



DELEGATE PROFILE



Kathy Laflash

Name:

12004, District 4

Local Number/USW District #:

Eversource Energy, Local union president 21 years

Employer, Job Title:

36

Natural gas utility

Years as USW Member:

What does your local do or make?

Hopkinton, Mass

Hometown:

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

"Hopkinton, Mass., is where the Boston Marathon begins. We are located exactly 26 miles from Boston. They are painting the starting line today because the race is next week. It is a big day for our little town of 14,000. For about five hours, 26,000 runners flood our town."

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

"The convention theme 'The Power of Unity' means a lot to me. We just settled our contract on April 1, just three hours after it expired at midnight on March 31. Eversource has 9,000 employees now over three states in seven different unions. For me, the power of unity was to work to create a relationship with all of the other unions, to reach out to them and bring us all together. We met and collaborated. Going into bargaining, we were united. As a result, the company was fearful because they knew if they took on my union, they took on all of us."

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

"Among the most important issues in that bargaining was contracting out. We were able to maintain awesome language that we had for 40 or 50 years and to get commitments from the company to return some work from contractors."

4 What's your favorite alternative fact?

"During bargaining, the company would say they cared about employees, but it was not evident in the conversations we had. It was an alternative fact that they cared."

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

"I would have dinner with Drake because my son is 17 and loves Drake's music, and I am trying to embrace what he likes."

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

"I love hearing about what Steelworkers are doing around the world, not just the speakers at the podium, but also at the microphones where steelworkers get up to speak."

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

"I definitely hope to sleep because I am so sleep deprived after 17-hour days negotiating. I am not a gambler. But I also want to do some networking with other Steelworkers."

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

"I hope this convention will give me a renewed sense of how important it is to belong to a union, a sense of how important it is to belong to a strong union and a sense of how important it is to be an active union member. I will share the stories when I return at a local union meeting scheduled for Thursday night. And I have been sharing on the local union's Facebook page. I hope to express to my members, old and new, how strong our union is, how committed our union is and how united our union is. The convention always inspires me to share these important attributes."

