

## TIME TO MAKE A CHANGE

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**T**oday, more than ever, we have an awesome responsibility to vote in the upcoming election. It is crucial to our survival as a Union and as employees of the United States Postal Service. We are facing assaults on various levels and each assault can have a profound effect on our survival. This is not a time to be complacent, but we must act in a positive and definitive manner.

We can not sit back and believe that our jobs are secure and think that we have nothing to worry about. As a Local President to one of the largest Locals in the Union, I have seen first hand the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on our membership. I represent mothers who face new challenges in trying to provide adequate healthcare for their children, while the majority of schools and daycares are still closed or using remote learning. This is very difficult for working families, especially single-family homes. The caregivers for many of these kids were grandparents or other relatives who are now testing positive for COVID-19 or have to be quarantined due to possible contamination. Some of the kids have been exposed and thus our Brother and Sister Mail Handlers are feeling the stress. It's not because they cannot handle the task at hand, but it is because this "new" normal isn't normal. The adjustments are hard for both the kids and the parents. That's why it is important that you seek help during these times. Talk to your Union representatives when there is an abnormality with your pay or when there are circumstances out of your control that dictate your need to be off work. Familiarize yourself with all legislation that will affect your livelihood.

Each day, the governing interpretations of the various leave categories that were implemented to make this unsure time less stressful have begun to cause our members more stress than ever. We need to be supportive of one another and be willing to listen to each other, in order to determine if we can help reduce the stress and sense of loss that some people are feeling.

Unfortunately, the majority of us have lost family and co-workers to COVID-19. But we will get through this. We have to see that we are not hopeless and know that there are things that we can do. Though it looks like there is one thing after another, WE GOT THIS! We all are a positive component to the solution that we are seeking. We have to vote. We have to continue to think positive and stay focused. If you are not involved, become involved. A spectator comes to view the action. Whatever happens, happens. But that is not who we are. We are engaged, insightful, well-versed people who are energetic and focused on doing what is



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best for our family and others. We are not selfish, but we are people who want what is best for ALL, not just one group of people. I was always told, "if you don't stand for something, you will fall for everything." It's time to take a stand and take advantage of the gift and right to vote.

There is a song by the Winans called "Time." Some of the stand out lyrics say "It's time. Time to make a change. We are the people who can do it!" This is the 100th Anniversary of Women's Suffrage and we, along with our Brothers, plan to take full advantage of our opportunity to make a profound statement on November 3, 2020. Educate yourself and then go to the polls in record numbers to demand the change that we are seeking!