

Hello, tradeswomen and allies!

Welcome to our Frequently Asked Questions for TWBN. NABTU's tradeswomen committee has compiled a list to help you with logistics for the 2026 conference.

1. Where will the conference be held?

- TWBN 2026 will be held on the third floor of the **George R. Brown Convention Center**, located at 1001 Avenida De Las Americas, Houston, TX 77010, on **Friday, October 9th – Sunday, October 11th, 2026.**
- You should plan to arrive on Friday, October 9th (unless you are attending Thursday or Friday daytime external events – i.e., Union Sportsmen's Alliance event) and can plan your return home on Sunday, October 11th.
- **The conference will conclude by 12:30 p.m. CST on Sunday**, so departing flights after 3:00 p.m. CST on Sunday are recommended.

2. How do I register for the conference and book my hotel?

- Conference registration will open on June 25 via the TradesFutures TWBN webpage, which can be found [here](#).
- **Please note: This year, you will not be able to book a hotel room until you have completed your conference registration and received a registration approval confirmation email.**
- **Registration approval confirmations may take up to two business days**, especially in the first few days once registration opens. If you do not receive your confirmation approval, please email registration@tradesfutures.org.
- Shortly after booking, you will receive an “acknowledgment number” from CVENT Passkey (the hotel booking platform). This is essentially your hotel confirmation placeholder. After September 15th, you will receive an official hotel confirmation number. **Please do not call the hotels to confirm your reservation prior to September 15th when you receive that confirmation number.**

- There are several hotels within a short walk to the convention center included in the conference room block. Special conference room rates have been secured; hotel rates range from \$239/night – \$300/night.
- Even if your Union or another entity is covering the cost of your hotel room, most hotels require a temporary security deposit, which is a charge that will be placed on your credit or debit card for the length of your stay and will be returned to your card once you check out. This security deposit hold can vary by hotel. Please check with your specific hotel to ask what this amount will be.

3. Can my children attend?

- Children who are 12 and under attending with a union and labor family member (i.e. active or retired union members and staff or representatives of labor-affiliated non-profits, including but not limited to TradesFutures Apprenticeship Readiness Program staff, union foundations and worker centers, and labor organizations) are admitted for free.
- Children 13 and above attending with a union and labor family member (i.e., active or retired union members and staff or representatives of labor-affiliated non-profits, including but not limited to TradesFutures Apprenticeship Readiness Program staff, union foundations and worker centers, and labor organizations) must pay the union registration fee of \$200.

4. How should I get there? What are my transportation options?

- If you are flying: Houston has two airports: George Bush Intercontinental Airport (IAH) and William P. Hobby Airport (HOU). You may use either; however, Hobby (HOU) is closer to the George R. Brown Convention Center.
- From either airport there are cabs and rideshare options widely available. Please follow the airport signs to the designated cab and rideshare pick up areas. The rideshare fare will average \$25 - \$40 and the ride will take approximately 20

minutes from Hobby (HOU) and 35 minutes from Bush (IAH) to the convention center and surrounding hotels. Rideshare options will be cheaper than traditional cab fare.

- There are also public transportation options available from each airport.
 - From Bush (IAH) there is a bus that runs directly from the airport to the George R. Brown Convention Center. METRO Bus 500 Downtown Direct departs from Terminal E, Level 2, exit door E201. It runs every 30 minutes from 5:30 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. It costs \$4.50 one way. [For more information, visit this link.](#)
 - From Hobby (HOU) there is a bus that runs directly from the airport to the George R. Brown Convention Center. METRO Bus 500 Downtown Direct departs from the Hobby Transit Center, Curb Zone 3 outside on the Arrivals/Baggage Claim level. It runs every 30 minutes from 5:30 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. It costs \$4.50 one way. [For more information, visit this link.](#)
- If you are driving: The GRB Convention Center has two parking garages, Avenida North Garage and Avenida Central Garage, with daily rates ranging between \$10–\$42.
 - There are [parking](#) garages located just a short walk from the convention center. Privately-operated surface parking lots and metered street parking are also located nearby. The City of Houston's [ParkHouston](#) page has more information about metered parking and cashless payment options.

5. Are food and drinks provided during the conference?

- Light fare and drinks will be provided on Friday evening at the opening reception for all attendees. This reception will take place in the Grand Ballroom on Level 4 of the Hilton Americas Hotel at 6:00 p.m. CST.
- Breakfast will be provided to everyone attending the conference on Saturday and Sunday mornings inside the convention center on the third level walkway.
- Grab-and-go lunches will also be provided on Saturday inside the convention center on the third level walkway. All other meals are on your own.

- The convention center is located in Downtown Houston so there are many bars and restaurants within walking distance of the convention center at all price ranges and food types. There are three restaurants located inside of the convention center as well.
- There are restaurants and bars inside each of the conference hotels, but remember they will usually be more expensive than other places outside.

6. Will there be a banner parade this year?

- Yes! We plan to have our annual parade, so be sure to bring your union swag, shirts, banners, and hard hats. **Please note this year the banner parade will take place first thing on Saturday morning, before the plenary session.** This is a change from how the schedule has run in years past. We will release more information closer to the event about how and where each trade will line up; please monitor your email inbox for this information!
- The banner parade will take place outdoors, rain or shine. Temperatures in Houston in October typically range from the low 80s°F in the daytime to the 60s°F in the evenings, so please take this into consideration when packing.

7. Is there a dress code?

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

8. What should I know about safety?

- The hotels and convention center are located in a very nice area of town; however, Houston is still a major city. We encourage everyone to use common sense and stick together. Don't venture out alone or leave a sister alone. We want everyone to have a fun and safe time. We will have EMT staff on the premises.
- Drink responsibly and know your limits.

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

- Yes, we have scheduled two breakout sessions, one Saturday and one Sunday. You can choose to attend whichever two sessions you would like. 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 Grand Ballroom on Level 4 of the Hilton Americas Hotel at 6:00 p.m. CST.

10. What should I pack?

- First and foremost, you should pack your union pride! You will also need to take into consideration the weather; it will still be warm in Houston in October. You may want to pack short sleeves and shorts.
- The conference proceedings will occur in a convention center ballroom, and you will be sitting for several hours each day so 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 remember that you can't carry large liquids on the plane!
- Don't forget your union swag for the banner parade!

11. What is the caucus portion at TWBN?

- It is a time set aside for each of our 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.

12. What is our theme this year?

- Breaking Barriers, Expanding Horizons!

13. If I have a question related to my Union, my Union's events during TWBN, or my Union's tradeswomen initiatives, who is the International Tradeswomen Representative from my union?

- IRONWORKERS
 - **Vicki L. O'Leary - *NABTU Tradeswomen Committee Chair*** | General Organizer and Director of Diversity, Ironworkers International | voleary@iwintl.org
- INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS (IBEW)
 - **Jennifer Gray** | Director, Civic and Community Engagement, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers | Jennifer_gray@ibew.org
- INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS (TEAMSTERS)
 - **Iliana Flores** | Southern Region Training Coordinator, Training and Grants Department, International Brotherhood of Teamsters | iflores@teamster.org
- INTERNATIONAL UNION OF BRICKLAYERS & ALLIED CRAFTWORKERS (IUBAC)
 - **Liliana A Calderon Castillo** | Director of Health & Safety Programs, IU Bricklayers & Allied Craftworkers | lcalderon@bacweb.org
- INTERNATIONAL UNION OF ELEVATOR CONSTRUCTORS (IUEC)
 - **Nicole Wiet** | Elevator Industry Work Preservation Fund National Coordinator, IUEC | nwiet@eiwpcf.org
- INTERNATIONAL UNION OF PAINTERS & ALLIED TRADES (IUPAT)
 - **Madison Hull** | Senior Advisor to the General President, International Union of Painters & Allied Trades | mhull@iupat.org
- LABORERS' INTERNATIONAL UNION OF NORTH AMERICA (LIUNA)

- **Rebecca Rougier** | Senior Policy Analyst, Legislative and Political Department, LiUNA | rrougier@liuna.org

- OPERATIVE PLASTERERS' & CEMENT MASONS' INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION (OPCMIA)
 - **Kilah Engelke** | Business Manager, OPCMIA Local 599 and Chairwoman at Steel Edge Women of the OPCMIA | opcmia599.kilah@gmail.com

- SMART – International Association of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail, and Transportation Workers
 - **Louise Medina** | Director of Special Projects, SMART International | lmedina@smart-union.org

- UNITED ASSOCIATION OF JOURNEYMEN AND APPRENTICES OF THE PLUMBING AND PIPE FITTING INDUSTRY OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA (UA)
 - **Laura Ceja** | Special Representative - Training and Outreach, United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry of the United States and Canada | lceja@uanet.org
 - **Alanna Marklund (at large)** | Special Representative, Youth, Diversity and Indigenous Relations, UA Canada | alanna.marklund@uacanada.ca

- UNITED UNION OF ROOFERS, WATERPROOFERS AND ALLIED WORKERS (ROOFERS)
 - **Erin McDermott** | Media Director, United Union of Roofers | erinm@unionroofers.com

- INTERNATIONAL UNION OF OPERATING ENGINEERS (IUOE)
 - **Lorna Harnum** | International Representative, IUOE | lharnum@iuoe.org

- INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF BOILERMAKERS, IRON SHIP BUILDERS, BLACKSMITHS, FORGERS AND HELPERS (BOILERMAKERS)
 - **Erica Stewart** | Diversity Organizing and Recruiting Initiative Coordinator | International Brotherhood of Boilermakers | estewart@boilermakers.org
 - **Debbie Goodwin** | Research Assistant, International Brotherhood of Boilermakers | dgoodwin@boilermakers.org

- INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF HEAT AND FROST INSULATORS AND ALLIED WORKERS (INSULATORS)
 - **Kim Patrick** | President, Insulators Local 18 | kimpatrick883@gmail.com