



Women's Committee

SHAUNIE WHEELER JAMES, *Chair*

The Women's Committee has had a strong presence during WSLC Conventions with its highly anticipated educational breakfast, empowering workshops, and of course... the silent auction! This work has been done by forward-thinking women in the movement. Our goal is to continue this work and build upon it!

We know that unions are declining in membership and confront shrinking resources. In light of Janus, we have even more work ahead. And women are huge part of this plan.

WOMEN HOLD UP HALF THE SKY! Women are half the workforce and two-thirds of the caregivers in our families. Women believe we are stronger if we stick together than go it alone. Women have moved into roles in civic and economic life that were out of reach not long ago. But, despite more than a century of struggle and tremendous gains, women still don't have equality. As workers—along with men—women continue to fight for good jobs, a just economy and family values at work. And as union members, too few women are recognized as leaders.

Our mission is simple:

To continue the work of the Women Labor Leaders in Action. The goal of the WLLA training is to build a network of up-and-coming women leaders in our state, and to give these women the foundational skills, campaign skills, and support network that we need to become the future champions of our movement.

If you're going to lead, you need a foundation. Labor has made leadership development a top priority. We have women moving up the pipeline into staff roles and committee leadership, but as the data shows, the buck stops there. In order to advance further in their careers, our sisters are leaving for public and private sector positions outside of our unions. These are women who could help us expand and strengthen our movement.

Second: Sisters helping Sisters — For those just starting their journey into solidarity, mentoring is critical. Labor leaders have mentored their successors—mostly informally—since the movement began, but some believe this mentoring has been more readily available to men. Mentoring, however, may be especially valuable for women and people of color because of the specific challenges they face advancing their careers. Mentoring can help unions diversify their leadership and provide a way for current leaders to help new leaders develop and grow.