



Official Convention Call

COALITION OF BLACK TRADE UNIONISTS

2006 International Convention

May 24-29, 2006

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*Int'l Secy-Treasurer,
AFSCME*

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Greetings:

I am honored to issue the **Official Convention Call** for the 35th International Convention of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists. The dates are May 24-29, 2006. The CBTU convention will be held at the Disney Contemporary Hotel, Walt Disney World Resort in Orlando, Florida. The theme for this special convention is "**CBTU at 35: Continuing the Fight for a New Economic Order.**"

I look forward to celebrating CBTU's 35th anniversary with you and all the delegates, guests and speakers who will join us in Orlando. Words cannot fully express my gratitude to the men, women and youth who have built this proud organization and sustained me through difficult times. We will also commemorate the progress and spirit of CBTU's historic journey since 1972, when visionary leaders like Cleveland Robinson, Charlie Hayes, Nelson Jack Edwards, Bill Simons, Rev. Addie Wyatt, Oliver Montgomery, Ola Kennedy, Lillian Roberts, Geraldine Johnson and many others inspired 1,200 black trade unionists to found the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists.

However proud we might be of our heroes and triumphs, we must be vigilant against complacency; we still have much work to do. The hounds of racism, greed and militarism still threaten not only our families, jobs and communities but also the entire global human family.

We must vigorously challenge these twin lies: that a low-wage economy is both good and necessary for America to regain its global economic power and that working families must accept a lower standard of living, while inept CEO's collect fat paychecks. We must change the economic thinking of national and local policy-makers if we intend to create a new economic order where social prosperity is shared by all.

Legendary entertainer, activist and humanitarian Harry Belafonte and past presidential candidates Rev. Jesse L. Jackson, Sr., and Rev. Al Sharpton will lead a stellar line-up of invited convention speakers and panelists. We will have a lot on our plate in the general sessions, workshops, the national women's conference, retirees' conference, youth conference and the C.A.R.A.T. conference. We will also hold a town hall meeting.

Of course, no CBTU convention would be complete without attractions such as our gospel concert, golf tournament, wellness and health symposium, Sunday worship service and awards evening. So don't miss this 35th anniversary celebration.

See you in Orlando!

William Lucy
CBTU President