

Iowa State Association of Letter Carriers



President's Report
October 2021

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

We did it. After a 6 month delay due to Covid 19, the Iowa State Association of Letter Carriers held its 115th Biennial Convention, in Dubuque, Iowa October 3rd through October 5th. Thanks go out to Jason Stephenson, and Rob Leavell for a job well done! As always, the Mike Birkett Branch 257 showed the delegates, and guests the definition of hospitality. Everything provided, whether it was food, facility, or entertainment, was top notch. It will be a hard act to follow for the convention host in 2023.

This was the first year that the State Association offered an opportunity to attend virtually. Executive Board members Tom Kinn, and Eddie Lofland, volunteered to set up computers, and have the event covered with visual, and audio. Tom Kinn provided continued technical support for both days of meetings. So, thank you Tom for your constant coverage, and troubleshooting throughout the convention. By providing the virtual participation, we were able to have our NALC Director of Health Benefits, Stephanie Stewart, attend both as a presenter for the delegates, and as an inductee to the Iowa State Hall of Fame. It was an honor and privilege to make the presentation to Stephanie.

I would also like to thank NBA Mike Birkett and his team of Dave Teegarden, Charles Sexton, and Larrissa Parde for the excellent training that they presented to our members. Thanks also go to Brent Fjerestad, our Legislative Political Organizer for his political savvy, and for signing up a dozen members to the Letter Carrier Political Fund. My Executive Board also deserves a thank you for all their help with the Memorial Service, and the convention business. Mike Nieland stepped down as District 4 Letter Carrier Congressional Liaison, and Travis Klemp was elected in his place. Thank you Mike for all your help getting our political position on legislation out to our U.S., and State Representatives, and Senators. It has been a pleasure working with you.

If you had not heard yet, NBA Mike Birkett announced at the Monday night banquet his decision to retire by the end of the year. His replacement has not been named as of the writing of this article. I have known Mike since the 80's, and it will be strange not working with him going forward. Mike has been a great friend, and I pray retirement is everything he had hoped for.

Stay safe, and God Bless.

In Solidarity,

Herb Copley, President

Iowa State Association of Letter Carriers, AFL-CIO

www.iowalettercarriers.org