

WOMEN'S COMMITTEE ON ORGANIZING



DC 14 Women's Committee on Organizing

Mission: To educate, inspire, provide mutual support, build a sense of belonging and promote active participation of our women members and lead them through charitable works, political involvement and various pursuits that promote and strengthen our locals and the labor movement.

History: The committee was founded in 2015 by women members of District Council 14 Painters and Drywall Finishers with support from the Business Manager, business agents/organizers, local unions and the Chicago Area Painters and Drywall Finishers JATC. The committee also credits the IUPAT for their encouragement of the formation of women's committees and Chicago Women in Trades for facilitating strategic planning and supporting the development of the committee.

Structure and Membership: The Women's Committee on Organizing is a formal committee of District Council 14, with active participation by more than 20 women, or approximately 40% of the female membership.

Goals: Primary goals include:

- Improving employment opportunities for women
- Building women's leadership within the union and on the job
- Supporting women seeking to establish contracting businesses
- Increasing women's enrollment in the apprenticeship program

Activities:

- Monthly meetings
- Participation in CWIT recruitment events
- Hosting hands on field trips and providing mentorship to Chicago Women in Trades students
- Participation in union political activities
- Building allies within and outside the union
- Advocating for, guiding and preparing women for leadership roles
- Volunteer activities
- Women Build Nations
- Hosting booths at career/resource fairs

Challenges:

- Engaging more women in the committee-, most women are working and have other responsibilities.
- Engaging contractors
- Engaging fellow members

Successes: There is consensus that the committee has both provided more support and mentorship for women while increasing women's visibility and respect within the union. Specific accomplishments include:

- Sponsorship of 20 women to attend the 2016 Women Build Nations conference
- Woman appointed as instructor at the Chicago Area Painters and Drywall Finishers JATC
- Five women elected to officer positions in their locals, including one Vice-President
- Field trip developed for TOP classes at the apprenticeship school
- Increase in the number of female applicants to the program

For more information go to

<https://www.facebook.com/DC14WomensCommittee/>

