

## Sandra Sigala

Tradeswomen Heroes Award  
Winner - February 2021



**Level of Experience:** Journeyworker

**Years in Trade:** 15

**Union:** IUPAT

**Local:** 607

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### Bio

Sandra Sigala is a Foreman Painter with 15 years of experience and is responsible for direct oversight of job sites including staffing, arrangement of materials, and production schedules; quality control measures related to painting, wallcovering, wood finishing, drywall finishing, and special coatings applications; and human resources functions as assigned. She graduated her apprenticeship program in 2008, also earning the prestigious distinction of "PDC 30's Secretary-Treasurers Award" for her outstanding performance in school, on the job, with the union, and throughout the community. Sandra's passion for union and community activism has earned her many current elected and appointed leadership positions such as: Recording Secretary for IUPAT LU 607, Recording Secretary for the Rockford Labor Day Committee, Delegate for Rockford United Labor, Trustee for the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement, Trustee for PDC 30's National Women's Committee and most recently appointed by the Mayor of Rockford and approved by City Council as a Commissioner to the Rockford Housing Authority.

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## Why Sandra Was Nominated

Fifteen years ago, Sandra Sigala was working as a classroom academic assistant and was going through significant life changes. As a single mother of two, Sandra was determined to find a career that could provide her with a good wage and benefits and allow her to be the sole provider for herself and her children. Sandra turned to her brother, who was a Union painting contractor, for advice on beginning a career in construction. Even though her brother was unsure about her entrance into the construction industry, he pointed Sandra in the direction of the Union and apprenticeship. After speaking with the local union and the apprenticeship school, Sandra was armed with enough information to know that she was ready to start a new career in the finishing trades. She became a member of IUPAT Local 607, enrolled into the painter apprenticeship program and began working for her brother's company. Sandra made the most of her apprenticeship, thriving in the formal training at school and on-the-job learning while working for several contractors alongside her fellow Local 607 members. Her personal and professional success is proven in her bio above. Sandra may credit her brother, her business representative, and her apprenticeship instructors for much of her accomplishments but if you ask any of them, they would all say that Sandra is a true

Tradeswomen Hero. She had the courage to choose a non-traditional occupation to be able to provide for her family. Her volunteerism has helped so many people in need throughout the community. Her union activism continues to build Union Pride amongst all of her fellow members of Local #607. She promotes inclusion, equity, and diversity for the construction industry. Most importantly, Sandra is a true hero and role model for her children. One of which is currently a 3rd year painter apprentice and well on his way to follow in her footsteps.