

Iowa State Association of Letter Carriers



President's Report

April 2015

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

Like so many large organizations, the U.S. Postal Service has employees with a broad range of views on politics. Some continue to think that politics is not an important part of their daily life and not worth a second of their time. Many others have come to realize that there is good reason to pay attention to what is going on because threats to the existence of the Postal Service or to our Union can come from unusual sources. Try this link: www.nofasttrack.com for some information about the Fast Track legislation involving international trade.

How would it affect your job? It could ban postal banking as a source of revenue for the Postal Service. Not direct enough for you? Future trade agreements with the European Union could put an end to the USPS monopoly on delivery of letter mail. That's our job. Why should a foreign country be allowed to dictate how the U.S. Postal Service operates? Or more accurately, why are corporations both domestic and foreign, being allowed to dictate so many aspects of trade. The beneficiaries are the corporations, not the citizens of the countries that are approving the agreements. Greed over the common good.

So while the last election was less than 6 months ago, 3 people have already announced their candidacy for Iowa's first Congressional district, and while at least that many have "officially" announced their intention to run for President, the number is closer to 10 – or 12? Iowa's caucuses are only 9 months out – it's the first hurdle for any presidential candidate and we will soon be inundated with campaign rhetoric – again.

We cannot afford to disengage. The stakes are quite high in every election that we face, 2016 more so than ever. If we have a Republican occupying the White House with a Republican controlled Congress in 2017, Unions and the Postal Service will be facing a fight for their continued existence; and the American worker will be in for a fight for their financial survival.

Prepare now. Spread the word about signing up for eActivist alerts to stay informed. Donate to COLCPE and ask a co-worker to do the same so that we can actively educate legislators and voters. Get involved in your caucus. Vote.

In Unionism,

Jim Beach
President
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www.iowalettercarriers.org