

ABOUT CBTU

CBTU is not a black separatist or civil rights organization. It is the 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.

CBTU is recognized as a potent economic and political force within the African American community. One of every five black workers (20%) belongs to a union, and black union members earn 40 percent more than do non-union black workers. In the political arena, CBTU has leveraged the vast resources of unions to mobilize black voters to influence public policy at every level of government.

Currently, more than 50 different international and national unions are represented in CBTU. With 50 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. Dues should be paid to the Local Chapter. The Local Chapter then submits a portion to National.

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CBTU REGIONS and REPRESENTATIVES

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Region 2: Rep. Karen Peek

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Region 3: Rep. Mike Payne

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Region 4: Rep. William McKinley Joyce Jr.

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Region 6: Rep. Fred Redmond

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Region 8: Jean Hervey

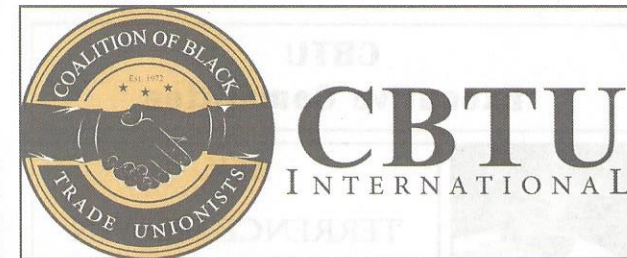
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Membership Brochure

CBTU Executive Committee



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FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT



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A Sleeping Giant Awakens

In September of 1972, more than 1,200 black union officials and rank and file members, representing thirty-seven different international and national unions, met in Chicago for two days to discuss the role of black trade unionists in the labor movement. Five black labor leaders (William Lucy, Nelson "Jack" Edwards, William Simons, Charles A. Hayes, Cleveland Robinson), alarmed that the AFL-CIO Executive Council had taken a "neutral" position in the 1972 presidential election between incumbent Richard Nixon and challenger George McGovern, called this founding conference of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists. They believed AFL-CIO President George Meany had ignored the voice of black trade unionists. Neutrality, they believed, would contribute to the re-election of Nixon.

Turnout at the initial meeting, which took place September 23-24, 1972, at the LaSalle Hotel, constituted the largest single gathering of Black unionists in the history of the American labor movement. It was a bold, empowering action. While the impetus for the Chicago conference was the presidential campaign, the most significant development was the establishment of a permanent organization the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists. The delegates made it clear that black workers were ready to share in the power of the labor movement at every level of its policy-making process. CBTU would be a progressive forum for black workers to bring their special issues within unions as well as act as a bridge between organized labor and the black community. And as they say, the rest is history.

Purpose for Membership

CBTU has always been an autonomous and progressive voice for the Labor Movement. Each Chapter engages their members on a variety of issues, trainings, and actions. Here are a few things CBTU Chapters do in the US and Canada:

GOTV: CBTU is a non-partisan organization and does not endorse candidates. But CBTU does support issues that impact our members and community. Additionally, CBTU is active in voter registration and voter turnout on election day.

Trainings: CBTU offers members a variety of different educational and skills building workshops to train current and future leaders of the movement.

Annual Scholarship: CBTU annually conducts a scholarship on the local, regional, and national level. This scholarship is aimed at our youth to support them in achieving higher education.

Community Involvement: CBTU serves as a bridge between community/religious organizations and the local Labor Movement, maintaining and building allied relationships that benefit the coalition as a whole.

International Involvement: CBTU became active on the international scene with boycotts and opposition of the Apartheid regime in South Africa. Currently CBTU maintains an international presence speaking out for worker rights in Africa, Latin America, Asia, and other parts of the world where we see suffering.