

FIFTH NATIONAL CONFERENCE *for* WOMEN IN THE TRADES

WOMEN BUILDING THE NATION

MAY 1-3, 2015
Sheraton Gateway LAX
Los Angeles, CA



2015 Conference Rundown

We Made History!!!!

The 2015 Women Building the Nation conference made history, and now it is history. We broke the magical number of 1,000 and from all reports, the event was fun, exhilarating, educational, and engaging.

Get prepared for the 2016 conference—April 29-May 1 in Chicago. The team's already gearing up. Check out the Save the Date info on page 9.



Relive moments of the 2015 conference on-line

<http://www.sbctc.org>

Look for Women in Trades
in the SBCTC Reference Box
at the right and click on the
2015 conference

There you'll find the conference journal, and links to the videos we showed. We also have video of some of the speeches that were given. And—*2015 Women Building the Nation* is a new video gleaned from interviews of tradeswomen shot at the conference.

Who attended the 2015 conference in L.A.?

Attended: 1056
Pre-apprentices: 118
Speakers/Presenters: 178
Volunteers: > 65

By Union...

30 Bricklayers/Tilesetters
7 Boilermakers
75 Carpenters
4 Cement Masons
25 Elevator Constructors
1 Firefighter
3 IATSE (Theatrical/Stage)
175 IBEW (Electricians)
2 Insulators
119 Ironworkers
65 Painters & Allied Trades
104 LIUNA (Laborers)
16 Operating Engineers
3 Roofers
27 Sheet Metal
8 Teamsters
53 UA (Plumbers/Pipefitters)
3 UAW (Auto)

By state...

5 Alaska
1 Alabama
7 Arizona
588 California
6 Colorado
49 DC
2 Florida
1 Iowa
1 Idaho
43 Illinois
5 Indiana
6 Kansas
5 Massachusetts
10 Maryland
6 Michigan
26 Minnesota
14 Missouri
4 Mississippi
2 Montana
1 North Carolina
8 New Jersey
5 New Mexico
5 Nevada

24 New York
13 Ohio
3 Oklahoma
74 Oregon
2 Pennsylvania
1 South Carolina
3 Tennessee
6 Texas
8 Utah
62 Washington
3 Wisconsin
3 West Virginia

Other countries...

CANADA

5 Alberta
6 British Columbia
1 Newfoundland
6 Ontario
2 Saskatchewan

ENGLAND

2 Merseyside

NORTHERN IRELAND

1 Louth County

2015 Conference Planning Partners

- Building Trades Women's Committee
 - Tradeswomen, Inc.
- National Task Force on Tradeswomen's Issues
 - Oregon Tradeswomen
 - Chicago Women in Trades
 - Wider Opportunities for Women
- IBEW Local 11, the LA/Orange County Building Trades, and the wonderful tradeswomen of Los Angeles



Without the support from the following unions and supporting organizations, this conference could never have taken place. We offer our most sincere thanks.

Tradeswomen Visionaries

- North America's Building Trades Unions (NABTU)
- State Building & Construction Trades Council California (SBCTC)
- AFL-CIO Building Investment Trust
- Int'l Assoc of Iron Workers
- Int'l Union of Elevator Constructors
- LiUNA Laborers' Int'l Union of North America
- UA So CA Pipe Trades DC 16

Tradeswomen Champions

- Int'l Brotherhood of Boilermakers
- Int'l Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
- Insulators Labor Management Trust
- United Association (UA)



Tradeswomen Mentors

- American Income Life
- IBEW-NECA LMCC, Los Angeles, CA
- Int'l Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 617
- Int'l Brotherhood of Teamsters
- Int'l Union of Bricklayers & Allied Craftworkers
- Int'l Union of Operating Engineers
- Int'l Union of Painters & Allied Trades
- Sheet Metal Workers Int'l Association
- ULLICO Inc

Tradeswomen Advocates

- Associated Maintenance Contractors
- Bank of Labor
- Los Angeles/Orange Cnty Building Trades Council
- Metro LA
- North American Contractors Assn
- Operative & Maintenance Engineers, So Cal. JATC
- Robbins Geller Rudman & Dowd LLP
- The Association of Union Constructors
- United Union of Roofers, Waterproofers & Allied Workers

Tradeswomen Friends

- AFL-CIO Housing Investment Trust
- Boilermakers Local 28, 40 & 547
- Elevator Constructors Local 8 & 18
- Sacramento/Sierra BTC
- UA Local 130

Before the conference



Thanks to sister Pat Williams, (IUOE Local 501) who did the organizing, a group of tradeswomen got a bus tour of the Rosie the Riveter Park in Long Beach and the Tradeswomen Archives at Cal State Dominguez Hills.



Registration



Here's the hard-working crew from the State Building Trades Council who registered everyone for the conference.

Workshops & Tables



Top left: "What's in your lunchbox;" Top Right: Brigid O'Farrell and Molly Martin lead Tradeswomen History workshop; Middle Left: Calif. Conservation Corps members attend a pre-apprentice workshop; Middle Right: Hard Hatted Woman vendor table.

Action Center makes waves

For the first time, the conference worked to utilize social media in a big way. We promoted the twitter hashtag **#women-building**; the selfie-station helped hundreds of women get their message onto Facebook, and the Action Table had computers that enabled women to register to vote, and sign on-line petitions.

The three big issues we tackled



were Job Creation through Highway Funding, OSHA's Silica Standard, and supporting the WANTO program.

To be part of the follow-up, get in-

involved in a work committee of The National Taskforce on Tradeswomen's Issues. For info, contact Kelly Kupcak, Chicago Women in Trades, at kkupcak@cwit2.org

Pre-Apprenticeship Institute is a hit

More than 130 people attended the Pre-Apprenticeship Institute—What Works for Women on Friday, May 1. This was a key gathering for those who are running programs to prepare people for entering construction apprenticeship programs. The goal was to provide best practices and inspiration for program staff to learn why it's important and how they can succeed in recruiting and supporting women in their programs.



The words below are a quick view of the evaluations of that event.

The Pre Apprenticeship Planning Committee plans to hold the third annual Institute in Chicago. If you know people who run Apprenticeship Prep programs, be sure to have them watch out for this event.

Special thanks to the committee for their great work, and to the California Workforce Investment Board for its sponsorship.

Supporting our sisters



At the conference, you contributed more than \$5,000 to support Teamster sister Melinda Gaumer (Center). Melinda, who's come to the past eight conferences with her now 10-year old son Nicholas (affectionately known to us as "Sticker Boy"), has terminal cancer. She needs our continued help to make sure that Nicholas has the support he needs. To contribute, go to: <https://fundrazr.com/campaigns/az8Zc>

Patty Hughan, staffer for the International Iron Workers Union, who has played a huge role in promoting ironworker women and growing their delegation to the conference from 40 to 110 was recently in a terrible car accident that damaged both of her legs, and will have a long recovery. To show Patty some love, go to: <https://www.gofundme.com/pattyhughan>

Banner Parade - 2015



Conference Speakers - 2015



(L) Getting a sense of enormity of the ballroom (C) MCs: Carolyn Williams, Patti Devlin, Debra Chaplan (R) The stage



(From Left) Chantel Lewis, IBEW Local 6 sings; Calif. keynoter Yvonne Miranda, Laborers Local 300; National keynoter Magan Smith, Bricklayers Local 8; Edel Corrigan, Sinn Fein, Northern Ireland.



(Left) California Attorney General Kamala Harris;
(Center) Valerie Jarrett, Senior Advisor to President Obama and Chair of the White House Commission on Women and Girls could not attend the conference at the last minute, but sent a videotape.

(Right) Latifa Lyles, head of the Dept. of Labor's Women's Bureau introduced the taped greeting.



(From Left) California State Senator Connie Leyva, California Assemblymember Christine Garcia, Playwright Roberta Hunte and Actors Jocelyn Seid and Marilyn Keller who performed a section of "My Walk Has Never Been Average," stories of African-American tradeswomen.

Hearing from the Presidents

In 2013, the IBEW's Ed Hill, who recently retired, came to the conference and addressed the group. It was terrific for all of us, particularly our IBEW sisters, to be recognized by the head of their union. But it was even more important for President Hill to participate in the conference and learn about the issues facing his female members. President Hill became a true advocate for the conference after that.

This year, we were honored to be joined by Laborers President Terry O'Sullivan and Jim Boland, President of the Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers. You can see their speeches on-line (www.sbctc.org). In addition, Brent Booker, the Secretary-Treasurer of North America's Building Trades Unions participated in the Pre-Apprenticeship Institute, and addressed the conference.



*Terry O'Sullivan, President
Laborer's International Union of
North America*

"What every tradeswoman wants, needs and deserves is the same damn thing as her union brother: A well-paying, family supporting union job! She needs role models and mentors who can bring her along just as the old timers have always brought along the young guys... just as they did for me. That's why this conference is so important.

I pledge to you today that I am committed to standing shoulder to shoulder with you to bring full gender equity not only to our movement... but to our entire country."

About the photos

Many thanks to Melina Harris, Jan Jenson and Vicky Hamlin for sharing their photos. To see many, many more photos, go to Facebook and visit:

- Women Building California and the Nation (event page) or
- Sisters Alliance (Gallery)



*Jim Boland, President
Bricklayers & Allied Craftworkers
International Union*

"Diversity in membership and leadership go hand in hand. Diversity not only helps insure our union and industry's survival and growth, but it gives added dimension to the labor movement by increasing our collective strength on the job, at the bargaining table, in our communities, and in our political action."



*Brent Booker, Secretary-Treasurer
North America's Building Trades Unions*

The current and future demographics of the construction industry point to the fact that there is an enormous opportunity for women who are seeking secure, well-paid and fulfilling employment. North America's Building Trades Unions are committed to providing the opportunities for women to not only enter into the skilled trades, but to advance and succeed!"

CLUW Health Survey

The Coalition for Labor Union Women's (CLUW) commitment to empower union women includes providing health information. To assist in tailoring that information, CLUW created a short survey with HealthyWomen. Survey results will allow CLUW to provide union women with the health information they want on a regular basis, delivered via the communications format/s they prefer.

Take the short survey here:
<http://surveymonkey.com/r/cluw-survey>

HealthyWomen will be holding a drawing for a \$100 gift card that every woman completing the survey can enter to win!

**Getting to Know
You and Your
Health Needs:
Audience Survey
for Women**

<http://surveymonkey.com/r/cluw-survey>



More conference pix...



Get ready for 2016!

- Have you reported back to your local union yet about the 2015 conference? It is important for your local to know why they need to keep sending tradeswomen in the future.
- Do you want your union local to sponsor you to go to the conference? If you're not sure how to make that happen, go to:
<http://tradeswomen.org/programs/women-building-conferences/how-to-ask-your-union-to-send-you-to-the-conference/>
- Volunteer for union events. The more your union sees you involved, the more they know that sending tradeswomen to our conference is a good investment.
- Step up now and start mentoring young women who are coming into your apprenticeship program.
- Start working on your video to be shown at the 2016 conference. We'd love to show works from different tradeswomen.
- Many thanks to Chicago Women in Trades for standing up to serve as the Host Committee—they've got a lot of work ahead of them!

How to tie into Tradeswomen on-line (list not complete):

Facebook:

Women Build California and the Nation • Sisters Alliance • Sisters in the Building Trades • I Am a Tradeswoman • BC Women in Trades • Build Together

Twitter: #tradeswomen • #womenbuild2015

Join us in
CHICAGO for the
6th National
Conference for
Women in
the Trades

WOMEN BUILD NATIONS

APRIL 29 - MAY 1, 2016



SPONSORED BY:
North America's Building
Trades Unions

HOST COMMITTEE:
Chicago Women in Trades

For more information visit
www.chicagowomenintrades2.org
Registration and hotel info will be
posted in January, 2016. Watch for it!

Around the ballroom



(Left) Ruby Wallis displays her metal art; (Center) the 2015 Tradeswomen T-Shirt quilt; (Right) A poem created in the Blue Jean Pocket Writers workshop.

