

Iowa State Association of Letter Carriers



President's Report

January 2021

Greetings Brothers, and Sisters.

A lot has happened since I last wrote an article. All active members of the NALC will soon be receiving information on the 2019-2023 National Agreement, and ballots for voting on our Proposed Agreement that was reached on November 25th, 2020. Acceptance or rejection of the Proposed Agreement will be by majority vote. The agreement, and negotiations were explained in a Zoom 2020 Rap Session held by President Rolando, and Executive Vice President Brian Renfroe, to State Presidents in December. All Branch Presidents have been sent directions for accessing the Proposal by going to the NALC website, and going to the "members only" section. We have also received confirmation on our State Convention accommodations in Dubuque for the Q Casino and Hotel. Information concerning the location, time, and requirements are contained in the State Convention Call, which has been mailed to each branch. A copy of the Joseph Miller Scholarship application is included in that mailing. All this information has also been put on the Iowa State Association of Letter Carriers website for your convenience.

Have you ever heard the statement, "Someday when scientists discover the center of the universe, a lot of people are going to be disappointed to find out it isn't them."? Watching events unfold in Washington D.C. this week reminded me of it. January 3rd, newly elected members were sworn into the 117th Congress. On January 4th the 117th Congress opened, and on January 5th the Georgia Senate runoffs were held, and both seats were won by Democrats, making it 50 Republicans to 50 Democrats in the U.S. Senate, and making Vice President Kamala Harris the tie breaker in case of a deadlocked vote. Next up came January 6th, the day Congress counted, and certified the Electoral College Votes from the November 3rd general election. This would be the day to end the controversy surrounding the election, and to legally acknowledge the winner of the presidency. A day for our country to stop fighting and move on. Unfortunately, some individuals assuming they were the "center of the universe" chose to riot at the U.S. Capitol. Having been to the Capitol Building on several occasions, I found their actions not only disrespectful, but disgusting. It was a black eye for America as the world looked on. Five people lost their lives that day. What a repulsive display by self-proclaimed patriots.

Yesterday I did a public opinion poll search to find out the approval rating of the USPS vs our members of Congress. The USPS was over 90%, and the highest rating I found for Congress as recent as December of 2020 was at 15%. Our members of Congress, that control our employment, are 75% behind us in the polls. This week our Members of Congress, many of whom are also seeking "center of the universe" status showed me why. In a divided country with some wearing "Red", and some "Blue", it is time for our elected leaders, to show

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leadership. It's time to stop the name calling, and pointing fingers at their peers, and instead start building a bridge to bring everyone together. It is time to set an example for all to follow. Respect for each other. Control the anger, and the tongue. The country doesn't know who to trust or believe anymore. Do the work you were elected to do. It is also time for Americans to realize that voting is not just a right, but it is your duty. It is also your duty, after you vote, to communicate with your elected officials. Visit with their staff, attend a town hall meeting, ask questions, and get involved. Make an attempt to learn the issues, and then if you want change, DO SOMETHING. I'm sorry, it's not enough to just complain.

The NALC has an opportunity to get good Postal Legislation passed in this session of congress. It will not happen if our membership does not work together. The interest in a strong Postal Service is attainable now if we stay focused on our goals. Iowa lost several supportive House Representatives in the last election. Our first goal will be establishing relationships within the 1st, 2nd, and 4th Districts, and maintaining it in the 3rd with House Representative Cindy Axne. I have faith we can do it. Stay safe, and God Bless.

Yours in Solidarity,
Herb Copley, President
Iowa State Association of Letter Carriers, AFL/CIO
www.iowalettercarriers.org