Training provides effective union participation

The 12th Annual Michigan Winter School for Women Workers offers four days of training in skills related to effective participation in union activities. The conference will be held at MSU's Kellogg Center March 12-15.

(WORKING WOMEN cont.)

Connie Swander, Journeyman Electrician:

"I used to like the security of working here. I've been here since the spring of '85, but I don't have that trust any more.

"I enjoy factory work, but I would rather work outside.

"I like the UAW representation here. They have done a lot for factory workers. I think people should support their union and go to union meetings.

"If I weren't working here, I'd like to own a bar or go into psychology and work with convicts and parolees.

"I would discourage my daughter from working here because she's capable of doing other types of jobs. She's good with animals and is considering being a veterinarian."

Fay Grout, Apprentice Tinsmith, with two children:

"I love my job here. I've worked here ten years. I've been an apprentice for one year and it's a four-year program to become a Tinsmith. Prior to that I spent seven years spot welding on the B-Body Side Frames.

"I've been thankful everyday, since the day I hired in, for my job with GM. I think I'm giving them what they ask for—an honest day's work for a day's pay.

"I'm putting my daughter through college now."

The conference, sponsored by the Labor Program Service, School of Labor Relations at MSU, and the Union Minorities and Women Leadership Training Project also at MSU, is open to all Michigan labor organization members. However, its primary focus is the educational and training needs of women workers.

Local 602 Women's Committee Chairperson Veronica Johnson, who is an instructor in one of the six workshops offered, said the weekend conference provides an intensive training experience. "Participants may only select one course to attend during the weekend. They will also have general sessions and special events to attend too."

Workshop topics include:

1. Basic Unionism and Leadership Training
2. Cable TV and Communication Skills
3. Effective Use of Your Resources
4. Parliamentary Procedure and Effective Committees
6. Computer Skills for Local Unions

The registration fee is $85 and includes the cost of instruction, materials, conference fees, four meals and three continental breakfasts. Enrollment is limited to the first 120 persons to register by March 9. For more information contact Veronica Johnson at 6021 or pick up a brochure at the Local 602 Union Hall or the Union Work Center.