

## ***Iowa State Association of Letter Carriers***



### *President's Report*

July 2021

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

I sincerely hope that every one of you had a great Independence Day celebration filled with family, friends, food, and fireworks! The Independence Day we celebrate on July 4<sup>th</sup>, is the result of the dream many shared to form their own nation separate from Great Britain, and the ability to achieve that goal by working together. Our union is on the precipice of overcoming years of financial difficulty if we all work together to gather support for H.R. 3076, and its sister bill in the Senate S. 1720. These bills titled, The Postal Service Reform Act, advance key priorities for the NALC including the repealing of the mandate to prefund retiree health benefits. Information on this legislation is all over the NALC website, and I will not repeat it here.

I was given the rare opportunity to preach for about a year at my church while we searched for a new pastor. My first sermon titled, "FREE TO FLY" was based on an individual from the 16<sup>th</sup> century with a dream, named Hans Bablinger of Ulm, Germany. As we all know, in the 16<sup>th</sup> century there were no planes, or any type of flying machines, so basically what he wanted was impossible. Hans though made a career out of helping people overcome the impossible. How? He made artificial limbs. In his day amputation was a common cure for disease and injury, so he was kept very busy helping the handicap overcome circumstance. Over a period of time, in an effort to fulfill his own dream, Hans used his skills to construct a set of, WINGS.

The day soon came to try them out, and he tested his wings in the foothills of the Bavarian Alps. It was a very good choice, or some might say lucky choice, because the "up" currents are common in that region. So, on a memorable day with friends watching, he jumped off an embankment and soared down. His heart raced, and his friends applauded. Hans had made his dream to fly a reality. Shortly thereafter the King was scheduled to come to Ulm, and the Bishop and citizens wanted to impress him. Hans was asked to demonstrate his flying skills. Because of the size of the crowd attending, and the difficulty in climbing the hills, Hans was asked to choose a place in the Lowlands. He chose the bluffs near the Danube River. However, the updrafts in the hills were nonexistent near the river, so in front of the King, His Court, and the residents of his village, Hans jumped...and fell like a rock, straight into the river. The King

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was disappointed, and the Bishop mortified. His next sermon was titled, "MAN WAS NOT MEANT TO FLY!" Hans believed him, put his wings away, and never again tried to fly. He died shortly after, gripped by gravity, and buried with his dreams.

In this story, Hans's dream to fly is crushed by the Bishop of his church. Leaders have a lot of impact on those individuals that follow them. If you are in a leadership position within this union, it is time to do a little inventory. Are you helping to set people free to seek their dreams, or are you better at clipping their wings? We need our leaders to encourage one another to work together to achieve our goals. That is a no brainer. As individuals we also need to recognize what our skills are and build on them. Whether you are good at teaching, giving, encouraging, or helping others, build on it. Dare to dream. Please do not be a spectator on the sidelines, not paying attention nor supporting your team. Use your skills. Get involved. Make a difference. Spread your wings, set yourself free, and fly. Stay safe, and God Bless.

In Solidarity,

Herb Copley, President

Iowa State Association of Letter Carriers, AFL-CIO

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