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January 2017

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I am pleased to issue the official convention call to the 46th International Convention of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists (CBTU). This year the convention will be held in New Orleans, LA at the New Orleans Hilton Riverside, 2 Poydras St, New Orleans, LA 70130 from **May 24-29, 2017**. The theme is **"Organizing for Change - Building Our Future"**. All general convention sessions will be held at the New Orleans Hilton Riverside, but there is also housing at Loews at 300 Poydras St, New Orleans, LA 70130.

We face some serious challenges ahead and there is no guarantee what the world will look like come May, but it will definitely be different and it will definitely require us to be prepared and trained to face these hurdles. Last year showed us that participants were invested in the skills building pieces and so we are focusing this year on organizing. On providing the skills and trainings many of us need to do this work.

Beginning on Tuesday, May 23rd we will be offering Leadership Training as well as Common Sense Economics - Criminal Justice Train the Trainer. Both trainings require certain criteria, commitments, and pre-registration. Please get the special registration form in if you're interested in attending. On Wednesday, May 24th, back by popular demand, our Brother Bill Fletcher will be hosting an all day workshop/seminar. Seating is limited so pre-registration is required as well. We invite you to take full advantage of the opportunities offered this year.

Our theme encapsulates our current situation. We need to be better organized, better trained, and better prepared. These are not friendly times and we must be organized to ensure our jobs and our future are preserved for the next generation. I hope you join us and be a part of this.

Registration for the 2017 convention can be done by downloading forms online at the CBTU website, www.cbtu.org.

Should you have any questions or need additional information, please call the CBTU International office at 202-778-3318 or email us at cbtu@cbtu.org.

See you in New Orleans

In Solidarity,

Rev. Terrence L. Melvin, President