



SUZI PERSON

FIRST WOMAN SHOP STEWARD

SPOTLIGHT

On Suzi Person:

Title Mechanic & Steward for Almond Glass Works (Collingswood, NJ)

Hometown Laurel Springs, NJ

Family She and partner Danny Kidd have a 2-year-old son Cody

Hobbies In addition to Suzi's well-known baking, art is near and dear to her heart. She enjoys photography and sketching.



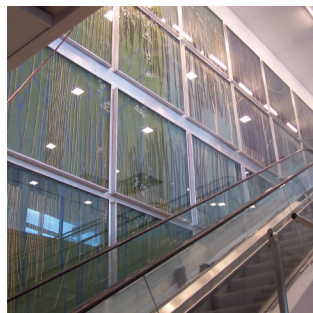
ABOUT SUZI

Suzi Person's nickname "Cupcake" belies her strength as the first woman shop steward in Glaziers Local Union 252 history and a passionate and vocal advocate for unions. It does, however, hint at her sweet disposition, her willingness to support and mother her fellow glaziers, and her serious baking hobby. Her crew and operating engineers certainly appreciate when she brings cupcakes and other treats to a jobsite.

Craftsmanship and compassion are in Suzi's genes. Her father and grandfather had a hand-painted sign business, sparking her interest in construction. After high school, Suzi worked

for a window manufacturer before entering the apprenticeship program as an industrial worker. Once she was accepted into the glaziers, Suzi found her niche. She's currently one class away from her associate's degree and a mechanic with Almond Glass Works.

"I love what I do. The array of tools is vast. It can be challenging to think ahead to conserve materials or avoid mistakes. But there's a sense of family," Suzi explains. "You need to have a sense of humor to be in this world, battling elements and schedules. But everyone is in the same boat, so there is always someone to commiserate with or build you up."



STRONG STEWARDSHIP

Suzi has the distinction of being the first woman steward of a local shop. The shop steward role involves building a strong union in the workplace and helping resolve grievances or concerns between labor and management teams. The role came naturally to Suzi, who volunteered as a class steward during her apprenticeship. She called herself the "class mom" then for her concern for fellow apprentices and desire to keep everyone safe and communicating.

"I always want to learn more," Suzi explains. "If I don't know an answer, I'll be proactive to find out." She attends quarterly meetings and participates in regular steward phone calls where her inquisitive nature gets all of the details to ensure proper protocol is followed and her crew stays safe, happy, and comfortable every day.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Despite a self-proclaimed dislike of politics in general, Suzi actively supports the political interests of organized labor. Since her apprenticeship, she has been involved in political action service and organizing. She was sent to Wisconsin with a contingent of union workers from across the county and subsequently returned to Philadelphia and led event coordination associated with the last presidential election. Suzi has also spoken to FTI apprentices and volunteered for OSHA classes for safety rescues and demonstrations.

FAVORITE PROJECT

Few apprentices can say they single-handedly crafted a project that millions can see. As an apprentice during the freezing winter of 2009, Suzi was laid off until out-of-town artists constructing a decorative display at Philadelphia International Airport realized they needed a glazier's assistance. With her artistic interest, Suzi was a natural fit for the project to install glass shadow boxes along the escalators in Terminal D/E. For one week, Suzi worked second shift to hang the artwork, *Gathering Contours*, by Elizabeth Billings and Andrea Wasserman. The permanent installation includes a slate map of Philadelphia and natural reeds and branches.

ADVICE FOR APPRENTICES

Suzi performs her dual roles with empathy and energy. She believes it is extremely satisfying working with her hands and very rewarding to realize she's part of union history. She reminds apprentices not to sweat the small stuff; everyone has a different way of doing things and a bad day once in a while. It can be intimidating, but finding your own way is part of the process. One of the best perks? Suzi laughs as she explains the amount of running and lifting in her daily routine means she doesn't need to visit the gym.

"Hearing people's struggles makes me want to fight harder for everyone." - Suzi Person



Above: Suzi with Danny and son Cody; Below: Suzi speaking at National Apprentice Day at the Pa. Capitol in Harrisburg, on her first glazier fishing trip with the biggest catch of the day, and conducting a class at AGI Architectural Glass Boot Camp

