



# LOOKING FORWARD TO 2021

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

**T**he year 2020 is almost over, but it is leaving an everlasting impression on the world. The U.S. elections are basically over (except for Georgia). The pandemic is still causing chaos in our nation. The abnormal is still abnormal. We have been promised a vaccine to combat the virus. Yet, we are having to adjust to a “new life as usual.” This is not the easiest thing to do or accept. But we can and will.

Mail Handlers are very clever and adaptable people. We have some of the

world's greatest minds. Believe me, I have seen us in action in my extensive time as a Union representative. I have heard some of the most innovative stories when present in a Pre-Disciplinary Interview. Some of the stories that we hear would make our member a best-selling author in the fiction category. It takes all that you have to keep a straight face. You have a greater appreciation for the level of creativity that your grievant has. Something to smile about. This is one of those moments

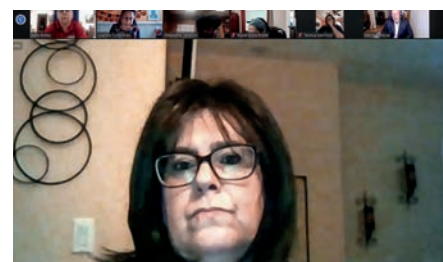
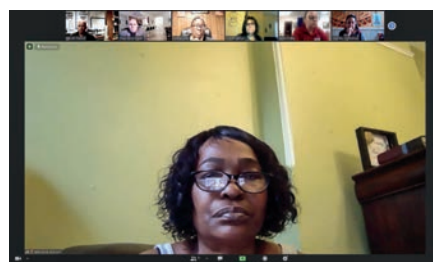
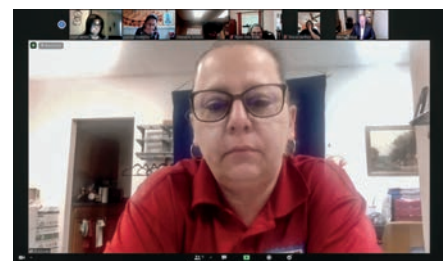
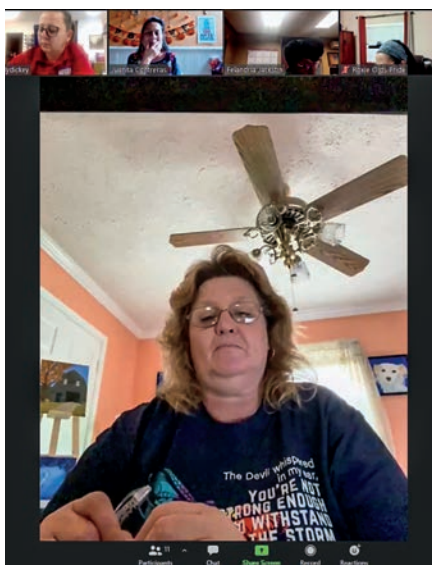
that allow you to exhale. Breathe again. Breathe out. Release all of that pent-up anxiety and frustration.

Let's start looking forward in expectation as we await 2021. There are many unknowns, but you can rest assured that we will endure. I have seen our workplaces become places of quarantine and higher numbers of COVID exposure. I have seen employees forced to work in close proximity with one another because there isn't always enough room for social distancing. But somehow, we continue to do what Mail Handlers do, ADAPT!

To adapt is to become adjusted to new conditions. The conditions that we face are new and uncharted territory, but we're still here. We are apprehensive and concerned about our safety and the safety of our families and co-workers, yet we report to work because we are essential. Essential to this new “life” that we are living. The option to work from home is not an option for our craft employees. Trucks cannot be loaded or unloaded from the comfort of our couches. We can't park our forklifts in our garages while waiting to make dispatch times. We are Mail Handlers who must face today's challenges in person. We must be prepared for the ever changing schedules and demands of life.

Remote learning. High demand for hand sanitizer and paper products. The small things that require a large amount of thought. You realize that you can't take anyone for granted. You begin to see and realize the value of






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## *Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year to our NPMHU family!*

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your fellow man. You become appreciative of the subtle differences that make you unique from everyone else. You see how far a nice word or gesture can go. So, as we enter into the holiday season, we have an untraditional Thanksgiving. Most of us normally have large family gatherings and may travel long distances to visit relatives. But because of COVID, our usual plans

are side-lined and we had to think out of the box. We still ate our traditional favorites and love on our family and friends. We were able to see what we are truly thankful for.

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas and we are excited. We understand the gifts of life, health, family and friends are more important than the physical high price stuff. Yes,

we still want some of the fun stuff, but again 2020 forced us to look again at what is important.

It's a gift to be a part of this great Union, filled with my awesome Brothers and Sisters. We have all made it through this year under the guidance of great leadership and purpose. Let's look ahead to greater things in 2021. You deserve it!!