

FSW Function Report

Name and Title: Ineabelle Geena Cruz, Health & Safety Chair

Name and nature of event/function: Coalition of Black Trade Unionist, Region 1 Conference: "Honoring Our Past, Strengthen Our Future"

Location and Date(s) attended: Rochester, NY August 15-18, 2013

What was the purpose/goal of the function?

The conference purpose was "Honoring Our Past & Strengthening Our Future" Regional 1 hosted by the Rochester Chapter. It gathered all of Region 1 delegates to observe our past to prepare for the future. It was also a time also an educational opportunity to gain knowledge of the 50th Anniversary of the March on Washington which was started with A Philip Randolph but many have over looked the purpose because of the "I Had A Dream Speech.

What new things did you learn at the function?

The educational knowledge of the **50th Anniversary of the March on Washington** which was started with A Philip Randolph but many have over looked the purpose because of the "I Had A Dream Speech." That the March was about Jobs, Peace, Freedom and Justice!! It was also interesting to here different people perspective on the March- Town Hall had political, religious, community and labor panel---ALL with different views.

"Moving Our agenda Forward", - a Community Organizing Toolkit from the National Latino Council. The Power of Persuasion

Look So Good" The seriousness of HIV and how out of 50 plus new HIV cases in Monroe County, 7 were between the ages of 13-18 (21) . Hypertension was on the rise for women and men- they also had a Blood Pressure Monitor there to test (awesome!!!!)

It takes a Village". We must continue to raise our children together, mentor, this is very crucial especially with the youth of today—we have to teach them that they have to Dress to Impress ---Business not street wise. To engage them and not be afraid of them, let them know to respect you---Pull Up Their Pants and speak properly. To do one child at a time if need be. They discuss mentoring among one another not being afraid to teach others, EACH ONE TEACH ONE- because what will happen when we are gone? No one will know the roots.

“Sister’s It’s Time to Take Action”- Spoke about first taking time to know who you are, and what it is that is for you. To start looking at the REAL issues and addressing them not only in you but the community as well. Once you make the difference and get involved delegate and the sky is the limit. Clayola Brown spoke on the importance of taking actions in self, religiously, community and in the social justice movement. To be PREPARED for it ALL because there is always something in the way trying to stop you from achieving what you set out to accomplish. BE NOT AFRAID!!!

There were many more interesting and important sessions including the “Coalition Building” were LGBT leaders and community leaders discuss the importance of working together as well. The collaborative community stays together and works better together.

How can you apply what you learned to your union role(s)?

These are very important topics because not only do they assist you in resolving matters of self, but more so the issue of today especially when working as a labor activist or activist period.

How does your attendance at the function benefit members?

As a chair for the Health and Safety is was essential learning the stats and current health concerns in our community that truly needs to be share with members. It also was essential to be able to use many of the techniques use to continue the FIGHT for JUSTICE PEACE JOB FREEDOM!!!!!!!!!!

If applicable, what action steps could be put in place to ensure continued benefit from the function (for instance, is there a program we could start, training we could do “in-house” for stewards, etc)?

GOTV, Town Halls, effective meeting, self awareness, “LABOR TRUTHS”

What networking/contact value did this function have?

There were quite a few local, regional and national people that I was able to meet or have the ability to network with-- EX President from A Phillip Randolph, Urban League Lawyer, Community activist here and religious leader that were truly out for justice and people who just blame UNIONS for everything-----just to name a few

Would you recommend FSW attendance at this function in the future? Why or why not?

Yes, this will truly be a great function to continue the diversity among the function is truly outstanding. Diverse work groups and ideas that would be very beneficial to FSW.

For completion by I Geena Cruz

Cost of function: \$_____