

2010 LEGISLATIVE SEMINAR
Jeffrey Gilman

On May 15 Fred Kinner, Deb Everts and I traveled to Washington, DC for the 2010 Legislative Seminar. That evening the weather was wonderful for the reception held at the Billy Goat Tavern. We sat outside and renewed friendships with the other presidents and individuals there.

On Sunday morning we had an introduction to the issues we would be taking to the hill. These included the preservation of 6 day delivery, pre-funding of the future retiree health benefit fund, and elimination of the government pension offset/windfall elimination provision. Following this National President Don Cantriel updated the group on happenings at the National office. Secretary/Treasurer Dailing gave an update on the data base being developed for the secretary/treasurers. Membership has declined by about 3,300 members and costs continue to increase. As of March 31 the association had a deficit of \$211,000. Director of Labor Relations Johnson spoke about the dramatic increase in grievance activity. This was followed by a presentation by the committee proposing the National Steward System.

Jim Slaughter NRLCA Parliamentarian spoke about board meetings, parliamentarian procedure, and communicating with your representatives on Capital Hill. Ray Nichols, National PAC chair spoke about the importance of PAC and keeping it on the minds of your members. If individuals are close to achieving the next level of contribution make them aware of this.

On Monday we were back in the classroom for more information on the issues. Pierce Meyers of the Parcel Shippers' Association spoke about the importance of maintaining six day delivery. Their organization represents 70% of the parcels shipped. He explained that some shippers have sophisticated computer programs that track temperature so that medications will arrive in a timely fashion and remain viable. He believed that if the over funding of the CSRS (estimated at \$75 billion) was returned to the Postal Service it would help to relief the serious deficit.

National Education Association spokesperson, Carrie Lewis explained GPO/ WEP. Even with all the support for the repeal of this, it is the cost of \$80 billion that prohibits it from passing. Many believe it will take full overhaul of the social security system before this is fixed.

Bob McLean, President REM Association returned this year. He always gives a presentation about what to expect in your visit to a congressional office. He stressed the importance of making some sort of connection if possible with the staffer you are likely to talk with, and following up with any additional information.

I feel we had a very successful session this year. We had a lot of support for maintaining six day delivery. Many felt that there may be a better way to save the Postal Service. We were able to meet with very few of the representatives; however we did have appointments with the staffers in all but one office. After our visit we had five more representatives' sign on to House Resolution 173, preserving 6 day delivery. This makes 26 of the 29 representatives from New York as cosigners.