

Iowa State Association of Letter Carriers



President's Report

August 2020

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

It has been quite a year. August 9th I recognized my one-year anniversary of the traumatic brain injury I suffered while in Denver Colorado for a National Rap Session. A lot of things have changed for me in the last 12 months. Recovery from brain injuries are very similar to that of a stroke victim. I was prohibited from returning to work for two months, and required speech, occupational, and physical therapy. There were many days during my recovery that I was frustrated, and angry for what had happened to me, and how slow it was to see improvement. For a reference of where I was a year ago, I read my September 2019 President's Report. It was a great reminder for me of the loving family, friends, and relationships we share in the NALC. It has also become obvious to me that the difficulties we face daily are not meant to defeat us, depress us, or even discourage us, but rather to develop us. It is at that point that courage and determination will carry us forward.

A few months ago, I was given a very negative diagnosis concerning my injury. My sense of smell, and sense of taste were permanently gone as a result of my injury. The good news is I still have common sense. Senator Chuck Grassley was showing some common-sense last week as he showed support for Vote At Home and rejecting President Trump's comments and tweets suggesting widespread voter fraud if the nation were to rely on the USPS in November. Members of the NALC have been fighting off attacks throughout the year from misinformed media outlets, members of congress, and the president of the United States. After getting legislation passed earlier this year in the House of Representatives to stop the prefunding of future retiree health benefits, the Covid-19 pandemic interrupted our attempts to accomplish the same goal in the Senate. The pandemic caused the USPS and its employee's tremendous obstacles to overcome, from financial to safety, and health. Members were unable to personally conduct branch meetings, travel, and ultimately forcing the cancellation of our National Convention in Hawaii, and NALC sanctioned training.

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Here is where your courage, and determination has been seen as extraordinary. You kept showing up and doing your work as essential workers. Zoom and WebEx were used by many branches to continue having meetings. Hundreds of thousands of contacts were made nationwide to members of congress requesting financial relief for the USPS in the next Stimulus package. As we continue to wait for the Senate to take action on a Stimulus Plan, you continue to make those calls and send emails, as our National has requested. You continue to fight, and the citizens of this great country continue to show approval ratings for you at over 90%. Take a bow. You deserve recognition. You did not accept failure but chose to put up a fight. My prediction is we will get the financial assistance we need, and as we use Vote At Home, it will show the country that this is the best way to run an election. It is financially efficient, and more convenient for an active society.

My wife recently suggested I find a safe hobby. So I did. I started taking pilot lessons in a Piper Cherokee last week, attempting to get my Sport Pilots License. Anybody out there want to buy a plane with me? Stay safe, and God Bless.

In Solidarity,

Herb Copley, President

Iowa State Association of Letter Carriers, AFL-CIO

www.iowalettercarriers.org