

# NATIONAL TRADESMEN DAY



## MARY LOU SCHLIA CONSTRUCTION ADMINISTRATOR

**Q: What are some of the biggest advancements that have taken place in our industry over the course of your career? This could be in the industry as a whole, in your geographic region and/or here at Danforth.**

*A: In the past we printed hard copies of Drawings, Specs, Submittals. If changes were made, it could take several days to deliver the revised information to the Field Operations Teams.*

*-The submittal process was especially lengthy and costly: we had to hand deliver to the reviewers, hand deliver back to Danforth, hand deliver to the Foreman on site and mail to applicable Subs or Vendors. If revisions were required the process would have to start all over again, taking more time, paper and transportation costs.*

*-Changes to technology and the implementation of Procore, have made collaborating with internal and external partners quick & easy from anywhere at any time of the day. What used to take weeks, can now be done in minutes/days. It's more efficient and we save transportation and printing costs. We also help the environment by using less paper.*

*-Organizing electronic files is also a lot more efficient than the piles of paper that were used in the past.*

*Distributing changes to contract documents electronically, and linking change documents such as RFIs, ASI, Bulletins to electronic drawings provide the Field Team immediate access to all changes resulting in less costly errors in the field.*

*It also saves time and frustration because all the information they need can be hyperlinked to the drawings, no need to search through files and folders.*

**Q: What changes/advancements do you think are next on the horizon?**

*A: Construction Managers and Contractors should be able to share drawings, specs & files with each other so that we aren't maintaining separate copies of the same information in two or more different systems. This will decrease the time it takes to communicate changes and ensure we are all working from the same up-to-date information.*

**Q: What are the challenges facing our industry in the near term?**

*A: Manpower: recruiting, training, and maintaining qualified workers.*

**Q: Other thoughts on the industry and where it is headed, the benefits of working in the trades, etc.**

*A: Benefit of working in the trades: we get to see a project from inception to completion. There's a sense of accomplishment and pride in a job well done. And since jobs start & end quickly and no job is ever the same as another, the trades are never boring.*



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