



The bottom line

February 2025
Issue # 174

WE CAN
WE WILL
WE MUST

**CHILDREN'S NATIONAL HOSPITAL
AND
WASHINGTON HOSPITAL CENTER**

Michael Jeter (President)
Vanessa Jones (Vice President)
Marshall Jackson (Editor)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT BY: MICHAEL JETER



We can We will We must have Joy

Hello brothers and sisters of Local 722. We can , We will , We must Trust in the Word . These are indeed turbulent, perplexing times in our American lives. These are times that try the very hearts and minds of humankind. Many people are profoundly troubled concerning the direction our new administration will take our nation. And yet all must admit that the people have spoken and have placed the fate of our nation in the hands of this new administration.

I find comfort, and my soul finds rest in the wonderful reassuring word of Psalm 8, verse one. Let me share with you the King James version of this Psalm because of its simple beauty and power. "O Lord our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth! Who hast set thy glory above the heavens."

Now this is the reason you can be composed in these challenging times. You know that our God is sovereign. It does not matter who is elected president or what political party runs the government our sovereign God is still in charge. Or as our fore-parents would say,(He has the whole world in his). It was not necessary for God to run for office. His position is never questioned. God is the ruler because he is the creator and the owner of everything. Remember his glory is above the heavens. Remember that our God is eternal. Therefore , God exists from everlasting to everlasting. God was, God is, God shall ever be ! Earthly presidents come and go. Political parties enact their programs. Some of their policies will do good, and some will be harmful, but our sovereign God will always have the ultimate word.

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MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Membership meetings will be held from 2pm - 4pm the third (3rd) Saturday of every month. We are back to our in-person meetings. So come out and be engaged with your union

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ELECTION RESULTS

MEET YOUR NEWLY ELECTED SEIU LOCAL 722 EXECUTIVE BOARD

PRESIDENT - MICHAEL JETER
VICE PRESIDENT - VANESSA JONES
SECRETARY - OLIVIA ATKINSON
TREASURER - ORNE BANKS

EXECUTIVE BOARD CHILDREN'S

GARTH REID
CRYSTAL SKINNER
JAMES WASHINGTON

EXECUTIVE BOARD WHC

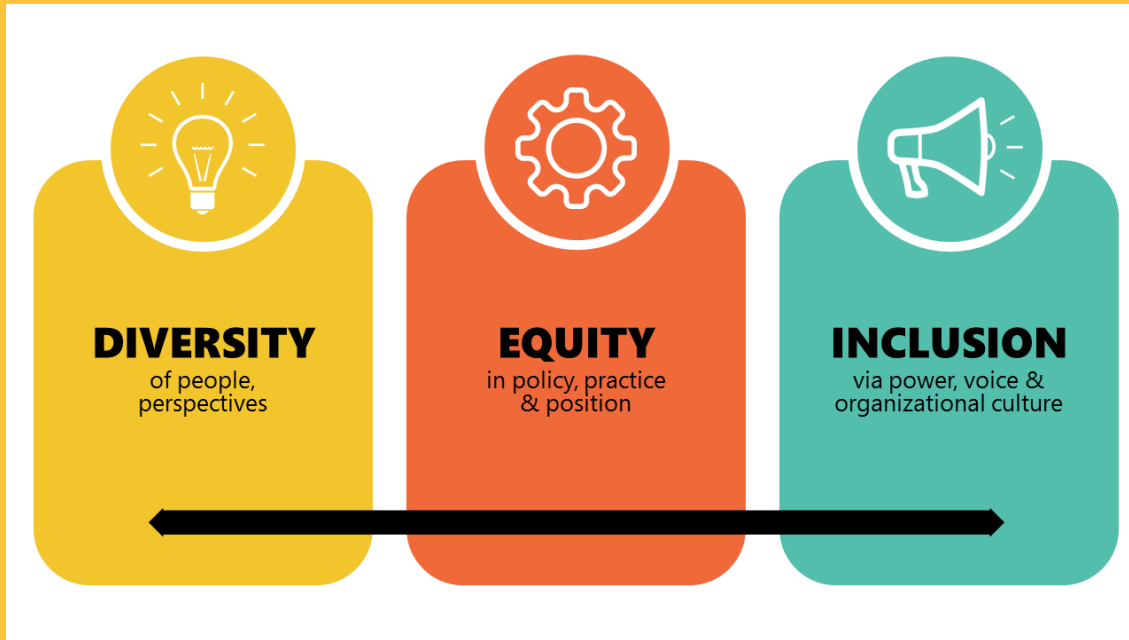
ANITA CHAMBERLAIN
KARL MALONE
SHAWNA PRICE
LEON REED
ERIC YOUNG

TRUSTEES

WILLIAM ALSTON - CHILDREN'S
TUESDAY FRIES - WHC
SHERICKA SMITH - CHILDREN'S
PATRICIA WILLIAMS - CHILDREN'S

**Photos
Coming
Soon**

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION (DEI)



DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion)

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) are crucial because they aim to create a more just and equal society. Diversity ensures representation from different backgrounds, fostering a mix of perspectives that can drive innovation and problem-solving. Equity ensures everyone can access the same opportunities, regardless of their starting point, addressing systemic inequalities. Inclusion ensures people feel respected, valued, and integrated into the broader social or workplace environment, enhancing engagement and productivity.

Women, people of color, LGBTQ+ individuals, and people with disabilities benefit the most from DEI efforts. These initiatives provide equal access, representation, and support, assisting in eradicating systemic barriers so that workplaces and society can become more inclusive and supportive.

The value of DEI cannot be overstated in social and organizational settings. It fosters an environment where everyone has an equal opportunity to succeed, regardless of race, gender, or socioeconomic status. Diversity facilitates the fight against discrimination, improves decision-making by integrating various perspectives, and leads to professional and personal growth.

Despite its importance, many people in today's climate have become increasingly unsupportive of DEI. DEI initiatives can sometimes lead to reverse discrimination, where efforts to uplift marginalized groups can inadvertently disadvantage others. Furthermore, some regard DEI policies as performative or "forced" diversity, asserting that they emphasize identity over merit or competence. Similarly, some people are opposed to the discussion of race, gender, and privilege, arguing that such topics could lead to division rather than unity.

With the current polarization of political discourse, DEI has become more contentious. Critics associate it with "wokeness" and accuse it of overreaching into private or professional life. In this tense environment, balancing the need for DEI with concerns about fairness and individual rights has become increasingly challenging. This has led to debates that sometimes overshadow the fundamental values DEI intends to promote.

By: Otis Williams

BLACK LABOR WEEK

Hello Sisters & Brother of SEIU, Local 722

I had the privilege to attend the Black Labor Week Project in Merrillville, Indiana in 2024. We have a group attending again this year. Here are some highlights of my experience. First let me start off about Ephrin "E.J. Jenkins who created Black Labor Week (BLW) in 2012. Mr. Jenkins wanted to build a platform that displayed the parallels between the Labor Movement and the Black Community, along with building an environment that developed and displayed young Black Leaders.

The Annual session started with giving free haircuts and serving breakfast to the community in Gary, Indiana in two (2) locations. Later that day the attendees had the pleasure to see a movie called Ruston which was about the events that happen behind the scenes of the March on Washington, DC by Dr. Martin L. King. It shared information on the people that didn't want the march to happen, the things that were being done to stop the march as well as the determination of the people that wanted the march and what it took to have the March on Washington. After the movie there was a discussion about the movie and what their thoughts were along with what else is needed among the Black Community and the Black Labor Leaders to go forward to help open all walks of life for those who are willing to embrace solutions amongst ourselves as Labor Leaders and in our Black Communities.

On another day we were split into different groups to attend a total of twelve (12) different schools of Elementary Students and High School Students where we shared with students about the work we do as Union Leaders and Shop Stewards. How our Local Unions help with their communities and the workers we represent and how we deal with management on the job. We had a session where the students were allowed to ask us questions and to talk about what they wanted to do in their lives. Later on tonight there was a Black Male Discussion (Men's Panel) at UAW Local 551 Union Hall. All of the men attended.

They also sponsored a Mayor's Conversation Event which took place at Indiana University Northwest. We were welcomed by Dr. Raoul Contreras, Chair of the Department of Minority Studies., Mr. Ephrin Jenkins, Founder of Black Labor Week introduced the moderator Ms. Dayna Bennett. The following Mayors participated:

Mayor Angela Deutch of the City of Michigan City, Mayor Eddie Melton of the City of Gary, Mayor Ronald Morrell of the City of Marion and Mayor Rod Roberson of City of Elkhart. The discussion was about improvements to their City, what they see for the future of their City and the residents. Making improvement to the schools, offering training for jobs and creating more jobs to their City. as well as making the community aware of Labor, Economic & Social Just, Racial Issues and paying homage to our racial heritage.

Later on this evening the ladies attended the Black Women Empowerment Seminar. We met women in different roles of leadership, one young lady was involved with legislation, president of a 90,000 member local, and one helped organize the Black Student Union at Indiana University Northwest working on the Black Workers Bill of Rights. All of the participants had their own stories on how they got involved with their organization and why they felt the need to change the lives of their people. Ms. Laurin Long who is working on the Black Workers Bill of Rights talked about the right to organize, the right to health care, the right to workplaces free from discrimination, the right to career advancement and the right to equitable wages and compensation. When Ms Long stated that the minimum wage is \$7.25 I couldn't believe it. Why? Because at Local 722 our minimum wage starts at \$16.42 to \$46.12 at CNH depending what grade level your job classification is and at MWHC the minimum wage starts at \$16.72 to 457.89 depending on what your job classification is. I was surprised to hear how low their minimum wage is in Indiana.

We also shared in A Day of Community Service over multiple locations.

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BLACK LABOR WEEK CONTINUE

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Vanessa Jones, Shirley Walls, Albert Walls, Eric Young and myself (Orne' Banks) went to Sojourner Truth House. They have the following programs: Permanent supportive housing program, Day Center, Transitional Outreach for participants, Career Services, and Services for the Community. Their mission is a ministry of hope and help for homeless and at risk women and their children sponsored by the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ..Their vision is a village of hope that empowers women and

their children as well as men. On this day we stocked their shelves with the donation that they received. We bagged food to go out to the participants in the programs as well as to the community, we sorted clothes that they gave to the participants, helped organize the children's room with books, toys etc. Michael Jeter, Kevin Mitchell, James Washington, Leon Reed, they went to the Blind Social where they put in hard Labor by helping with their garden, moving large amounts of bricks and whatever else was needed. Then we all returned to West Side high School and participated with the students there for Career Day.

The final day was the celebration of the Civil Right Awards Gala that took place at the Indiana Welcome Center. The M.C. was Ms. Jaida Jenkins we had the greeting from Congressman Frank Mrvan. The following awards were given out to the following participants in the Black Labor Week. Phenomenal Woman Awards, Lifetime Achievement Award, and the Vanessa Jenkins Award. The keynote address was done by Ohio Senator Nina Turner; she was a very passionate, sincere, and truthful speaker.. Now to end the program were closing remarks from the **Founder & Executive Director Mr. Ephrin "E.J" Jenkins. That concluded the week with the Black Labor Week Project 2024.**

I hope that the group that attend this year have an amazing experience as I did.

CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS

The collective Bargaining Agreement at both Children's Hospital and Washington Hospital Center will expire on June 30, 2025. This will be the first time in the history of Local 722 that both expires at the same time.

PLEASE CHECK YOUR MAIL. We will be distributing surveys to the membership asking for your input in the issues and / or concerns to be considered for the upcoming negotiations. When you receive your survey PLEASE fill it out add your comments and get it back to the union office as soon as possible. You can mail it back to the office, give it to a shop steward, or fax it to the office. For those of you at the Washington Hospital Center, you can drop your off at room G-008 on the ground floor of the main building.

We hope to get maximum participation. Once the negotiations get started, log on to our website where you can follow along with the proposals and counter proposals from both sides. We will be attempting to get as much as we can for as many as we can throughout this process. Once we have gotten the hospital's best offer, we will bring it back to you the membership to vote on.

SEND SURVEY BACK AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

SEIU LOCAL 722

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

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When God speaks, poverty is brought under control and prosperity comes forth, wars end, justice prevails, fields of ripe grain flourish, hunger ends, children play in safety and true joy fills the land as the waters cover the sea. All of this occurs because God's power is beyond human control. He has placed his divine glory not just in the heavens.

As we believe in Christ, we are to pray for whoever is elected to lead us. We are to obey just laws and pay our taxes. However, we must always remember that it is the Lord ou God who is in charge and our God shall reign forever. We are subjects even now of his righteous kingdom.

Union family, be not dismayed whatever happens, God will take care of His own. We must stay faithful, prayerful and under his blood. Be strong and have good courage. Amen!!!

We Can , We Will We must Trust in the Word

