

COALITION OF BLACK TRADE UNIONISTS

The Coalition of Black Trade Unionist (CBTU) is the largest contingency group in the AFL-CIO. It was founded in 1972 in Chicago by 1,200 black union officials and rank and file members representing thirty seven different international and national unions. Currently, more than 50 different unions are represented in CBTU – with 50 chapters nationwide and one in Ontario, Canada.



Our website is www.CBTU.org

Continuing our drive to interest and recruit younger workers, CBTU Region 6 meeting was tailored to that end. A round table discussion with 6 young union leaders gave insight into what interested them and kept them involved in the union. Some hard questions were asked and answered regarding older leaders not being receptive to young people's ideas and not willing to move over and share leadership roles. The consensus of the body was that this was not an easy task but a necessary hurdle to overcome. More meetings and exchanges of ideas and information are needed and more dialogue must continue.

The Chicago Chapter has added several younger people to key committee leadership position and committed to more outreach.

The Chicago Chapter Women's Committee had its most successful annual "Walk against Breast Cancer" in June. Teaming up with the Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW) they garnered over \$8,000.00. The proceeds are shared with the American Breast Cancer Society.

In August IUPAT again led CBTU and other organizations involvement in the Urban League "Back to School Festival" where school supplies, haircuts and other activities celebrated the return to school for hundreds of students.

The Chicago Chapter Women's Committee held their first "Women Day Luncheon" where they honored their own for their hard work and showcased a Chicago woman entrepreneur and author.

CBTU donates year round and also provided Christmas blessings to supported charities. Donations were made to "A Little Bit of Heaven" - a male homeless shelter - in the form of toiletries and underwear.

New Moms Organization, received 100 crochet newborn baby caps plus diapers and wipes. CBTU members place their loose change in baby bottles that we use for donations throughout the year for their other needs.

Hesed House, shelter for homeless families, received hats scarves and gloves for the adults and toys for the children. We also served Thanksgiving dinner at their facility.

CBTU trained 25 additional members as Deputy Voter Registrars for this important upcoming election.

The membership meetings hosted judicial candidates including Illinois Supreme Court discussing their importance to our communities.

Two of our members, Katie Jordan and Letitia Taylor, were honored and shared the stage with Vice President Biden at Operation Push Convention. Additionally, Elise Foster, Chicago Chapter Recording Secretary was named Chicago Federation of Labor's "Woman of the Year".



Socks are a needed commodity at homeless shelters. We answered that need with a recent donation of 100 pairs of socks to A Little Bit of Heaven.

It has been a difficult time for the Chapter as we have lost many of our active and loyal supporters. Harold Rogers, Special Assistance to the President was honored by the Cook County Board for his dedication to the Labor Movement.

We will be celebrating our 50th year Anniversary convention in Chicago in 2021. We will continue to advocate and challenge organized labor to be more relevant to the needs and aspirations of Black, Brown and poor workers.