



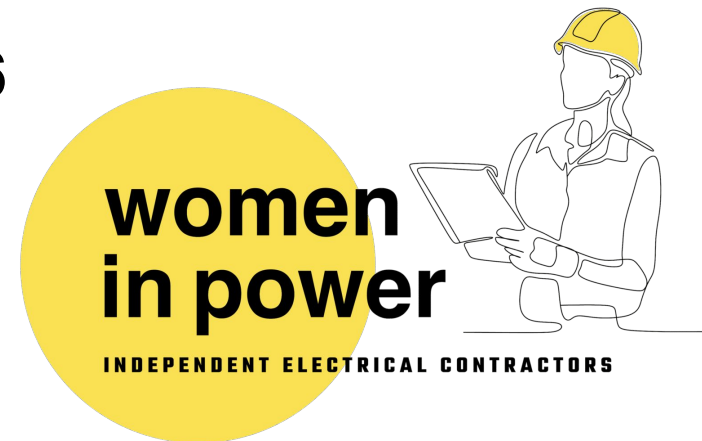
# IEC Women in Power Presents: Driving Leadership into the Future!

**Marilyn Akers Stansbury**  
CEO, Independent Electrical Contractors Rocky Mountain

March 19, 2026



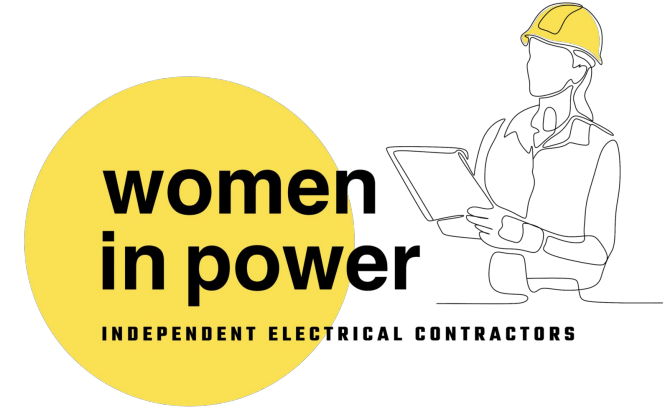
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# What We Represent



**Empowerment** - Breaking barriers and taking charge in a field where women are underrepresented



**Strength and Skill** - Highlighting the balance between technical expertise and personal leadership style, reinforcing that professionalism and individuality coexist



**Challenging Stereotypes** - Showcasing the expertise of women in the electrical trades and encouraging more women to pursue and advance in these careers

**Mission:** Women in Power exists to provide a strong community and network of industry professionals, partners, and tradespeople who support women as they grow and succeed across the electrical industry.

**Vision:** A diverse and inclusive electrical industry where women lead at every level and shape the future of power.

# Webinar Learning Objectives

- Emerging **leadership trends** shaping the future of leadership within the industry
- Enhancing **adaptability and resilience** in leadership roles
- Cultivating **inclusive and diverse teams** that promote collaboration and innovation within workplace culture for everyone



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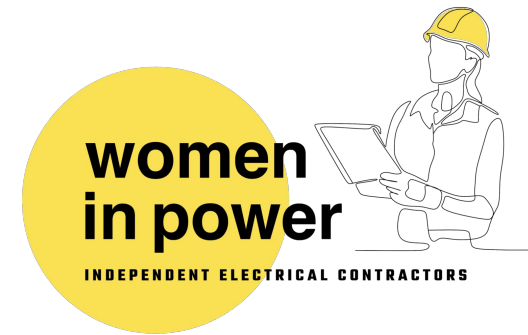


# Agenda

- Connecting the concept of the “draft car” in racing to the principles of leadership, team building, and effective mentor-mentee relationships
- Milestones in Women’s History with a highlight on women's advancements in the electrical trade
- Interaction in Zoom Room discussion groups
- Final Lap!




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# Be a Draft Car



Using the concept of drafting in auto racing or cycling, momentum builds when leaders work together, take turns leading, and ensure no one is left behind.



Being a champion - for women and men - in leadership isn't just about leading from the front; it's about creating pathways, reducing resistance, and propelling others forward.



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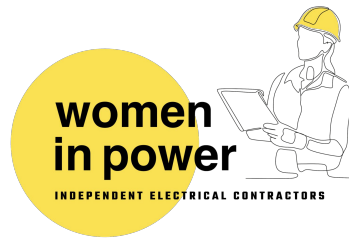




# HOW DRAFTING WORKS IN NASCAR



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# Drafting & Leadership

## Drafting in Racing:

The lead car reduces resistance, pulling others forward.

## Leadership Parallel:

Mentors guide, reduce barriers, and prepare others to take the lead.

*“When leaders step aside, others can slingshot forward with the skills and confidence they’ve built.”*



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# Milestones in Women's History

In 1920, the 19th Amendment was ratified, granting women the right to vote.



1920's Model T Speedster



1920 Model T

# Milestones in Women's History

## 1921 - Edith Clarke – Electrical Engineering Pioneer

**Invented the Clarke Calculator** device used to solve complex electrical transmission calculations before modern computers.



**Power Grid Innovator:** Shaped the technical foundations of today's electrical power systems and expansion of the U.S. power grid.

**Industry Trailblazer:** First female electrical engineer employed at General Electric.

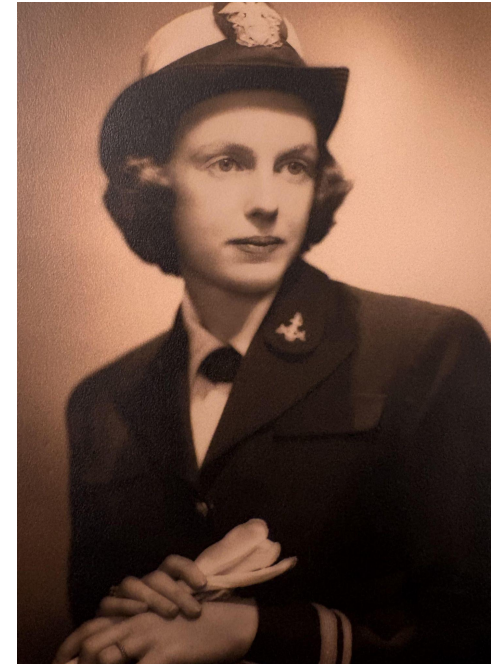
**Education Pioneer:** First female professor of electrical engineering.



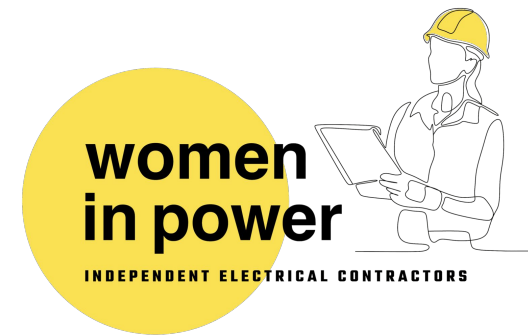


# Milestones in Women's History

During World War II, women served as electricians & welders both in civilian industrial jobs, particularly in munitions, shipbuilding and aircraft factories performing wiring, equipment maintenance and technical work; and women served in uniformed auxiliary forces within the U.S. armed forces.



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# Milestones in Women's History

## Post War Years - 1945-1970's - Pioneers in Industry

- **1950s-60s** - Women in the electrical trade transitioned from wartime production roles to engineering and research during the 1950-60s.
- Maria Telkes developed solar technology, while others advanced electrical grid calculations and nuclear physics, setting the stage for future inclusion.
- **1953-55** - NAWIC was founded to expand training, networking, and visibility for women in construction, including electrical.



# Milestones in Women's History

## Post War Years - 1945-1970's - Pioneers in Industry

- **1962** - Deanna Dunlevy is documented as the first woman to receive a Master Electrician's license in Massachusetts at age 21.
- **1978** - Women officially won the right to join IBEW as a member in the unionized electrical trade.



# Milestones in Women's History

Women in the United States gained the federal right to open a bank account without a male co-signer in 1974 with the passage of the Equal Credit Opportunity Act (ECOA).

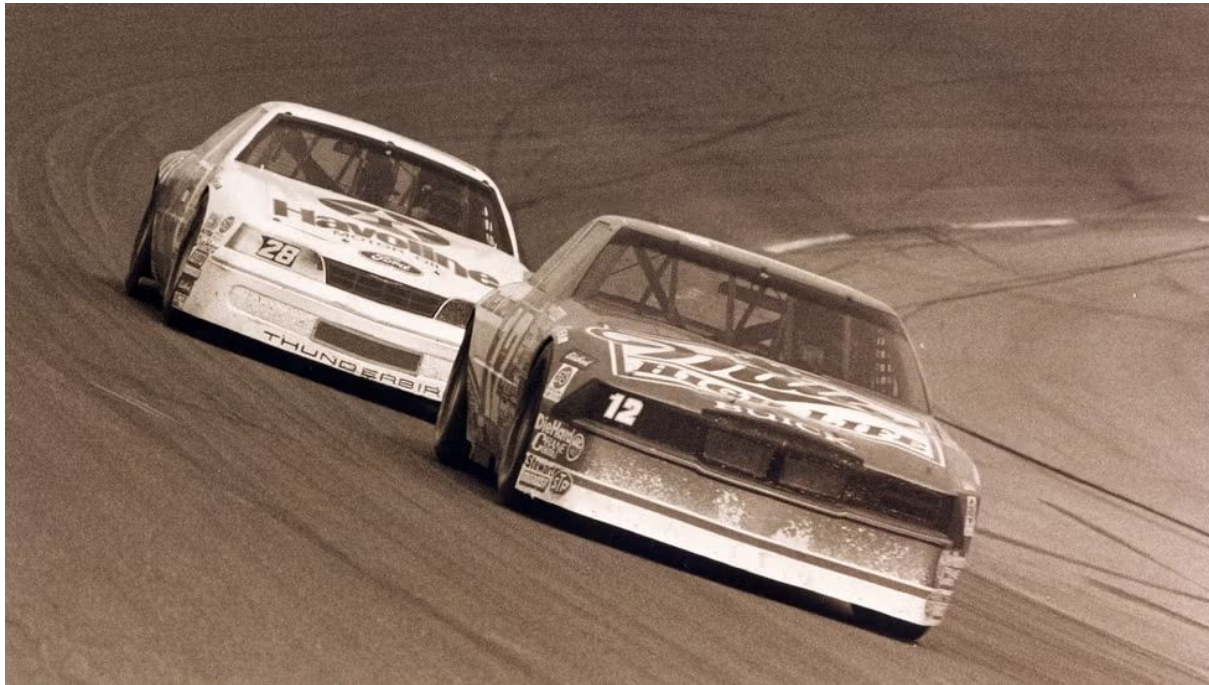


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# Milestones in Women's History

Women could legally obtain business loans without a male co-signer starting in 1988 with the passage of the Women's Business Ownership Act (WBOA).



The only father-son one-two finish in the history of the Daytona 500, NASCAR's biggest race.



First woman to win a Busch qualifying race (Talladega).

# Milestones in Women's History

- Women's History Month was established by Congress in 1987 after evolving from Women's History Week in 1978 in California.
- President Carter proclaimed Women's History Week in 1980.
- Women in Construction Week was established in 1998.

# Future of Women in the Industry

- 2.9% of electricians are female
- 4.2% of electrical apprentices are female
  - 8-10% in AK, AZ, IL, MA, NY, and OR
- 37.5% increase in female electricians since 2014
- 900,000 electricians in the U.S.
  - 27,000 are female
- 300,000-500,000 electricians needed by 2034
- 70,000+ electrical contractor companies
  - 10% are women-owned

# Zoom Rooms

- Each room has been assigned a facilitator to guide discussion.
- As you contribute to the discussion, please introduce yourself with your name, organization, and connection to IEC.
- Each group will have discussion questions, and we will return to the larger group after.
- You will be prompted in chat to flow through the questions.



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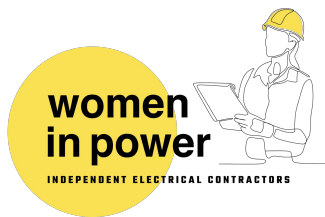


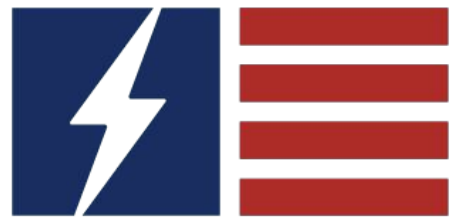
# Zoom Room Q's

- How do you see the draft car concept in racing as an analogy in business, particularly in the construction/electrical trade?
- How have you personally been in the “downdraft” position (following the leader) where a leader has helped you “*move forward, faster*” as a result of their leadership?
- How does the draft car analogy relate to your current leadership role in helping to lead others?
- How does being in a leadership role differ when you are the lead car versus learning from the leader in front of you?
- How do we foster adaptability, resilience, efficiency, and effectiveness among our teams, leaders, and individuals?
- What can you do to ensure you are leading by example or aligning yourself with the lead car in front of you to help improve efficiency and performance among the overall team?
- What do we do well in developing our leaders and what key trends should we embrace as we shape the future of leadership within the industry?



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# Zoom Room

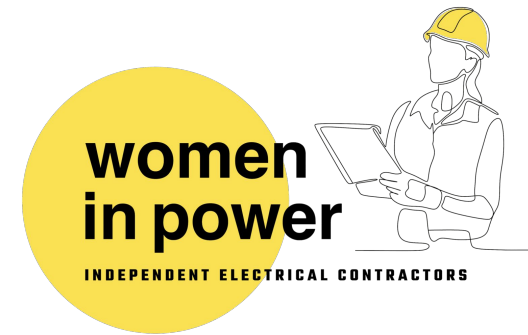
## Driving Leadership into the Future!

**\*Final Lap\***



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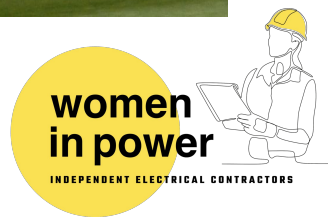


# Driving Leadership into the Future

- **Expand awareness** of electrical trade careers among students and career changers, especially young women exploring STEM and hands-on professions.
- **Strengthen apprenticeship programs** and hands-on training pathways that support entry and long-term retention.
- **Create clear advancement tracks** that open doors to supervisory and leadership roles.
- **Invest in mentorship and professional development** that connects experienced professionals with the next generation.
- **Maintain job sites** that are safe, inclusive, and create a high-performance culture for all workers.



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***“Leadership is not a solo race.  
By breaking barriers,  
supporting others, and elevating  
the next generation,  
we all move forward faster.”***



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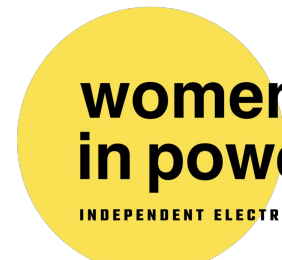
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*Please enter in the chat:  
What will YOU do to be a draft car?*



www.fastenal.com

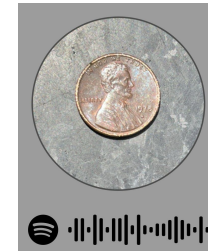


# MAS Superhero Super Women Leaders!



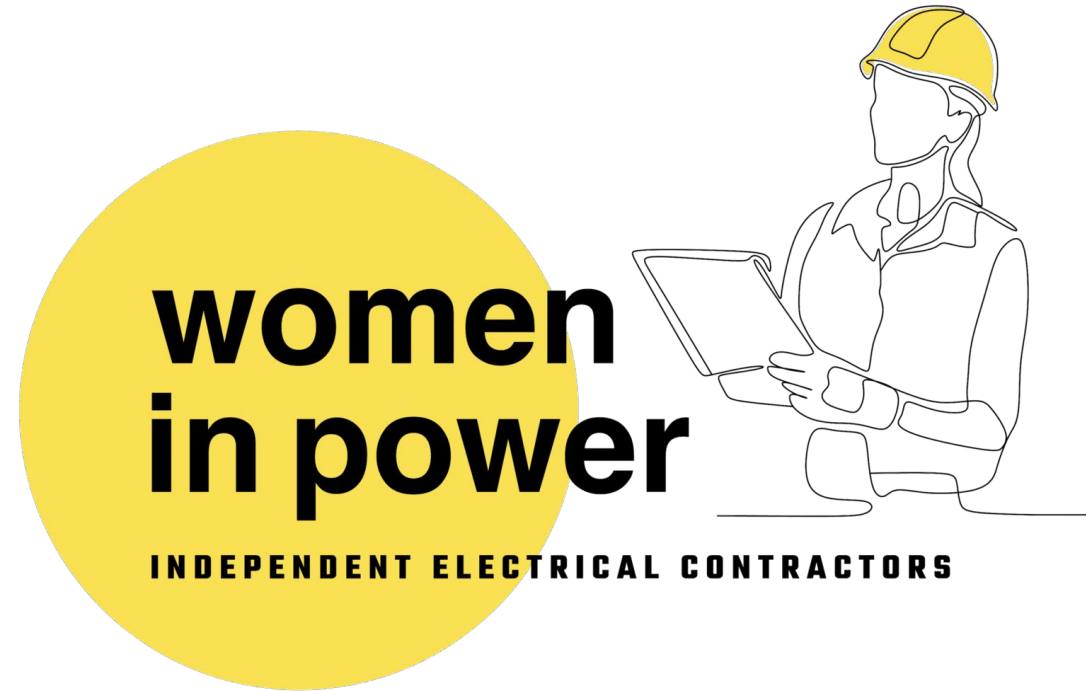
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Spotify: *StansFamMusic*





WIP Opt-In Form



Sign up for updates, announcements, and share topics of interest for future meetings

<https://ieci.org/workforce/women-in-power/>

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