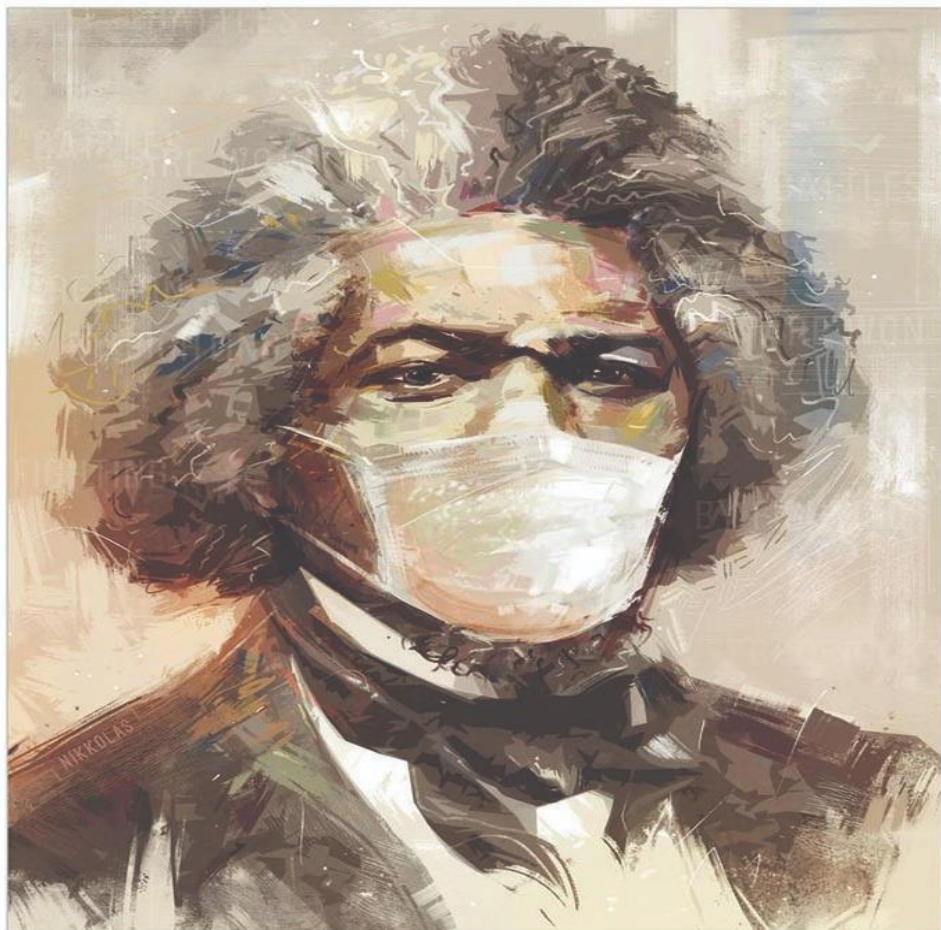


# 2020 COVID-19



*Disease is cured by the right use of remedies.*  
~ Frederick Douglass

FREDERICK DOUGLASS  
FAMILY INITIATIVES  
www.fdfi.org



"Love takes off  
the masks we  
fear we cannot  
live without and  
know we cannot  
live within."

—JAMES BALDWIN



Since slave times, the history and experience of Blacks in this country has only been accurately documented by the testimonials of our ancestors who went through the experience. From Slave Narratives to the tales of the Great Migration, the Black experience has only been able to be truly told by having our voice documented.

While COVID-19 is indiscriminate in who it infects, the impact and consequences of this pandemic are mired in both race and class. If we do not document our experience during this pandemic, our voice may never be truly captured.

We are asking all Black people to document their experience and the experience of CBTU members either through video, audio, or written testimonials. We need to record our experience, be it the voice of the infected, the voice of the essential worker, or the voice of the unemployed worker. We are looking to chronicle this moment as best we can to preserve our history in a time when we are witnessing history being rewritten every day by this administration. Please record as many people as you can. Please post your messages on our Facebook page @CBTU72.



## IN MEMORIAM REMEMBERING UNION MEMBERS LOST TO COVID-19



AFL-CIO

## JOIN CBTU

### About CBTU

Since the earliest days of this nation when democracy was built on racial exploitation, black workers have risked their lives to protect and empower their communities through agitation, collective action and faith. The Coalition of Black Trade Unionists proudly carries that tradition into the 21st century. 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 a diverse work force and poor workers. At the same time, 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 elections and public policy at every level of government.

740 Driving Park,  
Rochester NY 14613

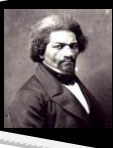
(Federation of Social Workers Hall, Local 81381  
IUE-CWA)

Contact us at 585-328-2250  
Rochester CBTU Secretary Phyllis Mathews  
at [cbturochester@frontier.com](mailto:cbturochester@frontier.com)

[www.cbtu-rochesterchapter.org](http://www.cbtu-rochesterchapter.org)





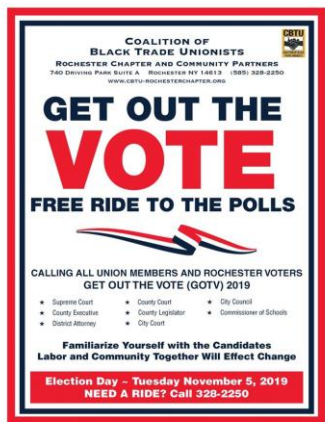


# COALITION OF BLACK TRADE UNIONISTS ROCHESTER CHAPTER

## CBTU Membership Report – October 2019 to March 2020

### CBTU Roc That Vote

November 5, 2019 we give you no excuses to get to your polling site. Our annual ride to the polls is free to folks in the surrounding Rochester area.

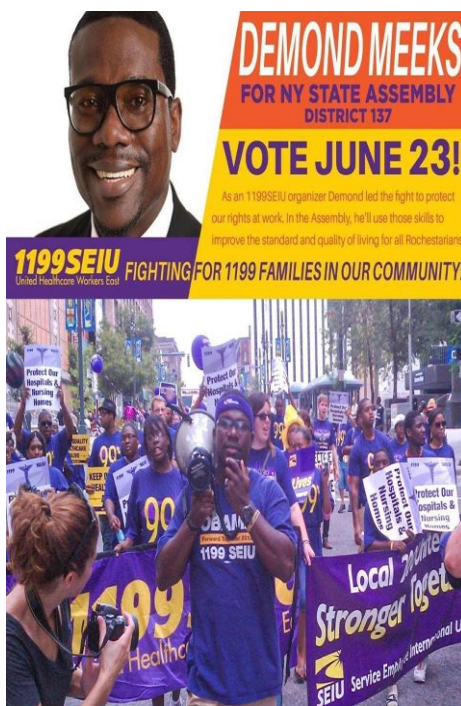
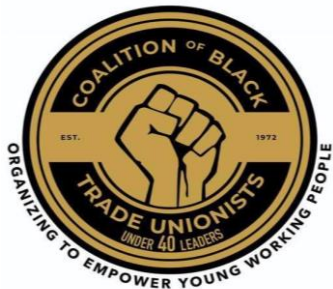


## HBCU COLLEGE FAIR

**November 18, 2019** HBCUs college fair today, Coalition of Black Trade Unionists educating students in Monroe County about the importance of voting. We assisted 101 young people how to cast a ballot on election machine. Students with union households were given union scholarship information. Thank you Moiet James, Demond Meeks and Phyllis Lowry.



Congratulations to our under 40 CBTU members. Destini Bowman and Demond Meeks. Destini was the campaign manager for Karen Bailey – Turner. In the Nov 2019 election Karen became first African American and Caribbean American elected county court Judge (high level criminal) with the assistance of Destini. In March 2020 our under 40 Chair Demond Meeks announced his candidacy for State Assembly District 137.



President Debbie Lee  
Union: FSA / CSEA and  
Executive Assistant to  
CBTU National  
President



Executive Vice  
President Zola Brown/  
New Organizing Chair  
Union: 1199SEIU



Randy White  
Executive Vice  
President Emeritus  
Union: CSEA



1st Vice President &  
Chair Communications  
Karen Spotford  
Union: PEF Staff / SEIU /  
AFT



2<sup>nd</sup> President &  
Chair Education  
Shelly Clements  
Union: NYSUT



Treasurer Tracy Jordan &  
Chair Environmental Justice  
Union: 1199SEIU tax  
program



Secretary  
Phyllis Matthews  
Union: CSEA



Sergeant-At-Arms  
Jimmy Haynes  
Union:  
Laborers' Local 435



Trustee  
Aloma Cason &  
Chair Politics / GOTV  
Union:



Trustee  
Evelyn Evans  
Union: IUE/CWA



Trustee  
Margie Broomfield  
Union: NYSUT

### Vote 2020 COVID

Absentee Voting & Voter Registration  
<https://www.elections.ny.gov/votingabsentee.html>

- Pursuant to Executive Order 202.15 issued April 9, 2020, voters may request and vote via an absentee ballot for any election held on or before June 23, 2020 due to the potential to contract the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). To request an absentee ballot, voters may fill out an absentee ballot application and check "temporary illness or physical disability" as the reason they are requesting an absentee ballot. A voter may request an absentee ballot as follows:
- Applications for Absentee Ballots are available at your county board of elections. You should have received in the mail.
- You may also download a PDF version of the New York State Absentee Ballot Application Form or fill out online at your local board of election website.
- You may still vote in person check with local board of elections for location.
- **May 29** - Last day to deliver a voter registration form to the Board of Elections 9am-5pm.
- Early Voting starts June 13, 2020
- Check your local board of elections site for more information  
<https://www2.monroecounty.gov/elections>

### Congratulations

to Sister Kendall Bell  
In Nov 2019 she moved to a new position as Staff Representative for the IUE-CWA.



### January 28 – July 15, 2020 Tax Season



CBTU members join 1199SEIU for 13<sup>th</sup> year in providing free tax assistance to union members and community. Creating Assets Saving and Hope. (C.A.S.H.) program helps folks create ways to give a better financial future.

585-730-6433



Robert Barley  
MDR Investment  
Management  
585-427-0650 or 585-506-2147

*Historically, we as African Americans don't grow up speaking about Financial Investment topics like 401k, 403b, Deferred Compensation, Pension and IRAs. However, times are changing, and we must look to be savvier about investing in stocks, bonds and mutual funds. After all, our purchasing power helps the economy and companies like Apple, Verizon, Home Depot, Facebook & Microsoft to grow to make outstanding revenue and earnings.*

## CBTU Committees Chairs

Women's Committee  
Geena Cruz



Men's Committee  
Robert Lockett



Fundraising  
Kendall Bell



Under 40 Programs  
Demond Meeks



## 2020 CALENDER

### CBTU Calendar 2020 Membership Meetings

10:30am – 11:30am Via Zoom (TBA)

January 11, – Membership Meeting

February 22, –

March 9, – Membership Meeting

**April -16** Zoom Membership Meeting

Elections will be scheduled for the chapter

May 20 – Convention Canceled Due to Covid

June- TBA

July – TBA

August – TBA

Sept – TBA

October - TBA

Nov 3 - GOTV

December 7 – Holiday Meet and Greet Brunch



# CBTU

COALITION OF BLACK TRADE UNIONISTS

The Coalition of Black Trade Unionists (CBTU) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization of trade union members and affiliates who give voice to issues that affect African American workers and workers of color. CBTU works in concert with Labor Unions and community organizations for improvements in the workplace and the elevation of the community.

Newsletters by Zola B Brown