

Iowa State Association of Letter Carriers



President's Report

April 2021

Greetings Brothers and Sisters.

So here we are in April already. Hard to believe that we have now surpassed one year of dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic. We have been subjected to many trials, and tribulations that none of us ever imagined could happen to our world, country, state, or union. Fortunately, as we look to the future and see vaccines being made available, and distribution plans moving forward, a sense of normalcy will return to us in the near future. Letter Carriers have done an outstanding job as front-line workers continuing to deliver for America. I say thank you to all, for a job well done.

A quote from our first Postmaster General, Ben Franklin, seems appropriate at this time. *"When you get into a tight place and everything goes against you, till it seems as though you could not hold on a minute longer, never give up then, for that is just the place and time that the tide will turn. When you're down to nothing, God is up to something. The faithful see the invisible, believe the incredible and then receive the impossible. Where liberty dwells there is my country."* It has been a tough journey my friends, but good things are soon to come.

I am doubtful, in my humble opinion, that meaningful quotes will ever be spoken by our current Postmaster General. Mr. Dejoy's service is a reminder to me of being told that not trusting your employer goes back to biblical times. The reference is the Genesis story of Laban and Jacob. Jacob had to work for Laban (his future father-in-law) 7 years in order to marry his younger daughter Rachel, but Laban tricked Jacob and gave him his ugly, older daughter, Leah instead. Jacob then had to work another 7 years to get Rachel also. I was told this scripture teaches us not to trust our employers. Probably not where union organization originated, but does show the deception that sometimes enters into agreements.

Please remember that every one of our members has been affected this past year by the pandemic. This is the time to remember that on top of dealing with the pandemic, your Branch Leaders also have the added duty to uphold our joint contract on a daily basis. Now would be a great opportunity to say thank you to them, either verbally, or just by showing them the respect they have earned. Some choose to ignore problems; your leaders chose to confront them. Let's show each other forgiveness, tolerance, respect, and charity. If you have questions, ask those in a position to answer them. Attend a meeting. Go to a training. Do not wait to get involved. We are strongest when working together.

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As always, I encourage everyone to stay informed to those legislative issues that we continue to confront daily. We need many voices to contact their [U.S. Representatives](#), and [U.S. Senators](#) when asked to do so. Our jobs are in the hands of elected officials. We need to keep them informed of the importance of the USPS from a worker's front row seat. These elected officials work for their constituents, but rarely hear from them. Also, continue to contribute to LCPF. If you have questions on how to contribute contact a Branch Officer, or go to the [NALC](#), or [ISALC](#) Websites.

Let it be known that our first social gathering together (State Convention) is in the final planning stage for October 3-5, in Dubuque, Iowa. Branch 257 has been doing an outstanding job in spite of planning our event while dodging obstacles created from the Covid-19 pandemic. Keep checking the ISALC Website for updates. Branches will be receiving registration forms for the event in the near future. We anticipate a large turnout, so please get those forms back to us timely. Stay safe, and God Bless!

In Solidarity,

Herb Copley, President

Iowa State Association of Letter Carriers, AFL-CIO

www.iowalettercarriers.org