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Caleen Davis

Interviewed by Jaime Lopez and Barrie Cline (Paul Vance present)

Jaime : So, the stories that happen on the job. When you go to a job and you meet new people and you exchange stories, but those stories disappear somehow. So, maybe if we do things like this, we can try to freeze frame what's happening now, and who the people are that are that are in the union now, so 50 years down the road, somebody could see this archive and say, "Man, we were ... They're not too much different than us," or, "Look at how different they are." So, I think [00:00:30] that's what we're doing.

Caleen Davis: I think it's a pretty cool idea, actually. I know, what you call it, at the hall, I know if you go to the fifth floor and they're just seeing there's certain years that no one sends in pictures, and so it's like a whole year lost when you want a kind of archive of what's going on sometimes and the historical thing, but sometimes historical are just facts. This happened then, versus, okay, what are people's experiences during these times now with what's going on, versus just what happened; how did people feel when it was happening. So, I think it's cool.

Barrie: [00:01:00] Yeah. If any particular story comes to mind, like, oh, a job story, we'd want to make sure that there's room for you to share that. It was a question before, but we don't want to put anyone on the spot, but if you've got a job story, your favorite job story does come to mind during the course of the interview, let's make sure we get that before we're done.

Jaime: [inaudible 00:01:23].

Caleen Davis: Sure.

Barrie: So, I'm just going to go ahead and start by asking you your name, and [00:01:30] your job title, and I guess what your [inaudible 00:01:31] are, so you could just make your introduction.

Caleen Davis: Got it. Okay.

Jaime: Go ahead.

Caleen Davis: Oh, okay. So, my name is Caleen Davis. I joined IBEW Local 3 in September of 2013, so that makes me a fourth year, first half, which means I've been in for three and a half years, and I currently am employed by Hugh O'Kane Electric. What else do I say about myself? I don't know. [00:02:00] I'm currently chairwoman of the A Apprentice Advisory Committee, which is a club that is exclusively made up of apprentices, which means we are the newest members who have been initiated into Local 3, and we're going through a five and a half year program in order to earn the title of being an electrician, a union electrician.

Jaime: Where do you live at the moment?

Caleen Davis: I currently live in Electchester, which [00:02:30] is a neighborhood located in Flushing ... Oh, I'm sorry, Fresh Meadow Queens, which is actually a neighborhood that's filled with a whole bunch of electricians, which is actually really awesome, because there's always a helping hand, or someone who knows what you're going through in the neighborhood. So, it's pretty cool.

Barrie: Tell us about your background. Where were you born, and where are your parents from?

Caleen Davis: Both of my parents were actually from New York, and [00:03:00] I was born and raised in the Bronx, so completely New York through and through. My family is from down south, so South Carolina, Virginia, but I'm completely Yankee, through and through. I just moved to Queens about a year and a half ago, just because it made sense, but the Bronx will always be my home.

Jaime: The Bronx, very nice. What jobs have you had before joining the Local 3?

Caleen Davis: Oh, a lot. I started [00:03:30] off working at ... My first job was Summer Youth, and so I was like a peer youth counselor, which, the program I worked at, it was more than just watching the kids at a ... Going places. We would actually meet before we would meet the kids, and kind of maybe discuss maybe some other issues that they might be going through. So, when we were dealing with them, it wasn't just, okay, I have to deal with children, it was like, I'm dealing with children that might be coming from broken families. Maybe my approach [00:04:00] to how I deal with them was different, and I feel that kind of set me up for a customer service background, which I stayed in for a really long time. I worked at Ben and Jerry's, I've worked at The Container Store, I've

worked for Bliss Spa, I've worked for The American Museum of Natural History, and the job that I had before I entered the Local was actually at a domestic violence shelter, which I was at for four years.

Barrie: Wow. Can you tell us how you became an electrician?

Caleen Davis: Okay. So, [00:04:30] at my job, I realized that I wasn't in a position where I could help people. It was an entry level position, and it was one of those things where if you didn't kind of delve in into a college education, you couldn't go further, and unfortunately I couldn't afford to go to college, and so one of the biggest things that the program director said, that if you're not happy, then you need to go somewhere where you will be. It really hit me, because I was 28 at the time, and I just saw people and I was like, do I want to continue doing this [00:05:00] for 10 years and still be stuck in the same place, and feeling like I know I'm helping people, but I'm not doing something at my full capacity.

So, I just typed in free training for women, because I realized I wanted something better for myself, but I couldn't afford to do many things. So, I did that, and I found Nontraditional Employment for Women, which is a pre-apprenticeship on-training program for women, and they taught us about different skills and trades, specifically electrical, [00:05:30] plumbing, painting, and carpentry, and I went through the program, and at the end of it, I realized that electrical felt like it was what I was best suited for.

I didn't know what I was getting into, but I was like, I didn't want to have to carry a whole bunch of heavy stuff all the time, but I saw electrical work as being something where your mind was as valuable as personal strength. So, I was like, this is for me. With the training, I took the test, and I think [00:06:00] I did well enough to get in, because I'm here, and here I am.

Jaime: Very cool.

Barrie: Can you tell us about your first day at work, what that was like?

Caleen Davis: Yeah. So, one of the things that we got from the training program was on time is late, and early is on time, and so of course, you want to make a great impression, because unlike a regular job, where you actually have met the [00:06:30] people that you might be working with in the office, you have met no one where you're going, so you're just super anxious. I don't even think I went to sleep, because I was just like, what happens if I go to sleep and I ... So, I was really nervous. I got there at six o'clock, bright and early, and unbeknownst to me, the person that I work with doesn't show up until 7:00. So,

I got to a hospital, and the first question I'm like is, "Hey, security guard, where do I go? Is there construction [00:07:00] going on?" And he's looking at me like I'm crazy.

So, I called my shop and I'm like, "I don't know what's going on. I'm here." Thank goodness I didn't get him in trouble, but it just showed how I was really excited about this opportunity. I wanted to do amazing things and do really well, and looking back on it, I'm like, oh my gosh, I was such a nervous Nelly. But that reminded me always of that first day, reminded why I wanted this opportunity, and try to treat that ... Every day is a first day, because [00:07:30] with this career, every day could be a new place where you meet someone new, you're teaching someone new, you're going to a new location, and it's exciting. So, I do remember that first day very well because of that.

Barrie: Tell us a little bit about the learning process. Were you, in terms of the trade, on the job?

Caleen Davis: So, when you get there, there's some people who have training. I knew nothing about electrical work whatsoever, and so my first day on the job was like, all right, so, how long are they just going to realize they don't [00:08:00] want me because I don't know what to do? The person that I was actually set up with was amazing, because it was really ... What is that? Sorry. All right, so yeah, the first day was ... I didn't know anything, and so I was really nervous. How can I help if I don't know what to do? The person that I was paired up with was awesome, because he said, "You see all these guys here? They don't know anything, and they're going to lie to you, and they're going to make you tell ... They're going to make you think [00:08:30] they know everything, but they don't."

That was my first sigh of oh, okay, thank you, because I was afraid that I was going to get paired with someone who was going to be disappointed that I was a woman, or disappointed that I really wasn't going to be much help, and he made me feel so much comfortable. We just went through, just explained some of the simple things, like, okay, walk with him, go with him. All right, we're going to go put a outlet in, and he would go through every step of what I needed, what [00:09:00] tools I needed for this specific job, what the material was for this specific job, so that, at the end of the day, if anyone asked me to put in an outlet, I would know how to do that. It was one small thing, but it was something that I knew that I could do, because it was explained slowly, and if I had any questions, he was very good at helping me.

Later on, I would meet people who were the complete opposite, and forced me to learn in another way where it was like, okay, you got to get it

done, and, all right, walked [00:09:30] away. I'm like, what do I do? And then I realized the power of really speaking to other people and asking for help and getting it done. Even if the person who was supposed to show me how to do it didn't want to help me, someone else did, and it was so much in the value of learning that.

Being in the trades is so much more than just the knowledge of your trade, but also learning how to deal with other people within your trade and outside of it, because there's plumbers who know, because they've seen what we do, and they're like, "I don't know if that looks right." [00:10:00] Or, especially, I want to say carpenters, where they're like, "Yeah, you shouldn't be putting that up." So, because it's like there's a sense of order to it. Every day is just a learning experience, and so I come into every day at work knowing that there's going to be something I don't know, and not being afraid to ask, because the day before, I was just like, do I want to appear like I might know a little bit of something, or would I be embarrassed to say I know absolutely nothing?

From that first day I realized it's nothing wrong with not [00:10:30] knowing everything, but it's the eagerness to really want to learn. So, people were always willing to help me, because they knew I wanted to do the right thing, or get something done right, so I've always had such fortune with finding people who wanted to help me learn.

Barrie: Oh. That's interesting.

Jaime: What jobs are you on now?

Caleen Davis: I am currently working on 51st and 6th Avenue, the old Time and Life Building. There are a few tenants left in the building, [00:11:00] but by, I think, the middle of this year, it will be completely empty, and they're kind of going to just do demolitions on each floor, and we're just going to do everything almost from the ground up, except the building will already be there. So, I'm doing a bit of power and lighting. Right now we're just running a lot of the temporary power from the building, which is great for me because I've never really got to be in something that went from the ground up, so this is the closest I might be able to see something go from the very beginning stages to the very [00:11:30] end. So, it's really exciting.

I'm working with someone who's been the company for 20 years, and so he's giving me a lot of knowledge about how to be someone who can last long with the company, last long with your trade, by always being willing to learn new things, and also, doing your best and not being afraid to ask questions. So, now when I go there, the first thing he says is, "You should always be ready to

do the work and want me to step behind, because I'll always be there to help you, but soon [00:12:00] you're entering a stage where you might be just completely by yourself, so I want you to feel comfortable. If I say, okay, we need to make a 90 and do a kick, you need to be comfortable with doing that."

For me, I'm feeling like, okay, now I'm really ready to do that and for those stages. So, the power, lighting, doing some fire alarm cable. I haven't done a lot of data, but I've done it before, but right now I'm just experiencing everything from the ground up. So, one day you might be doing fire alarm, and the next day you're doing some lighting, [00:12:30] and the next day you're just carrying material, because you have to bring everything into the building, so you might be doing that for a whole day. It's a little mix of everything each day.

Barrie: Would you mind just explaining ... Because not everyone who's going to be listening to this understands. You said do a 90 and do a kick.

Caleen Davis: Oh, okay. All right. So, I find ... And this is just my personal perspective. I find what people think of electricity, or what an electrician does might be 20% of a well-rounded electrician. So much of it [00:13:00] is making sure that you can get the wire safely from Point A to Point B, which means going from different floors. There can be huge obstacles in the way, and you kind of have to make magic happen. So, when we're talking about making 90s, it's like, okay, there's a box here. You need to ... It's going straight, but now you have to find a way to make it go ... And you have to take this little hand bender, which you've never seen in your life, and make this happen. So, it's really just manipulating [00:13:30] conduit pipe to fit the area where you're working in.

Barrie: And the kick is included in that too?

Caleen Davis: Yes, yes it is. A kick is kind of like a ... Say, I want to say off ... I don't know how to say it in not a-

Jaime: A particular kind of bend.

Caleen Davis: Yeah. Okay.

Jaime : It's a good thing around.

Barrie: Okay. Thank you, yeah.

Caleen Davis: No, I'm sorry, yeah. Of course.

Jaime: Can you tell me a little bit about your other coworkers on the job? What's the demographic? [00:14:00] How does it feel in the job with other people?

Caleen Davis: Okay. So, the current job site that I work at now, I am the only woman. No, I'm also the only black person there, now that you mention it, which is awesome, that I never even thought about that until you asked. Everyone else is men. We have about ... I want to say maybe 40% of them are white. They're Polish, they're Italian, German, and [00:14:30] we don't have ... We have one Spanish person. So, I could say as far as with minorities, we're the minorities there. But I don't really look at it like that. When I'm there, honestly, there's some places that I have been that it's been more of a presence to notice that, but here, absolutely not.

I get called kid, and I'm told, even though some of the people who call me kid are a year older than me. Yeah, its men, but I guess I've gotten so used to it. When I first came in, [00:15:00] I probably would have been frightened to work with a lot of different men at one time, and when I first came in, it was just me and one person, so it was kind of like a nice transition. But now I'm kind of used to going on to job sites where there could be 70 people there and I could easily be the only woman there. You just get used to it. But normally my job sites, I want to say, at least there's another woman. Maybe not in my trade, but there's another woman there, and as far as people of color, I would say [00:15:30] the mix I've seen is maybe 30 to 70.

Jaime: Caleen, what kind of work do you feel most comfortable doing, or do you feel that you excel in?

Caleen Davis: What kind of work do I ... I would say definitely lighting. I feel confident in it because I've done a lot of office spaces, so that's what I'm confident in. I know the color wires, what to splice together, and that's normally when I'm doing an office job. I know there's [00:16:00] other people there. What I don't feel comfortable with is sometimes really large pipe, because sometimes we have to work with pipe that's four inches, and they're expensive; they're really expensive. If you mess it up, you're told how expensive it is after you mess it up, where with lighting, you get it; I just got it.

So, if someone's like, "All right, we got to go into an office space. Caleen, I want you to work with such and such with lighting," [00:16:30] I don't feel uncomfortable. I know how to splice, which is just connecting the wires so that no one gets electrocuted later. I feel comfortable doing that, and I've been able to do things with low voltage so it's not a minimal kind of shock, and I also get to do things where it's high voltage, which is the lighting, where it's like, if

someone got shocked, it'd be a lot more dangerous, and the fact that once people see my techniques, they feel comfortable with me doing it. It really does make me feel like, okay, I actually do have this. So, that's what I feel comfortable with.

Barrie: [00:17:00] Can you also elaborate on the other skills that you were talking about in the beginning? You said something about having social skills that were...

Caleen Davis: Oh, well, social skills is how you learn. I feel that there's plenty of people who have natural aptitude to work with their hands, but because they can't get along with people, no one is really willing to show them more, because you have ... You go out into the field, and anyone who has made that journey [00:17:30] person status, you would hope in their hearts they really want to teach, but they're not enforced to, they don't have to. So, as an apprentice coming in, you really want to learn how to meld with that mechanic to their journey person, to really get them to teach you, whether they specifically want to or not.

We're in a age where everything has to be kind of like done so quickly, and these people are there not only to help teach us, but they're trying to make sure that they stay employed so that they can feed their families. [00:18:00] Sometimes they're placed in a situation where they need a certain thing done in a certain amount of time, and they know they can get it done in that certain amount of time, but to give an apprentice a chance to do it, it might take extra, and they don't want to risk maybe losing that employment, or looking like they can't get things done in a certain time frame. You have to really learn how to make yourself an asset to the person that you're working with so that they don't mind taking the extra time to show you or let you know how to do things.

[00:18:30] I feel like that's actually one of my strongest skills to help me gain the other skills. There's some people that they're so quick, quick, go, and I'll just be like ... Learn how to ask about their families, or like I said, make sure you have their tools ready. That's the most important thing. If there's someone who you're working with, and just because they want to make sure they get their job done they want to do everything, you learn everything that they need to do so that the moment they need something, you have it there. So, they're finishing things so quickly, [00:19:00] they have the time to say, "Hey, kid. All right. Do you want to learn how to do that?" Instead of you're always falling behind them, and they're not getting things done on time, where they're like, "We have to finish it most importantly."

So, I find that learning how to, again, get along with people has been my biggest asset in learning how to do things, because people really do want to teach people that they genuinely like more, just naturally. So, you have to learn how to be that person, regardless if you might be comfortable with [00:19:30] the person you're working with. I've worked with people that, in my regular life, I would have never encountered. I might not agree with their political stances, how they feel about certain issues, but when we get on the job site, I am there to learn from them. As much as I want teaching to be their job, my job is to learn from them. So, I feel like that's the most important thing to do for me, because the more you get people to teach you, you're going to learn the skills if you're committed to it. Just getting people [00:20:00] to teach you the skills you need to know, that's half the battle itself.

Barrie: Thank you. [inaudible 00:20:05].

Jaime: Caleen, is there any work that you do specifically that feels creative, or work that your journeymen or your mechanic does that looks artistic to you?

Caleen Davis: I would say when they're bending the pipe. I think it's one of the most beautiful things if you ... Sometimes it's so simple. If you just have to do a simple [00:20:30] run, it's just one pipe that goes from one place to the other, and you understand ... So, okay, you get it, you don't think it's so nice. I understand the importance of it, but it's not the most beautiful thing. But when you are going from the ground up and you might have hundreds of pipe going in the same direction, and they have to turn the same way, that is beauty, because you're not bending all the pipes at the same bends, because depending on the placement of where they start, [00:21:00] you have to make sure you take down your measurements, and you have to really envision what it's going to look like, because no one thinks... okay..when people are looking at it, they're just like, oh, that's ugly. When you see something and you're like all of the pipes look perfect; they're turned the same way, they're ... Not one is higher or lower than the other. You know that that person really is a artist of their craft. They take it seriously, because you can get the job done, but it doesn't look pretty. [00:21:30] Someone who makes ... It's their signature. You can see people ... And I can say Derek did this. I know Jose did that; I know John did that, because they're so specific to their craft, and you can see where certain people get to do certain things. Not everyone can handle pipe that's of a wide diameter; not everyone can put in data cable and dress it in a way where you're like, wow, that's amazing.

Even when you're putting wires into a panel [00:22:00] to terminate, you send certain people into do it, and that might be the majority of what they

do, because they take pride in their work. Someone who might not be an electrician, they just open the panel and they're like, that looks really nice. That's more than just ... That's really nice to us, because we know the amount of effort it takes into it, but if someone opens it and is like, oh, it's kind of whatever. Someone who just didn't care. So, when you see that, knowing the type of dedication it does take to do just [00:22:30] some simple things, it really is artwork. Most people don't get to see artwork, because we have to cover it, but when you get to see it, you're like, yes, you care. I want to learn from you, I want to be you, this is amazing.

Barrie: That's great.

Jaime: Very cool. Have you ever passed down a tool, Caleen, or have a tool passed down to you?

Caleen Davis: Oh, absolutely. Like a real tool, or like a ... Because we get ...

Jaime: Both.

Caleen Davis: Yes. No, one of the best things is actually [00:23:00] just recently, even though I'm fourth year or so, I'm considered on the higher end of my apprenticeship, and one of the guys just came in for Christmas and brought us all ... What is it? He got us strippers, which are just like tools that you use to strip the wire. It was such thoughtful gift, just because he didn't even ask did we have it or not, he just wanted to give it to us, and it was just really kind, because sometimes as apprentices, [00:23:30] we're struggling with money, and tools help you get the job done faster and better, but if you can't afford to, you're kind of stuck in that rut. The fact that he just kind of got us all the same gift, it wasn't like, oh, you need this, I'm going to get you something bigger or better. He found out that I even had one, but he just didn't care. It was just something from the kindness of his heart, and it meant a lot.

But I've had people that, if I'm like, oh, that's really cool, and then maybe a week or two later, I'll have one, because they got it for me, [00:24:00] and it's just really kind and sweet to see that. On the opposite end, I actually do keep a lot of my tools. I get doubles of stuff, and if I meet someone who's just coming in, which we would call a TA 1, listen, you want this? Because I really am not going to use it. That's something that I've learned from being in Local 3, that a lot of the things that I've gotten to have, people pay for my lunch.

Not knowing what kind of circumstances I am, and I'm like, great, I can afford to take the train another day. It's those little things that [00:24:30] remind me, as soon as I meet someone, to try to see if there's any way to give

back. For me, I can't do it financially, but I try to teach them little tools of the trade that I learned when I came in as a TA 1. No matter where you go, always have your pliers so that if you're ever going anywhere, you're always prepared to do something. You always need pliers; you always need black tape. Do you know how to size this? Because it's just little things where I'm like, either I wish I did know, or someone taught me immediately, which made me better. So, [00:25:00] I try to give that to them as well.

Barrie: To pass the skill down. What's your favorite Local 3 tradition?

Caleen Davis: My favorite Local 3 tradition? That is a really good question. I feel it only because the holiday party, the holiday party. Every year, the apprentices, we put together a holiday party, and I am not a kid person at all. The first year, I actually skipped out on it. I helped out, I donated money, [00:25:30] but I didn't want anything to do with 100 and something kids. Absolutely not. So, of course, the very next year, they ask me to chair the event, because that's what makes sense. It was a lot of work and a lot of hard effort, but to see the kids afterwards, and to realize that there was so many of them that, regardless of what they might have dressed like, looked like, that they were homeless, or some of them didn't have parents.

I realized that what I was doing was more than organizing [00:26:00] funds for something, or just putting something together, it was making someone have happiness, and from then on ... I'm still not a kid person, but I will continue to do this and be a part of it with the apprenticeship as much as I can, because it just felt so amazing to see people who didn't have as much ... Have something, because I know what that's like. Wanted a little bit more, or maybe not have everything, so when I see that, that's a reminder [00:26:30] that I can give back just in making buses, calling trips, or just doing things. That's the thing, where it's like sometimes I don't feel like I do enough, because sometimes I'm really too technical with things, but it's like you need people behind the scenes to make happiness happen. So, I will always love doing that for them.

Barrie :Do you feel like in the future, do you think children and other members of the community will be able to pursue this work, the same kind [00:27:00] of work that you're doing?

Caleen Davis: I wish I would have learned about this when I was younger. When I see a lot of my friends who are, at this point, I would say maybe in their early 20s, and they're coming in through high schools for trades, and I'm just like, this is genius. I think a lot more it's coming from the times we're in, where we see that when people are like, okay, you got to become a doctor and a

lawyer, and sometimes these plans do not work out for people. Being a doctor and a lawyer, that's amazing and great, but I feel like we were [00:27:30] too focused on that was the only thing that you could be to be considered successful, or go to a regular college.

Now, I'm seeing ... I'm part of a group called Tradeswomen Chat, and these are women who are in the trades, and now I'm seeing that they're knitting construction hats for their babies, or their daughters or young sons are wearing high visibility vests, or having little tiny tools in their hands, which I don't really recall seeing that much, even from the boys of my age. They might have cars [00:28:00] or toy soldiers, but I didn't see so many things as tools, and especially not with little girls. I'm seeing that now people are seeing the value of your hands, and understanding that maybe if you're not the best with grades and school that there are other options where I feel like they weren't really putting that out as a real thing before.

Just to track back with the creativity, some people felt that if they wanted to be an artist, that was their only route. You can create art in the things that you do, [00:28:30] and I think people are opening their eyes more to see that, so I definitely feel like people of my generation and younger are seeing that being in the trades is something to be proud of, and to show that you can do so much more than people just think, just being out in the field. You can take that so many other places if you want to.

Barrie: Is there something that you would change about the job, if you could?

Caleen Davis: What I would change is the resistance [00:29:00] to different ways of thinking. I would say this is still a lot of a father and son kind of business, like family tradition, which is fine, which I felt is something that held it strong. But I feel like it wasn't as fluid to change as maybe it could have been, and now you have a lot of people who are coming in first generation, know nothing of unions, and there's kind of like a clash of the old ways and the new ways, and trying to bridge [00:29:30] that gap between the two, because there's people who are like, okay, we're going to make sure that our family members were good. But there's also others who are welcoming, where now you have some of the incoming people, like, well, these aren't my people, so why should I put in the extra effort? I just want a good job and benefits.

There's so many of them who realize, no, we have to continue the efforts of what people did in the past, because I feel what happened before was okay. My dad did it, my granddad did it, my great-granddad did it, so I have to do it too. Since I want my [00:30:00] son, daughter, grandson to continue it, I need to keep on going with it. But some people decided, which is fine, you know

what, I don't want them to be in the trades, so maybe they're pushed for ... Pushing unions, I feel like it might have fell through, because they weren't looking at it as being something to continue for their families. On the other end, again, if you don't have that connection to the past, you're like, well, what does this really have to do with me? If they say give back, what does that even mean?

I'm fortunate that I had [00:30:30] someone who, when we came into the program together, we really just pushed through together, and we were like, we're going to discover and we're going to explore. Because of that, I was able to be surrounded by a lot of people who showed me what unionism was, not just on the field, but also in the political world, but more importantly, just as a genuine family aspect. That's what I hope people get to see, because a lot of people are missing that connectivity in their lives. It's kind of like an us against [00:31:00] them, or we're all separate. I feel unions are one of the last places where people really do look at it as a brotherhood. I'm not just working for myself, I'm working for you. I think a lot of people growing up now need to see that, more than ever.

Barrie: Thank you. Just [inaudible 00:31:16].

Jaime: Caleen, now, what kind of advice would you give somebody starting out, or somebody that's listening to this in the future?

Caleen Davis: I would tell them do your best and [00:31:30] stay you all the way, because it's easy to conform in order not to have conflict, but it's people who cause change that allowed me to be here. So, always stay true to yourself. Work-wise, always ask questions; never stop learning. There is no dumb question, there is no dumb question. That's my advice.

Barrie: I think that's all.

Jaime: Do [00:32:00] you have anything else for Caleen?

Barrie: No. You said so much.

Caleen Davis: Oh. I do that. I'm good at that.

Jaime: You want to add anything else that [crosstalk 00:32:10]?

Barrie: Do you have some other job story that we didn't catch?

Caleen Davis: I'm trying to think. Do I have ... Nothing.

Jaime: Did something happen to you today or this week, probably? Yeah.
Today at the job?

Caleen Davis: Did anything happen? I know I'm a blank, because I'm trying to think of my ... One of my favorite [00:32:30] experiences, actually, when I was a first year and I came in. I was actually about to go into my second year, so I had been with the company for a year. It was Thanksgiving, and they got us a turkey. I was like, oh my gosh. I got a turkey, I work for this great shop, they got us this gift. So, I realized that I had to actually go to school that same day, and so ... And I didn't have a real bag for my turkey, so I was walking around the subway [00:33:00] and I just had this giant turkey, and I was like, I don't even eat turkey. What am I going to do with it? I took it to school with me and everything, and everybody in class was like, what the ... What are you doing?

My first thought was, I don't care what any of you say, my shop loves me enough to have a turkey, and I'm going to sit with this turkey in class. So, I really just sat with a turkey with me, right next to me in my chair because I didn't want to put him on the floor. But I say that because it's just the little things where there's never a dull moment in Local 3. [00:33:30] Even the most mundane of days, something always new and interesting is happening, and I'll always appreciate that, because I came from a place where I sat with the same people and I did the same thing all the time. I couldn't imagine not having a year where I'd sit with a turkey next to me in class, and everybody will make fun of me from it. It's things like that that you can't make up.

I'll be made fun of it for a long time, I [00:34:00] know I will, but those are the memories that I can't wait to look forward to when I see someone 20 years down the road, and they're going to be like, are you the girl with the turkey? Yes, yes I was. I look forward to those moments. So, that's kind of my little story that I'm going to remember for a really long time.

Jaime: All right, cool. Caleen, I think some of the things that you were saying, I feel like I was saying them, for some reason. I feel like I was talking to myself. So, it's very nice to meet you and to hear about your story and where you come from. [00:34:30] I look forward to seeing you on the job.

Caleen Davis: Yes, most definitely. Thank you too, Amy.

Barrie: Thank you.

Barrie: Let me take this off of you. I know you got to run too, right?

Caleen Davis: Yeah, I'm everywhere. Thank you guys for the opportunity. It's always appreciated.

Barrie: Thank you. Public speaking!