

2007 Congressional District Liaison Report

To the letter carriers in the second district: Thank you for allowing me to serve as your CDL, and welcome to the 2007 state convention.

The past year has been filled with a multitude of interesting events. In addition to attending the national convention, I attended the state convention, fall steward training, and NBA's rap session and the state board meetings.

I assisted in the Get Out the Vote effort during the 2006 congressional and local campaigns by arranging lists of voters in a somewhat logical order so volunteers could go door-to-door more efficiently to encourage voting. As a Democratic Central Committee member in Muscatine County, I helped register people to vote, made phone calls to get people to vote by mail, and knocked on more than a few doors with some of our candidates. I also verified and tallied absentee ballots in Muscatine County. After seeing the process I can assure you that when you vote by mail, your vote does remain secret.

Some of the highlights of the campaigns were events with Congressman Dave Loebsack, Governor Chet Culver and State Representative Nathan Reichert. The Harkin Steak Fry brought Senator Obama to town along with Chet Culver and Congressmen Loebsack, Braley and Boswell.

The election results were nothing less than stunning. Iowa is now a blue state, but more importantly, our representatives are part of a more labor-friendly congress. This will be very important when it comes time to make changes to the postal reform bill that was finally passed so that injured postal workers will not have to wait for OWCP benefits. If we have to go to Congress for help with our new contract, we can now turn to friends for assistance.

The Iowa Fed's Legislative Conference was an educational experience. They showed us the projected effect of proposed state laws and how we can effectively lobby our state representatives. We will become more politically active at the state level as well.

The NALC field plan is progressing. Next up: phone trees, some of you have been working on it already.

Thank you for your COLCPE dollars. We have done a great job across the state by increasing automatic donations. Hopefully we can continue to improve.

Yours in Solidarity,

Jim Beach
Congressional District Liaison, Iowa-2
Iowa State Association of Letter Carriers