

Katy Grace Roper

Tradeswomen Heroes Award

Winner - August 2022



Level of Experience: Journeyworker

Years in Trade: 5

Union: IUEC

Local: 37

City: Columbus, OH

Bio

Katy became an Elevator Constructor with an already amazing set of skills under her belt. It started with her interest in music; playing drums, guitar, and banjo with a family band. She talked about her family, "A giant circus, 6 kids, all different interests and personalities. We grew up poor on a farm in NE Ohio, so we all know how to work and be grateful."

After high school, she got scholarships to study audio engineering and did audio for live shows and venues for about five years. "I learned a lot about electronics and electricity. I can sense a bad wheel bearing just from the differences in frequencies." "There was not a lot of stability in it," she said, "Either you are working lots of hours, or you have dry spells."

With all the traveling required, and all the times she had car issues, she decided to become an automotive technician. She worked in various automotive shops for 5 years, before becoming an elevator constructor.

Recognizing she had transferable skills and wanting to secure a career in a union trade, she applied to the IUEC and IBEW apprenticeship programs. The IBEW called first, so she worked as an inside wireman apprentice for 6 months before getting into the IUEC apprenticeship. "My mom is thrilled I



have a union job, it gives her peace of mind that I will be alright."

Why Katy Was Nominated

"I try to meet with and mentor any women who enter my local. I attend trade conferences and report what I learn at union meetings. I try to invest in my community, playing in benefit concerts and helping with auto diagnosis. I just bought a house and have a lot of elderly neighbors. I have enjoyed helping them deal with their overgrown bushes and trees with my handy chain saw." She went on to say, "I'd rather be challenged than coddled. I can't live with society's idea of security, I do what feels right for me. I've always loved breathing some life back into old equipment and/or adding some new tech to some tried and true gear, this trade has a lot of opportunity for that.

My background was mechanical and electrical, I didn't know a thing about construction! When I found myself feeling lost in translation, I asked my supervisor for a copy of the installation manual, which seemed to fill in the gaps for me..." It's clear that Katy is an asset to her union, her trade, and her community!