



On April 5-7, 2013, the Sheraton Grand Hotel was filled to the brim with tradeswomen from across California, the U.S. and Canada, who attended the Third Annual Women Building California and the Nation conference. If you were there, you were part of history—because this was the largest conference of women in the trades ever held! This newsletter provides some detail about who attended and what we did; and offers some follow-up activities.



Elise Bryant (R) leads a group of Tradeswomen who are each playing a woman important in labor history.



Who was there?

Here's the breakdown by trade and by geography:

- 1 Boilermakers
- 13 Bricklayers
- 52 Carpenters
- 6 Cement Masons/Plasterers
- 3 Elevator Constructors
- 103 Electricians
- 5 Insulators
- 43 Iron Workers
- 18 Painters & Allied Trades
- 50 Laborers
- 21 Operating Engineers
- 1 Roofers
- 22 Sheet Metal Workers
- 9 Teamsters
- 42 UA/Plumbers & Fitters
- 84 Pre-Apprentices*

*(Pre-apprenticeship programs included: American River STRIPE, CityBuild, Civilian Conservation Corps, YouthBuild, PG&E Power Pathways Program, Cypress Mandela, RichmondWorks, NEW).

The rest of the attendees were from advocacy organizations, public unions, utilities, tradeswomen groups, etc.

Here are the geographic tallies:

4 Alaska	10 Ohio
429 California	24 Oregon
4 Colorado	1 So Carolina
11 Wash. D.C.	4 Texas
1 Indiana	4 Utah
8 Illinois	29 Washington
1 Iowa	4 Wisconsin
2 Kansas	155 Outside CA
6 Maryland	
2 Mass.	Canada
3 Minnesota	7 BC
4 Michigan	6 Alberta
6 Missouri	1 Quebec
3 Mississippi	2 Ontario
1 Nebraska	16 Canada
5 New Jersey	
1 New Mexico	71.6% California
4 Nevada	25.8% Other States
13 New York	2.6% Canada

Conference Evaluation

https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/WBCN_evaluation

If you didn't get a chance to complete the conference evaluation at the conference (or even if you did), here's your opportunity to tell us what worked or didn't work so well about the conference.... Yes, it's been a long time. Tell us what you remember!

Women in the Trades Survey

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/WomenintheTrades>

This survey has questions about your experience with getting jobs and training in the trades generally, and experience with green jobs training, specifically. (By 'green,' we mean any work or training related to energy efficiency, weatherization, alternative energy such as wind and solar, public transportation, pollution control, recycling and safe removal of hazardous materials.) We will use this information to inform national and statewide debates about policies targeted at giving women fair and equal access to quality jobs in the construction trades. The survey should take no longer than 15 minutes to complete (and should work well on a smart phone/iphone).

Conference Videos

Many of the videos that were shown at the conference are on-line at the State Building Trades Council's website: www.sbctc.org (Under the Reference Toolbox, click on Women in the Trades. Or go to "Watch our Videos" in the media center.) This section also includes some videos shown at previous conferences.

Conference Photos

Many, many photos have been posted on facebook. Go to: www.facebook.com/womenbuildcalifornia



Ed Hill, President, IBEW



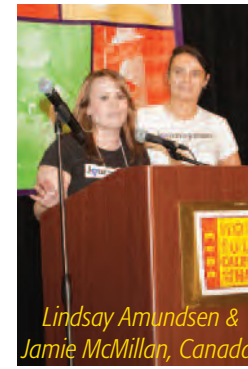
Rachel Bryan, IBCW 595



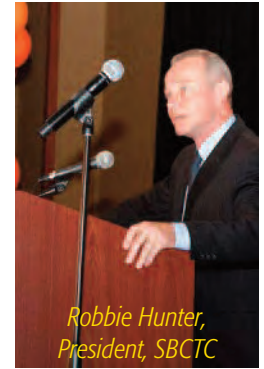
Alise Martiny, KC BTC



Liz Shuler, AFL-CIO Secty-Treasurer



Lindsay Amundsen & Jamie McMillan, Canada



Robbie Hunter, President, SBCTC

What we did

Network, learn, share, eat, have fun, listen, participate, make noise....

We had three plenary sessions where we heard from tradeswomen, the president of the State Building Trades Council, the president of the IBEW, the secretary-treasurer of the AFL-CIO, and a real Rosie the Riveter. We saw videos created by and about tradeswomen, and were treated to a performance about women in labor history. We also had four workshop blocks with 34 total workshops to choose from on policy issues and politics; staying strong in the trades; building union skills; options and guidance for pre-apprentices and those new to the trades; options beyond the tools; and nourishing extras. We also got to network with women in our craft and with other conference-attendees.



*Betty Reid Soskin
Rosie the Riveter Trust*



Tools of the Trades Workshop



Banner Parade

Save the Date for 2014

The fourth annual Women Building California and the Nation will be ...

April 25-27 2014

Sheraton Grand Hotel & Sacramento Convention Center

Check the website: www.sbctc.org for registration information as it comes on line

Reflections on the conference

Because of our successful fundraising efforts, the conference was able to provide scholarships for nine women, all under 40 years old, from around the country. Here are some of their thoughts on the event.

Julie Kuklinski
Biloxi, MS

"I have been to so many conferences in the last 5 years ... and I have never walked into a space where I felt completely open and true to the intentions of the gathering, where everyone was united by their passion, their work, and *not* their politics. Knowing that I have allies all across the country and in Canada is powerful beyond words and is so meaningful to me with the hostile and very difficult circumstances for women in my state."

Concetta Defa
Utah

"The quality of the workshops that I attended were among some of the best I have ever attended and were full of great information that I will be able to use when promoting women in the trades as well as to better myself in the industry."

Tia Vonil
Oregon

"When IBEW President Ed Hill took the stage to address the conference it was a moment of pride - the fact that he was there made it known industry-wide how important this conference is and how crucial keeping the number of women in the trades up is to change the industry for the better."

Sabrina Graley
Biloxi, Mississippi

"It was inspiring to see so many women in several different trades all banded as one in a sisterhood. As we came together it sent a message to the world that we were here and not backing down. I met some very great women whose stories inspired me to never quit."

Elizabeth Barton
St. Louis, MO

"Most people can't understand what it is like to always be the only person like you where you work, or to frequently be the 'outcast', the 'odd guy out'. This conference is an incredible place of acceptance and support for me and women like me. It is deeply renewing and encouraging to meet women from every part of the nation, every ethnicity, every age and trade who have been successful as tradeswomen, leaders in their community, and leaders in their unions at every level."

Tamara Mitchell
New York

"It really proved to me how powerful and strong we really are when we work together. Anything and everything is possible. I love the fact that there were men there supporting the women."

Iris Gandarilla
Oregon

Talking to some of the women, I realize that we are paving the way. They reminded me that I knew, going into this, it wasn't going to be easy. I accepted the challenges and I made it. I'm giving myself a pat on the back and an "atagirl." I can finally allow myself to feel proud of my accomplishment in completing my apprenticeship, when before this conference, I couldn't. Journeying out is just the beginning—I'm ready for Round 2!

Deanna Miller
Cleveland, OH

"I am more motivated and empowered now than ever. This conference has shown me different outlooks to a successful career and I CAN do it!! Skies the limit!"

Thanks again ...

Conference sponsors

- ▶ State Building & Construction Trades Council of California
- ▶ Building & Construction Trades Dept., AFL-CIO

Planning committee

- ▶ Standing Committee for Women in the Trades, BCTD
- ▶ Tradeswomen, Inc.
- ▶ Wider Opportunities for Women
- ▶ Sisters in the Building Trades
- ▶ National Task Force on Women's Issues

Donors

Tradeswomen Visionaries:

- ▶ BCTD
- ▶ UA Southern Calif. DC 16
- ▶ ULLICO

Tradeswomen Champions:

- ▶ Laborers Int'l Union
- ▶ Int'l Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
- ▶ IBEW Local 617
- ▶ United Association ... of the Pipefitting Industry

Tradeswomen Advocates:

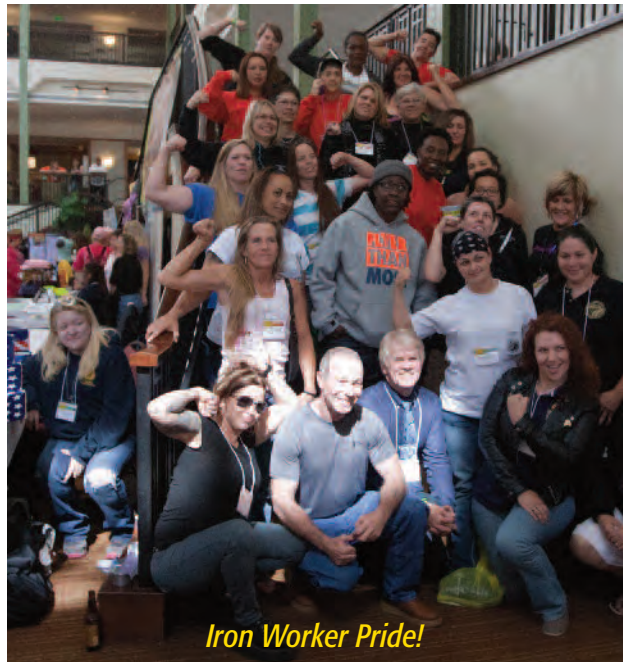
- ▶ AFL-CIO Building Investment Trust
- ▶ Boilermakers Int'l Union
- ▶ Int'l Brotherhood of Teamsters
- ▶ Int'l Union of Bricklayers & Allied Craftworkers
- ▶ Robbins Geller
- ▶ Sheet Metal (SMART) Int'l
- ▶ The Association of Union Constructors (TAUC)
- ▶ United Union of Roofers, Waterproofers and Allied Workers

Tradeswomen Supporters:

- ▶ Amaglamted Bank
- ▶ AFL-CIO Housing Investment Trust
- ▶ Morgan & Company



Pre-apprentices test their skills



Iron Worker Pride!

Scenes from around the 2013 conference



Workshops can be fun!



Sheet Metal Worker Pride!



Well said!



Laborer Pride!

The *Engineering News Record*, the construction industry's magazine of record, did a great spread about the conference. Go here: http://california.construction.com/california_construction_news/2013/0422-union-tradeswomen-urged-to-become-leaders-at-big-sacramento-gathering.asp

This newsletter was produced by the State Building & Construction Trades Council of California. www.sbctc.org. Contact us at dchaplan@sbctc.org



Another fun workshop!