

What's the value of the Women Building the Nation conference?

October 4-6, 2019
Hilton Minneapolis
Minneapolis, Minnesota

- This will be the ninth national multi-craft, union-sponsored conference held in the U.S. The official conference sponsors are North America's Building Trades Unions (NABTU). In addition, many international unions, industry suppliers and contractors are making donations to support the conference.
- This national conference grew out of the Women Building California conference, which started in 2002. Last year's conference brought together close to 2000 tradeswomen and met for three spirited and educational days of workshops and networking.
- It is often difficult for women to work in the trades because they find they are the only woman (or one of a very few) women out on the jobsite. Being in a room with 2,000+ other tradeswomen who have a similar experience, is key to helping women break the isolation they may feel at work.
- The conference has several workshop tracks: **Just coming in** —for pre-apprentices and new apprentices; **Staying strong** —including women's committees, mentoring, safety and health, dealing with sexual harassment and bullying and more; **Growing leaders**—understanding how unions work, public speaking, parliamentary procedure; **Policy impacting tradeswomen**—PLAs, local and federal legislation; **Career ladders**—in the union as a contractor, higher education; and **Nourishing Extras**—union history, writing, social media, fitness....and much more. The goal of the workshops is to stay positive and look for solutions rather than griping about the present.
- The conference costs are kept extremely low to enable as many women as possible to attend. The sponsoring organizations underwrite significant costs of this event. The hotel rate is kept low through negotiations. In addition, the event is held on the weekend to avoid the need to pay lost wages for those who attend.
- This conference inspires the tradeswomen sent by Local Unions to feel even more positive about their Local Unions, to advocate for the building trades and to take more responsibility—on the job and in their unions.