

I began my career in a non-union environment. Conditions were not always acceptable, travel was hard, days were long and the pay not always sufficient for the sacrifices made. In 2007 I was presented with the idea of better conditions, a fair wage, benefits, unbeatable insurance, and a retirement package. Growing up in a heavily non-union dominated environment I was timid and unsure of the transition, is IBEW for me? Will I be accepted as a fellow member? Investigating my options, Bob Vandecar and I discussed my interest in becoming a member and he ensured me that a career with the local was an opportunity for growth and security, both at work and for my family. I was hooked. Opportunity, Growth, and financial security what an attractive offer!

Over the last 8 years I have been given the opportunity to excel my career in many ways. Working in a variety of Commercial and Industrial Facilities as a Wireman, Foreman, Electrical Field Work Supervisor each transition rewarding and representing the code of excellence. I work closely with our Construction and Building Trades Council participating in EFCOG, and IEEE IAS Electrical Safety Workshops. Passing the Washington State Masters exam, I became the Electrical Administrator for Federal Engineers and Constructors in 2013. I have had the pleasure of becoming a Washington State continuing education instructor at Volpentest Hammer Federal Training Center, of which opened the doors to providing DOE Complex training for NTC. I love what I do! The opportunities are endless in our industry for hungry minds eager to be a part of the development of industry standards, changing the electrical safety culture. As an IBEW member I am proud of the work we do and the quality hands we turn out.

Thank you IBEW for changing my life.

*Jennifer Martin*

**Electrical Administrator & General Foreman**