

Iowa State Association of Letter Carriers



President's Report

May 2010

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Eliminating Saturday Delivery is NOT the Answer

Ok folks let's have a serious discussion. Did I ever wish for Saturdays off, I would be a lying if said no? Do I regret the times I missed when I missed ballgames or family functions hell YES! I finished my Postal career like I started with Wednesdays off (I could have had a Saturday off route but I bid a route for the route not the day off.) Des Moines is one of the few cities in the country that has fixed days off.

Now for the rest of the story, if I didn't have the job I did I probably wouldn't have had the financial ability to send my daughters to college. So you have to ask yourself, is having Saturday's off or not having a job worth it? Oh I've heard the, oh I got enough seniority a bump down won't affect me. B.S. yes maybe in your current station what about when it happens city wide, or ever say statewide or region wide. What about the guy from Omaha who has one day more seniority than you do who gets bumped out to Des Moines and oh by the way he's the one that bumps you out of Des Moines. Then you have two options one is let's just say Minot ND, or NO JOB that could be your scenario. Could this happen a simple answer is yes it is a real option.

It is mystifying that the Postal Service and the media have run with 5 day delivery plan that has not been subject to review by the Postal Regulatory Commission or received the required approval by Congress. The appropriations rider that currently preserves 6 day delivery needs to be renewed each year by Congress. If this rider were to be removed there would be no protection from Congress over future delivery day cuts.

Having just returned from Washington D.C. and talking with Iowa's congressional delegation it is my opinion I do not believe they are in the mood to go along with the Postal Service on this one. As of today we now have 4 out of 5 Iowa Congressmen signed on to H.Res 173 in favor of keeping six-day delivery.

Now when PMG Potter stated under oath in a Senate Sub-Committee if the healthcare prefunding problem were fixed there is no need to eliminate Saturday delivery and they each were handed that full testimony in a NALC fact sheet. Now just in, the GAO believes that for the Postal Service to survive they should gut collective bargaining, COLA's and

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move to a more flexible workforce by going to more part time employees and oh by the way do away with interest arbitration! Nothing was even mentioned that the Postal Service was over charged by the last administration 75 billion dollars! Failing to deal with this issue of the pre-funding of the retiree health care will likely be the death of the Postal Service as we now know it. The Postal Service cannot sustain the cost of 5.4 BILLION DOLLARS each and every year and survive.

Long story short, nothing stops the Post Office from saying oh, next year were losing too much revenue, and volume is dropping to much so oh, were going to go to 4 Day Delivery and oh by the way now everyone one is now a part time employee and oh yeah, by the way you don't qualify for full time benefits. Do you want to take that chance that they wouldn't pull that scenario? It is mind boggling that a company can grow or even maintain their business by cutting service. Hello, all the Postal Service has to offer to the Public is SERVICE. If we were to eliminate Saturday do you deep down believe another company wouldn't fill that void with some type of premium service and charge some ridicule's prices?? Food for thought isn't it.

This article is meant to make you all think about what this means in the big picture. Some of you are going to say I don't care I want Saturdays off like real people. Or do you think of the long term affects the younger carrier next to you with a wife and family and a mortgage that faces losing his house with the loss of his or her job. Or have you thought of the mailers, the printers, the paper mills, the ink producer, the truck drivers, look it goes on and on the people who directly or indirectly have a career tied to the Postal Service in some capacity or another. Does the Postal Service need to be revamped? Yes. Is eliminating Saturday deliver the answer? **NO.** Remember there is NO "ME" in the word UNION.

Yours in Unionism,

Mark "Big Daddy" Fallis

President

Iowa State Association of Letter Carriers AFL-CIO

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