

Iowa State Association of Letter Carriers



President's Report

October 2011

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

Thank you to everyone who attended the Save America's Postal Service Rallies held in Iowa on Sept. 27th. I was pleased to see the big turnout for the rallies despite the short notice and timing of the rallies. Letter carriers and our sister unions' members held a rally in every Congressional District in Iowa. There were two in the first and fifth. We need to continue to spread the word about the facts behind the Postal Service's financial woes, and continue to get involved in the effort to save our jobs.

The threat is real. Rallies may get the word out to some of our customers and may grab the attention of the media for a day or two, but we need a continuing effort to educate our members, the public and our legislators in Washington.

How? Continue to write to, or call your Congressman to ask for their support. Make sure you are signed up to be an e-Activist so you have the latest information, keep an eye on our website, www.nalc.org.

Contributing to COLCPE is another way to make our voice heard where it counts most – the halls of Congress.

NALC cannot use our union dues to lobby Congress, our union dues are used to educate union members and advocates so that we can defend our contractual rights.

COLCPE funds are used to help get those men and women who best represent the interests of letter carriers elected as our Representatives and Senators, and yes, our President. It is a political action committee created to lobby Congress on behalf of letter carriers because NALC cannot directly lobby Congress. Those who lobby on our behalf don't just ask for our friends to vote a certain way – they educate our elected officials on our issues so they know what is important to us and why. Issues like 6-day delivery, overfunding retirement accounts and aggressive pre-funding of retiree health benefits that are sometimes misunderstood and complicated are explained.

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There are limitations placed on our PAC. \$10,000 per election cycle is the limit of a donation to a candidate and we must rely on individual donations to COLCPE.

A private company like UPS can make unlimited donations and can use company money to do so. Think they have the best interests of the Postal Service in mind? Or the interests of working men and women?

\$5 per pay period to COLCPE is not a waste of your hard earned dollars; it IS a small investment in the future of your career with the Postal Service.

The Postal Service managers aren't going to save us – it's going to take all of us working together, making contributions of time and money to preserve what we have: a job that provides a comfortable standard of living and a secure retirement.

It's ours to fight for. We'll keep it or lose it. What's your choice? You can save your job. Go to www.nalc.org and sign up for COLCPE today.

In Unionism,

Jim Beach

President

Iowa State Association of Letter Carriers, AFL-CIO

www.iowalettercarriers.org