



July 2025
Issue # 179

**WE CAN
WE WILL
WE MUST**

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

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT BY: MICHAEL JETER

We Can We Will We Must Unite

**Empowering Our Union Family Through
Education: SEIU Local 722 Scholarship
Opportunities**

At SEIU Local 722, we strongly believe that education is a powerful tool for advancement and success—not just for our members, but for their families as well. That's why we are proud to offer two annual scholarship opportunities designed to

support the academic goals of our union family: the Alton Akinsegun Scholarship and the Marchel Smiley Scholarship.

The Alton Akinsegun Scholarship is available exclusively to our dues-paying members in good standing. Whether you're continuing your education, pursuing a certification, or working toward a new degree, this scholarship is a great way to receive support for your educational journey.

The Marchel Smiley Scholarship, on the other hand, is open to the children of our members—up to age 23. This scholarship aims to ease the financial burden of higher education for young adults and to encourage the pursuit of academic excellence across generations.

Each year, the application window opens on May 1st and closes on July 1st. We want to thank everyone who took the time to apply this year. We're excited to share that we received applications from four (4) SEIU Local 722 members and ten (10) young adults. This is a competitive process, but remember "yes", there is always a possibility that you or your child could be awarded one of these scholarships.

Our scholarship committee works diligently to review each application with care and fairness. We aim to notify all applicants of their status no later than September 1st, and we are committed to maintaining this timeline again this year. We extend our heartfelt best wishes to all applicants—good luck! continue on page



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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A RISING STAR



Greetings Brothers and Sisters of SEIU Local 722,

My name is Kevin Mitchell. Many of you know me as Keevo. I have proudly served, and continue to serve, as a dedicated Shop Steward for the overnight shift in the Environmental Services Department at MedStar Washington Hospital Center. Over the years, I've also had the honor of representing our membership as an elected member of the SEIU Local 722 Executive Board.

Today, I am excited to share some inspiring news about my continued journey in the broader labor movement. For many years, I have been an active member of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists (CBTU). My involvement, particularly with the CBTU Under 40 Committee, has been an empowering and transformative experience. From the moment I joined, I found a strong community of emerging labor leaders, individuals deeply committed to equity, justice, and progress within the labor movement.

This committee provided more than just a place to belong; it was a space where I could contribute my own experiences, gain wisdom from seasoned leaders, and strengthen my leadership abilities. Through workshops, organizing efforts, community service, and participation in high-impact panels and rallies, I've had countless opportunities to grow both personally and professionally.

One of the most meaningful moments of my journey took place on May 25, 2025, in Orlando, Florida, during the CBTU International Convention. I was deeply honored to receive the Rising Star Award, presented by CBTU President Terrace Melvin. This recognition is a testament to the hard work, dedication, and collective support I have received along the way. I am both humbled and motivated to continue advocating for working people and lifting the voices of those often left unheard.

This year, our Under 40 Committee also led a successful initiative in Orlando to collect and donate school supplies to the local nonprofit organization, A Gift for Teaching. Acts of service like this reflect the heart of our mission: uplifting our communities while advancing the labor movement.

I am forever grateful for the opportunity to serve and represent not just SEIU Local 722, but the broader coalition of working people committed to justice, dignity, and progress. Thank you for your continued support.

In Solidarity,

Kevin "Keevo" Mitchell

Shop Steward, SEIU Local 722

Environmental Services – Overnight Shift

MedStar Washington Hospital Center



WE HAVE TWO (2) CONTRACTS

****Historic Victory: Two Contracts Successfully Negotiated!****

Greetings Brothers and Sisters of SEIU Local 722,

We are thrilled to share some incredible news with you! After a few months of dedicated work and strategic negotiations, **your SEIU Local 722 Executive Board and Bargaining Teams have successfully completed negotiations on not one—but two—contracts simultaneously.**

That's right, for the **first time in our union's history, both the MedStar Washington Hospital Center and Children's National Hospital contracts were negotiated concurrently, marking a truly historic moment for our local.**

Even more exciting, we are proud to report that **both contracts were finalized and ratified before the previous agreements expired. This proactive success ensured that members remained fully protected under our previously hard-earned collective bargaining agreements. Had the contracts expired, members would have become at-will employees without any contractual safeguards in place. Important benefits like weekend and holiday pay, vacation, educational assistance, shift differentials, on-call pay, schedules, and even lunch & break times could have been at risk. These are not privileges, they are rights that your union negotiated and defended on your behalf.**

While it's true that no negotiation delivers every single demand from either side, we want you to know that we fought to get the best possible outcomes under today's challenging national climate. Please keep in mind that both Hospitals came to the table with their own agendas, and tough compromises were made on both sides. Still, we are confident that the new agreements reflect continued progress and protection for our members.

We are now in the final phase of reviewing the contracts for accuracy before printing. Please bear with us as we complete this important step. We want to make sure everything is correct before delivering printed copies to each and every one of you.

Finally, we want to express our sincere thanks to **everyone who participated in this process—whether by filling out surveys, sharing your voices in conversation, attending meetings, or coming out to vote on the contracts. **Your engagement and solidarity powered this success**. This was your victory, and it's a testament to what we can achieve when we stand united.**

In solidarity,

****SEIU Local 722 Leadership****

Greeting Brothers and Sisters. Grace and Peace unto to you all. I would like to first express gratitude for the opportunity to attend the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists (CBTU) conference held May 22nd -26th 2025.

I want to give you a little bit history about CBTU. This organization was started in September 1972 when more than 1200 black union rank and file members from 37 national unions met on September 23-24 at LaSelle Hotel in Chicago Illinois. Led by Five black union leaders (William Lucy, Nelson Edwards ,William Simmons , Charles Hayes and Cleveland Robinson. It was the largest single gathering of black unionists in American history. During this era these leaders were overly concerned about the exclusion of black tradesman for union labor forces.

A.F.L. (American Federation Labor) whom had merged with C.I.O. (Congress of Industrial Organizations) to form AFL-CIO believed that Black tradesmen were not fit to be journeyman but rather train people that did not look like them while they remain union helpers. CBTU was and is still very active combating discrimination.

William "Bill" Lucy was elected President and held this position for a very long period until he stepped down and Melvin Terry was elected as his successor . Bill Lucy was very active on a lot of podiums socially and politically from freeing Mandela to getting Barack Obama elected among other things. CBTU has been very much active in supporting and educating local unions as well as supporting women, worker rights, promoting black leadership, and human rights for all people.

My purpose for attending this conference is twofold. First, I am a Black Tradesman and secondly, I wanted to attend sessions featuring speakers from union leaders, politicians, clergy, and union support groups speaking and sharing current conditions & situations in their numerous podiums that is affecting the livelihood of not only union members but people nationally and globally. I also attended various workshops which educated me on being a better local union official. I have continually put this knowledge to action upon my return.

I would like to share some information with you about a couple of work shops that I attended. One was on Apprentice Programs and how to get them started at workplaces. This class taught the proper preparation, approach and language while speaking with employers about the benefits of these programs . We (SEIU Local 722) were successful in getting such programs off the ground. We were able to get an apprenticeship and training initiative into the most recent CNMC contract. Another workshop that I attended was "Unions and Project 2025". Project 2025 is a political initiative to reshape the federal government of the United States and consolidate Executive power in favor of right-wing policies. It is overseen by the Conservative Heritage foundation. At time of the conference 25% of Project 2025 initiatives had been implemented.

This Project has already begun it's planning to attempt to cripple unions in corporate work force. They have rescinded executive order EOE signed in 1944 in existing Federal Agencies. Federal employees haven't had any avenue to file complaints of Inequality in the workplace as far as employment opportunities at any stage and believe me when I tell you that the private sector is next. There is a significant number of federal employees who are union (AFGE). NLRB (National Labor Relation Board) are being dismantled, there is nowhere to file a claim for unfair labor practices. Corporations are already hiring union busters. Union busting is a multimillion-dollar operation.


Did you know that our beloved Amazon spent 14 million dollars on union busting last year. Companies will soon be able to write it off. Project 2025 initiatives will allow company created unions to void contracts only union members can do it now by vote. They will allow employers to retaliate against union organizers, along with multiple job classification eliminations then returning then later in a lower wage classification. Attacks on worker rights, implementing longer work hours for children, replacing overtime hours with Compensation hours (hence regular pay). are all on the horizon. Brothers and Sisters these are just a few of the uphill battles that we are facing, we must unite despite our differences and stand strong against the principalities that we are facing. Remember our Union is only as strong as it's members. "May The Spirit Follow You"



MEMBER PICNIC

**JOIN YOUR FELLOW UNION MEMBERS
FOR A DAY OF FAMILY FUN**

**SATURDAY AUGUST 16, 2025
NOON - 6 PM**

 **KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS PARK
9450 CHERRY HILL ROAD
COLLEGE PARK MARYLAND
20740**

**Swimming Pool: \$10 fee per person (Children
13 & under must be accompanied by an adult
at the pool)**

Moon Bounce will be available

**Buses will be provided leaving from the 1st
Street location. Tickets for the bus will be
distributed on Aug 1st**

SEIU LOCAL 722

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President's Report continued.....

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Please keep in mind that these scholarships are separate from the tuition assistance programs offered by your employer. If you're currently employed and attending school, we encourage you to also explore the tuition assistance benefits available through the hospital. However, hospital tuition assistance typically does not extend to dependents or young adult children—this is where the Marchel Smiley Scholarship can really make a difference.

Additionally, members should be aware of even more educational resources available through our national organization. SEIU International offers a variety of learning opportunities that are not administered by Local 722 but are available to members enrolled in SEIU member benefits. To explore these programs and see what's available, visit SEIUMB.org. Beyond educational assistance, the site offers a wide range of resources—from financial wellness tools to insurance products and more—tailored specifically to union members.

At SEIU Local 722, we are proud to invest in the future of our members and their families. Whether it's through scholarships, tuition support, or national programs, our goal remains the same: to uplift, empower, and stand by our union family every step of the way.

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