

Iowa State Association of Letter Carriers



President's Report
December 2023

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

I had the opportunity to attend the NALC'S 2023 National Conference in New Orleans, November 17th-19th. There were more than 1000 letter carrier activists in attendance from across the country. Iowa was well represented as leaders from Cedar Rapids, Clinton, Council Bluffs, Des Moines, Fort Dodge, and Sioux City made the trip. Four workshops were held on Saturday, Nov. 18th, with our National Officers, and their assistants covering a multitude of topics important to letter carriers. The training covered everything including, national and regional arbitrations, dispute arbitration training for branch leaders, city delivery issues, health and life insurance benefit updates, branch issues like dues, and bylaw changes, Employee Assistance Program, and of course USPS vehicles, dispute resolution process, Sorting and Delivery Centers, and of course the Letter Carrier Political Fund.

Sunday morning the Rap part of the weekend was held. Our National President Brian Renfro addressed the attendees covering contract negotiations, violence on our members, Delivering for America Plan, Politics and legislation, and new initiatives our union is developing which includes on online learning, emergency response teams, mentoring program for women, and a standing committee for diversity issues. Moving forward President Renfro was very encouraged with progress on contract negotiations, and making strides in protecting our members as they deliver their routes. Legislatively the same confidence was not expressed. Renfro alluded to the years of building support for Postal Reform and said that the Social Security Fairness Act (H.R.82), had little chance of passage in this session of Congress despite the 300 cosponsors it has. We need to wait for a certain election to go a certain way, to finally get it enacted.

May 5th-7th, and October 20th-22nd are the dates to mark on your calendars for 2024 Spring and Fall Training. I have been receiving applications for the Joe Miller \$1000 Scholarship already. The application is available on the website. Have a Merry Christmas! Remember, Christmas is not just one day. Continue to love, share, and give of yourself throughout 2024. Take care, and God Bless.

In Solidarity,

Herb Copley, President
Iowa State Association of Letter Carriers, AFL-CIO
www.iowalettercarriers.org