



DELEGATE PROFILE



Manon Bertrand

Name:

Local 1004, district 5

Local Number/USW District #:

Staff Representative previously employed at Asten Johnson

Employer, Job Title:

28

Fabric for paper mill machinery

Years as USW Member:

What does your local do or make?

Salaberry-de-Valleyfield, QC

Hometown:

1

What is unusual about your hometown, place of work or job?

"In my area, almost all of the pulp and paper industry has been relocated in China."

2

What does this year's theme, "The Power of Unity," mean to you? How has your local benefited from putting unity into action?

"It is vital to be united when we fight to improve working conditions and society. Together, we are stronger. It is then easier to wage our battles. Of course, we can't win them all but solidarity and mutual assistance make us stronger, and we are then able to support each other in our struggles."

3

What issues will be important when your local's contract expires?

"The pension plan will certainly be an important issue. An orphan clause was introduced in 2013 when one of the two Asten Johnson plants in Quebec closed. Threatened by the closing of both plants, 54% of the members agreed to a different plan for new employees. Therefore, it is even more important to be united and to try by all possible means to correct this disparity."

4

What's your favorite alternative fact?

"When someone tries to tell us that employers are requesting two-tier pension plans because they are supposedly concerned for employees with seniority..."

5

Who would you prefer to have dinner with: Sean Spicer, Betty White, Vladimir Putin, Drake, or Céline Dion? Why?

"I can't decide between Vladimir Putin and Céline Dion. With Putin, it would be to know his interests and to ask him about his connections with Donald Trump. As to Céline Dion, I am convinced that it would be a more pleasant dinner."

6

What's the best thing about the convention so far?

"The overall feeling of unity in the room, the hope that together we make a difference."

7

What things do you hope to do while you're here?

"Get involved in activities and build relationships that unite Steelworkers across borders."

8

What in this convention will you put to work when you return home?

"Take notes and not keep to myself what I came looking for at the Convention. Share with others the information I received during the Convention."