

Women In Leadership Development

We are pleased to announce that the 20th Annual Women In Leadership Development (WILD) Conference will be held at the **Hilton East Brunswick** on **Friday, March 13 - Saturday, March 14, 2026**.

Every year, with the support of our CLCs, BTCs, and affiliates, our annual WILD conference plays an instrumental role in ensuring that union women have every opportunity to further develop their leadership tools in their workplaces and in their unions.

Together, we will foster diversity within the labor movement, while providing new members with the opportunity to meet and network with experienced activists. This year's conference features several esteemed speakers who will offer their insight into the issues that women face in today's workplace.

WILD conferences provide growth and sustainability for the labor movement, as we educate the next generation of leaders, and empower women to become active members in their locals.

We thank you for your continued support.

For further information or any questions, please call New Jersey State AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Laurel Brennan at (609) 989-8730.

20th Annual (WILD) Women in Leadership Development



***Strengthen
Your Union***

***Empower
Your Sisters***

March 13-14, 2026

Conference Schedule

Friday, March 13, 2026

5:00 p.m. Registration

5:30 p.m. Reception

WELCOME

Charles Wowkanech
President

Laurel Brennan
Secretary-Treasurer

6:30 p.m. Plenary Session

Invited Keynote Speaker:
Governor-elect Mikie Sherrill

A true ally to working people, Governor-elect Mikie Sherrill has proudly represented New Jersey's 11th Congressional District since 2019. Governor-elect Sherrill has joined picket lines and strongly advocated for the fair wages, benefits, and organizing rights that workers deserve.

We Were There Presentation **Union Women of our Past & Future**

Created by Bev Grant, **We Were There**, is a unique and multimedia performance that brings the experience of women's labor history to life. The presentation uses slides, music and the spoken word to celebrate the role women have played in the labor movement. Our own WILD sisters will bring history back to life and step into the shoes of pioneering women leaders, telling their stories against the backdrop of real life images of these progressive women and the many orgianl songs by Bev Grant.

Saturday, March 14, 2026

8:00 a.m. Breakfast

9:00 a.m. Plenary Session

WORKSHOPS

“Harnessing the Power of Lean In Circles”

Lean In Circles bring women together in a powerful blend of leadership and peer support, creating spaces where union women across all sectors can grow their skills, strengthen solidarity, lead with confidence, and bring growth to their unions.

Our session, “Harnessing the Power of Lean In Circles,” is designed for union women and labor leaders who are committed to elevating the voices and leadership of women throughout the labor movement. This dynamic workshop explores how Lean In Circles can address the unique challenges tradeswomen and union sisters face, foster community and mentorship, and create pathways for more women to step into leadership roles.

Participants will engage in a live Lean In Circle experience, learn practical strategies they can bring back to their locals, and discover how Circles can strengthen engagement, build connection, and support the development of women across industries.

Empower your sisters. Strengthen your union. Advance women's leadership in the labor movement.

Presenters:

Yesenia Nuñez Nelson, Programs Account Manager at Lean In and Sidney Lee, Program Manager at LeanIn.Org.

12:15 - 2:00 p.m. Wrap Up & Lunch

Registration

Conference Fee: \$150

Includes: Meals, Programs, and Materials

Please fill out the information below and mail it, along with a check payable to the “New Jersey State AFL-CIO,” to:

WILD Conference
New Jersey State AFL-CIO
106 West State Street
Trenton, NJ 08608

Name

Organization

Address

Phone

Email

Reservations

The Hilton East Brunswick
3 Tower Center Boulevard
East Brunswick, NJ 08816

All participants are responsible for their own room reservations. To book, please call (800) 445-8667 and use code “**912**” to receive the discounted room rate of \$135 (tax not included). Overnight self-parking is included in the room rate. Valet parking is an additional charge. To guarantee room availability, please book before the deadline: Friday, February 13, 2026.