Bethany Wilson
Tradeswomen Heroes Award Winner - March 2022

Bio
In many ways, Bethany was unknowingly preparing to become an Elevator Constructor her whole life. In high school she was the captain of her robotics team, she completed an internship at NASA under their welding engineers, and became passionate about trade unions after learning about the Triangle Shirtwaist factory tragedy in her U.S. history class.

She moved on to take machining and metrology classes in college that even led to her instructing classes at The Haas machine school in Bosnia and Herzegovina while participating in an exchange program. Bethany returned to the U.S. working as a machinist where she was mistreated and discovered she was being paid grossly under her male co-workers, who had fewer responsibilities and skills.

The harassment and mistreatment led to her leaving the field entirely in 2018 when a boyfriend's dad suggested she apply to be an Elevator Constructor. She followed his advice and has been traveling around the Midwest working on Elevators since for IUEC Local 44. She is their only female apprentice and is known by many as a go-to person for help with schooling, enrolling in the union 401k, and
writing monthly for their international trade journal.

Within her contractor, she is the safety lead for her region and the field liaison for the women’s committee. She enjoys volunteering with Girl Scouts in her free time and spending time outdoors. Her favorite part of the trade is the constantly changing environment and getting to troubleshoot issues in the field.

She believes, “The more you put in, the more you get out of it” when it comes to union participation.

In her spare time, she mentors Girl Scouts and helps them earn merit badges completing an array of tasks from advising them on college applications to car maintenance. It seems her motto is “How can I help?”

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**Why Bethany Was Nominated**

Although she is only an apprentice Bethany is always volunteering to help her brothers and sisters in the trade. She is her local’s journal correspondent writing articles monthly for The Elevator Constructor. She serves as the lead on her company’s safety committee and their women’s field committee. “I am always trying to advocate for every brother and sister whether it be their health and safety on the job site or their healthcare in retirement.”

Her willingness to help her Brothers and Sisters with everything from Insurance claims to issues with the school laptops makes her an asset to her local’s newest and most senior members. Bethany assists female members across the country in identifying the proper PPE for their bodies and advocating with contractors to ensure it is provided for them.