

Mara Amsbaugh

Tradeswomen Heroes Award

Winner - September 2022



Level of Experience: Journeyworker

Years in Trade: 34

Union: Boilermakers

Local: 549

City: Pittsburg, CA

Bio

Mara Amsbaugh, known as Marcy by her colleagues, is considered a "superstar" Boilermaker by her brothers and sisters at Local 549 in Pittsburg, CA. She is a longtime member of the Local, and a General Forman National Transient Division tank building member. From the beginning of her career in 1987, and over her many years of service, she has continued to prove herself time and time again and has become an influencing figure within the local.

Describing her superstar qualities, Tim Jefferies, a Western States International Representative for the Construction Sector Operations, said, "Any Boilermaker that has ever built a tank knows this is an amazing feat for a woman to have made a name for themselves in tank building."

Amsbaugh is a top-notch tank builder, an impressive welder and Boilermaker.

Positions held include (1) Industrial Painter and Job steward at the Savannah River site since 2008, (2) Recording Secretary for Local 1756, and (3) Vice President of District Council 77.



Why Mara Was Nominated

Amsbaugh's remarkable qualities don't stop at her expert craftsmanship. She is described as a superior role model, especially to women in the Local. Even if they don't know her personally, they know of her legacy. Randy Thomas, Business Manager and Secretary-Treasurer for Local 549 has known her since he started his apprenticeship. Thomas attributes much of his success to Amsbaugh and the way she started him off right.

"I would not be the Boilermaker that I am today if it was not for Amsbaugh. She was my General Foreman on a CB&I tank job when I was a new apprentice. She taught me how to treat people with respect and to lead by example."

When Amsbaugh is the foreman on the job, the job site is a valued place to be. Those who work with her in that role have put her on a pedestal because she gets the work done but brings a caring nature into the way she conducts business and teaches. For her, it wasn't just about getting the job done but ensuring that apprentices were learning the process, so they are quality workers in the future. She makes a point to move apprentices around, so they see different aspects of the job and gain a vast knowledge of the work.

Thomas explains how Amsbaugh's influence impacted the job site for both Boilermakers and the company.

"It was a totally different job site when she was the foreman. People wanted to work for her and aspired to be like her as a supervisor. The way she held safety meetings every morning even influenced company policy. She would have everyone stand in a circle and say something about safety. She made everyone participate. Even if it was something small. Everyone was valued and respected.