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2019 Women in Construction: Renee Dozier, Master Electrician, IBEW Local 103

March 29, 2019 - Spotlights



Which project, deal or transaction was the “game changer” in the advancement of your career during the last 10 years? In 2010 I was hired by J.F White Construction Company, one of many of my favorite contractors. We worked on a lot of heavy construction projects such as Amtrak, Fast 14, Chelsea St. Bridge as well as MBTA Projects. It was hard work and I absolutely loved it. My brothers and sisters on the job were so intelligent and I learned so much from them. I have found mentors and lifetime friendships in the union that made me love my work and the trade even more.

What are you doing differently in 2019 that has had a positive impact on your career? I accepted a new position at Encore Boston Harbor as a maintenance electrician, which is different than what I am used to. I worked on the construction side of this project, so maintaining it will be like watching my baby grow up! It’s great to get insight into another part of my trade.

What was your first job and what did you learn from it? My first construction job was Hotel Commonwealth in Boston, where I learned to make safety top priority. I also learned that not everyone wants to see women in the field, and in order to be in this business you need thick skin and a good attitude. I have both so it's a perfect fit!

Who are three women – living or dead – that you would like to have drinks with and why? My two grandmothers and my mother, Maria Ricker. They are my foundation. They gave me life and showed me how to live with passion, how to persevere, how to be a provider, a lover of the Lord, a mother, a wife and a strong woman.

What were your biggest fears when you started out in your profession? I wasn't afraid! This opportunity was the best thing I could of done for myself and my family.