

## International Association of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation Workers



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**Joseph Sellers, Jr.**  
General President

July 24, 2017

To All Business Managers

Brothers and Sisters,

As an organizational strategic initiative, we have been striving to improve the recruitment and retention of women in our membership and to learn of the challenges they face once they become members. You have seen this by direct communication and by addressing this at our Conferences and Council meetings. To facilitate these goals I encourage you, once again, to send a contingent of women members from your local union to the Women Building Nations Conference in Chicago this October. Conference information, registration and hotel booking links are found below.

Conference details can be found at <https://nabtu.org/2017-wbn-conference/> We encourage you to put this on your local union website and social networking platforms

Registration for the conference:

<https://womenbuildnations.shipshapeit.com/pages/onlineRegistration.aspx>

Registration for hotel: <https://aws.passkey.com/event/49077366/owner/1460/home>

This is the 7th National Conference; the event originated as Women Building California in 2002 and has grown from about 250 delegates to over 1,500 last year. This year's conference is co-sponsored by Chicago Women in Trades and the North America's Building Trades Unions (NABTU). It has the support of every International Union, including SMART. Last year, this conference brought together union members, apprentices, journeywomen, women in leadership and women ready to retire to network, to share experiences, to mentor and to learn. Government officials, union leaders, apprenticeship coordinators and tradeswomen facilitate more than 50 workshops and plenary sessions. Attendees to this conference will build their leadership skills, union identity, mentoring connections and support networks.

A special session titled "Recruiting and Retaining Women in the Trades: An Institute for Practitioners and Employers" will also be held on Friday October 13<sup>th</sup>. This will be useful to Training Coordinators, Instructors and pre-apprentice program managers.

Fraternally,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph Sellers, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Joseph Sellers, Jr.  
General President