



OUR AWESOME MEMBERS



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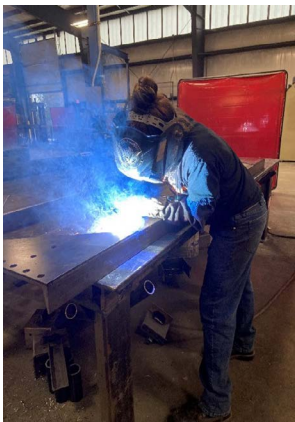
MEMBER SPOTLIGHTS: Custom Home Elevator & Lift / WaveSafely.com



Women In Welding: Featuring Dana Calder, Welder and Fabricator, Delaware Elevator Manufacturing

Written by Charley Meeks, Marketing + Communications, Delaware Elevator, Inc.

Located on the Delmarva Peninsula in the area often referred to as the “Eastern Shore,” the small town of Salisbury, Maryland pulls quite a bit of weight in the elevator industry today, specifically Delaware Elevator Manufacturing, also known as “DEM.”



Dana at work!

DEM has been a fully operational elevator manufacturing facility since the early 2000s. Walking around the shop you see an abundance of energy, hard work and grit. In the sea of sparks, heavy machinery, and focused craftsmen, you cannot miss her – her name is Dana Calder. Dana joined the team at DEM a little over a year ago, just one month after graduating as Salutatorian from Arcon Welding Services Training Center in Salisbury.

To say she has been an incredible asset to the team, as a welder, fabricator and teammate does not do her enough justice. Dana puts her whole heart into her career, and it is apparent from her structured workstation, ability to take on a new challenge and huge smile that brightens everyone’s day – even if they’re not having a good one.

After sitting down with Dana and talking to her over the course of an hour, I think we can all learn a few things from her. She left her job in the food service industry and took a chance on welding after moving to the remote Eastern Shore of Maryland from the mountains of Pennsylvania. She was intimidated at first, entering a work environment with a long-standing history of being male dominated, but once she started, she quickly realized she was exactly where she needed to be. Her smile beamed as she described how accepting and helpful her coworkers have been over the past year – despite not always wanting to ask them for help. “It’s a challenge of mine,” she said. “I was worried I was not going to know anything and asking for assistance is not easy, but the guys have been so helpful, accepting and go with the flow.”

Dana started as a welder, and quickly advanced to fabricator. She explained how she loves that her job allows

her to learn something new each day. She genuinely enjoys welding and is a team player. If she is not at her workstation her coworkers say she is still staying busy – whether it be sweeping, helping with various shop tasks, or assisting a coworker.

She credits her success at DEM to those she refers to as “amazing mentors,” both Dave King and Mike Smith. After speaking with both Mike and Dave, they refuse to take credit. Dave said he has been in the welding field for over twenty years and has never once met a more precise and disciplined welder than Dana. The managers at DEM also raved about her attitude,



L-R: Mike Smith, Dana Calder, and Dave King

work ethic, abilities, and consistency. Dave insisted on showing me her practice work, known in the welding field as “stacking beads.” He promised I would never see anything like it. He was right!



Dana’s Practice: Stacking Beads

This industry is tough – it requires thick skin, detail, drive, grit, and focus. Dana portrays all these qualities daily and is a real asset to

the team. She is breaking barriers as a woman in welding and the heavy equipment industry every single day. She looks forward to growing in her career and will continue to give everyone in the shop a run for their money.



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