

## **Terrence L. Melvin**

Secretary – Treasurer  
New York State AFL-CIO

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Terrence L. Melvin holds the second highest office in the New York State labor movement – Secretary-Treasurer of the 2.5 million members, New York State AFL-CIO. In July 2007, Mr. Melvin was elected to this position. In August 2008, he was re-elected to a four-year term.

In 1980, Mr. Melvin started his career as a member of CSEA Local 427 at the Western New York Developmental Center. CSEA is a Statewide Union representing over 250,000 state, county, municipal and private sector workers throughout New York State. He quickly moved from shop steward and grievance representative to Vice President of the Local.

In December 1983, at age 21, Mr. Melvin became the youngest CSEA Local President when he assumed the position of President of CSEA Local 427, a local union representing over 2,000 members. His tenure as President was marked by increased leadership education and training as well as increasing overall membership involvement into the activities of the Local.

He is the former Secretary of CSEA Western Region 6 and has an extensive background in numerous CSEA elected and appointed positions.

In January 1996, Mr. Melvin was appointed the Executive Assistant to CSEA Statewide President Danny Donohue. In this position, he oversaw and directed the day to day activities of the President's office and was responsible for overall coordination of the Senior Staff of the Union.

In the community, Mr. Melvin is a long-time activist who has touched many lives. In August 1996, he was elected Director of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists (CBTU) Region One, representing unionists in New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Massachusetts and Ontario, Canada. He was subsequently re-elected to this position beginning August 1998, August 2000, August 2002, August 2004, August 2006, August 2008 and August 2010. Mr. Melvin has worked tirelessly to increase communication and activism throughout the Region. He also has been vigilant on creating sustainable chapters in the Region. During his tenure the Region has grown from five to nine active chapters.

In addition to Region I Director, he is also a member of the CBTU National Executive Board. In May 2009, he was appointed National Director of Religious Outreach for CBTU. He is also a founding member of the CBTU Buffalo Chapter. Additionally, he serves as a Vice President of SBC (Second Baptist Church) Foundation, Inc.

In the political realm, he knows the power of the vote. He is continuously working to increase voter registration, promoting Get-Out-The-Vote drives, and is active in national, state, local, city and school board elections.

Since being elected Secretary-Treasurer, Mr. Melvin in addition to performing his constitutional mandated duties, he has focused on developing lasting ties between labor, religious organizations and community partners. With this, in December 2008, he spearheaded the development of the NYS AFL-CIO Community Outreach Department which he oversees the day to day operations. This program was designed to make a lasting connection between AFL-CIO constituency groups, local communities and religious leaders. In making this connection, the Department seeks to: 1. change the public's view of unions from negative to positive and, 2. gain allies in the above groups to assist with contract fights, organizing campaigns and overall political/legislative program. Some activities of the department include: establishing lasting coalitions with local labor, religious and community activists; holding Town Hall meetings to address community and labor

issues; maintaining ongoing dialog between community, labor and religious organizations; assisting with affiliate organizing drives and with affiliate contract campaigns. The fruits of the program are beneficial to affiliates throughout the state for organizing and bargaining activities.

Mr. Melvin is an ordained Baptist Minister. He serves as Associate Minister and Assistant to the Pastor at Second Baptist Church, Lackawanna, New York.

Mr. Melvin is a graduate of the Rochester Center for Theological and Biblical Studies with a Bachelors Degree in Ministry. He is married to Sonja Marie Melvin, and has three children: Candice, Terrence II and Crystal; and one beautiful granddaughter, Cadence.