

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.



# 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](http://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](http://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.

