

Iowa State Association of Letter Carriers



President's Report

September 2011

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

Most of you should be aware by now that there will be a rally in every Congressional district across the country on Tuesday Sept. 27th.

Having just returned from the state chairs meeting in DC I can tell you that our legislative department has been working tirelessly on our behalf and have put a tremendous effort into this rally.

Having said that – it is not nearly enough.

Please do not let their efforts on your behalf go to waste.

We must do our part by:

- 1) getting as many signatures as we can on petitions
- 2) getting our members to turn out to make a decent showing, and
- 3) educating the public; and the media if they show up.

There is a link at www.nalc.org to www.saveamericaspostalservice.org that will show when and where the rallies will be held.

Print copies of the petition from this website now and take them to your neighbors, friends and any groups that you are a part of. If you are seeing this information in a newsletter, hopefully there is a copy of the petition in it as well. You may not be able to attend a rally because it's in another town or you may be working – but you can still deliver the goods. Ten or more signatures that you secure times the number of carriers and clerks in your office adds up quickly. Send them to your site leads, or to your Congressman's local office. Let me know if you need help with any contact information. My email is jbeach@machlink.com.

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This is not a protest for or against any elected official or the postal service. We simply want the public to know that they could lose their postal service and that there is a bill before Congress that would fix the problems that the postal service faces. Everyone needs to contact their member of Congress and tell them that they want HR 1351 passed.

Do it. You have the power to save your job, don't be afraid of speaking up for yourself and your co-workers.

I take time to speak to your Congressmen when I go to the state chairs meeting in DC. Again, it's not the same as YOU writing or calling their office. Their constituent's voice means more to them. That's why I have a better working relationship with Congressman Loeb sack than the other Iowa representatives – he's MY Congressman.

Our legislative staff in DC constantly funnels information to our Representatives and Senators and to the White House, but when your Congressman hears from YOU it means much more. They represent you and want to know if you have the same view as some guy at NALC headquarters.

If your Congressman doesn't hear from you they are left to assume that it isn't important to you. **Is it important to you? Tell them.** Take ten minutes out of your busy day to do it so that you continue to have busy days at work.

There is also a link at www.nalc.org that will show you the facts.

The Postal Service is NOT broke, we don't have access to the money we have overpaid into both CSRS (minimum of \$50 Billion) and FERS (\$7 Billion) plus the \$21 Billion already paid in for the pre-funding of retiree health benefits.

USPS has had to borrow up to its debt limit of \$15 Billion just to pay for the pre-funding. Yes, we are borrowing from the government to pay the government. We are borrowing to pay for benefits for employees that will not even be hired for another 35 years; we are borrowing money to pay for benefits for people who have not yet been born!

To borrow from the texting lexicon – OMG!

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You have probably read about the President's plan to raise taxes to fund job creation.

HR 1351 is a job retention bill. It could save over 200,000 jobs - without using a single dime of taxpayer money! Let the USPS use its own money to completely fund future retiree health benefits and wipe out its debt. We've adjusted for internet diversion, eliminated positions and downsized so that we remain efficient and productive. It's been painful but USPS has done what is necessary.

We must do what is necessary, too – gather signatures and send them in, contact your Congressman, attend a rally if you can.

We must get Congress to do what is necessary – pass HR 1351.

Sign up to be an [e-Activist](#) so you have the latest information while you still have a chance to win \$100 – and a chance to save your job.

In Unionism,

Jim Beach

President

Iowa State Association of Letter Carriers, AFL-CIO

www.iowalettercarriers.org