

TRADES FUTURES



Hello, tradeswomen and allies! Here are some frequently asked questions for TWBN. We've compiled a list to help you with logistics for the 2025 conference.

1. Where will the conference be held?

- TWBN 2025 will be held in the West Building of McCormick Place Convention Center in Chicago, IL, from Friday, September 19th, to Sunday, September 21st. McCormick Place Convention Center is located at 2301 S Martin Luther King Dr, Chicago, IL 60616.
- You should arrive on Friday, September 19th (unless you are attending events on Friday during the day), and plan to return home on Sunday, September 21st. The conference will be over by 12:00 p.m. on Sunday. You can easily make flight arrangements for after 3:00 p.m.

2. How should I get there? What are other transportation options?

- If you are flying, Chicago has two airports: Chicago Midway International Airport (MDW) and Chicago O'Hare International Airport (ORD).
 - You may use either, however, Midway is closer to the McCormick Place Convention Center.
- From either airport, cabs and rideshare options are widely available. Please follow the airport signs to the designated areas for cab and rideshare pick-ups.
 - The cab fare will average \$35 - \$50, and the ride will take approximately 50 minutes from Midway and 75 minutes from O'Hare to the convention center and surrounding hotels.
- There are also public transportation options available from each airport.
 - From Midway Airport: The CTA "Orange" line provides service to and from the airport. Take the train to the Roosevelt Street Station (Subway) and transfer to the elevated Green Line Station. Continue on the southbound

Green Line train for one stop to the Cermak-McCormick Place station. The Cermak-McCormick Place Station is a two-block (0.15 miles) walk from the Northwest Corner of the McCormick Place West Building.

- From O'Hare International Airport: The CTA "Blue" line provides service to and from the airport. Take the Blue Line from O'Hare and transfer to a southbound Green Line train at Clark and Lake. Note that in the Loop, the Blue Line is a Subway Train, and the Green Line is an elevated train; a free transfer is available at Clark and Lake. The Cermak-McCormick Place Station is a 2-block (0.15 miles) walk from the Northwest Corner of the McCormick Place West Building.
- Here is helpful information for using Metra to travel from [McCormick Place to Midway or O'Hare airports](#).
- If you are driving, the parking rate for Lot A at the McCormick Place Convention Center is \$27 for up to 16 hours and \$40 from 16 to 24 hours.
 - **The daily prepaid parking fee is \$40.** Prepaid parking spaces are guaranteed even if lots fill to capacity. **Purchase pre-pay parking online at <https://www.mccormick.parkingguide.com/>.**
 - There are no in-and-out privileges in Lot A unless parking is purchased online in advance. Lost tickets will pay the \$40 (overnight) fee per day.
- If you are local to Chicago, there are bus stops and CTA stations located near the convention center. Please see this [link](#), which outlines the public transportation options.

3. Are food and drinks provided during the conference?

- Breakfast will be provided to all attendees on Saturday and Sunday mornings.
- Grab-and-go lunches will also be provided on Saturday outside of the workshop rooms. All other meals you must provide for yourself.
- There are bars and restaurants within walking distance of the convention center, with a variety of price ranges and food types. The convention center is located adjacent to the South Loop and Chinatown neighbors.
- There is a restaurant and bar inside each of the hotels connected to the convention center, but please note that it will usually be more expensive than other places outside.

4. Will there be a banner parade this year?

- Yes! We plan to have the annual TWBN parade, so be sure to bring your union swag, shirts, banners, and hard hats. Stay tuned for more details as the conference approaches.
- The banner parade will take place outdoors, rain or shine. Temperatures in Chicago in September typically range from the mid-50s to the mid-60s, so

please take this into consideration when packing. You may want to pack layers in case the temperatures are lower than average.

5. Is there a dress code?

- There is no set conference dress code; most sisters choose to represent their unions by wearing union colors or union-labeled shirts.

6. What should I know about safety?

- The hotel is situated in a safe area of town; however, Chicago remains a major city. We encourage everyone to be vigilant, use their common sense, and stick together. Please don't venture out alone or leave a sister alone. We want everyone to have a fun but safe time.
- Please drink responsibly and be aware of your limits.

8. Will there be breakout sessions and opportunities to connect with other trades sisters?

- Yes, we have scheduled two breakout sessions, one on Saturday and on Sunday. You can choose to attend either of the two sessions you prefer. A detailed schedule will be posted in the coming weeks. Please consult and plan accordingly. Some of the breakout sessions will be offered more than once. These breakouts will be a great opportunity to connect with your sisters on topics important to you.
- Friday evening, there is an opening reception for all attendees. This reception will take place in the West Hall Ballroom from **5:30 - 7:00 pm CT**.

9. What should I pack?

- First and foremost, be sure to pack your union pride! You will also need to take into consideration the weather; it may be chilly in Chicago in September, and it may be raining. You may want to pack layers or a light jacket.
- The conference proceedings will take place in a convention center ballroom, and you will be seated for several hours each day, so please also take that into consideration.
- Comfortable shoes!! There will be a fair amount of walking.
- You may also want to pack snacks and water. However, if you are traveling by plane, please remember that you can't carry large liquids on the plane!
- Don't forget your Union swag for the banner parade!

10. What is the caucus portion at TWBN?

- It is a time set aside for each of the individual building trades unions to meet independently with top International/National leadership within their own trade to discuss strategy and issues.

- Caucus sessions are currently scheduled on Saturday, immediately following the Saturday workshop session.

11. What is the theme this year?

- **"She's not waiting. She's Leading."**