

February Member of the Month - Porchá Perry

1. Can you tell us a little about yourself?

My name is Porchá Perry, I am a single mother of 2 kids. I am an honest and hardworking person and when called to do something I try to make it my #1 priority. I am currently employed at four arenas which are Comerica Park, Ford Field, Fox Theatre and Little Ceasar Arena. My role is different at each arena so at Ford Field, I am a team member and usher. When I am at Comerica Park I focus on housekeeping. Lastly, when I am working at Fox Theatre and Little Cesar Arena I work for an outside security company.

2. What are your daily duties?

My daily duties vary depending on what arena I work at but I will talk about my daily duties at Comerica Park. On a daily basis we usually come in and have our daily meetings in which we will go over our assignment for the day or any updates. After our meetings I will go forth and stock our inventory and attend to customers as needed. I will also speak with other members to see if they have any questions or concerns.

3. How many years have you been a member of SEIU Local 1? And how did you get introduced to the union?

I have been a member of SEIU Local 1 for about 7 years since 2016. I first got introduced to the union when I was working for Ford Field and Comerica Park back then. I do not recall exactly how I got introduced to the union but I do remember them having representatives speak to the workers about the benefits of being a union member and how our voices matter.

4. Have you ever been employed by a job without a union? How was the experience?

As I observe from a security standpoint the difference between a non-union job and a security job is a big difference when I view the two when working at Comerica Park. To be employed with a union job makes a huge difference because overall they continuously fight for members ensuring better working conditions. From the non-union jobs I have observed the employers take advantage of employees and are able to relieve them of their duties without warning. In a union we have a team and they are backing you up 100%.

5. What has been your favorite moment as a member of SEIU Local 1?

My favorite moment as a member of SEIU Local 1 would have to be when we took action against the ballparks and we arose victorious all due to us knowing what a healthy workplace environment should be. Before I became a union stewardess I did not know too much about the problems that were occurring for our members at the park. To be able to take a stand and fight for the team and employees against management

and the higher ups was beautiful to see. When I saw how happy everyone was it made the fight all worth it to me!

6. What do you like about SEIU Local 1? And why?

What I enjoy most about being a member of SEIU Local 1 is the team, the drive and compassion that we have with each other. Everyday we work hard together at the frontlines ensuring employers are held accountable. SEIU Local 1, is the true meaning of a team and how we are here to back each other up 100%.

7. What does having a good union job mean to you?

Being part of a good union job is so important to me because without one you are literally left out to sink in a workplace. Every individual should be valued in and out of the workplace and that is what it's all about understanding that your voice deserves to be heard. I personally value having improved working conditions, the constant support for my family and overall better wages.

8. What would you tell someone who is skeptical about joining the union?

*What I would tell someone who is skeptical about joining the union is to first inform them that **THEY** are the union! I would also like to say to them that you yourself are the union and nothing gets done without your input, without your voice, without **YOU**. To be honest you are not in the fight alone the union is behind you 100% in the fight*