



WOMEN BUILD NATIONS 2017

THE VALUE OF ATTENDING AND SUPPORTING THE CONFERENCE

- North America's Building Trades Unions (NABTU) and Chicago Women In Trades (CWIT) will host the seventh national multi-craft union sponsored conference in Chicago. The conference will take place in the heart of the city, near downtown Chicago at the Hyatt Regency McCormick Place hotel near the lake front and McCormick Place, the largest convention center in the country.
- This national conference grew out of the Women Building California conference, which started in 2002. Last year's conference brought together over 1,600 tradeswomen for two days of educational workshops, union engagement, and leadership development.
- It is often difficult for women to work in the trades because they repeatedly find that they are the only one (or one of a very few) on the jobsite. Being in a room with over 1,600 tradeswomen who have a similar experience, is key to helping women break the isolation they may feel at work. In addition, the conference renews energy and excitement about the work of tradeswomen and provides a setting for them form new relationships and strengthen existing ones.
- The conference offers workshop tracks for women at all stages of their careers, from new apprentices to seasoned journeymen seeking to advance their careers in the industry. Tradeswomen leave the conference **empowered** with valuable knowledge and resources to build women's committees or mentorship programs in their unions. They are equipped with the tools to establish multi-craft support groups and they are motivated to become advocates for policies and practices that support women's access to longevity in trade careers.
- International unions actively support the conference through direct financial contributions and sponsorship of individual members. The conference inspires tradeswomen sent by local unions to feel positive about their union. The conference motivates tradeswomen to become greater advocates for union construction trades. In addition, it gives them the resources to actively mentor and support one another and to become involved in outreach and recruitment, which will positively affect the retention of women in the skilled union trades.
- The conference costs are reasonable to enable as many women as possible to attend. The sponsoring organizations underwrite significant costs of this event. The early bird registration, which includes meals is \$100 per person. The union hotel – Hyatt Regency McCormick Place rate is \$149 per night for conference attendees. In addition, the event takes place on the weekend to avoid the need to pay lost wages or missed work.