



Michael Jeter (President)

Vanessa Jones (Vice President)

Marshall Jackson (Editor)

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Issue # 185

WE CAN

WE WILL

WE MUST



President Michael Jeter

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Membership meetings will be held from 12pm - 2pm the third (3rd) Saturday of every month. We rotate monthly between the Children's auditorium and the WHC auditorium

GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE

Grievance Committee Meets on the first and last Wednesday of every month starting at 6pm



www.seiu722.org



(202) 483 - 6221



(202) 483 - 6242

FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

Effective April 18, 2026, we are changing the time of our membership meetings. Our new time will be Noon - 2 pm so please plan accordingly. We will continue to rotate the meeting location between the Washington Hospital Center ground floor "True Auditorium" and the Children's National "2nd Floor Auditorium".

No matter where you work, Please be aware of the "Employee Conduct Policy". Your conduct can cost you your job.

Please pay attention to your cell phone use, eating and drinking in the workplace, having Weapons and Fighting. These are just some of the violations of the conduct policy that are happening at both facilities.

Also, please be conscious of keeping your personal business to yourself because once it is out, it is out.

Associates at Medstar Washington Hospital Center: the hospital is in the process of finishing the group of Equity Reviews that was put in the contract.

## MY BLACK LABOR WEEK EXPERIENCE

I want to take this opportunity to express my appreciation and gratitude to participate in the Black Labor Week in Atlanta in February 2026. I did not know what to expect but was pleasantly surprised by what happened and how the different activities turned out with the coming together of the different unions.

We went to the Salvation Army homeless shelter where we participated in washing walls, cleaning windows and helping to clean out their storage area where we unpacked huge containers of canned goods and put them in plastic containers and on shelves.

We went to Tri-City High School to speak with students.

We visited the Movement Center where we discussed voting rights. How, why, when and by whom the first union was started.

We went to the Atlanta Food Bank where we packed boxes of food to be delivered throughout the city. Our efforts in successfully preparing food packages for thousands of families was very critical in these challenging times in our country.

It was a unique experience in watching many unions come together to benefit the community. During this experience I thought I would be going to help within the communities in Atlanta, but the experience ended up helping me as well.

I realize that it is a lot of work and effort on our part, but the effort is well worth it when you see and experience the gratitude and appreciation the community bestows upon us.

### **Alease Noble-Walker**

Black labor week on February 22, 2026 through February 27, 2026 was filled with great purpose and a joyful presence in Atlanta, Georgia! The classes gave me a new insight on how the Black Labor week provides and continues to carry assistance through-out our lives and to our own different States! Black Labor helps us all as active members to assist your fellow man and their needs and the strength the work it provides! We all assisted in volunteering in the different facilities, (i.e., the Salvation Army the Georgia Food banks) etc.!! I have learned so many things about the organization! It is amazing that they do not only feed people they also assist them in locating housing, job placement as well as assisting in mental health programs! This program's growing purpose is to assist their fellow citizens and families rise above and beyond to become greater in their communities and city! Thank you, SEIU 722 for the opportunity and assisting in this great endeavor of the Black Labor week!!

**Karl Malone**

**Board Member**

## WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Women's History Month in March honors U.S. women's contributions, originating from a 1911 International Women's Day sparked by the 1857 labor protests. Initially a 1978 local week in California, Congress declared a national week in 1980 and expanded it to the full month in 1987. The month highlights trailblazers like the first female Congress member (1916) and VP (2021).

### Key Origins and Evolution

**Rooted in Labor:** The celebration originates from March 8, 1857, when NYC garment workers protested harsh conditions. This later influenced the 1909, 1910, and 1911 Women's Day celebrations, which focused on suffrage and labor rights.

**From Week to Month:** In 1980, President Jimmy Carter issued the first presidential proclamation for National Women's History Week. Congress passed Public Law 100-9 in 1987, officially designating March as Women's History Month.

**Global Connection:** International Women's Day, recognized by the United Nations on March 8, aligns with this, acknowledging women's contributions to peace and social progress.

### Historical Trailblazers and Facts

**Politics:** Jeannette Rankin became the first woman elected to Congress in 1916. Kamala Harris became the first female Vice President in 2021

**Government & Law:** Nellie Tayloe Ross was the first female state governor. The Wyoming Territory was the first to grant women the right to vote.

**Science & Achievement:** Katherine Johnson's calculations were critical to NASA's Apollo 11 mission.

**Military:** Harriet Tubman was the first woman to lead an armed military operation during the Combahee River Raid.

**Other Milestones:** Women could not legally obtain their own credit cards until 1974.

## CAREERS IN HEALTHCARE



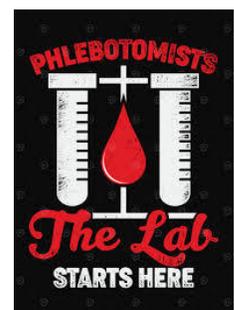
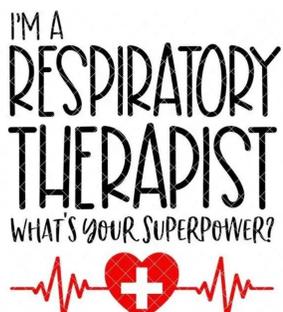
While no job can ever be considered completely secure in any economy, healthcare positions have consistently demonstrated steady job growth. Even during periods of slow hiring and economic uncertainty, economists often regard healthcare as a recession-resistant sector that continues to offer opportunities for those within the field. This long-term stability is one of the primary reasons healthcare careers remain attractive to many individuals.

Although public officials frequently point to rising wages and a strong economy, many workers experience a different reality. The cost of living continues to outpace wage increases. Groceries, housing, medical expenses, and fuel costs have all risen significantly, placing increasing financial pressure on working households.

Healthcare professionals are not immune to these challenges. While healthcare roles are often viewed as relatively stable because they rely heavily on human interaction and specialized skills, they differ significantly from positions in sectors such as technology, manufacturing, or traditional office work. Although healthcare jobs are generally considered less susceptible to replacement by artificial intelligence, the workforce continues to face persistent issues, including staffing shortages, burnout, and a growing sense of being undervalued.

At the same time, healthcare workers themselves must address their increasing prevalence of chronic diseases and themselves becoming the rapidly aging population, approaching or surpassing retirement age. These realities place substantial physical and emotional demands on the healthcare workforce. These demands are beginning to outweigh the financial compensation and the ability to maintain a healthy work-life balance. Unfortunately, employers are so focused on their bottom line that they are losing their workforce.

Additionally, healthcare is fundamentally a service-oriented industry, yet this aspect is often overlooked in broader workforce discussions. Many individuals entering the labor market today are less inclined to pursue careers centered on service provision. As a result, while healthcare occupations may still be widely regarded as among the safest and most future-proof career paths, the working conditions associated with them can be highly challenging and a turn off. However, despite the challenges, healthcare professions are still highly rewarding.



# FEBRUARY 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p><b>1865</b> President Abraham Lincoln signed the 13th Amendment to the United States Constitution.</p> <p><b>1865</b> The Supremes released their hit single "Stop in the Name of Love."</p> <p><b>1848</b> Sarah Roberts was barred from a white school in Boston. Her father, Benjamin Roberts, filed the first school integration suit on her behalf.</p> <p><b>1979</b> Saint Lucia gains Independence from the UK.</p>	<p><b>1839</b> Inventor Edmond Berger patented the spark plug.</p> <p>Groundhog Day</p> <p><b>1995</b> Bernard Harris became the first Black astronaut to take a spacewalk. He dedicated it to the achievements of all African Americans.</p> <p><b>1923</b> Bessie Smith made her first recording, "Down Hearted Blues" which sold 800,000 copies.</p> <p>President's Day</p>	<p><b>1870</b> Congress ratified the 15th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, giving Black men the right to vote.</p> <p><b>1964</b> The U.S. House of Representatives passed the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The bill prohibited any state or local government or public facility from denying access to anyone because of race or ethnic origin.</p> <p><b>1870</b> Congress passed a resolution readmitting Mississippi on condition that it would never change its constitution to disenfranchise Blacks.</p> <p><b>1864</b> Rebecca Lee Crumpler became the first Black woman to receive an M.D. degree. She was also the first African American to publish a book about medicine.</p>	<p><b>1913</b> American Civil Rights Activist, Rosa Parks, was born in Tuskegee, Alabama.</p> <p><b>1990</b> Leader of the movement to end South African apartheid, Nelson Mandela, is released from prison.</p> <p><b>2006</b> Shani Davis became the first Black athlete to win an individual gold medal in Winter Olympic history writing the speed skating 1000 meter event.</p>	<p><b>1950</b> Gwendolyn Brooks became the first African American to win a Pulitzer Prize.</p> <p><b>1948</b> First Lt. Nancy C. Leftenant-Colon became the first Black person accepted into the regular army nursing corps.</p> <p><b>2002</b> Vonetta Flowers became the first Black gold medalist in the Winter Olympics game, for the two-person bobsled event.</p>	<p><b>1945</b> Jamaican musician and singer-songwriter, Robert "Bob" Nesta Marley was born in Nine Mile, Jamaica.</p> <p><b>1920</b> In reaction to Black people being prevented from playing ball in the National Association of Basketball, the Negro Leagues was formed.</p>	<p><b>1926</b> Carter G. Woodson created Negro History Week. Schools and communities throughout the United States came together to celebrate the first Negro History Week.</p>
<p><b>1895</b> Constance Baker Motley elected Manhattan Borough president, the highest elective office held by a Black woman in a major American city at that time.</p> <p><b>1964</b> Muhammad Ali became a world heavyweight boxing champion for the first time after knocking out Sonny Liston.</p> <p><b>1869</b> The 15th Amendment is entered into the Constitution. The amendment would grant all African American men the right to vote.</p> <p><b>1988</b> Debi Thomas becomes the first African American to win an Olympic medal in the winter games.</p>	<p><b>1965</b> Bernard Harris became the first Black astronaut to take a spacewalk. He dedicated it to the achievements of all African Americans.</p> <p><b>1923</b> Bessie Smith made her first recording, "Down Hearted Blues" which sold 800,000 copies.</p> <p>President's Day</p>	<p><b>1870</b> Congress ratified the 15th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, giving Black men the right to vote.</p> <p><b>1964</b> The U.S. House of Representatives passed the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The bill prohibited any state or local government or public facility from denying access to anyone because of race or ethnic origin.</p> <p><b>1870</b> Congress passed a resolution readmitting Mississippi on condition that it would never change its constitution to disenfranchise Blacks.</p> <p><b>1864</b> Rebecca Lee Crumpler became the first Black woman to receive an M.D. degree. She was also the first African American to publish a book about medicine.</p>	<p><b>1913</b> American Civil Rights Activist, Rosa Parks, was born in Tuskegee, Alabama.</p> <p><b>1990</b> Leader of the movement to end South African apartheid, Nelson Mandela, is released from prison.</p> <p><b>2006</b> Shani Davis became the first Black athlete to win an individual gold medal in Winter Olympic history writing the speed skating 1000 meter event.</p>	<p><b>1950</b> Gwendolyn Brooks became the first African American to win a Pulitzer Prize.</p> <p><b>1948</b> First Lt. Nancy C. Leftenant-Colon became the first Black person accepted into the regular army nursing corps.</p> <p><b>2002</b> Vonetta Flowers became the first Black gold medalist in the Winter Olympics game, for the two-person bobsled event.</p>	<p><b>1945</b> Jamaican musician and singer-songwriter, Robert "Bob" Nesta Marley was born in Nine Mile, Jamaica.</p> <p><b>1920</b> In reaction to Black people being prevented from playing ball in the National Association of Basketball, the Negro Leagues was formed.</p>	<p><b>1926</b> Carter G. Woodson created Negro History Week. Schools and communities throughout the United States came together to celebrate the first Negro History Week.</p>
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Black history is 365, and we all should be lifelong learners.

Take a look at the calendar and see what you can learn or pay attention to just how far we've come (or not come)



"I refuse to accept the view that mankind is so tragically bound to the starless midnight of racism and war that the bright day break of peace and brotherhood can never become a reality ... I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word."

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

**SEIU LOCAL 722**

**1673 Columbia Rd. N.W #100**

**Washington, D.C. 20009**

## **WOMEN'S HISTORY**



**April Verrett became the first Black President of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) in 2024. She served as a Union Shop Steward for SEIU Local 46; Worked as a labor organizer focused on healthcare workers, and led SEIU Healthcare Illinois-Indiana-Missouri-Kansas's (HCII) 92,000 members as Executive Vice President. She then led SEIU Local 2015 (California's largest local union and the largest long term care union in the US representing over 400,000 care providers) 2022-2024 April was the SEIU International Secretary Treasurer**