



Gina Walsh

**Deputy Director, Labor Management Cooperative Trust
Heat & Frost Insulators and Allied Trades
Wentzville, Missouri**

Gina Walsh entered into an apprenticeship with Heat & Frost Insulators and Allied Trades Local 1 in December of 1979. She is the first woman to do so. Earlier that year, she had worked on a referendum in the state of Missouri where she caught the political bug. Although she had started her career as a mechanical insulator, she remained involved in local politics. Understanding the role politics can play in the survival of the building trades, she eventually ran for state representative in the state of Missouri. She has served eight years in the Missouri House and eight years in the Missouri Senate. During three of those years in the Senate, she served as the Senate minority leader working with her caucus to beat back anti-prevailing wage, RTW bills and other anti-labor initiatives. In April of 2013, she was the first woman elected to president of the Missouri State Building Trades. In 2019, she joined the staff of the Heat & Frost Insulators and Allied Trades as the deputy director of the Labor Management Cooperative Trust where she works with Director Pete Ielmini to promote the mechanical insulation industry and the men and women who work in it. At that time, she was also assigned to represent the industry on the NABTU Women's Committee. There, she has worked with her sisters to promote women in the trades and find answers to the unique challenges facing women in nontraditional employment.