

Iowa State Association of Letter Carriers



President's Report

October 2008

Let me start out this month's article by calling for all of you who have signed up for carrier corps program to begin your volunteer work. If you have any questions about what work is available, what you can do or can't do, or where you can volunteer your time, contact any of your state officers using our contact information found on our website, www.iowalettercarriers.org

I recently heard a quote from Warren Buffet concerning the stock market volatility and the attempts to fix the problems with the financial industry. "Beware the Geeks bearing formulas."

I immediately thought of "DOIS" and the innumerable other programs that management has created to track every possible aspect of a letter carriers day. Beware is the key word. Because of all these programs, they've managed to make every task as difficult as it can be. They've created management positions to track programs, which in turn has created more management positions and more programs. Now we have financial problems in the Postal Service, DUH!

I'm sure that some geek, will come up with another program to save the post office. Oh wait, they may already have! Deputy Postmaster General Donahoe's recent video on route adjustments seems to qualify. Using "fuzzy" math, the video started out with the average route having 45 minutes of office time and by the end, he had it at only 15 minutes, with 30 minutes disappearing into thin air. I suggest that the next analyzing program should be on Mr. Donahoe.

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It looks like this month's article may be devoted to quotes, as I heard another at last month's Iowa Federation of Labor Convention in Des Moines. Richard Trumka, Secretary/Treasurer of the AFL-CIO stated: "A worker voting for John McCain is like a chicken voting for Colonel Sanders."

As you know, every major union in this country, the AFL-CIO and the NALC has endorsed Senator Barack Obama for President. This is because Senator McCain has a 16% voting record with the AFL-CIO on working family issues. As for the NALC, we certainly cannot support a candidate such as Senator McCain who is for the contracting out of our jobs, besides all the other issues.

I would urge any of you who still don't support Sen. Obama, to take the time and really study the issues. Don't look at what McCain says about Obama or Obama about McCain. Look at what they say they're going to do.

The fall training session will soon be held in Iowa City on October 26th thru the 28th. I urge as many of you as possible to attend and look forward to seeing and hearing from you there.

Mike Birkett
President,
Iowa State Assoc. of Letter Carriers