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January 22, 2024

Dear Members and Allies,

I am pleased to issue the official convention call to the 53rd International Convention of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists (CBTU). This year our convention will be held in Houston, Texas at the Marriott Marquis, 1777 Walker Street, Houston, Texas. The theme for this year is *"Never Back, Always Forward: Hate Cannot Erase Us."*

The theme this year is meant to uphold the gains we have made and acknowledge the struggles ahead. The cancer of white supremacy has morphed into fascism threatening not only our political rights but also our own body autonomy. More than ever, we must coalesce and strategize our plans to move forward. This year's convention will feature topics and speakers that will address the victories of 2023 and also discuss the organizing we need to do in 2024. Our guests will be both national and international leaders of this great Labor Movement.

To register for the convention please go to <https://convention.cbtu.info/>. All convention information will be on that site. You will also find the hotel link on this site. You must complete all required fields to proceed. When you have completed the registration form an invoice will be sent within 24 hours to complete the payment portion.

All who register for the convention will also have access to our new site CBTUPLUS. As we modernize and advance this organization, so do the opportunities and access to our members. We will continue to provide current and past information and conventions on CBTUPLUS as it serves as our digital resource and pragmatic hub. You will receive an email with instructions to access the CBTUPLUS site within 24 hours after completing the payment portion of registration. CBTUPLUS will be available for purchase at the CBTU store for anyone not attending the convention.

CBTU continues to fight and advocate for Black workers throughout the country and the world. Our rights, autonomy and value of life are all under extreme assault. Insurrections are as conceivable as massive unemployment and global pandemics. In spite of this, we must continue to organize and celebrate. Our convention continues to be a meeting space of both ideas and mirth. I truly hope to see you in Houston.

In solidarity,

Rev. Terrence L. Melvin, President