

## **WOMEN'S DAY AND THE 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE 19<sup>TH</sup> AMENDMENT TO THE US CONSTITUTION**

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**2**020 is the year of major events that can and will shape our existence. We have elections, not just in our National Union, but also in many of our locals. We have an upcoming U.S. Presidential Election. All are extremely important to the viability of the Mail Handler craft. We are currently under attack on various fronts. Put out one fire, and up comes another. Fortunately, thanks to the leadership that steers our Union, we have been able to survive and advance. But we must continue to stand strong and support those that have our best interest at heart.

It's important that we not forget the sacrifices and efforts of others to ensure that we have an option in the election process. The year 2020 is the 100<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the U.S. Constitution that allowed women the right to vote. People, both men and women, have lost their lives to ensure that women would get the invaluable right to vote. The suffrage story is long and twisted. The organized movement lasted from 1848, with the first women's rights convention in New York, until 1920, when the amendment was ratified by thirty-eight states. It took almost seventy years before a woman's right to vote became law. It was a long and hard fought battle that continues today. Some states are attempting to adopt laws that eliminate the right to vote for minorities or immigrants. Again, we must make sure that we elect the "right" people to represent us. Decisions have long term consequences.

January 18, 2020 was the annual Women's March. The theme for this year was "Women Rise." Depending on your geographical location, the theme had a different variation. "Together We Rise" or "Women Rising Up" just to name a couple. But no matter the mantel, the meaning was the same. This is the year that the voice of women will be heard throughout these United States of America. We will let all of the political candidates know that we have a strong presence in this world and we will be heard. We are educating women on a very substantial level. Making sure that they too know they are important to the direction of our country. We are bringing our female family members and friends with us to engage them in the upcoming elections.

Finally, International Women's Day is being celebrated on March 8, 2020. A world celebration of all nations and cultures

with a unified goal: making sure that the voice of all women, regardless of race, color, nationality, economic status, sexual orientation and educational level, are given their equal audience. Ignoring us will not be acceptable. This year's theme is "Each for Equal." We believe that an equal world is an enabled world. This year we will offer an opportunity to reflect on progress made, to call for change, and to celebrate acts of courage and determination by ordinary women who have played an extraordinary role in the history of their communities and countries.

### **"WOMEN RISING UP"**

