



SEIU LOCAL 722 BOTTOMLINE

Michael Jeter, President

Vanessa Jones, Vice President

Marshall Jackson, Editor

July 2022 Issue 147

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Membership meetings will be held from 2pm - 5pm the third (3rd) Saturday of every month. We will be meeting at the Washington Hospital Center in the auditorium. You can find any updates on the website as well as the bulletin boards.

CONTACT OFFICE

(202) 483 - 6221 (office)

(202) 483 - 6242 (fax)

www.seiu722.org

mjeter@seiu722.org

CONTACT EDITOR

Send articles to:

news4local722@msn.com

EDITOR'S REPORT

MARSHALL JACKSON



Hello Brothers and Sisters of Local 722. Recently several newly elected Executive Board members attended the CBTU Conference in Los Angeles so they can get better acquainted with what the union is all about. Here's a little something for you to know about CBTU.

Since the earliest days of this nation when democracy was built on racial exploitation, black workers have risked their lives to protect and empower their communities through agitation, collective action and faith. The Coalition of Black Trade Unionist proudly carries that tradition into the 21st century.

CBTU is a fiercely independent voice of black workers within the trade union movement, challenging organized labor to be more relevant to the needs and aspirations of black and poor workers. One of every five black workers (20%) belong to a union, and black union workers earn 40 percent more than non-union black workers. In the political arena, CBTU has leveraged the vast resources of unions to mobilize black voters to influence elections and public policy at every level of government. CBTU is an inclusionary organization that aligns itself with Civil Rights organizations throughout the world.

And long before globalization caught the attention of America's working families, CBTU was challenging the gaping disparity of wealth, power and living standards throughout the world, especially in African and Caribbean countries. CBTU was also the first American labor organization to actively oppose white minority rule in South Africa. CBTU has been the catalyst for actions against other human rights violators as well.

continue on page 6

UNlty in UNlon

What good is a union if its members are not united? Solidarity is important when tackling issues concerning our employment. We are likely to receive great terms and conditions during negotiations for our collective bargaining agreements when we present ourselves as one voice. Unions are what have secured parental leave, vacation leave, seniority, higher wages, paid holidays, job security, etc. Jobs that are within a union are known to have better terms and conditions than those without a union. So how does a union become united? By its membership becoming more involved! Members should attend membership meetings to receive information on what the union is involved in. It's a great place to hear about upcoming events, how union dues are being spent, what programs are being offered, how the union is active in the community, and a place to respectfully discuss any concerns.

Concerns should not be openly discussed at work and should always be rooted in facts. Discourse only serves as a distraction and gives management an upper hand when at the table. Rumors, gossip, and half-truths weaken the foundation of the union, and like a game of Jenga, one wrong pull can cause all the blocks to come crashing down.

Active participation from members is vital to any organization because a union is only as strong as its members. Participation allows members to voice their interests and express what is necessary in the workplace. When in total disagreement with the Employer, unity will allow union members to collectively be prepared to take a job action. In order to strike, members will need to take a stance and be prepared to hold a picket sign without division from within.

Another way to remain united is for members to not violate workplace policies as well as the articles of the contract set between the union and the employer. Less violations, lead to less disciplinary action; which in turn means less grievances filed. Having members who are in good standing prevents the Employer from setting forth rules that negatively affect the larger group of members just because of a few bad apples. This reduces resentment amongst union members and allows a healthy relationship amongst all. Having a great relationship with your fellow members is key, and requires respect from one another and for the different positions we all hold at our place of employment.

When new employees are hired at the institution in which we work, shop stewards should take the time to introduce themselves and be able to disseminate basic information about the union. All members should be able to identify where the union's bulletin boards are within their workplace. The union leadership should keep all pertinent information there current and notify members of events in a timely fashion. Members can educate themselves on politics to determine which politicians are favorable to the Labor Movement and ensure their votes go to those candidates. SEIU Local 722 leadership likes to remind everyone that Political Business is Union business.

In conclusion, both "Union" and "Unity" are rooted from the Latin word "Uni" which translates to "One," and both words should be synonymous in all members eyes. Unity/Union represents many faces, but with ONE solid resounding voice.



Hello fellow members of 722. As a new executive board member. I had the awesome privilege to attend my first union conference. The CBTU (Coalition Of Black Trade Unionists). The conference was informative, educational and enjoyable. It was a great opportunity to be involved in the 51st International Convention, whose theme was "Power of the Past, Force for the Future" allowing us to think of where we came from and where we are going.

From the first day I realized just how powerful and important union's and this conference is.

We started out with a message from the most powerful man in the world; President Joe

Biden "on video" speaking directly to us and sharing the importance of unions to the world was impactful to say the least. We then had Congressman Ro Khanna of California (D-17) who spoke about technology jobs being offered to HBCU students not just silicon valley. Then the strong, inspirational and nonsense speech from CBTU President Terry Melvin.

President Melvin spoke so passionately about how America is getting scarier by the day. He touched on everything from the insurrection, banning of true history, books being banned in school, to the Buffalo massacre of black people. Where he is from.

This is just a small portion of the power that was on display. There were so many great themes and panelists. We had a Racial justice town-hall, Mental health awareness, and International speakers who talked about Trade in Africa and us helping each other (USA, Africa and Canada). There was also a Women's Committee and Under 40 leaders gatherings.

I found the Men's Committee panel moderated by Fredrick Ingram most incredible.

AFT (American Federation of Teachers).

Panelists: Kenneth Kirk, ATU (Amalgamated Transit Union), Eric Bunn, AFGE (American Federation of Government Employees), Tyler Downey, (SEIU Canada) and William Lucy AFSCME (American Federation of State County and Municipal Employees) and co-founder of CBTU in 1972. Unfortunately Gerry Hudson, our own SEIU International Secretary Treasurer was unable to make it. The reason I singled this group out is because of what they have in common.

They are all Secretary-Treasurers of their unions. In other words in charge of the money lol. They all were smart, strong and deliberate about union business. And fully understood the importance and scrutiny that their position hold.

When you thought it couldn't get any better they had the CBTU 2022 Civic Engagement plan with members from the Congressional Black Caucus. Rep. Bennie Thompson, Mississippi (video), Rep. Val Demings, Florida (video), Rep. Barbara Lee, California (video), Rep. Karen Bass, California (Who's now running for Mayor of LA) and last be certainly not least; The dynamic Rep. Maxine Waters, California. Who pulled NO punches and spoke her mind. She talked about everything from the big lie, state of black America, standing up to fight and the utmost importance of voting. Definitely the high light of the conference for me.

Finally I would conclude by saying. Each day I'm learning more and more that the union is about much more then Time & attendants, cookouts and Christmas parties. Union business is life business, world business, money and politics. This conference was engaging and entertaining. There was 819 members and 59 chapters nothing but positive energy. I'd like to thank everyone again for this wonderful experience.

BEWARE OF SCAMMERS

KEEP YOURSELF AND YOUR INFORMATION PROTECTED, ESPECIALLY IF YOU'RE MAKING A CERTAIN LIFE CHANGE.

New scam warnings are popping up daily

Have you been targeted by the phone scam stating that you owe a fine after failing to appear for jury duty?

Scams have become an unfortunate part of everyday life, as most of us regularly field annoying robocalls, phishing emails, and "smishing" texts, and many citizens has become victims.

Fraudsters have become bold enough to call you directly, they also have sneakier tricks and tactics up their sleeves, particularly when it comes to your finances. The IRS addresses these common schemes annually in its "Dirty Dozen" scam list, outlining potential risk factors and how you can keep yourself safe.

Be aware of a scam that's becoming more and more common due to the pandemic. Many Americans lost their jobs and were forced to apply for unemployment benefits to stay afloat. Now, scammers have posted fake jobs on social media, preying on those looking for new positions. They lure targets in with the "bogus" post, and victims then provide sensitive information, as they believe they're being offered a legitimate position.

"This creates added tax risk for people because this information in turn can be used to file a fraudulent tax return for a fraudulent refund or used in some other criminal endeavor. If something feels off, it very well might be. Red flags include large salaries that don't seem to match up with the experience level, overly flexible schedules, unprofessional communication, and requests for payment from you.

And while it may feel great to get a job offer right on the spot, this is a major indicator that the posting may not be legit. Fraudsters also may be one step ahead of you, the IRS warned. According to an IRS press release, scammers could have filed for unemployment benefits in your name while you were or are still employed. These fraudulent claims use stolen information to have payments sent directly to the thief and not to you.





NEWS FROM MAYOR MURIEL BOWSER

Dear Washingtonians,

I've told you before my story of homeownership and how buying a home in my late twenties, with the support of a home buying program, changed my life. Buying a home allowed me to think boldly about my own life and it has allowed me to think boldly about my daughter's future.

Putting homeownership in reach for more Washingtonians is important to me. As is addressing the very real anxieties that many residents are feeling around affordability. Part of this work means addressing the long-standing discriminatory practices that kept Black people in DC from having access to every neighborhood and every tool that would have allowed them to buy homes in our city generations ago—and then pass those homes and that wealth on to their own children.

We know that because of those discriminatory policies and practices, Black Washingtonians who are trying to buy a home today are often starting a few steps behind their neighbors. And that's why this year, I proposed a \$40 million package of legacy initiatives—programs and services that focus on how we make up for those past wrongs, including a \$10 million Black Homeownership Fund. Last week, I launched a Black Homeownership Strike Force to help us set bold goals and to provide innovative and intentional recommendations for increasing Black homeownership in DC.

In addition to helping more people buy homes in DC, we also want to support current homeowners in keeping and maintaining the homes they've worked so hard to buy. Which is why this week, we launched a new \$50 million Homeowner Assistance Fund to provide financial assistance to residents struggling to make housing related payments. Beginning on June 22, eligible homeowners can go to haf.dc.gov to apply for grant funding to cover mortgage payments and other property or housing expenses, including utilities, insurance, internet, and housing association fees. If you know someone who can benefit from this program, please help us spread the word.

Together, we can and will continue to build a more equitable and inclusive Washington, DC.

Sincerely,

Muriel Bowser

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Muriel Bowser".

SEIU LOCAL 722

1673 Columbia Rd. N.W #100

Washington, D.C. 20009

WWW.SEIU722.ORG

SEIU722@AOL.COM

(202) 483 - 6221

(202) 483 - 6242 (FAX)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

CONTINUE

continue from page 1

Since its founding conference in 1972, CBTU's stature among African American workers has grown. Currently, more than fifty different Unions are represented in CBTU. With fifty-plus chapters nationwide and one in Ontario Canada, CBTU is maximizing the strength and influence of black workers in unions and empowering their communities.

Membership in CBTU is strictly voluntary. Only active or retired members of bona fide unions can join CBTU.

