

Iowa State Association of Letter Carriers



President's Report

March 2017

Greetings Brothers & Sisters,

Elections have consequences. Who's in charge and does it matter? Sound familiar? We've heard both of those things over the years – we were warned of what could happen if groups beholden to the corporate world were in power– and now we are seeing what is happening.

Bargaining rights are being taken away from public (government) employees in Iowa – it's similar to what happened in Wisconsin. There were 7 Iowa letter carriers at the capitol the day these bills were unveiled, along with hundreds of other union members from across the state. We were there to show our support of government employees – teachers, firefighters, office clerks, custodians, police, sanitation workers, etc. You get the idea - people who get paid with tax revenues, people who currently have the right to bargain over wages, benefits and working conditions through their legally elected union representatives. Those rights - including the right to file a grievance - are being taken away by the Iowa legislature.

Who's next in line to lose their right to bargain over wages, benefits, vacation time, seniority and the right to grieve violations of the contract? We're public employees. We're not paid with tax revenue but I don't think that will matter to someone like Wisconsin governor Scott Walker. He is reportedly advising the Trump administration about labor issues. He recently tweeted: "Happy to speak to my friends in the Iowa Legislature via Skype. They have a chance to pass big, bold reforms!" I'm sure he would also be happy to speak to "friends" in Washington about passing "big, bold reforms" concerning federal employee unions.

Imagine a Postal Service where your supervisor can terminate your employment because – well, just because. No reason, maybe she's having a bad day and decides you don't fit in - and you don't even have the right to file a grievance!

H.R. 756, the Postal Reform Act of 2017 and H.R. 760, the Postal Service Financial Improvement Act of 2017 have been introduced in the House. Keep an eye on these bills as they move through committee to see what is added or taken away. Be ready to voice your opinion to your Congressman so that they know that a viable Postal Service is important to you. If you're not signed up on the eActivist network – now is the time to do so at www.nalc.org It's your website – use it!

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Congressman Loeb sack and Congressman Young have both signed as co-sponsors to H.Res.15 (expressing the sense of the House that the Postal Service should take all appropriate measures to ensure the continuation of 6-day mail delivery service) and H.Res.28 (expressing the sense of the House that the Postal Service should take all appropriate measures to ensure the continuation of door delivery for our business and residential customers) and H.Res.31 (expressing the sense of the House that the Postal Service should take all appropriate measures to restore service standards that were in effect July 1, 2012.)

If you are in Congressman King's or Congressman Blum's district, call on them to support these House Resolutions. Tell them why a strong, viable Postal Service is important to you and to the people of Iowa.

Do it while you still have the right to talk to your representatives about issues affecting your job. Did I mention that there is also a bill in the Iowa House that would ban teachers and school leaders from voicing their opinion on education issues? No more freedom of speech in Iowa? Why don't they want us to hear from people who know the most about schools and education? What is it they don't want the public to know?

Immediately after the Rap Session there will be a small group of Iowa letter carriers going to Washington DC. We will voice our opinion to our Senators and Representatives about legislation affecting the Postal Service. We want them to hear directly from us – not just those who would privatize the USPS and do away with our jobs.

LCPF – it keeps our political effort going. eActivists – let's our voices be heard.

You know what to do, take a few minutes from your busy schedule and get involved in your future. Maybe you'll help save your job.

Jim Beach
President
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