

Iowa State Association of Letter Carriers



President's Report
September 2020

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

Someday when we look back on 2020, it will either be a year to remember, or one to forget. I personally will try to forget the cancellations of Spring and Fall Trainings, Branch and Executive Board Meetings, and all travel so far since March. All of the incorrect media reports on Vote at Home, and the ridiculous comments coming from the USPS Management concerning our ability to deliver 150 million ballots in the general election, also joins my “forget” list. Last week I began having correspondence forwarded to me from a new Postal Entity called, Political Mail Coordinators for Hawkeye District. These “Coordinators” obviously had never looked at Iowa Voter Legislation Law but were advising our County Auditors on how to run a successful election. The Iowa County Auditors, and I have been staying in close communication since all the stupidity began to appear, concerning the problems associated with an all absentee ballot election. We are in agreement about the election. The USPS will have no problems delivering ballots to registered voters or delivering those filled out ballots back to the Auditors, in a timely fashion. The reason the Iowa State Association of Letter Carriers, and the Iowa Association of County Auditors work together on Voter Legislation is simple. Both organizations understand the voter legislation in Iowa and want to do our jobs with no political interference from anyone. Our request is, leave us alone and let us serve the public as we always have. We have the utmost respect for each other. Just give us the tools to do the job and get out of the way.

So, I will also remember parts of 2020 in relation to our members, and their perseverance during the worst of times to be a letter carrier. You have stuck together, and continued to do your jobs, even though many have tried to interfere with your daily routines. It is bad enough having to deal with your safety, and health because of Covid-19, much less dealing with management's inability to focus on the tools needed daily to fulfill your duties. There is a word that I feel is synonymous with management, or perhaps derived from it. Check out the Greek word for Devil:

*The Greek words **dia** and **bolos** mean ‘**across**’ and ‘**who throws**’, respectively. Put together they identify someone ‘**who throws across**’ – one who creates chasms, ruptures connections, breaks down relationships and divides. This is what the devil is – The Divider.*

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Okay, so maybe they aren't the Devil, but definitely the Divider, that consistently interrupts, and interferes with your desire to serve your customers. In all my conversations and interactions this past month I have heard nothing but support, and admiration for Letter Carriers. I attended 2 days of virtual conventions of the Iowa Federation of Labor where the USPS was talked about both days, and by many guest speakers, and our U.S. Representatives, and Iowa State Representatives. I was also a guest speaker with Representative Cindy Axne with the main focus on the PMG questionable decisions before a general election.

In closing, my advice is to keep a united front. We must work together if we want to keep it together. It being the USPS, as we know it. Thanks for all you do. Stay safe, and God Bless.

In Solidarity,

Herb Copley, President
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