

PRESIDENTS REPORT - 2007

This year we have the pleasure of having two National Officers in attendance, Executive Vice President, Fred Rolando and our own Jane Broendel, Secretary Treasurer.

What a difference a couple of years can make. Just two years ago I reported on the 2004 elections and our disappointment in the outcome. Last year I reported about our new "Field Plan for the Future," which emphasized the new legislative and political agenda for the NALC. Let me now report on what a complete success that plan has already become, and, how our disappointment has turned into triumph. This last election cycle, no union in this state was more active than the Iowa Letter Carriers. Whether it was volunteering for local and statewide campaigns, attending rallies or working full time with the Iowa Federation of Labor, you should be proud that combined, we made a difference.

On the state level: At Governor Culver's Inauguration, I was appointed as a Honorary Colonel in the Iowa National Guard on behalf of the Iowa Letter Carriers. As you know, we were one of the prominent unions in the state to endorse Governor Culver in his election campaign and he truly holds Iowa Letter Carriers in high esteem. So, for him, let me thank those of you who worked tirelessly for him last fall. It should also be noted that Russ Vonk, former President of Branch 352 was also named an Honorary Colonel for his work with the Culver Campaign. No other union had two members so appointed.

On the national level: Both Congressman's Braley and Loeb sack were elected, thru direct efforts of Iowa Letter Carriers. Congressman Boswell was re-elected and is well aware of the work that 3rd Dist. CDL, Mark Fallis did during the election. Mark probably worked harder than any other union member in the state, working directly with the IFL in Des Moines. I know that Mark worked many 12 hour days and 7 day weeks. Congressman Braley is appreciative for the assistance he received from Kevin Powers, 1st Dist. CDL Tom Reisdorf and me, who were released for the election and worked for the IFL on getting out the union vote in the 1st district. Congressman Loeb sack also appreciates the work that the letter carriers of the 2nd district were able to do for him and especially that of 2nd District CDL, Jim Beach. At the recent State Chairs Conference in Washington, D. C., I met with both Rep. Braley and Loeb sack who both left committee hearings to come out and speak with National Aux. Treasurer, Kathy Miller and me. Both were thankful for the support that the NALC has given them and were truly interested in the issues that we presented to them. .

The main topic was of course the current practice of contracting out delivery services by the USPS. All of our elected officials, we spoke with (Harkin, Grassley, Braley, Loeb sack, Boswell and Latham) were very concerned about these actions considering that Postal Reform has just recently passed. All were concerned that the USPS actions could lead to and undermining of the financial viability of the Postal Service and most pledged their assistance in whatever actions the NALC may need to take to stop this blatant attempt to out source the work of city and rural delivery.

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Once again there was only positive feedback concerning the fall training held in Iowa City and once again kudo's go out to VP Jeff Case, NBA Art Buck and new NBA Mike Weir and RAA Danny Pittman.

Last year I described our new plan on increasing our contributions to COLCPE. I want to tell you that we've had more than a little success. We've gone from 3.57 % to over 6%. However, we cannot rest. We've rolled out our plan to have NBA Weir carry a route and National has rolled out another contest. There's no reason we can't reach 10% this year with some extra effort. I'd like thank the Colcpe coordinators in each branch for the work you've already done and for your future efforts.

I'd like to remind everyone of the importance of attending your caucus's early next year. Whether democrat or republican, we'd like to get as many people as we can to the state conventions for input into the respective party platforms.

Some of the legislative and political items on the horizon: Contracting out Delivery Services - Do Not Mail Lists - Vote by Mail - Employee Free Choice Act - Fair Share - Universal Health Insurance - Windfall Elimination Provision - Premium Conversion - Government Pension Offset - Postal Service and FERS Military Pension Costs.

Lastly, I would be remiss if I failed to thank former NBA Art Buck for his leadership and more importantly, for his friendship over the last decade plus. It's really hard to believe that Art has reached retirement age, while the rest of us hardly aged at all.

Presidents Activity Report 2006 - 2007

Attended - State Convention, Fall Training, Numerous Route Inspection Training's, Iowa , NBA Rap Session, Iowa Federation of Labor Legislative Conference, Lobbied representatives at the State Capital, Delegate to State Convention, State Chair Meetings in Washington D.C. & lobbied Senators and Representatives. Numerous Campaign meetings and rallies, Dubuque County Democratic Central Committee, Iowa Federation of Labor Steering Committee for the 2006 elections.

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