



## MY SISTERS ROCK

June Harris, Central Region Vice President,  
Local 306 President, Women's Committee Chairperson

**O**n **March 8, 2024**, we will once again celebrate **International Women's Day**. This is a very important time of acknowledgement of the various accomplishments of women around the nation. **The theme for 2024 is "Inspire Inclusion"**. This will be a day to celebrate the diversity of our sisters and to empower them.

This year's campaign theme demonstrates the crucial role of inclusion in achieving gender equality. It calls for action to break down barriers, challenge stereotypes, and create environments where all women are valued and respected. **Inspire Inclusion** encourages everyone to recognize the unique perspectives and contributions of women from all walks of life.

A key component needed to **Inspire Inclusion** is the promotion of diversity in leadership and decision-making positions. Women, especially those belonging to underrepresented groups, continue to face barriers when seeking leadership roles.

Education and awareness play vital roles in fostering inclusion and empowering women. By providing support and resources, women can be empowered to overcome obstacles and achieve their full potential. This fact is evidenced by the "first" for women throughout the United States Postal Service and our Union. Check out a few facts.

- Women have been shaping postal history since 1775, when Mary Katherine Goddard was appointed as the first woman postmaster in Baltimore.
- Jackie Strange, became the first woman to serve as the USPS Deputy Postmaster General in 1987.
- Sarah Black is the first known woman appointed to carry mail in the United States. She was appointed on April 3, 1845, and her Charleston, MD, mail route garnered her a whopping \$48 per year salary.
- Mary Fields, known as "Stagecoach Mary," is the first known African-American woman to carry mail. Born a slave, Fields was freed after the Civil War.
- In February 2015, Megan Brennan, became the first woman to serve as Postmaster General of the USPS.
- Under the current National President of the NPMHU, Paul Hogrogian, the NPMHU Women's Committee was formed in 2017. Since its inception,



we have seen important issues addressed by this Committee. The women who helped to form and work on this Committee are awesome leaders and champions for ALL of our Union.

- The NPMHU has seen a significant increase in the number of female Local Presidents and Local representatives.
- The NPMHU has a female Contract Administration Manager, Teresa Harmon.
- One of the NPMHU former Women Leaders, Dianne William — Local 304, a great laborer and Unionist, represented us well. She had the opportunity to be interviewed and give a short summary of her insight of women in the USPS. Here's an excerpt of a transcript of her interview. "When I came into the post office in 1969 there were not a whole lot of women in the post office. But I can say from having the positions I've had and doing a lot of travel and getting around to different postal facilities. That has really changed. That has really changed. I think it's gone from like 20 to 30% women to now 60 to 70 percent women really. And women are in every position, have every title there is. And there has just been a big change." — Smithsonian: Women in the US Postal System
- One important fact, which cannot be ignored, is the support of our Union Brothers as the women of this nation advance. We salute our brothers as they also "Inspire Inclusion."