Louise Medina
Tradeswomen Heroes Award Winner - March 2021

Bio

Louise Medina is the first elected female Business Representative for SMART Local 265 and has worked in the industry for 21 years serving various roles and elected positions within the union. Louise’s persistence to succeed has paved her path from Apprentice, Journeyperson, Foreperson, Organizer and elected positions of Conductor, Trustee, Executive Board, Recording Secretary and current position as a Business Representative. She also serves on the International Women’s Committee. Louise’s goals/passion are to strengthen: a more diversified workplace, working conditions and benefits, relationships between Labor and Management, and membership unity. In Louise’s spare time, she enjoys spending time with her husband, daughter and family, cooking, fishing, and traveling.

Why Louise Was Nominated

It is a tremendous honor to nominate Sister Louise Medina, member of SMART Local 265, for the NABTU Tradeswomen Heroes Award. Sister Medina is a Business Representative for Local 265, and she is a remarkable leader known for her integrity, intelligence, and
commitment to representing our members in the manner they deserve. She is also the first woman elected as a Business Representative for her Local. Sister Medina is also the President of the newly-formed SMART Recruitment and Retention Council, which will focus on how SMART can better recruit, retain, and promote diverse groups at all levels in our union. She is the first woman to be President of a SMART council. Sister Medina has made tremendous progress for women in SMART at Local 265 but also across SMART as a member of the SMART Women’s Committee. As part of the SMART Women’s Committee, she advocated for Constitutional amendments and resolutions to combat discrimination and harassment within the union, promote the recruitment and retention of women members, and support a mentoring study for apprenticeship programs. In addition, in this role she provides valued advice to me on ways the International can support our women membership. According to Local 265 Business Manager John Daniel, Sister Medina also helps him to see his blind spots and understand the experiences of female members, which has helped him grow a lot. Brother Daniel describes Sister Medina as a confident labor leader who is respected by the business agents of the other trades, and she never backs down. She is also a really good person and has a heart of gold. Sister Medina has been paving the path for other women in SMART to obtain leadership positions in the sheet metal industry and is a tremendous asset to this organization. I appreciate your time in considering her nomination for the NABTU Tradeswomen Heroes Award – she is truly deserving of this honor.