

Iowa State Association of Letter Carriers



President's Report

June 2010

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I hope many of you took some time to read the May issue Postal Record regarding the great strike of 1970. Being the history buff that I am I do remember the strike I was in high school but I remember watching on TV the national guard troops trying to sort mail. How many of you know what a letter carriers starting pay was in 1970? \$6,176 and after that it took 21 years to reach top step of \$8,442, Sweet huh? Those were tough times to be a letter carrier. Those were the days prior to collective bargaining when Congress needed to approve any pay raises for federal workers. As I look back on my postal career if I remember correctly my hourly rate as a PTF in October 1977 was \$4.95 an hour and I had left a \$10 an hour job to be a Letter Carrier ouch huh! I do remember vividly my first National Contract 1978. We held a special Union meeting to decide if the larger cities across the country went out on strike we would follow. Think about that and what it meant everyone was risking to be fired immediately.

History has a way of repeating itself, Fast forward to April 2010 when the Government Accountability Office has issues a report requested by Congress. This report directs Congress to attack our collective bargaining, our COLA'S, and pretty much said make everyone a part-time employee. Long story short here people we're about to be thrown back into the 1970's low wages and no full time employment. What is it going to have to take to make everyone wake up and realize the threat and assault on Postal Employees is REAL! Don't get fooled by the lure of having Saturdays off that things will be the same. Do you really believe what Postal Management says is true and honest? If so I have some swamp land down in Florida to sell YOU! Look folks the Union can only do so much, that's why we ask everyone to do their part. Are you contributing to COLCPE? I look at COLCPE as job insurance. Isn't \$5 a pay day or more worth keeping what you have? Are you an E-Activist that when called upon to contact a Congressman or Senator to support an NALC backed issue you make that phone call or write that letter? Are you a Carrier Corps member willing to donate some time to support a candidate or attend a rally? These three things can help save our jobs, wages and benefits! Our National Officers, State Officers and Branch Leaders can't do it all. **WE NEED YOUR HELP AS WELL!**

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On the State front we just wrapped up Spring Training this past month. We had a very packed agenda. Branches from all around the state were in attendance. Fall training will be held in Coralville in November 7th-9th, 2010. Watch for the flyer in August. We have a State Wide Major Project for Muscular Dystrophy this year. We are raffling off a 40 inch Sony TV with all the bells and whistles. Tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20 see your Branch Officers or Stewards for tickets. Drawing to be held at our MDA golf outing. The golf tournament is Sunday September 5th Terrace Hills Golf Course in Altoona IA, 8 AM shot gun start, four-person best shot format \$65 per golfer, \$260 per team, includes golf cart and lunch and prizes. We also have hole- sponsorships for \$50. We are asking for volunteers to help with registration and on the course par three games. Anyone wishing to help please contact me at 515-240-9297 **WE** can never have too much help!

Yours in Unionism,

Mark "Big Daddy" Fallis

President

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www.iowalettercarriers.org