

# *The PONY EXPRESS*



## IDRLCA State Convention 2017

### Current Postal Reform Legislation

**H.R. 756:** Postal Service Reform Act of 2017  
Cosponsors: 9 (D) 7 (R)

Requires postal retirees to enroll in Medicare in order to continue receiving their current federal health insurance coverage. Enrollment would be automatic.

Referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and two other committees.

**H. Res. 15:** As a resolution, it will not be sent to the president and cannot become law.  
Cosponsors: 171 (D) 55 (R)

Expresses the sense of the House that the Postal Service should take all appropriate measures to ensure the continuation of six-day delivery.

Referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

**H. Res.31:** As a resolution, it will not be sent to the president and cannot become law.  
Cosponsors: 151 (D) 41 (R)

Expresses the sense of the House that the Postal Service should take all measures to restore service standards in effect on July 1, 2012.

Referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

**H. Res. 28:** As a resolution, it will not be sent to the president and cannot become law.  
Cosponsors: 183 (D) 54 (R)

Expresses the sense of the House that the Postal Service should take all measures to ensure continuation of door-to-door delivery for all businesses and residential customers.

Referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

### *2017 – 2018 IDRLCA State Board Executive Committee*



**IDRLCA Officers elected at the IDRLCA 2017 State Convention:** l. to r.: President Patti Upton, Vice President Brett Parkinson, Secretary/Treasurer Lori Bennett and Executive Committeemen Mikea Hargrove, District One; Russ Hutchison, District Two; John Thomas, District Three, and Jimmy Sullins, District Five. The officers were sworn in by NRLCA Vice President Ronnie Stutts.

**Western Area  
Executive Committeeman**

Don Maston  
PO Box 902710  
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(661) 266-3879

**NRLCA NATIONAL OFFICERS**

Jeanette Dwyer, President  
Ronnie Stutts, Vice President  
Clifford Dailing, Secretary/Treasurer  
Joey Johnson, Director of Labor Relations  
David Heather, Director of Steward Operations

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**Idaho Area 832-833-834**

**ADR Alan Stonely**

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**ADR Herschel Howard**

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**ADR Joyce Patteson**

PO Box 1005  
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**ADR Renee' Pitts**

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**IDAHO FEDERAL LEGISLATORS**

**Senator James Risch (R)**

[www.risch.senate.gov/webform.cfm](http://www.risch.senate.gov/webform.cfm)

**Rep. Michael K. Simpson(R)**

[www.house.gov/simpson.gov](http://www.house.gov/simpson.gov)

**Senator Michael Crapo (R)**

[www.senate.gov~crapo](http://www.senate.gov~crapo)

**Rep. Raul Labrador (R)**

[www.labrador.house.gov](http://www.labrador.house.gov)

*Please report corrections to the editor of The Pony Express.*

# LOCAL STEWARDS

OFFICE	NAME	ADDRESS	CITY-ZIP	UNION PHONE
American Falls				
Athol				
Blackfoot Main	Clade Ward	285 S Shilling Ave	Blackfoot 83221	(208) 681-8749
Boise Boi-Cole	Sharon Atkins	7106 San Fernando Dr	Boise 83704	(208) 376-1955
Boise Boi-Five Mile	John Urquidi	34276 Hot Creek Rd	Bruneau 83604	(208) 599-0979
Boise Boi-Garden				
Burley	Nancy Neiwert	339 S 50 E	Burley 83318	(208) 678-2541
Cambridge				
Caldwell Main	Sam Doyle	819 Settlers Dr	Caldwell 83607	(208) 392-0841
Coeur d'Alene	Peter Haynos	2984 W Grange Ave	Post Falls 83854	(208) 773-1925
Cottonwood Main				
Craigmont				
Culdesac				
Deary				
Eagle				
Emmett				
Filer	Marilyn Carrico	56 Northridge Way	Jerome 83338	(208) 326-5220
Fruitland Main	Lori Bennett	306 N Dakota Ave	Fruitland 83619	(208) 452-3539
Garden City Station	Herschel Howard	PO Box 140071	Garden City 83714	(208) 921-4833
Genesee				
Glenns Ferry				
Grangeville				
Gooding Main				
Greenleaf				
Hayden Main	Peter Haynos	2984 W Grange Ave	Post Falls 83854	(208) 773-1925
Homedale				
Horseshoe Bend				
Idaho Falls Main	John Thomas	4075 E Menan Hwy	Rigby 83442	(208) 745-8348
Inkom				
Jerome	Heather Ranger	578 Butte Drive	Twin Falls 83301	(208) 404-1207
Juliaetta	Jimmy Sullins	1021 Granlund Road	Troy 83871	(208) 301-3795
Kamiah				
Kendrick				
Kimberly Main	Deb Hurd	PO Box 943	Kimberly 83341	(208) 423-6013
Kooskia	Christine Hunter	1236 Battle Ridge Rd	Kooskia 83539	(208) 935-5159
Kuna Main	Paula Grigg	1350 W Avalon St	Kuna 83634	(208) 922-4555
LapwaiLewiston				
Marsing	Mara Ralls	420 Briar Hill Street	Nampa 83686	(208) 407-1103
McCall				
McCammon				
Melba				
Meridian Main	Glenda Sanders	260 Cedar Avenue	Kuna 83634	(208) 602-8960
Meridian Main	Miki Wilkinson	11549 Jump Creek Dr.	Caldwell 83605	(208) 284-5090
Middleton Main	Ivan Smith	1801 Chicago Street	Nampa	(208) 989-6951
Mountain Home				
Moscow Main	Toad Brandt	1027 Hwy 95 N	Moscow 83843	(208) 669-1933
Nampa	Bret Helle	3729 E Benton Ave	Nampa 83687	(208) 695-1534
Nampa	Rod Munson	316 Crescent Dr.	Caldwell 83605	(208) 880-7705
New Plymouth				
Orofino				
Parma				
Paul Main	Russell Hutchison	1044 E 21st St	Burley 83318	(208) 431-1509
Payette Main	Victoria Potter	2581 Reeds Grove Rd	Midvale 83645	(208) 355-2689
Pinehurst				
Pingree				
Plummer Main				
Pocatello	Lesley Greenwell	712 N Marsh Creek Rd	McCammon 83250	(208) 221-2912
Post Falls	Peter Haynos	2984 W Grange Ave	Post Falls 83854	(208) 773-1925
Preston Main	Earl Nelson	4382 N Hwy 91	Preston 83263	(208) 220-0623
Priest River Main				
Rathdrum				
Rexburg Main	Rhea Price	1910 E 200 N	Rexburg 83440	(208) 356-6524
Rigby				
Rupert	Amber Warr	2556 Hansen Avenue	Burley 83318	(208) 670-5824
Sagle Main	Peter Haynos	2984 W Grange Ave	Post Falls 83854	(208) 773-1925
Salmon	Christina Lewis	1532 HWY 93 North	North Fork 83466	(208) 539-4580
Sandpoint				
Star				
Troy	Jimmy Sullins	1021 Granlund Rd	Troy 83871	(208) 301-3795
Twin Falls	Darren Chernoh	3 Woodstock Circle	Twin Falls 83301	(208) 420-5169
Weiser Main	Glenda Heim	1471 Cove Rd	Weiser 83672	(208) 549-0755
Wilder Main				
Worley	Christine Hodgson	515 Pine Street	Plummer 83851	(208) 686-1327

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 Email - ponyexpr@pmt.org or Telephone - (208) 436-0687



# Southern Idaho District Representative's Report

*Salt Lake City/ Nevada-Sierra District Representative Brian Draper*

## My Completion Of All My Duties

As per the NRLCA Employee handbook this report will reflect my completion of all the duties as assigned by Section 420.4 Duties.

**Administrative:** For fiscal year 2016-2017 I have continued with the duties

of District Representative (DR) for the Salt Lake City and Nevada-Sierra Districts. I manage five part-time Assistant District Representatives (ADRs) and one is also assigned to the Portland District. I assigned myself and the ADRs specific zip code areas to cover. I also manage one Area Steward that I make office assignments and adjustments for in southern Nevada and Utah. There are currently 55 Local Stewards in my district. I have reviewed, signed and approved all the payroll and expense vouchers and submitted them in a timely manner. All the Idaho and Nevada past steward documents have been purged and the appropriate papers are in a storage unit, which has been rented for National Steward System (NSS) purposes. I have provided Articles to the Idaho, Nevada and Utah state publications for them to utilize and they have been printed. Travel has included approximately 158 days on the road, a large increase over last year due, in part, to Rural Street Delivery (RSD) training and an increase in Step 2 grievance meetings. All travel I complete has more than one purpose or meeting, this is for the best use of the member's funds.

**Labor Management:** There has been no official Labor Management meetings for the Salt Lake City District this year. There have been teleconferences with the other Unions involved and issues addressed by phone, e-mail or letters. The District Manager for the Nevada-Sierra District has continued a quarterly "Shareholders meeting". I have attended all four this year, and at each meeting have stressed the need for RCA hiring and other issues the association is dealing with. The Shareholders' involves all the unions and managers of all the departments but I have had one on one meetings with the District Manager and department heads. I have made several office visits and had discussions with several Postmasters and supervisors. On a daily basis, I field many calls, e-mails and text messages from ADRs, rural carriers and USPS managers.

**Meetings and Conventions:** In August I spent one week at the National Convention in Nashville, TN. I attended at the Western Area Stewards Seminar in Las Vegas. In April I attended the National Stewards Conference in Alexandria, VA. Also in April, I attended the Western States Conference in Salt Lake City, UT. I have attended all the

Idaho State District One meetings and was elected delegate to the Idaho State Convention. I was assigned to, attended and gave a presentation at the Idaho, Nevada and Utah state conventions. I have made myself available and attended all three state board meetings at least twice for each state.

**Trainings:** I have conducted one training session with the ADRs and area steward in April. We have completed the required Local Steward Enhancement Training (LSET) for 2017. They were held in May and June with all the Local Stewards attending and completing the class except for four that will be addressed with a makeup class. The trainings were done with 5 classes in five different cities. Certification trainings are ongoing and we continually push the get new stewards elected in offices without one. We

*The District Manager for the Nevada-Sierra District has continued a quarterly "Shareholders meeting". I have attended all four this year, and at each meeting have stressed the need for RCA hiring and other issues the association is dealing with.*

have increased the number of local stewards by three this year. We had no local stewards for Henderson or Las Vegas, NV. As DR, I did a recruitment in all six offices and had ADR Floyd and area steward Hunter do the same. Now we now have five stewards-elect and the

new two-day training for them is scheduled in July.

**Grievances:** The ADRs have been trained on the data base and we have input all the grievances and post disciplinary interviews (PDI) as required. Attached is the Date Base Grievance totals report for fiscal 2016. All step three appeals were completed and submitted, by me, in a timely manner. Three of my ADRs are experienced and they, in addition to myself, have conducted step two meetings with the labor representatives. Step two meetings have increased dramatically. The two newer ADRs, Howard and Floyd, have been taken into the district office to meet with the step two labor representatives. Some grievances at Step two have been remanded back to ADR Floyd and a labor representative to be settled in the Reno, NV area.

Totals for fiscal year 2016 are:

- 168 (up 45) grievances:
- Individual Contract: 77
- Individual Discipline: 54
- Class Action: 37

**In Conclusion:** The NSS has given the carriers of the Salt Lake City and Nevada-Sierra districts a very different steward system that is much more in tune to the changes the USPS is making. I appreciate the help and guidance of Don Maston, Bridget Boseak, Joey Johnson and David Heather. The hard work, patience and dedication of my five ADRs makes my job easier and they are a pleasure to work with. I'd like to commend the effort and work being

(Please turn to *All My Duties* on page 9)



# Northern Idaho District Representative's Report

*Alaska District Representative Patrick Pitts*

## Report Of My Activities July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017

What follows is a report of my activities as NRLCA District Representative for the Seattle and Alaska USPS Postal Districts. This is my fifth annual report as District Representative and the fourth covering a complete association year.

First, I would like to express my appreciation to the NRLCA Board for giving me the opportunity to serve in this position and to Don Maston, NRLCA Executive Committeeman for his support, guidance and assistance.

Also due thanks are Assistant District Representatives Joyce Patteson and Renee' Pitts. Joyce has taken on the monumental task of representing carriers and offices throughout eastern Washington and northern Idaho except those offices with a local steward or assigned area steward. Renee' shares responsibility for all offices without a local or area steward throughout western Washington and is serving as a split-district representative certified in both the Seattle and Portland districts.

I would also like to express my appreciation and thanks to Area Stewards Janie Walla and Pete Haynos as well as the 41 local stewards in the Seattle District, and to Pamela Nicholson, who serves as the sole local steward in the Alaska District. I am also pleased to announce the recent appointment of Alicia Peterson as an area steward for the Seattle District.

Last, and certainly not least, I am thankful for and appreciate the input, guidance and support of the state boards and the NRLCA members of the Washington Rural Letter Carriers' Association (WARLCA) and Idaho Rural Letter Carriers' Association (IDRLCA).

At the close of the 2016-2017 association year, the Seattle District has 41 local stewards, three area stewards, who also serve as local stewards for their respective office, one full-time Assistant District Representative whose responsibilities are split between the Seattle and Portland District and one part-time Assistant District Representative.

According to the most recent USPS Master Listing of Rural Routes there are 1,276 routes in 198 active rural delivery offices in the Seattle District and 15 routes in three offices in the Alaska District. Of the routes and offices in the Seattle District, there are currently 1,152 routes in 172 offices in Washington and 124 routes in 26 offices in Idaho. Throughout this past association year I have made every effort to fulfill all duties associated with my position including certifying/decertifying stewards; conducting steward enhancement trainings; local steward certification trainings; attending national trainings/seminars; attending the Western States Conference and the annual convention of both the

WARLCA and IDRLCA; meeting with the respective State Boards; attending and participating in informational meetings in both Washington and Idaho; and providing articles for the Washington Rural Carrier and The Pony Express (state publications). I was also honored to serve as the Chairman of the Media Committee for the NRLCA national convention; as Chairman for the Labor Relations Special Assignment Committee and a member of Steward Task Force 1. In addition to the administrative duties of my position I have represented rural craft employees during Investigative Interviews (Pre-disciplinary interviews) and adjudicated grievances at Step 1 and Step 2 of the grievance/arbitration procedure including, when necessary, appealing grievances to Step 3. I have participated in or conducted Labor/Management meetings in local offices and attended county unit meetings (WARLCA) and the IDRLCA District 5 annual

meeting. During this Association year I have met with the USPS District Manager (Seattle District) as well as the Manager, Operations Programs Support; Manager, Human Resources; Manager, Labor Relations; Manager, Learning Diversity and Development; and Manager, District Safety.

During the 2016-2017 Association year I have been on the road 195 days with 43 of those days requiring an overnight stay, driving 7,495 miles in my personal vehicle and another 9,783 miles in rental vehicles in addition to accumulating 47,834 air-miles, all for NRLCA business.

In closing, it has been an honor and privilege serving the members of the rural craft in the Seattle and Alaska District and I look forward to the 2017-2018 Association Year

Respectfully submitted,  
Patrick Pitts

NRLCA District Representative Seattle/Alaska

*I am thankful for and appreciate the input, guidance and support of the state boards and the NRLCA members of the Washington Rural Letter Carriers' Association (WARLCA) and Idaho Rural Letter Carriers' Association (IDRLCA).*

### **Constitution Error**

*A change to the IDRLCA Constitution, as passed by the delegates at the 2017 IDRLCA State Convention in June, was inadvertently omitted from the current constitution booklet.*

*Article II, Section VI, Paragraph A7 should read: "Assistant Rural Carriers; State \$7.00 and District \$5.00."*

*The Pony Express Editor Lou Freeman regrets the omission.*



# IDRLCA President's Report

IDRLCA President Patti Upton

## My Annual Report

Vice President Parkinson, Secretary/Treasurer Bennett, Board Members, IDLRCA Members and guests:

Welcome to the IDRLCA State Convention here in beautiful Boise Idaho. I would like to thank

President Hargrove and District One for working diligently to bring us together to do the work of the Association. It is with my sincerest thanks for a job well done.

It's been an interesting year filled with some challenges as well as some triumphs. As you all know by now, some of us are not comfortable speaking from this podium. Yes, I am referring to myself. However, as with anything I do, I will always give it my best.

When I left Kellogg, Idaho last year I made a promise to myself that I would do a better job of leading this Association. So, it is with pleasure that I give my report at this time.

Last year the National Convention was held in beautiful Nashville, Tennessee. The Idaho delegation always makes me proud as we may be small, but we are definitely mighty. Lou Freeman, our editor extraordinaire, was once again asked to sit in the pressroom and report out the daily goings on of the Convention. Lori Bennett, our analytical thought provoking data girl, was asked to sit on the Credentials Committee. As the Delegate at Large, I was asked to be the Co-Chair of Teller Committee 4. This meant coming in a day early to prepare ballots for any vote tallies that might prevail us. The intricately woven details of putting on a National Convention far exceed my wildest imagination. I value and appreciate our National Board and I want to thank Ronnie Stutts for the many months, days and countless hours that he dedicated to put on a convention of that magnitude.

In September, it was back to the business of the Idaho State Board. I must say without a doubt that the people on the board give selflessly and really care about the welfare of this association. At our first Board meeting of the year it was time to bring out the NRLCA State Officer's training manual and do our yearly training. The manual is a valuable tool that we must remember to use if we are going to successfully run this State Association.

In the fall, I received a call from the National office. I was surprised and honored to be appointed to the NRLCA Appeals Commission. I remember wondering if Clifford Dailing was calling the right person. Like many, I hadn't heard much about the commission, but I quickly learned

what it was and what its purpose is. Since being appointed, I have traveled around the nation and done countless investigative interviews with aggrieved members. It's an eye-opening experience and one that I hope our State Association never endures.

The winter had challenges of its own. SNOW... and tons of it. In my area, the devastation was real and our little communities were not equipped to handle what we received. The January board meeting had to be cut short due to impending weather. It was a great concern of mine to make sure that our board members all made it home safely. This was by far the worse winter in my 21-year postal career.

My husband Dave had what should have been minor

back surgery in early February. I will be brief when I tell you that it hasn't been easy and another surgery later, the

spinal fluid leak has finally been repaired. He is finally able to walk without a walker and may actually be able to go back to work in the next month. Thank you to those of you who supported me and prayed for healing. It has been a long road, but we are finally moving forward.

In the midst of the storms the State also provided symposiums to our membership again this year. I am always happy to see people come out who want to learn more about what the union offers. I would like to thank DR Draper, Deb Hurd and Joyce Patteson as they brought valuable information and helped us tremendously with our question and answer time.

In between my travels to the Symposiums I was able to attend all of the Annual district meetings. Our board continues to work together to help each district follow election protocol. This includes educating each district about Department of Labor procedures and practices. It was my pleasure to travel with Lori Bennett and Bret Helle to show our support and offer up assistance when necessary. I was pleased to share these moments with each one of you and I continue to grow as your President in the process.

Spring came and so did the Legislative Seminar. Brett Parkinson joined me in Washington, DC. and together we tackled the Hill. This is by far my favorite seminar as it always provides meaningful information and the necessary tools to make successful visits with our Congressional leaders. Senator Crapo remains the only Idaho Representative that is postal friendly.

In closing, it's been an amazing year. I am thankful to be a part of the IDRLCA union family. Thank you for putting your faith and trust in me.

***I am thankful to be a part of the IDRLCA union family. Thank you for putting your faith and trust in me. It has been my privilege to serve you.***

# PAC

***In these uncertain times, it is becoming more and more important to strengthen our Political Action Committee, through our contributions, and enable it to exert a strong influence with the National Congress in defending our craft from those who wish to reform and privatize the U.S. Postal Service. Please donate generously.***



# IDRLCA Vice President's Report

IDRLCA Vice President Brett Parkinson

## My Second Year

President Upton, Secretary-Treasurer Bennett, members of the state board, delegates, honored guests, and friends, welcome to the 2017 IDRLCA State Convention here in Boise, Idaho.

It is truly a pleasure to be in attendance at another state convention. I believe this is the sixteenth state convention that I have attended since I was first elected as District Three President. Please allow me to reminisce for a moment.

At my first convention in Twin Falls fifteen years ago I knew little if anything about the workings of our great association. In fact I remember bringing my national delegate ballot with me to turn in at convention. I soon found out that the ballot had to be mailed and not simply tossed in the box with the other ballots.

Luckily, back then you could drop it in the mail and it would be delivered locally the next day. So, fortunately my ballot was able to be counted the next day. Too bad that isn't the case today. I also recall how young my children were then and how much they looked forward to participating with the juniors. In fact my daughter was not quite two years old then and was too young to be a part of the fun and games. Now my boys are grown and my daughter will be starting her senior year of high school this fall and wouldn't miss this convention for the world. Where does the time go? Anyway, back to the workings of this association.

It used to be a challenge to learn all there was to know about the contract, the constitution, the bylaws and board policy. Did we even have a board policy back then or was that considered bylaws, that we don't have anymore. I guess now the challenge is trying to remember what I've learned over the years. I thought that was only a problem for some old people. Patti instructed us to report on what we have done in our positions over the past year. So, here I go trying to remember the past year when sometimes I can't remember where I sat my glasses down five minutes ago.

As my second year as your state vice president comes to a close, it seems almost like a repeat of the first year. It reminds me a little of the movie "Ground Hog Day". First there was serving as a delegate at the national convention in Nashville, Tennessee last August with so much information to take in through the seminars and the usual business to conduct and vote on. Then there were the board meetings and three symposiums to put on this past year which went fairly well except for some challenging weather conditions around one board meeting and the symposium prep meeting. The attendance at the symposium up north was down probably due to the weather being too nice on that particular Sunday. Western States Conference in Seattle this past April was well attended not only by our state but by all the states in the Western area.

With all of our national officers there, it was truly rewarding to be in attendance to learn and glean information from all of the presentations given. And just two and a half weeks ago President Upton and I attended the annual Legislative Conference in Washington D.C. I don't think I was quite as nervous this time, since I kind of knew what to expect when we went to visit our senators and congressmen or their aids respectively. I do have to say that I admire Senator Crapo as he always takes time to talk to us and seems to be supportive of postal legislation if we could just get it to the floor for a vote. Well that pretty much wraps up my second year as your IDRLCA vice president. As I contemplate my duties as vice president over

***As my second year as your state vice president comes to a close, it seems almost like a repeat of the first year. It reminds me a little of the movie "Ground Hog Day".***

the past two years I think probably the biggest challenge has been writing an article for each issue of The Pony Express. So if there is a topic or subject that you feel needs to be written about in the Pony Express I would welcome any and all suggestions, if I am re-elected as your vice president for another term.

Before I close I would like to thank District 1 President Mikea Hargrove and all the committee members who have put forth so much effort and preparation into making this convention a success. I look forward to the next two days of conducting the annual business of the Idaho Rural Letter Carrier Association with those of you who are seasoned and those of you who are somewhat new to this experience and duty as delegates. I wish you all an enjoyable time and hope by the end of this convention you will feel that your time here has been well spent. This concludes my report to the body of the Idaho Rural Letter Carriers Association.

### Consider This (Part One)

- Even if you're on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there. (*Will Rogers*)
- Confidence is what you feel before you comprehend the situation. (*Proverb*)
- A computer lets you make more mistakes faster than any invention in human history – with the possible exceptions of handguns and tequila. (*Mitch Ratliffe*)
- Only one thing is certain – that is, nothing is certain. If this statement is true, it is also false. (*Ancient Paradox*)
- Planning without action is futile; action without planning is fatal. (*Unkown*)



# IDRLCA Secretary/Treasurer's Report

*IDRLCA Secretary-Treasurer Lori Bennett*

## Welcome to the Show!

*Introduction, in italics, by Lori's daughter, Kyndall*

*Hello, and welcome to the show! My name is Lori Bennett, and if you don't know me, I'm the Secretary/Treasurer for the Idaho Chapter of the amazing National Rural Letter Carriers' Association. Since it is a tradition, I'm going to review the year since we last met in*

*children, husband and dogs included, training new carriers in the Rural Academy and being trained to do my job of batch editing even better than I already do.*

*Kyndall won \$150 for being an extraordinary writer of an essay about voting rights. Half the money is lost to the world of the unknown and never to be seen again, the other half is spent. She also competed in the State Geography Bee. She didn't make the finals, but let's be real, the only thing that matters about that is she got to experience it. I, along with Mike, learned a few things there. As a bonus, my first granddaughter, Teyla Kay, was born yesterday, so being excited was, and still is, an understatement.*

*Basically, we all survived to this point, and here I am, standing before you.*

President Upton, Vice President Parkinson, state board members, delegates and guests. Thank you for allowing me a moment of comedy relief. Some of the highlights of this past year, besides what Kyndall so eloquently educated us on, have been adventures.

I attended the national convention and served on the Credentials Committee. I also attended the Western States Conference; it was one of the best.

Probably the biggest change has been that the new Data Management System (DMS) for the NRLCA came on line. This system works for the membership, administration, insurance and steward departments. It has been a lesson in patience, but, as with most new things, there must be some growing pains to achieve improvement.

(please see *Welcome to the Show!* on page 9)

Kellogg.

*My daughter, Kyndall, wrote this as I had to get a lot of work done and couldn't get to it, yet. Besides, she wanted to be like her big brother Conor and entertain you for a bit.*

*After our time in Kellogg, I went up camping for a few days near Prineville, OR with my delightful husband, Mike; my daughter, Kyndall; and two adorable, yet annoying, creatures known as the family dogs: Oscar and Rufus. Upon returning home, I immediately set to work preparing for our national convention in Nashville, Tennessee.*

*After returning to my work desk, which is my old, yet faithful best friend, well, besides Smalls, except she's not old; we must get that right. I settled back into a routine of delivering the mail, being the family matriarch, handling the*

### IDRLCA Statement of Activities July 1, 2016 through May 1, 2017

Income	
Interest / Dividends	1,087.30
Membership Dues	104,160.58
Miscellaneous	275.00
National General Insurance	5,993.72
Reimbursements	0.00
Sales	0.00
Western States Conference Receipts	0.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>111,516.60</b>
Expense	
Accounting Fees	1,600.00
Awards, Recognition, Other	867.91
Education and Training	196.28
Equipment Maintenance	0.00
Equipment Purchases	1,519.97
National Convention	18,736.32
Office Expense	2,058.57
Payroll Taxes	3,160.35
Per Capita Dues	7,376.84
Postage	1,993.23
Printing	2,269.72
Rent	336.00
Salary & Wages	36,844.87
State Meetings	4,497.71
State Paper	4,785.58
Telephone & Internet	1,981.47
Travel	39,386.45
Western States Conference	255.50
Workers Compensation Insurance	353.00
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>128,219.77</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>-16,703.17</b>

### IDRLCA Statement of Financial Position (As of June 30, 2017) ASSETS

Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Checking APCU	820.27
Savings APCU	35,504.30
CD-APCU 70 April 4	26,980.90
CD-APCU 71 Oct 23	26,413.40
CD-APCU 72 July 20	21,218.01
CD-APCU 73 Jan 18	26,043.85
Total Checking/Savings	136,980.73
Total Current Assets	136,980.73
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>136,980.73</b>
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Other Current Liabilities	
Payroll Liabilities	1,231.19
Total Other Current Liabilities	1,231.19
Total Current Liabilities	1,231.19
Total Liabilities	1,231.19
Equity	
Net Assets	152,452.71
Net Income	-16,703.17
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>135,749.54</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>136,980.73</b>



# Voice Of The Executive Committeeman

District Five President Jim Sullins

## More Bits and Pieces of History

As we all know, technology with the advent of planes and the interstate highway system moves the mail quickly and efficiently on a global scale. Here is some history, pre plane and automobile, to

what we are today.

Parcel post service began with the introduction of International Parcel Post between the United States and other countries in 1887. Beginning with Canada, next was the independent Kingdom of Hawaii in 1888. Parcel post service continued to grow with other countries with the signing of postal conventions and treaties. While the post office agreed to deliver parcels mailed into the US, it did not institute a domestic parcel post service for another 25 years, in 1913.

During the 19th century, about 3/4 of all federal civilian employees worked for the Post Office Department. They were subject to the so called spoils system, where faithful political supporters of the executive branch were appointed to positions in the post office and other government positions as a reward for their support.

As early as December 1832, the Post Office Department began using railroads to transport the mail. A law was passed in July, 1838, that designated all US railroads as post routes

that increased the use of railroad mail service. In 1862, the post office experimented distributing mail in railroad cars in Missouri. In 1864, the first railway post office (RPO) was established beginning in Chicago, then to New York and finally Washington, DC. By 1930, more than 10,000 trains were used to transport the mail. Over time, with the decline of passenger trains, so did the use of the railroads to transport mail. By 1965, only 190 trains carried mail. The last railway post office ended on June 30, 1977, which was the New York to Washington, DC route.

Throughout the 19th century, the Post Office Department used horseback, railroad, stage, and steamboat to transport the mail. To reduce transportation costs in the Post Office Department, an act of Congress in 1845 had contracts to be awarded to the lowest bidder. They were known as "celerity, certainty and security bids." It was later shortened to three stars in parenthesis (\*\*\*) by postal workers. The bids became known as star bids and the routes, star routes, the forerunner of HCR and CDS routes.

***The Postal Service still currently has a contract mail route to Supai, Arizona. Because of the terrain, the mail is being delivered by mule train; the last mule train delivery in the US.***

Even though, with the advent of fax and email, and the coming of drones, the mail still has to be delivered by people. The Postal Service currently has a contract mail route to Supai, Arizona. Because of the terrain, the mail is delivered by mule train; the last mule train delivery in the US.

(from page 4)

### All My Duties

done by Area Steward Sue Hunter this year, for taking on all the Henderson and Las Vegas offices with her already full plate and for her assistance in the steward elections. I also need to thank Melody Partridge for her recruitment of 4 new stewards for the Reno area to replace her and I wish her many years of a happy retirement. We have learned a lot working together though the NSS with many experienced local stewards as well as some new ones coming onboard this year. I have a group of area and local stewards that are hardworking and eager to learn. In my opinion, the NSS has given all three states better representation at a time when the Postal Service management team suffers from inexperience and we have the time to do it right as we move forward to 2017- 2018.

(from page 8)

### Welcome to the Show!

I spent many hours on road trips back and forth across the state, with my cohorts, Patti Upton, Glenda Sanders, and Bret Parkinson. Some trips involved the Rural Carrier Symposiums and some were to attend the districts' annual meet-

ings.

The best ideas come from a long road trip, by the way. I also travelled across the country with the other members of the TDC Committee training the state secretaries on the new database system.

I want to express my appreciation and admiration for the other members of your state board. While we don't always agree, we all work very hard on your behalf and have your best interests at heart. We are working on tweaking the symposium format to make it more cost effective, yet still educate our membership in a positive way.

I am encouraged to find that we are capturing more new members at orientation. I think it is vital to the growth of our association. Jo Aguirre, Lou Freeman, Robin Brown and Pete Haynos are representing us at the initial orientation.

As we are gathered together for this state convention, I encourage everyone to take advantage of the opportunity to learn from our speakers and use the process afforded us to voice your opinions. When you return to your work place and your fellow carriers, remind them of what they missed by not attending. Let's encourage one another in improving the everyday environment for our craft.

*"Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today." Malcom X*

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# Congratulations to Russ Hutchison

# IDRLCA

# Carrier of the Year

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*The IDRLCA wishes to honor all four of the IDRLCA districts' Carrier of the Year nominees.*

*Following are the letters supporting the nominees for the IDRLCA's 2017 Carrier of the Year award.*

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## ***District One Carrier of the Year***

### ***Herschel Howard***

*Letter written by Jo Aguirre*

District One members have chosen Herschel Howard to be their 2017 Carrier of the Year.

Herschel began his rural career in 1997, at the Boise Five Mile Station as a relief carrier. There were not enough relief carriers to cover all of Boise's rural routes, so Herschel found himself casing and carrying two routes a day and working on Sundays.

In 2003, an auxiliary route at the Boise Cole Station became available and Herschel worked that route until it was consolidated later that year. He then took on another auxiliary route in the Garden City office.

In 2005, Herschel made regular carrier on route 33, a 45K residential and business route. He has

been the regular carrier on that route ever since. He takes the motto "Post Office on Wheels" very seriously. He has maintained a stamp stock on his route and has had sales of over \$10,000 for the past six years. Something that I'm sure few carriers can claim.

Herschel joined the NRLCA in 2005 and shortly there-

#### ***Section 8, Carrier of the Year.***

***A. The Outstanding Carrier of the Year will be chosen by the State Board in the board meeting prior to the State Convention. The award will be made on the basis of a resume. The resume should be submitted to the State Secretary not later than one week preceding the State Convention.***

after, Sharon Atkins convinced him to become a local steward. His very first grievance was the removal of a local steward. This grievance went all the way to arbitration. That's one way to start out your steward career. Sharon Atkins told me that she admires Herschel's excellent research skills and his tenacity.

Herschel has attended every District One meeting, state convention and three Western States Conferences.

In 2009, Herschel served as IDRLCA's vice president. In 2010, he was elected as District One president, a position he held for four and a half years.

When the NRLCA went to a National Steward System (NSS), Brian Draper asked Herschel to be an area steward, so Herschel stepped down as District One president and state board member so he could devote his time to the members he would be serving.

When the NSS first started, it was just Brian and Herschel covering western Idaho and all of Nevada. Herschel was also working for Charles Brown of the Portland District. This meant driving long miles to offices that had no union representation.

Currently, Herschel is Brian's assistant district representative covering the Salt Lake and Sierra Nevada district. Herschel also takes care of western Oregon.

Herschel's other accomplishments include heading our first Grass Roots Political Action Committee and serving as or Political Action Committee chairman and as our Provident guild representative. He has also trained and certified four new stewards this year.

Herschel has been married to his wife, Joanne, for 21 years. Joanne is a regular carrier working at the Cole Village office. They have one son, Herschel Jordan Howard, III.

Most of you know that I have been a member of the IDRLCA for a very long time. I personally think Herschel meets all the qualifications to be the IDRLCA Carrier of the Year. He has proven to have all the dedication, perseverance and enthusiasm that our Carrier of the Year should possess.

Therefore, District One is proud to nominate Herschel Howard for the IDRLCA Carrier of the Year.

(Continued on next page)

# THE IDRLCA CARRIER of the YEAR Letters

(from previous page)

## ***District Two Carrier of the Year Russell Hutchison***

*Letter written by Amber Warr*

Russell Hutchison has been nominated for the District Two Carrier of the Year.

He was born July 14th, 1963, in Rupert, Idaho. He has two sisters. He graduated from Minico High School in 1981. He graduated from the College of Southern Idaho with an Associates of Arts Degree in culinary arts in 1983. He served four years active and four years as a reserve in the Marine Corps. He has been married for 20 years and has one son, four daughters and one grandson. He has plenty of animals, dogs, cats, fish, chickens etc.....

His postal career began unexpectedly in 1993. One day when he went to get his mail from the post office in Paul, the clerk asked him if he would be interested in carrying a mail route. He replied

“NO!” and went on his way to work, which was at a restaurant named George K’s. While driving to work he thought “Are you crazy?” So, as soon as he got to work, he looked up the number to the post office and told them “yes, he was interested.” The following day he went to the post office, spoke with the postmaster and picked up an application. The postmaster told him that she



needed to make an emergency hire for an RCR. The only stipulation was that he would need to pass the rural carrier test within six months. He was hired in February of 1993, as the substitute carrier for rural route two. The route two regular carrier just happened to be Lou Freeman. Russ also worked on routes in Heyburn and Burley and as an auxiliary carrier from 1997 to 2007.

While being trained by Lou, Russ asked “How long would it be before he retired?” Lou answered, “About five years.”

14 years later, Lou retired. Russ became a Regular in January of 2007. Russ has been a member of District Two for 24 years and he has been a local steward for the Paul post office for nine years. Russ’ favorite part of his job is serving his customers or so he says. I think his favorite part of the job is playing with all the dogs on his route.

I was hired in June of 2006, as an RCA for Connie Vaughan in Rupert Idaho. She asked me if I would like to come to a meeting and I told her “sure”. This meeting is where I first met Russ. I continued to go to these meetings and learn and soon I became the local steward for the Rupert post office. Around that same time, Russ became the steward for the Paul Post Office. After a few more meetings I became the Secretary-Treasurer for District Two and Russ

became the vice president. We started to ride together to steward trainings and meetings. After a year or so Russ became President for district Two. We hosted our first state convention together in 2014.

Over the years, I have become really good friends with Russ. I have also been nicknamed his “Union Wife.” Russ has always been there to answer any of my questions and to make sure I stay on top of my secretary duties and to focus during steward trainings.

Russ is a very dedicated person. Amid all his rural carrier and officer duties, he still has a family at home. He became a first-time grandpa in August of 2016, to a beautiful little boy. He has been super busy with his daughters and their basketball careers. His second oldest was able to go to Washington with scholarships to play basketball. His youngest two are twins. They are still in high school and love to play basketball. When we schedule meetings, we always make sure it doesn’t interfere with a daughter’s games because he is so supportive of his kids, he doesn’t want to miss one. His wife is a clerk at the Heyburn post office.

I chose to nominate Russ for “Carrier of the Year” because I feel that he deserves it. He is a very caring person and he really strives to learn more about the union and his duties and responsibilities as president. He loves to try to recruit new people and he never hesitates to help someone. I have really enjoyed working with him and I appreciate his sarcastic remarks. I know a day will come when he will no longer be president and he will be ready to retire. I am not looking forward to that day because I will miss working with such a great man.

## ***District Three Carrier of the Year Connie Mangum***

*Letter written by Lynn Schielke*

I voted for Connie Mangun for District Three’s Carrier of the Year. I am still fairly new to the ways of a full time postal employee. I will have worked in Pingree for three years come October. Last May, I was put into the matrix in Blackfoot. Most people ignored me as just another sub who will come and go, but Connie along with a few others, made me feel welcome. Connie spoke to me every time she saw me at the office. She offered to take me on her route with her to help train me, just because! It was so thoughtful and made me feel comfortable in a strange new office. I do not know her or any others very well, however, I do feel I have voted for the correct person. Anyone who can make the effort to help someone else with no benefit to themselves, I feel, deserves to be recognized.

(Continued on next page)

### ***There Are None Better***

*There is no better job in the Postal Service than rural delivery.*

*There are no better people than rural carriers.*

*There are no better customers than rural postal customers.*

# THE IDRLCA CARRIER of the YEAR Letters

(from previous page)

## **District Five Carrier of the Year Connie Moon**

*Letter written by Oma Baldwin*

Here is a little bit about Connie:

Connie Moon started working for the Post Office in the year 2000, she became a Regular Carrier in December of 2005. She has always been active in the National Rural Letter Carrier Association. She likes going to union meetings, she said, "It would be easy to not attend, but they are so informative and there are people attending that you can ask specific questions about your route, and being informed makes you a better carrier." She has helped with Conventions as well, One in Post Falls themed, "Mail Box With a View," and the other in Kellogg, "Silver and Gold". She really enjoyed being a part of those events.

Connie has many other interests, her first is her family. She is married to Greg Blum, and she has four children, which come before anything else. She also enjoys hiking, walking, reading, and sewing. She is hoping to retire either this August or next. When retired, she and Greg will build a

new house in Squim, Washington.

Let me share one of her favorite stories about her route. "I like the little kids on my route that are so fascinated with the CBUs, and how I can open them with my special key. I was delivering to a unit at the end of one little 3yr old's driveway, he was so intent on seeing what I was doing. It took him several evasive maneuvers, and his Mom chasing him around the car for him to get to the CBU. It was so funny and so cute."

I nominated Connie because she, in my opinion, has always been a strong Union member, and goes above and beyond for her customers.

### **Consider This (Part Two)**

- Your insurance will cover everything except what just happened. (*So Sorry Law*)
- When things seem easy to do, it's because you haven't followed all the instructions. (*Destiny Awaits Law*)
- If you keep your cool when everyone else is losing his, it's probably because you have not realized the seriousness of the problem. (*Law of Gravitas*)



## Voice Of The Legislative Representative

*Legislative Representative Russ Hutchison*

### It Has Been a Whirlwind Year

President Upton, Vice President Parkinson, Secretary Bennett, Distinguished guests, and to you all, Delegates and Non-Delegates alike, good evening,

This is the second year that I have had the opportunity to serve as your legislative representative. It has been quite a whirlwind year, with a new President being elected and the makeup of the House and Senate changing considerably.

My job as your legislative representative is to try and stay abreast of the happenings in Congress that affect the Postal Service and our Union. This is not a super power by any means. The information I present to you is all available online and in the various publications we all receive. This year I have submitted 3 reports to the state board and they were all published in the Pony Express. I hope you all had the chance to read them.

As I look back and read over those reports, sometimes they just look like a bunch of gobbly-gook or in other words Congress speak. Many House Resolutions, all with different numbers, some saying the exact same thing. Phrases like; "Postal Service Financial Improvement Act, delivery point modernization, innovation strategies," are all things we must sift through to get to the bottom line.

Most of our representatives fall into two categories. 1) Ones who favor the Postal Service and 2) the others who

think the Postal Service needs to be "reformed." Both sides usually wrangle to a legislative stand still. With each new Congress the Representatives line up with their copycat bills from previous years.

Postal reform has been on the congressional docket for many years now. Each year we follow closely the different bills, some which are favorable and some which are not. Many times the bills introduced are a mixed bag of proposals that include both. There is a lot of wrangling in Congress. The NRLCA Grass Roots Initiative reminds us that it is important to get involved at the local level and to write your congressman. There are form letters available on nrlca.org and the website also has links to your House and Senate representatives. I would also ask you to please remember how important PAC is as a tool to get our voices heard in Washington D.C.

After a volatile presidential election season we have elected a new President who was inaugurated in January. The new administration has been sketchy at best with its "Making America Great Again" policies and appointments. I am not sure how favorable this administration will be toward the Postal Service or in its attitude towards union participation. I believe it could be much different than previous administrations and with a House and Senate leaning in the same direction politically we might be in for some changes.

Thank you President Upton for the opportunity to serve this association as Legislative Representative, let's work together as rural carriers to make America great again, one mailbox at a time.



# Voice of the Webmaster

Webmaster Glenda Sanders

## A Dream Come True

I'm so excited to see you all here. As District One secretary, this convention planning has been taking up a lot of my time and energy this month, and I'll be very happy when it's over. Thank

you, NRLCA Vice President Ronnie Stutts, for being here and for the important information that you presented last night. Here's a big shout out to my husband, Jeff. He is here with me today as a member of the auxiliary. This is his first state convention and it makes me happy to get to share it with him.

I have been your State IDRLCA Webmaster for five years now. It has been educational and thrilling to be a part of this board, and to inform the members throughout Idaho. Being a webmaster was a dream come true for me. I was an introvert / geek when I was young, way before it was cool. I learned the "Live Long and Prosper" sign when I was in grade school. Science fiction, from the likes of Issac Asmov and Gene Roddenberry was the only outlet for techies back in the dark ages, before the internet. We techies had no real technology to play with. We could only get our fix through television shows and books that allowed us to buy dinner through machines, fly cars through the air and beam up loved ones from treacherous planets.

Then, when I was almost thirty, on August 6, 1991, to be exact, the internet was invented and the whole world changed. (Thank you, Al Gore, cough). I got my first computer for my 30th birthday, and I fell in love for the first time. Actually, my first computers were the Atari and the Commodore 64, but they were limited with what you physically fed them. Now, with the internet, you can connect with other computers. My first live chat was with my little brother through a dial up connection with America On Line (AOL).

With three young kids at home and my new iMac, I immersed myself in the world wide web (www) and everything it had to offer. I had things to offer the world, too, so I studied and learned how to create my own web presence. The first website I created was for my parents who lived three states away, so they could see what my kids were learning in school. I did a few others over the years for my home-schooling group and a few churches. Then making websites got easier. The technology went from hypertext markup language (html) coding to drag and drop. By the turn of the century, everyone had a website. More domains such as .org and .biz, were required to handle all the traffic. Even as far back as 2002, when I applied at the Postal Service, I filled out my job application online. The world had changed so much in those 12 years.

Fast forward to 2006 to another breakthrough. Facebook and introverts were made for each other. Facebook is

a way for introverts to have a lot of friends, without having to be friendly! I can say what I need to say without actually speaking to people.

In 2011, I was elected as a local steward and I started getting involved in local meetings. After two divorces, I was starting to come out of my shell and learning to be more social. I had met Patrick Pitts, at a Western States Conference (WCS) and his state had a website. I asked Brian Draper if Idaho had one and I was shocked that we didn't. I knew that this was the perfect project for me. The mantra for success is: "find a need and fill it." Here I had stumbled onto a need that I could fill.

I attended one of the scary state board meetings and nervously presented the idea of having a state website. The board members voted to allow me to create one, but would hold off on a final decision until they saw it the next year. In June of 2012, after the state convention in Worley, the idrlca.org website went live. It

has been such a fun task, and I have loved every minute of it. As of this morning, it the website has garnered 1,920 hits. That means an average of seven people per week are going there for the information they need. I'm hoping it's not the same 7... As I transition to state editor, I am excited about learning more, ie; new technologies to be explored and conquered; InDesign and PhotoShop to be exact. I still have things to say, but now I will do it in a different media. (Can I use the term old school for printed matter?)

Being able to impart words of wisdom without actually speaking to a single soul? That's a perfect match for this introvert!

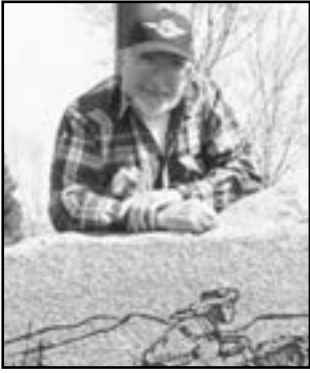
***We could only get our fix through television shows and books that allowed us to buy dinner through machines, fly cars through the air and beam up loved ones from treacherous planets.***

### ***The Human Mind***

*I cdnoul biveliee taht I cluod aulacity  
uesdnatnrd waht I was rdanieg.*

*Aoccdrnig to a rscheaerch pepar at  
Cmabrigde Uinervtisy, it deosn't mttaer in  
waht oredr the ltteers in a wrod are, the  
olny iprmoatnt tihng is taht the frist and  
lsat ltteer be in the rghit pclae. The rset  
can be a taotl mses and you can sitll raed  
it wouthit porbelm. Tihs is bcuseae the  
huamn mnid deos not raed ervey lteter by  
istlef, but the wrod as a wlohe.*

*Amzanig, huh?*



# Voice Of The Editor

Editor Lou Freeman

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## Editor's Final Report

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made by a man lying in a soapbox, to a crowd that paid no attention. Ever since that dark, moonlit day, I've wanted to use that opening in a report to a group that I would sit standing in front of.

Since this is probably the last time I'll be speaking to a group of people, I'll use it now.

Good evening, ladies and gentleman, I stand before you, to sit behind you, to speak to you of things I know nothing about.

There I've finally done it and one more bucket item is disposed of.

Of course, everything I've said so far is nonsense, or was except for the last line which recently seems to have become the norm; people, at all levels of government and society, speaking of things they know nothing about, but thinking they do.

But, I'm here to make a report; not editorialize.

In the past year, I've published five issues of *The Pony Express*. In those issues, our state and district officers and the two district representatives covering Idaho, have written articles keeping us informed and up-to-date on our craft and the Postal Service. Their efforts have brought to us, through the pages of *The Pony Express*, detailed information and news from the national, state and local levels and news from the national and state conventions and the Western States Conference which we could find otherwise only by attending those events ourselves. I deeply appreciate the work they have done to keep us informed.

In addition to editing *The Pony Express*, I have also been serving as an orientation representative speaking to new hires about the benefits of becoming members of the Idaho and National Rural Letter Carriers' Associations. Some of them have signed up immediately at the time of our meeting and others have expressed a desire to talk to their spouses before making the decision to join or not. As a result I don't know how many new members I've recruited, but I hope that enough have joined to make my efforts and those of the other Idaho orientation representatives, worthwhile.

In August of 2016, I attended the national convention, my 17th, in Nashville and was honored to serve again on the Press Room Committee. The committee provides an important service to the convention by creating lines of communication, through printed reports, between the association officers and the delegates. In its twice daily bulletin, distributed throughout the convention facility, the committee relays news of the convention, personal greetings between the members and notices of meetings of the various clubs and associations involved with the convention. I was rotated off the committee after serving for ten years.

*The Pony Express* was presented with an award for

One day, when I was a very young, grown-up lad, and I stood sitting on a curb, listening to the noise of sounds which could not be heard, among which, was a farewell greeting,

General Excellence, in Category I (1 to 600 routes). I attribute the high quality of the articles and information provided by the officers of the IDRLCA and the district representatives for this honor. I give them my sincere thanks.

After serving as the editor of *The Pony Express* for 22 years, I have decided that it's time to step down. Over the past year, I have been training Glenda Sanders to replace me as the editor of *The Pony Express*. In all honesty, Glenda has taught me more about the intricacies of the publishing program we use than I knew previously. She will officially become the editor on July 1, 2017.

Having served several years with her on the state board and reading the numerous articles she has written for *The Pony Express*, I can confidently state that she will prove to be an excellent and creative editor. Her talents and abilities will raise the *The Pony Express* to a much higher level.

Serving as editor has been 22 years of pleasure, punctuated only a few times by reservations about the wisdom of continuing to serve. Overall, I am satisfied with my performance as editor, but I was never really satisfied that *The Pony Express* couldn't be improved. My only regret is that, after completing each issue, I felt that I could have produced a much better paper if I had better applied myself. I know that *The Pony Express* will become a better (and prettier) publication in Glenda's hands.

I'll close this report with a poem that touched me; a metaphor of my feelings about leaving the editor's post.

Thank you for allowing me serve as your editor for the past 22 years.

### *Leavin' the Old and Greetin' the New*

by Lawrence Hawthorne

*It's kind o' tough t' have t' leave  
So many folks you've learned t'  
know,*

*An' have 'em grip yer hand an' tell  
How much they hate t' see you go!*

*It's kind o' tough t' say goodbye  
To friends you've seen day after  
day –*

*It's hard t' break the happy bonds  
O' comradeship an' move away.*

*It's hard t' pack up all your things  
An' leave a cozy home behind –  
The place where joys have come  
t' you,*

*Where neighbors all have been  
so kind.*

*An' when, at last, yer dearest pal  
Is tryin' hard to make a bluff  
At bein' brave, an' breaks right  
down –*

*It's kind o' tough, it's kind o'  
tough!*

*But say! It's great t' find new  
friends,'*

*Jus' waitin' fer a chance t' show  
How glad they are t' have you  
come*

*An' live with 'em! It's great t'  
know*

*That folks 're just about the same  
No matter where you chance t'  
roam*

*An' if you let 'em have their way'  
You'll soon be feelin' right at  
home.*

*So, it's a long farewell, old  
friends;  
May God be mighty good t' you!  
Across the miles an' down the  
years*

*You'll find my friendship always  
true.*

*And now I turn with eager heart  
T' meet whatever life extends –  
T' greet the folks that welcome me,  
An' try to make them all my  
friends.*



To my fellow rural carriers:

My name is Patty Waugh and many of you know me and some of you do not. I have been with the Postal Service for 34 and a half years and will be retiring on June 30th of this year. I am writing both to thank many of you and to encourage the rest of you.

The Postal Service has been good to me and my family, but this family of rural carriers is the greatest. They have trained me, mentored me, stood by me in difficult times and been there for the good times. Thank you to my mother, Barbara Anderson, and Sarah Bitterli, (both deceased) for getting me into the Postal Service and being my good example of what an efficient and caring customer service oriented carrier looks like.

The rural carriers' union is like none other. I truly feel that if the USPS had evaluated all carriers, city and rural, from the very beginning, our budget would look much better than it does now. Our union officers and stewards have worked very hard to give us the very best job in the Postal Service. I thank them for their hard work. Renae Samples, District Two, and Kurtis Buttars, then state steward, were my first union representatives and now we are blessed with Deb Hurd and Brian Draper. I served as union steward of my local Gooding office for at least 20 of my 34 years in the Postal Service.

Thank you, thank you, to all of you, for putting up with all my silly questions and answering them so quickly. Thank you to our local district officers for all your hard work as well. I served on the local board for many years and was so blessed to have gotten to know many of you through the district meetings, state and area conventions and I even had the privilege of attending one National Convention.

Take this opportunity you have, to become part of your local union and attend the conventions.

They are full of good information and good fun as well as meeting a wonderful group of fellow carriers.

Thank you, also, to the people of the rural academy which I was privileged to be a part of. This is a wonderful training tool and I encourage all you carriers to consider being an Ad Hoc Trainer. After all, that's the first place we get to help our new carriers succeed.

Thank you, Lou Freeman, for your great job with *The Pony Express* and for always being there with a wonderful smile and hug. You do a super job of getting information out to rural carriers all over the state.

To you new carriers, hang in there. I know being a substitute is kind of a thankless job, always working the day after holidays and getting that early morning call, but waiting for a full time route is certainly worth it. Becoming a full time member of this great organization is one of the best decisions I ever made and I thank each of you for being part of this past 34 years of my life.

To my local office crew, I have thoroughly loved working with you and apologize for those days I wasn't my normal cheery self. Life happens sometimes, but you continually lifted and loved me.

I will miss you all, but hope to see you out and about somewhere in this new endeavor in my life.

Thank you once again.

Patty Waugh, Gooding





# IDRLCA AUXILIARY PRESIDENT'S REPORT

*Robin Carver, Auxiliary President*

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## \$1,221.00 Collected For Scholarship Fund

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Greeting Rural Carriers, The state convention in Boise was a very busy time for the Juniors and me. Junior President Dakota Samples decided we would go to the Roaring Springs water park this year and we also

went bowling. We had the Junior meeting on Thursday evening and elected new junior officers for next year. Dakota is off to college next year and has stepped down as President. Our new junior president is Megan Parkinson, Vice President is Jayden Smith, Secretary Treasurer is Ryker Samples and Sargent at arms is Jordon Smith. Congratulations to all the Junior Officers.

This year's auxiliary humanitarian project is a Past National Officers (PNO) scholarship fund. This scholarship is for our Juniors nationwide and will replace some of the auxiliary scholarships which have expired. At our 2017 Idaho convention \$1221.00 was collected for this project and I want to thank everyone who gave to this very worthwhile cause. A special thank you goes out to Jordan Smith, our in-house auctioneer.

On Saturday morning, the Auxiliary had their business meeting. We discussed several items, and worked on the Auxiliary Constitution. We selected 4 scholarship recipients and they will receive their scholarships this fall. They are: Dakota Samples, Josh Vaughan, Robert Crook Jr. and Kortney Hutchison.

Thank you for your continued support of the Auxiliary and the Juniors program.

### ***Humanitarian Project: PNO Scholarship***

National Auxiliary President Sheila Reardon-Gilman, having chosen the PNO Scholarship as the Humanitarian Project for 2016-2017, says, "While considering a project for the coming year, it became apparent that the Auxiliary was about to lose some scholarships that have been in place for several years. I believe the scholarships that are offered

through the NRLCA Auxiliary are an important part of what we do.

"The expense of a college education can be overwhelming. The scholarships we are able to offer can help put a dent in those expenses.

Motto: *"Our Past Supporting Our Future"*

Symbol: *Mailbox and Graduation Cap*

Americanism: *Our Freedoms*

Songs: *"How Great Thou Art," "God Bless America"*

Flower: *Iris and Apple Blossoms*

### ***Inspiration:***

*"Let us think of education as the means of developing our greatest abilities, because in each of us there is a private hope and dream which, fulfilled, can be translated into benefit for everyone and greater strength for our nation."*

**- John F. Kennedy**

### ***Safety: Preventing Suicide***

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is a 24-hour, toll-free, confidential suicide prevention hotline available to anyone in suicidal crisis or emotional distress. By dialing 1-800-273-TALK (8255), a call is routed to the nearest crisis center in a national network of more than 150 crisis centers. The Lifeline's national network of local crisis centers provides crisis counseling and mental health referrals day and night.

**Each year the National Auxiliary selects a worthy charity to support with the money it raises through the sales of select items at meetings and conventions of national and state organizations.**

**Please, won't you support your auxiliary?**



**2017 Auxiliary Officers (left to right) Vice President Wayne Vaughan, Secretary/Treasurer Jeff Marler and President Robin Carver.**



**2017 Juniors Officers (left to right) President Megan Parkinson, Vice President Jayden Smith, Sergeant-at-Arms Ryker Samples and President Jordon Smith.**

# IDRLCA STATE BOARD MINUTES

*State Board Meeting June 8, 2017*

*LaQuinta Inn, Boise*

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## **Welcome**

The regularly scheduled IDRLCA State Board Meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, June 8, 2017 at the LaQuinta Inn, Boise.

## **Attendance:**

President Patti Upton, Vice President Brett Parkinson, Secretary-Treasurer Lori Bennett, Executive Committeemen Mikea Hargrove, Russ Hutchison, John Thomas, Jim Sullins, Editor Lou Freeman, Webmaster Glenda Sanders, Retired Representative Jo Aguirre, Auxiliary President Robin Carver, PAC Chair Bret Helle, District Representative Brian Draper and guest Layle Cherry.

## **Ground Rules**

Vice President Brett Parkinson read the ground rules.

## **Agenda**

The agenda was reviewed and adopted without objection.

## **Reports**

The following reports were presented and placed on file: Executive Committeemen: District One; District Two; District Three; District Five. All other reports to be given at the State Convention.

Voucher Review Chairman Brett Parkinson presented their report.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **Contact Sheet Review**

The Contact Sheets were reviewed and no changes were noted.

### **Western States Conference**

WSC was held April 20-22, 2017 in Tukwila, WA. Several members from Idaho attended. President Upton presented four outstanding payment vouchers for discussion. Without objection, voucher # 1 will be paid in full, vouchers #2, #3 and #4 will be docketed ½ day (\$50).

### **District Annual Meetings**

President Upton discussed the district annual meetings and protocols.

### **State Convention**

June 8-10, 2017, President Upton asked if there were any outstanding items for discussion.

State Board Resolutions or Constitution Proposals

Lou presented a proposed change to Article II Section 9. The proposed change was discussed and no action was taken by the board.

### **Retirement Seminar**

NRLCA Vice President Ronnie Stutts presented a retirement seminar on Wednesday, June 7th which was well attended by over 50 members.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Correspondence**

President Upton read the correspondence that was received.

### **Orientation Representatives**

There is a possibility of changing the Union presentation from Orientation to the Rural Academy. The national office will notify after any decisions are made. The RAFT incentives will be sent to the state only beginning July 1, 2017.

### **Board Policy Review**

President Upton reminded the board that any revisions to the State Board Policy are to be ready for presentation at the September board meeting. No action was taken.

### **Next Board Meeting**

The next board meeting was scheduled for Sept 29-30, 2017 at Candlewood Suites, Meridian, at 8:30 a.m. Officer Resource Training will be done on the 29th.

(See *State Board Meeting* next page)

# IDRLCA STATE BOARD MINUTES

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## **Carrier of the Year Selection**

Vice President, Brett Parkinson read the Carrier of the Year nomination letters. The board went into executive session to make the selection.

## **Recess**

Meeting was recessed at 10:30 a.m.

## *Post-Convention State Board Meeting June 10, 2017 LaQuinta Inn, Boise*

President Upton called the Post-Convention Board Meeting to order at 12:47 p.m.

## **Appointments**

President Upton made the following appointments:

- o Editor -Glenda Sanders
- o PAC Chair -Bret Helle
- o Retiree Representative -Jo Aguirre
- o Webmaster -Bradie Olivera
- o Auto Representative -Jim Sullins
- o Provident Guild Representative -Mikea Hargrove
- o Legislative Representative -John Thomas
- o Historian -Mary Morris

## **Delegates to National Convention**

- o Advances - May request a travel advance for ½ of your delegate pay, no sooner than July 14th. (30 days prior to travel)
- o Assignments - The State President will make assignments, with articles to be submitted to the Editor
- o Required attendance - Beginning with the Monday, State of the Union meeting until the final adjournment of the convention. August 14th – 18th

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **Convention Wrap up**

Auxiliary President Robin Carver said that they will set schedules for the Juniors in the future.

### **Next Board Meeting**

The next IDRLCA State Board meeting is scheduled to begin at 8:30 a.m. on September 29-30, 2017 at the Candlewood Suites in Meridian. President Upton will make assignments to the board members for the officers' resource training.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Board Appointments Approved**

Jim Sullins made a motion that the board appointments, made by the President, be approved, a second was made; the motion passed.

### **Webmasters Transitions**

John Thomas motioned that we approve a paid day to the former and newly appointed Webmasters to transition the position for training purposes. A second was made; the motion passed.

### **Software Purchase - Editor**

Glenda Sanders made a motion to purchase the new software needed for the Editor's computer not to exceed \$500, a second was made; the motion passed.

### **Personal Concerns**

Any personal concerns were addressed.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

# IDRLCA STATE CONVENTION MINUTES

## JUNE 8 - 10, 2017

### BOISE, IDAHO

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#### **Thursday, June 8, 2017:**

##### **Opening Ceremony**

District One President Mikea Hargrove, opened the IDRLCA State Convention at 6:00 p.m. Hillview Methodist Church Cub Scouts presented the colors and led the Pledge of Allegiance. America the Beautiful was presented with a video featuring Elvis Presley. The invocation was given by John Thomas.

##### **Welcoming Remarks**

Mikea then introduced John Lopez, Meridian Postmaster. Mr. Lopez made some welcoming remarks.

##### **In Session**

Mikea then presented the gavel to IDRLCA State President, Patti Upton. President Upton ruled the State Convention in session.

##### **Roll Call of Officers:**

President Patti Upton, Vice President Brett Parkinson, Secretary-Treasurer Lori Bennett, Executive Committeemen: Mikea Hargrove, Russ Hutchison, John Thomas, and Jim Sullins were all present.

##### **Reports**

The following reports were presented and placed on file:

President Patti Upton

Vice President Brett Parkinson

Secretary-Treasurer Lori Bennett

Editor Lou Freeman

Webmaster Glenda Sanders

PAC Chair Bret Helle, PAC totals: \$7,070 which is \$8.75 per capita

Legislative Representative Russ Hutchison

Provident Guild Representative Jim Sullins

Auto Insurance Representative Mikea Hargrove

##### **Committee Assignments**

The following Committee Assignments were made:

Elections Chair Hersh Howard

Constitution Chair Kurtis Nelson

Resolutions Chair Russ Hutchison

Credentials Chair Tony LeBlanc

Audit Chair Mandee Smith

Teller Chair David Phillips

Nominating Chair Chad Anderson

Mileage and Per Diem Chair Amber Warr

Sergeant at Arms Chair Jerry Atkins

Media Chair Glenda Sanders

Parliamentarian Sharon Atkins

Time and Place Chair Russ Hutchison

##### **Announcements**

There were no announcements.

**The session was recessed at 7:25 p.m. for a hospitality gathering.**

#### **Friday, June 9, 2017**

##### **In Session**

President Upton called the session to order at 8:00 a.m.

John Thomas gave the invocation.

##### **IDRLCA Junior Auxiliary**

President Dakota Samples addressed the convention.

# IDRLCA STATE CONVENTION MINUTES

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## **IDRLCA Auxiliary**

IDRLCA Auxiliary Secretary/Treasurer Jeff Marler introduced National Auxiliary Secretary-Treasurer Jody Tyger. Jody talked about the Auxiliary program which is “PNO Scholarships” to honor all the Past National Officers. This year’s motto is “Our Past Supporting Our Future”, and the symbol is the Mailbox and Graduation Cap. Preventing Suicide is the safety project.

## **Standing Rules**

President Upton introduced the 2017 Convention Standing Rules. The 2017 Convention Standing Rules were adopted without objection.

## **Credentials Committee**

The initial report of the Credentials Committee was given by Chair Tony LeBlanc:

	Members	Delegates	Checked-In
District One	352	36	15
District Two	125	13	10
District Three	160	17	07
District Five	183	19	03
Totals	820	85	35

**Simple Majority – 18**

**2/3 Majority – 24**

## **NRLCA Vice President Ronnie Stutts**

Vice President Brett Parkinson introduced NRLCA Vice President Ronnie Stutts. Mr. Stutts addressed the convention attendees. He shared some Idaho trivia. He discussed some current issues including National Route Data, increased package volumes, SPMs and dog alerts. He further shared Idaho route and vehicle data. He discussed EMA and new vehicles. Mr. Stutts spoke about the Engineered Time Study. The fraudulent activity that occurred at headquarters was explained. The presentation continued with grievance activity information as well as the National Steward System. He reviewed the ARC position, RCA retention and membership numbers. Changes in the RAFT initiative were discussed. He finished with various legislative concerns, information about the upcoming National Convention in National Harbor, MD, and safety.

## **IDRLCA Auxiliary**

IDRLCA Auxiliary President Robin Carver addressed the convention. She auctioned off some items to raise funds for the PNO Scholarship fund. Robin Carver addressed the convention. She auctioned off some items to raise funds for the PNO Scholarship fund.

## **Credentials Committee**

An updated report of the Credentials Committee was given by Chair Tony LeBlanc:

	Members	Delegates	Checked-In
District One	352	36	17
District Two	125	13	10
District Three	160	17	07
District Five	183	19	03
	820	85	37

**Simple Majority – 19**

**2/3 Majority – 25**

## **Teller Committee**

President Upton instructed the Teller Committee Chair David Philips to distribute the voting cards.

## **Recess**

President Upton recessed the convention for lunch and committee work.

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# IDRLCA STATE CONVENTION MINUTES

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## **Convention Reconvened**

The convention reconvened at 2:30 p.m.

## **Retired Representative**

Retired Representative Jo Aguirre presented her report and shared information regarding the Retiree Brunch. Sixteen retirees and two spouses were in attendance. Ralph Lightfoot won the \$100 door prize.

## **Financial Reports**

Secretary-Treasurer Lori Bennett gave the financial reports.

## **Credentials Committee**

An updated report of the Credentials Committee was given by Chair Tony LeBlanc:

	Members	Delegates	Checked-In
District One	352	36	17
District Two	125	13	10
District Three	160	17	07
District Five	183	19	03
	820	85	37

**Simple Majority – 19**

**2/3 Majority – 25**

## **Committee Reports**

### **Audit Committee Chair**

Mandee Smith gave their report.

### **Nominating Committee**

Chair Chad Anderson gave their report:

- President: Patti Upton
- Vice President: Brett Parkinson, Mikea Hargrove, Russ Hutchison
- Secretary-Treasurer: Lori Bennett
- Executive Committeeman 1: Mikea Hargrove
- Executive Committeeman 2: Russ Hutchison
- Executive Committeeman 3: John Thomas
- Executive Committeeman 5: Jim Sullins

### **Mileage and Per Diem Committee**

Mileage and Per Diem Committee Chair Amber Warr gave their report. The total number of miles paid were 4332.10 at the mileage rate of \$.50 for a total mileage paid at \$2,166.05. The total number of per diem days paid was 58 at the per diem rate of \$100 for a total per diem paid at \$5,800.00. The total paid for Mileage & Per Diem was \$7,966.05.

### **Resolutions Committee**

Resolutions Committee Chair Russ Hutchison presented their report. Three non-binding resolutions were submitted, and the reports were distributed.

### **Constitution Committee**

Constitution Committee Chair Kurtis Nelson presented their report. Seven Constitution proposals were submitted, the report will be presented in the morning.

### **Seattle District Representative**

Seattle District Representative Patrick Pitts addressed the convention body. Patrick presented information on Rural Delivery Standard Operating Procedures (RDSOP); the PO603, schedules and the right to case DPS and boxholder mail. He continued his talk with addressing the question of adequate casing equipment. Patrick concluded with information on grievance activity in the Seattle District.

### **Salt Lake District Representative**

Salt Lake District Representative Brian Draper addressed the convention. He talked about his total area of representation. He shared route and carrier statistics for the SLC District. Brian discussed RCA hiring and the average age of postal workers. He reviewed the grievance activity and current issues. He showed a picture of an Amazon parcel locker and talked about Sunday Amazon delivery. He continued with information on accidents and seat belt usage. Brian spoke about workplace bullying and EAP. He concluded by talking about the National Agreement.

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# IDRLCA STATE CONVENTION MINUTES

## **Political Action Committee**

PAC Chair Bret Helle gave an update on the total donated so far \$825, which brings us to \$9.63 per capita. District Five will auction off two Seattle Seahawk tickets with the proceeds to be donated to PAC. Paula Grigg explained the rules of the Scavenger Hunt.

## **Recessed**

The session was recessed at 4:30 p.m.

## **Saturday, June 10, 2017:**

### **The Carrier of the Year Breakfast**

The Carrier of the Year breakfast began at 7:00 a.m. with John Thomas giving the blessing. Vice President Brett Parkinson introduced the District Carriers of the Year: Hersh Howard, Russ Hutchison, Connie Mangum, and Connie Moon.

NRLCA Auxiliary Secretary Jody Tyger gave her report, and the hat was passed for donations to the PNO Scholarship Fund.

### **In Session**

The Saturday morning session of the IDRLCA State Convention was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

Constitution Committee Chair Kurtis Nelson distributed their report.

PAC Chair, Bret Helle gave an update on the totals; \$9,753 which is \$11.41 per capita.

### **Credentials Committee Final Report**

	Members	Delegates	Checked-In
District One	352	36	18
District Two	125	13	10
District Three	160	17	07
District Five	183	19	03
	820	85	38

**Simple Majority – 20**

**2/3 Majority – 26**

### **Carrier of the Year**

President Upton announced Russ Hutchison as the IDRLCA Carrier of the Year. Congratulations Russ!

### **Constitution Committee**

Constitution Committee Chair Kurtis Nelson presented their report.

1. Article II Section 6.A.1 and A.2 Failed
2. Article II Section 6.A.7 Passed
3. Article II Section 9.C Passed
4. Article II Section 9.C Passed
5. Article IV Sections 1.B Passed
6. Article IV Section 2.F Passed
7. Article VI Section 1.C Passed
8. Article VI Section 3.F Passed
9. Article IV Section 3.D Passed Brian Draper motioned to dispense with the reading of the proposed change, a second was made; no objection.

### **Resolutions Committee**

Resolution Chair Russ Hutchison gave their report:

**Non-Binding Resolution # 1:** Require during weekly standup talks, any pertinent information pertaining to changes in postal procedures i.e. Postage rates, pay changes, EMA, delivery changes, etc. also include allotted time for union updates and safety concerns or issues. Objected by Delegate Bret Helle. Delegate Helle withdrew his objection. Passed

**Non-Binding Resolution # 2:** Regular rural carriers shall have the option of being charged sick leave in two or four hour increments upon request. Also, regular rural carriers would still be able to have the option of taking sick leave in units of one day. Passed at the sound of the gavel.

**Non-Binding Resolution # 3:** That all postal owned vehicles currently assigned to rural routes have back-up cameras installed. Objected by Delegate Helle. After discussion, Passed.

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# IDRLCA STATE CONVENTION MINUTES

## **Resolution # 2 - Reconsidered**

Lori Bennett made a motion to suspend the rules to reconsider Resolution # 2, a second was made; the motion passed. Renee Samples motioned to end debate, no objection. Resolution # 2 Failed.

## **New Business**

### **First-Timers**

The first-time attendees to State Convention were recognized, David Phillips, Kristen Kipping, and Tim Warren.

### **IDRLCA Junior Auxiliary Board**

The IDRLCA Junior Auxiliary Board was recognized; President Megan Parkinson, Vice President Jayden Smith, Secretary-Treasurer Ryker Samples, Sergeant-at-Arms Jordan Smith.

Auxiliary PNO Scholarships raised \$1221 during convention.

### **IDRLCA Auxiliary Officers**

The IDRLCA Auxiliary Officers were recognized; President Robin Carver, Vice President Wayne Vaughan, Secretary-Treasurer Jeff Marler.

## **Election Committee**

Election Committee Chair, Hersh Howard, gave their report.

A total of 180 ballots were received; of these 177 were valid, 3 were invalid.

### **Vote count:**

Delegate-at-Large	Patti Upton	126
Delegate	Lori Bennett	132
Delegate	Brian Draper	121
Delegate	Sharon Atkins	99
Delegate	Brett Parkinson	98
Delegate	Bret Helle	90
Delegate	Glenda Sanders	87
Delegate	Lisa Hall	81
Delegate	Lou Freeman	80
Alternate	Jo Aguirre	73
Alternate	Robin Carver	66
Alternate	Mikea Hargrove	62
Alternate	Amber Warr	60
Alternate	Jim Sullins	49



*2017 First-Timers l to r: David Phillips, Kristen Kipping, and Tim Warren.*

## **Nominating Committee**

Nominating Committee Chair Chad Anderson gave their report:

President Patti Upton, declared by consent

Vice President Brett Parkinson Elected

Mikea Hargrove, Russ Hutchison, Bret Helle

Secretary-Treasurer Lori Bennett-declared by consent

Executive Committeeman 1 Mikea Hargrove-declared by consent

Executive Committeeman 2 Russ Hutchison-declared by consent

Executive Committeeman 3 John Thomas-declared by consent

Executive Committeeman 5 Jim Sullins, declared by consent

## **Time and Place Committee**

Time and Place Committee Chair Russ Hutchison presented information regarding the 2018 State Convention at the Burley Inn Convention Center, in Burley, Idaho on Monday – Wednesday, June 11th – 13th, 2018.

The theme is *“S’more Fun with District Two”*

## **Political Action Committee**

PAC Chair Bret Helle gave a final update of the Political Action Committee (PAC) totals which rose to \$12.54 per capita. Convention PAC fundraising totals were now \$3312.

## **New Business**

Under New Business David Phillips presented Resolution # 4: The NRLCA negotiate with the USPS to eliminate Table Four RCA wage rate and pay those RCAs under Table Three, Schedule 1 hourly rate. Objected by Parkinson. Passed

President Upton, released the Committees.

The National General door prize winners were Jeff Marler, Bret Helle and Lou Freeman.

NRLCA Vice President Ronnie Stutts and Salt Lake District Representative Brian Draper fielded questions from the floor.

NRLCA Vice President Ronnie Stutts installed the IDRLCA State Officers.

John Thomas gave the benediction. Jerry Atkins, David Phillips, and Paula Grigg retired the colors.

The convention was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

## Through All The Years

Time is just a little fleeter;  
Friendship just a little sweeter,  
And the fruits of memory mellow  
As the years and years go by,  
Old friends seem a little dearer;  
Hearts to hearts a little nearer,  
When the leaves turn red and yellow  
Underneath the autumn sky.

Dreams with recollection tender  
Fill the heart with richer splendor,  
As the light gleams soft in falling  
Through some old cathedral dome.  
And, to faults a little blinder,  
We grow just a little kinder,  
And the dream that's calling, calling,  
Is of old friends and of home.

Friends we cling to may be fewer,  
But the love for them is truer,  
For we know life's richest treasure  
To be friendship that endures.  
And the old friends all grow dearer  
As we see with eyes grown clearer,  
That joy's gladdest, fullest measure  
Is a friendship such as yours.

So I smile a little longer,  
And the pull's a little stronger  
On my heartstrings as I sit and dream  
Of some old friend and true.  
With my eyes a little brighter,  
And my heart a little lighter,  
For the mellow lights of memory gleam  
Along the trail to you.

And if time's a little fleeter,  
Friendship's just a little sweeter,  
And the story of its splendor  
Always old and ever new.  
How the years make old friends dearer,  
Hearts to hearts a little nearer,  
Till with friendship grown more tender  
I am telling this to you.

James W. Foley

Go to the IDRLCA  
Website, [idrlca.org](http://idrlca.org), for the  
latest and most  
comprehensive postal  
news.

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
US POSTAGE PAID  
PAUL ID 83347  
PERMIT # 53

## The PONY EXPRESS



### ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Please send address changes to:  
IDRLCA Secretary Lori Bennett  
306 N Dakota Avenue  
Fruitland ID 83619

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## Coming Events

**2017 NRLCA  
National Convention  
Gaylord National Resort  
National Harbor, Maryland  
August 15 to 18, 2017  
Details in  
The National Rural Carrier  
Volume 116, No. 4**

**IDRLCA  
State Board Meeting  
September 29, 2017  
8:30 a.m.  
Candlewood Suites,  
1855 Silverstone Way, Meridian  
All IDRLCA Members Are  
Welcome to Attend**

**Western States Conference  
April 19 - 21, 2018  
Little America Hotel and Resort  
1-800-445-6945  
2800 West Lincolnway  
Crossroads of I-80 and I-25  
Cheyenne, Wyoming**