

Janelle Leone

Tradeswomen Heroes Award
Winner - January 2023



Level of Experience: Journeyworker

Years in Trade: 5 years

Union: OPCMIA

Local: 534

City: Boston, MA

Bio

Janelle Leone joined the Boston Plasterers and Cement Masons Union in October 2017. She attended her plastering apprenticeship classes every other Saturday, often attending Saturday classes on her own initiative during her weeks off to further hone her craft and get cross-trained as a cement mason. This allowed her to learn invaluable skills such as waterproofing and epoxy flooring, in addition to her skills learned in her primary trade as a plasterer such as EIFS, stucco plastering, and ornamental molding.

Janelle graduated from her apprenticeship program, becoming a journeyman in March 2022. Over the years, specifically this past, she has been very active in her local, giving back as often as possible to an organization that has given so much to her.

From going door to door in Boston handing out pamphlets or holding signs prior to elections, to aid in the political efforts of the local, to volunteering her time and energy when Building Pathways had a seminar at the union hall, speaking to the class explaining the basics of plastering, as well as orchestrating hands-on hawk and trowel training to familiarize the class with the tools and techniques of the trade. Through hard work and perseverance, Janelle has made



immeasurable strides for women in her local, achieving many unprecedented milestones.

On a five-year, fifty-one-story high-rise project at Boston's South Station, Janelle achieved the honor of becoming the first female Steward in Local 534 history. Additionally, she holds the distinction of being the Assistant Political Director of her union, appointed this past September. She recently attended a Political Seminar organized by OPCMIA Political Director Ryan Stepano and Lobbyist Blaze Wharton, at the State House in Salt Lake City, Utah. The seminar provided an invaluable background understanding of the duties expected of her newly earned position.

This past October Janelle's hard work and selfless service to the local during a very rewarding year was again recognized as she was nominated and sworn in as Vice President, becoming the first female to hold this distinction in the long and storied history of Boston Plasterers and Cement Masons Local 534. Janelle is a shining example of how hard work and a selfless attitude with no ulterior motive for personal accolades can lead to prosperity, as well as an example of hope and someone to look up to for women in the trade unions.

Why Janelle Was Nominated

Janelle has a passion like no other for our trades and for advancing herself. She is the example of someone you'd want next to you on your crew, which speaks volumes. Her fire for learning and sharing in her experience is so valuable to the trades that her local recognizes it to the point where they have taken every opportunity to make sure her fire is spread by involving her at leadership levels and giving her responsibilities to help build their future. Janelle is an easy choice for a tradeswoman hero.