, lying, swearing, etc., the tobasco sauce was put in the perpetrator's mouth. When the behavior was more severe, we received the razor strop. The strop was made of leather, and was thick, and about 2 feet long by 3 inches wide. This was applied with force to our backsides. I did not receive any discipline this Christmas, but I heard 2 sermons that referred to security in our lives, and where we look for it. When I was young my security came from following the rules and confessing the truth when my behavior was questioned. So, telling the truth was a goal.

I also remember the fights that 2 of my older brothers frequently had, that resulted in damage to our house, and each other. They were a year apart in age, and just could not get along. But the thing that caught my attention was, no matter how much they fought between themselves, if someone from outside our family threatened one of them, they defended each other. These memories reminded me of our union, and what our goals should be for each member. We should always defend each other from outside threats to our security, and always speak the truth, no matter the outcome. So, in a nutshell I just gave out advice for the new year, as we continue to work for good postal legislation, and to protect our jobs through collective bargaining.

I recently heard that offending others when standing for truth is inevitable. People tend to interpret our words based on how they were raised, and their own personal experiences. Although we cannot control how others receive our words, we can control the manner in which we present them. We need to always be respectful, and polite when dealing with others, whether they agree with our issues, or not. Stay informed of all issues that affect your job, read the Postal Record, go to the NALC and ISALC websites, attend your branch meetings, and State Trainings. Remember to attend caucuses February 3rd and introduce Vote at Home resolutions for your platform's consideration. Don't leave it up to someone else to protect your job, and the USPS.

In Solidarity,

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