

Iowa State Association of Letter Carriers



President's Report

July 2011

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

If you have any energy left after the almost daily dose of overtime assignments and taking care of family essentials, I hope you take a few minutes to stay updated on the future of your career with the postal service.

Signing up to be an [e-Activist](#) is a good start for those of you who have an e-mail address. You won't be bombarded with unsolicited junk, just the occasional message from the NALC. It will keep the latest information coming your way and give you an opportunity to voice your opinion to your elected representatives in Washington.

Why do I (and others in the union) keep asking that you do this?

Because it is important, more now than at any time before.

How many times have you heard family, friends or acquaintances start spouting off about how bad the postal service is and how you're partly to blame for the financial woes because you get paid too much? They are repeating what is being put forth by the misinformed media because they want to join in the fun of bashing the postal service. You see it in movies, on TV shows, books, the comics and of course the "news" talk shows. To many we are the symbol of inefficiency, of the government gone bad, and compared to dinosaurs awaiting extinction.

How about setting them straight? Stick up for the place where you earn your paycheck. Write a letter to the editor that includes some facts. Or alert your local

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president of the bad press so that they can let the public know what's really behind the billion dollar "losses" that are imposed on the postal service by Congress.

It doesn't help our image when one of the many vice-presidents in charge of – what? reports on rubber bands and ice scrapers? – is exposed for spending big bucks on fancy offices or "training" in Bermuda. But that's not even a blip in the ledger compared to the billions that the postal service has overpaid into the retirement funds, and the billions more that Congress requires us to put into prefunding for retiree health benefits.

Learn the facts so you can educate your family and friends – the public and your Congressmen. Be prepared to stick up for yourself and the postal service – and preserve your job.

Check out www.nalc.org or the latest Postal Record.

In Unionism,

Jim Beach

President

Iowa State Association of Letter Carriers, AFL-CIO

www.iowalettercarriers.org