

Kendall Bell, CCRE chairperson

Event: CBTU 43rd Annual Convention

Dates: May 21, 2014 – May 26, 2014

The theme of the convention was “Working together – it shall come to pass”. This is meant to signify that the road to success and victory is a collective effort, each of us giving help when needed and accepting help when needed. Several of the panelists and guest speakers spoke to this idea, from President Terry Melvin with his address to the convention to Cecil Roberts, President of the United Mine Workers of America to the Honorable Nina Turner, Ohio State Senator. We were reminded that the continuous struggle for human and civil rights is not restricted to the borders of the United States of America, but is a global struggle, as illustrated when Roger McKenzie of Unison in the United Kingdom spoke to the body about the struggles his union brothers and sisters are facing overseas.

Although some of the workshops were focused on specific issues in particular communities or occupations, there were several that had a broader appeal, emphasizing skills that are necessary for coalition building and facilitating the growth in membership of our unions and constituency groups, specifically public speaking, engaging and involving the community, and resolution writing.

Throughout the convention we were each charged with personally connecting within our locals and greater communities to do our part to help build the movement and continue to bolster the foundation that is constantly being chipped away.