

Iowa State Association of Letter Carriers



President's Report

September 2021

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

Can't we all get along? Have you ever said that to anyone, or maybe just thought it to yourself? It was the title of a sermon that I heard recently, and it really got me thinking about everything currently going on in our world today. I was invited to do a presentation at the Iowa Federation of Labor Convention on the current status of the Postal Service. One of the speakers at the event was Rob Sand, Democratic Iowa State Auditor. He made a commonsense evaluation that I feel is frequently neglected in our government. Before running for office, he was an Independent. In order to run for the Auditor position, he had to declare a party. He chose the Democrats as his party. The comment he made was basically this, if someone from either party introduces a bill, or has an idea that will benefit all Iowans, it should be supported by both Republicans, and Democrats. Makes sense to me. I believe that our forefathers drafted the Constitution with the hope that all elected officials would work for the betterment of our Republic regardless of what party they represented. Unfortunately, there is division along party lines on what is acceptable. President Theodore Roosevelt said, "The most important single ingredient in the formula of success is knowing how to get along with people." So, we've either lost the skill, or the desire to get along with people.

20 years ago, we watched as our country came under a series of deadly terrorist attacks. Four planes were hijacked by terrorists, with 2 planes flying into the Twin Towers, 1 flying into the Pentagon, and 1 crashing in the countryside of Pennsylvania. Crew, passengers, and those occupying the terrorist's targets died in the attacks. Our country watched the events in horror, but we all came together as one. People traveled cross country to volunteer in any way they could. Clearing debris, search and rescue, giving blood, and reaching deep into their pockets to donate money to the victim's families. It seemed as though everyone had a patriot's heart, and an endless desire to help others. Now fast forward to the present day, and the United States is under attack again. The difference now is that as a country we are seriously divided. We cannot see the attacker, and many have lost their confidence in what is truth, and what is deception. Whereas 20 years ago someone would travel across the country to help a stranger, today some will not cross the street to speak to their neighbor, simply because their opinions differ.

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Hopefully as union members we understand how hard we fought to have the ability to voice our opinion. I consider our union my second family. Every family has its conflicts. However, we must always protect the rights of our brothers, and sisters, and treat each other with dignity, and respect. That includes respecting that everyone has the right to an opinion, whether it is the same as yours or not. Our union continued to deliver for this country through the 9/11 attacks, and we continue to deliver through the current pandemic because we have the desire to serve our customers. Follow the guidelines set out by the USPS, and stay focused on staying safe, and healthy. Our strength comes from working together, no matter what the obstacle is. Looking forward to seeing you All in Dubuque, for the State Convention.

In Solidarity,

Herb Copley, President

Iowa State Association of Letter Carriers, AFL-CIO

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