

Wonder Woman Award 2022

Aimee Rooney, Portland Fire & Rescue

Captain Rooney has been a role model and mentor to hundreds of Portland firefighters. She does this as an excellent training officer and in her personal example of unfailing work ethic, sincere caring, and consistent positive attitude. She earned the Firefighter of the Year award, guided the overhaul of our training practices (twice), and become one of the most widely respected officers in the bureau; all while parenting a special needs daughter.

Nominated by: Anonymous



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Wonder Woman Award 2022

Anna DiBenedetto, Portland Fire & Rescue

Anna is brilliant and capable--whatever she puts her mind to, she achieves. She knows her stuff and she is willing to teach others. Anna is a true team player! After moving on from timekeeping, Anna still took the time to train timekeepers in her old bureau. What a star!

Nominated by: Anonymous



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Wonder Woman Award 2022

Brett Zimmerman, Portland Fire & Rescue

I want to nominate Brett Zimmerman of Portland Fire & Rescue. Brett has been a firefighter with Portland Fire for nearly 12 years. Being a woman in the fire service is in and of itself heroic. But Brett has gone above and beyond what is expected as a firefighter. For the last couple of years, she has been assigned to the CHAT program within the Fire Bureau. CHAT (until recently, when the program mission/goals changed) serves individuals who frequently “misuse” emergency services and often have complex physical and mental health challenges. She would be assigned to follow-up with these individuals and further assess their needs, with the goal of connecting them to the more appropriate community resources than emergency services. She would provide a listening ear to these vulnerable and disenfranchised people in our community, as well as referrals to needed services or coordination with current providers. She is not trained in social work or mental health but has worked tirelessly to support these folks to get their needs met, despite some major systemic barriers and gaps. In addition to working with CHAT, she has also been working regularly as a “sub” EMT for Portland Street Response during its pilot year. She provides the same non-judgmental and empathetic support to the often-unhoused and high-needs individuals PSR responds to. She is truly a Wonder Woman!

Nominated by: Anonymous



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Wonder Woman Award 2022

Brett Zimmerman, Portland Fire & Rescue

Brett works with the CHAT Team with vulnerable individuals dealing with struggles around medical and deterrents of health that are high utilizers of the 911 system. Brett treats her clients with respect, dignity, listens to there concerns, supports and goes above and beyond to serve the folks she works with.

Nominated by: Heather Middleton



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Wonder Woman Award 2022

Elizabeth Thompson, Portland Fire & Rescue

Works hard to promote equality throughout the bureau and support women in the fire services. Has lead Portland Metro Fire Camp and continues to ensure the next generation of women know that the fire service can be for them.

Nominated by: Anonymous



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Wonder Woman Award 2022

Erica Nelson, Portland Fire & Rescue

Providing leadership and knowledge to the members of station 27 and more.
Stepping up for committees and pushing for equity.

Nominated by: Anonymous



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Wonder Woman Award 2022

Gretchen Pedersen, Portland Fire & Rescue

Gretchen provides the community with efficient, effective and caring work plus being an amazing single mom to a strong future female leader, great friend and mentor.

Nominated by: Anonymous



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Wonder Woman Award 2022

Heather Middleton, Portland Fire & Rescue

Heather goes above and beyond to serve PSR clients. She truly believes in the people we serve and does everything in her power to help get their needs met. She's a pleasure to work with and helps our team feel at home. I'm constantly amazed at her knowledge of community resources and she seemingly pulls them out of her hat like magic. Way to go Heather!

Nominated by: Anonymous



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Wonder Woman Award 2022

Jessica Cone, Portland Fire & Rescue

Jessica Cone is key in implementing wellness programs to help PF&R members improve their health and wellness. She created a Wellness Challenge, implemented a Wellness App, and regularly conducts Wellness Visits with station crews, individual members, and recruit academies. She has been innovative in using multiple platforms such as a Wellness Today email, a monthly Wellness Show, the Wellness App, and Target Solutions. Jessica encourages firefighters to get life-saving NFPA Physical exams and worked closely with the OHSU Sleep Team to present study information and recruit members for the OHSU Firefighter Wellness Study. Jessica conducts Health Wellness Committee & Peer Fitness Trainer meetings to review wellness updates and receive feedback from members. Jessica works with station captains and crews to manage station inventory, ensure repair requests are completed, and purchase new fitness equipment.

Nominated by: Janet Woodside
Portland Fire & Rescue



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Wonder Woman Award 2022

Julie Baggs, Portland Fire & Rescue

Julie is the information lifeline between all divisions and ranks at Portland Fire. During the pandemic there has been exponentially more critical information that needed to get out to members in an efficient manner. Administration leans on her and the members rely on her. Even with her work load increase, Julie steps up with diligence every day.

Nominated by: Anonymous



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Wonder Woman Award 2022

Kari Schimel, Portland Fire & Rescue

Fire Marshal Kari Schimel is a Wonder Woman every day as she leads a division of over 70 people and miraculously balances the demands of her family of 4 kids and the schedule of her husband, a PF&R Lieutenant. Leading by example, Kari is engaged, caring, and dedicated to her team and community. She goes the extra mile and is a Wonder Woman everyday.

Nominated by: Anonymus



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Wonder Woman Award 2022

Kari Schimel, Portland Fire & Rescue

Division Chief Kari Schimel oversees the operation of Portland Fire and Rescue’s Prevention Division. This includes over 50 fire inspectors, 9 investigators, and the Public Information section. To get to this level in a large department, takes countless hours of training and studying to learn policies and rules that ensure the safety for members of our community. Chief Schimel started as an inspector and branched through the multiple layers of The Prevention Division to become a well-rounded, knowledgeable leader. As Kari worked through all facets of the Prevention Division and spent many years familiarizing herself with many occupancies this allows her to make decisions that keep our citizens and firefighters safer in catastrophic events. Kari works toward a positive team atmosphere which is reinforced by her strong family values. Kari and her husband have four kids and she is at their side supporting them at all sporting events and school activities. Chief Schimel is a well-rounded individual who has demonstrated the ability over the years to manage family, community, and work. Chief Schimel has always been a positive role model to her kids and co-workers alike. The dedication it takes to raise a family and oversee such a large group of individuals is a tribute to Kari’s personal accountability to work ethic and time management ensuring success at home and work.

Nominated by: Anonymous



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Wonder Woman Award 2022

Kendall De Haas, Portland Fire & Rescue

Kendall is amazing and awesome to work with!

Nominated by: Monique Pagnotta
Portland Fire & Rescue



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Wonder Woman Award 2022

Kim Kosmas, Portland Fire & Rescue

Kim Kosmas does truly exceptional work in her role as the Senior Inspector in charge of the Fire Marshal's Public Education Office. Her duties are endless: from coordinating our efforts at building Firewise Communities to protect residents in the city's forested areas from wildfire danger; to compassionately and skillfully working with/educating youth fire-setters and their families; to overseeing the Historic Belmont Firehouse and the myriad of programs that operate there; to performing outreach on fire safety to the houseless community; to working with Multnomah County to ensure that cold and hot weather emergency shelters are safe for their occupants; to supervising PF&R's many education and outreach activities to diverse groups of Portlanders city-wide, including: fire safety, emergency preparedness, and our Smoke Alarm Program that serves disabled and financially challenged Portlanders--Kim does it all, with equal parts professionalism and kindness. On top of all that (and it's only a partial list!) Kim is a wonderfully supportive boss to me and the other three Public Education Officers that she supervises in our office. She is supportive, empathetic, always has our back, takes the time to provide crystal-clear expectations and direction, takes a genuine interest in our life challenges and successes, and will often check in with us "just to see how we're doing." Kim truly promotes esprit de corps and high morale in our office and the quality of the work that we do is absolutely influenced by her strong, competent, compassionate leadership. She is the kind of boss who leads by example and inspires her team to meet the high standards she hold for herself. I've worked at PF&R for over 25 years under many supervisors and Kim is one of the finest I've ever had. The city is very fortunate to have this wonder woman at PF&R!

Nominated by: Laurent Picard
Portland Fire & Rescue



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Wonder Woman Award 2022

Lisa Knight, Portland Fire & Rescue

As Firefighter Lisa Knight's direct supervisor I can say with confidence that she is an excellent firefighter. In our world there is no higher praise. But Lisa does so much more than just be great at work. She does volunteer work with: Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, The Oregon Burn Center, Muscular Dystrophy Association, Team Rubicon, assembled relief teams to both Haiti and Nepal for earthquake disaster relief, an Equity team member, a Fire Bureau new-employee Mentor, Creator and Founder of Portland Metro Fire Camp for young women and girls, and is still on the board, and 2019 Portland Firefighter of the year! I continue to be proud to call Lisa my co-worker and friend. Thank you in advance for your consideration of Lisa knight as a true role model and Wonder Woman!

Nominated by: Lt Aaron Gagnon
Portland Fire & Rescue



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Wonder Woman Award 2022

Lisa Reslock, Portland Fire & Rescue

Lisa comes to work every day with enthusiasm that she will do great things for the community. She is dedicated to improving the response and services to the public, with a particular focus on vulnerable people and populations Lisa is forward thinking and has spearheaded a new model for community outreach and bravely is moving the program forward. She does not do it for accolades or acknowledgement but knowing it is for the greater good. She is truly a servant leader and the City is lucky to have her on our team.

Nominated by: Anonymous



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Wonder Woman Award 2022

Lisa Reslock, Portland Fire & Rescue

I am nominating Lisa Reslock for her contribution in the developing the strategic objective, funding, and operational organization of the Portland Fire And Rescue CHAT program. This program is designed to address the health and social needs of community members calling 911 for non emergent needs. Lisa was instrumental in the initial development of this concept, took the initiative to break down organizational barriers, obtain funding for the program, and developed the entire program from the ground up. The potential for impact of this program on various aspects of our disadvantaged population cannot be under estimated. This program has the potential to greatly improve the lives of this segment of our population.

Nominated by: Jon Jui MD
Portland Fire & Rescue



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Wonder Woman Award 2022

Lisa Reslock, Portland Fire & Rescue

I have only known Lisa for a short time as a new hire into PF&R; but in that short time Lisa has non-stopped amazed me with her drive, compassion, leadership, and honestly the hardships and difficulties she has overcome in her career. All and each of these qualities has inspired me to better in her wake.

Nominated by: Tyler Greenfield



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Wonder Woman Award 2022

Mary Ann Soto, Portland Fire & Rescue

Portland Fire & Rescue Prevention Division Administrative Supervisor Mary Ann Soto is a Wonder Woman. She is dedicated to her team and job every day. Facing a staffing shortage, Mary Ann found ways to balance the workload and keep operations going smoothly. Mary Ann consistently steps up to meet our needs and is committed to serving our team and customers. We want to formally recognize her for the effort she puts in every day. We wouldn't have been able to maintain excellent customer service without this Wonder Woman.

Nominated by: Anonymous



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Wonder Woman Award 2022

Onessia Elliott, Portland Fire & Rescue

Onessia is a Wonder Woman if I ever saw one. She has taken time out of her preposterously large workload to help train me in my new role in a new bureau, even though it's not technically her responsibility. She has taken on numerous large projects on top of her already robust workload, and she has been working numerous long days and weeks (which have turned into years) to ensure projects are completed on time, for the benefit of the bureau and her co-workers, that she clearly loves dearly. She also volunteers to help many other departments with their projects because she knows that she has institutional knowledge to help inform their decisions. I am so grateful to work with Onessia and she deserves extra recognition.

Nominated by: Anna DiBenedetto
Portland Fire & Rescue



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Wonder Woman Award 2022

Onessia Elliott, Portland Fire & Rescue

Despite personal tragedy with the recent loss of her son, Onessia has not stopped her dedication and service to the City of Portland by taking care of, as she says, "my Fire Fighters." The Management Services Division of Portland Fire and Rescue has a significant turnover, with all the highest level positions and everyone learning their new jobs. Onessia is helping to hold everything together and working tirelessly and heroically.

Nominated by: Anonymous



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Wonder Woman Award 2022

Robyn Burek, Portland Fire & Rescue

Robyn is a super star! She consistently supports our team in ways big and small with her wicked smarts and big heart. I can tell how much she believes in me personally and our team. She also balances a whole heck of a lot of competing demands with grace and style. Way to go Robyn!

Nominated by: Anonymous



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