



# CBTU INTERNATIONAL

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**Contact: Dwight Kirk**  
(202) 257-3966; dflat@mindspring.com

## **1,100 Black Trade Unionists to Convene in New Orleans, May 24-28, Amid Economic Uptick and Attacks on "Fundamental Rights"**

**What: 52nd International Convention  
Coalition of Black Trade Unionists**

**Where:** Hilton New Orleans Riverside  
2 Poydras St.  
New Orleans, LA 70130

**When:** May 24-28, 2023

**Theme: "Confronting the Radical Dangers to Our Families and  
Our Future"**

Against the backdrop of the lowest Black unemployment on record and surging union activity, the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists (CBTU) will bring together labor activists from the U.S. and Canada at the Hilton New Orleans Riverside hotel May 24-28, 2023, with more than 1,100 attendees expected to participate. With workshops, townhall meetings, inspirational speakers and community service events, delegates will be immersed in a powerful "Black labor experience" that will inform and uplift their wellbeing.

CBTU's 52nd International Convention comes as unions gained 273,000 new members in 2022, due largely to workers of color. The April jobs report delivered more good news: the Black unemployment rate (4.7%) dipped below 5 percent, marking the first time in U.S. history.

CBTU President Terrence L. Melvin welcomed the positive economic trends but cautioned, "With extremists being elected to Congress, statehouses, and even local school boards, we cannot afford to drop our guard. Our fundamental rights are at stake." Melvin, who is also secretary-treasurer of the New York State AFL-CIO, added, "New Orleans is where we come together and leave refocused and rejuvenated as Black trade unionists."

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At this convention, CBTU will partner with the New Orleans Mission to provide new socks and "gently" worn men's shoes donated by CBTU members across the U.S. and Canada. CBTU's Men's Committee is spearheading the collection of socks and shoes and will present the donated clothing to representatives of the local men's shelter at a special breakfast, Saturday, May 27th.

Cedric Richmond, former U.S. congressman whose district included most of New Orleans, will be the keynote speaker at the first CBTU Men's Breakfast. Richmond is a powerful figure in national politics. He served as director of the White House Office of Public Engagement in the Biden administration. He currently is senior adviser to the Democratic National Committee.

CBTU, which was founded in 1972 to increase the influence of Black union members within the labor movement, is the nation's largest Black labor organization. More than 50 different international and national trade unions are represented in CBTU and there are 50 chapters in the U.S. and one in Ontario, Canada. CBTU's importance to the Black workforce is established by the fact that 1 of 10 employed African Americans belongs to a union. The nearly 2.4 million Black workers represented by trade unions constitute the largest single organization of African Americans in the nation.

Registration for the convention is now closed.