

Iowa State Association of Letter Carriers



President's Report
February 2024

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

The Region 5 Rap Session was held in Kansas City last weekend. It was another triumph for our members as there was extensive training, and review on anything contractual you could think of. The NBA, and staff did an excellent job as usual. Sunday our National President, Brian Renfrow gave a 3 hour "Rap" on what is happening at Headquarters. This presentation by President Renfrow included an update on contract negotiations, and he said many of the items being discussed have been agreed to. However, there are still some things that are not finalized, and as we always do, we are preparing for arbitration if so needed. On the political front we are still pushing HR 82 The Social Security Fairness Act, which has 304 cosponsors in the House of Representatives. We are also working closely with members of congress on new legislation to address the violence against letter carriers nationwide. Brian stated that when the language for the bill is finalized, we will receive information and fact sheets. National has also initiated an Emergency Response Support Program. This program would be available to members that have had a traumatic incident, or injury. The program would utilize our members offering support in a peer-to-peer environment, attempting to get our members' professional help. Our State Association was able to request political items in a breakout with our Legislative Political Organizer. In general, we were looking for a 2024 political agenda from National and looking for a rally day nationwide for HR 82 similar to actions taken for the Postal Reform Bill. These rallies would include all our brothers and sisters affected by the WEP and GPO, such as law enforcement, fire fighters, and public employees.

I recently heard an interesting comparison between inoculations and indoctrinations. An inoculation, such as for polio, takes a very small amount of virus, injects it into the blood stream, and antibodies are created. These antibodies prevent the body from ever getting polio in the future. Indoctrinations are given to our members to teach them what our union is, and what our responsibilities are to each member. Providing just a little information during our indoctrinations can prevent our members from ever seeking more information in the future. Make sure that every new member gets information on the contract, feels welcomed by the members, is invited to branch meetings and functions. We are family. Don't just tell them, show them. Take care and God Bless.

In Solidarity,

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