

Jessica Bruneau

Tradeswomen Heroes Award
Winner - September 2021



Level of Experience: Journeyworker

Years in Trade: 5.5

Union: Boilermakers

Local: 647

Bio

Jessica Bruneau's work career began in manufacturing, but she was looking for a change. She had heard of apprenticeship programs that would allow her to gain the skills and knowledge to secure a career. With the guidance of a friend, she applied to the Boilermakers Local 647 apprenticeship program. She was indentured in August of 2015 and became active immediately.

During her time in apprenticeship and after graduation in 2019, she helped the local in any manner asked. We directly credit our growth in female membership to her efforts while attending trade shows and recruiting events. Through Jessica's volunteer work, Local 647 has the highest number of females ever in our membership; and with her help, that number continues to grow.

She is also a founding member of our Local Affinity Group. The Local Affinity Group furthers the union movement and engages membership in volunteer projects. Since the inception of the group, Jessica has proudly served as Chairperson. She has also provided ideas and guidance for our apprentice review committee and volunteers as a new-apprentice mentor. Jessica serves on the local's political action committee and leads



many lobbying efforts to improve our members' careers and lives.

She continues to focus on and bring forth ideas and issues to help draw even more females and minorities to our craft. This includes helping to develop maternity leave, instructing anti-harassment training and mentoring new apprentices.

At our local's recent executive board elections Jessica stepped up once again and won a trustee position to become our first female executive board member. Taking her well-deserved seat at the table, she will guide our local into the next decade.

Tradeswomen Build Nations conferences has raised her awareness to the troubles and hardships her sisters in the trades face, and she brings back many ideas and suggestions to the local of ways we can improve and empower our membership. Jessica always steps forth and offers any help she can. Although small in stature, she stands tall and will not back down from her firmly held beliefs. Jessica gives back to the union and epitomizes the meaning of a strong union member and a hero to other women in the trade. Jessica is truly a tradeswomen hero.

Why Jessica Was Nominated

It is my honor to nominate Jessica Bruneau of Boilermakers Local 647 Minneapolis, MN, as a Tradeswoman Hero. Her dedication to the labor movement and inclusion of all people in the trades is a breath of fresh air in these troubling times. Jessica has always strived to become a highly skilled journeywoman and steps up to face any challenge. She's also always gone above and beyond to raise awareness of the trades to other women and bring them into our Local 647 Boilermakers apprenticeship program. Attending the