

# LIUNA AFRICAN AMERICAN CAUCUS

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



## LIUNA AFRICAN AMERICAN CAUCUS ASSISTS MID ATLANTIC REGION IN VOTER EDUCATION EFFORT

The LIUNA African American Caucus (AAC) proudly took part in flipping Virginia blue in the November 5th election by encouraging the African-American community to vote for candidates who fight for issues impacting the community like good job opportunities and affordable and accessible healthcare. At the request of LIUNA Vice President and Mid-Atlantic Regional Manager, Dennis L. Martire, fifty-eight (58) LIUNA African American Caucus members traveled from Philadelphia, PA to Chesapeake, VA two weekends before the election to remind voters to use their vote as their voice. The LIUNA AAC participated and helped fund the voter education effort.

The demographics of Chesapeake, VA indicate an African American community of 29.7%, more than 10% higher than the state's 19.2% African American population. Signaling the value of having union caucuses that focus on specific cultural alliances in the community, two union friendly candidates, Clinton Jenkins and Alex Askew, won their races. These two candidates are now part of the democratic majority in both chambers of Virginia's legislature that intend to prioritize Virginia's working families.

# LIUNA African American Caucus Holds 5th Congressional Black Caucus Reception

The LIUNA African American Caucus held its Congressional Black Caucus Honoree Reception at their International Headquarters in Washington, DC on September 12, 2019. For the past 5 years, during the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's Annual Legislative Conference the LIUNA AAC has held a reception to honor different members of the CBC who support LIUNA's issues through their voting records and actions nationally and in their respective districts. Infrastructure; Pay and Benefits; Employee Rights and Protections; Postal Reform; and Voting Rights, are all issues, to name a few, that Congress addresses and are important to LIUNA's 500,000+ members and working men and women across the nation. The LIUNA AAC applauds the support of CBC members. The 2019 honorees were Congresswomen Joyce Beatty (OH); Marcia Fudge (OH); Robin Kelly (IL); and Congressman Al Green (TX). Also honored was LIUNA Brother Mike Aaron (Local 1191-Detroit, MI), a board member and President of the Black Caucus Foundation of Michigan.

The mission of the LIUNA AAC is to identify, promote and support issues that address the needs and interests of LIUNA members of African descent. The mission goes further to carry the LIUNA's message of Justice, Honor and Strength into the broader community and facilitate and increase LIUNA's market share which benefits both members and the communities they live in. For over four decades, the CBC and the CBCF continue to have a significant impact on American politics, policy and economic empowerment and advancement in the global community. It is in this vein, that the LIUNA AAC applauds the honorees and the entire CBC for supporting issues important to working men and women. Creating new jobs and improving economic opportunity is paramount to both organizations.



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# LIUNA AFRICAN AMERICAN CANADIAN CAUCUS DEBUTS TORONTO LABOURFEST 2019

On Saturday June 22, 2019, the LIUNA African American Canadian Caucus working with the Canadian Multicultural Inventors Museum produced a new initiative - The Toronto LabourFest 2019. The festival was created as a tool to garner more black youth into the skilled trades. The LabourFest combined a skilled trades job fair with a family festival. LabourFest 2019 also provided an opportunity for local community vendors to promote their products to the audience. Local politicians from the municipal, provincial and federal level also attended and delivered messages to the audience. A stem of the LIUNA African American Caucus, the LIUNA African American Canadian Caucus was founded five years ago and is focused on mobilizing the Canadian black community to explore job opportunities in skilled trades, especially within the construction sector.

In the official event press release, Anthony Tubbs, executive board member of the Caucus, expressed that the Toronto LabourFest 2019 is a means of raising awareness amongst black youth of the lucrative careers that can be obtained in the construction industry, "There is training available for over twenty different types of jobs. The festival will have that information to share with the young men and women who come to the event." Tubbs said. He added the festival will also give the community insight into what LIUNA can offer to the community. Tubbs expressed his gratitude to LIUNA for its aid in helping the Caucus to stage the inaugural event, and singled out Business Manager, Jack Oliviera of LIUNA Local #183 for his support. LIUNA Local #506 also participated.

# LIUNA African American Caucus E Board Winter Meeting Recap



The LIUNA African American Caucus held its executive board winter meeting in Fort Lauderdale, FL November 22-23, 2019. The caucus fully understands the importance of the crucial upcoming 2020 elections and is working to find effective ways to assist LIUNA in making a positive difference at the polls for our members and all working men and women. With that in mind, Ms. Muthoni Wambu Kraal, the Democratic National Committee's National Political & Organizing Director was a special guest. She gave a very informative briefing to the board on current plans for the DNC's civic engagement, voter registration, voter protection and GOTV efforts. She explained to the board the mission of the DNC is to take back the White House and elect Democrats everywhere in 2020. The DNC is focusing on voter protection in NC, MI, WI, and FL. She also pointed out that PA, WI, and MI are the tipping point states to concentrate on. She informed the board that the nominee should be known by April or early May.

The Caucus will have a new look and better communication with members in 2020! Communication with members will include a new logo, new website, and a new Instagram account to launch in January 2020. The board voted to change its by laws to reduce E Bd meetings from quarterly to twice a year. The annual membership meeting for all members will remain during the LIUNA Leadership Conference, which takes place in New York, NY in August. An additional focus of the Caucus is to increase membership. Caucus membership is currently at 109 members, the goal is increase it to 200+ in 2020.

Caucus President Ryan Boyer reminded the board to stay focused and remember what is most important to our members - electing local, state and national leaders who endorse our issues, (especially prevailing wage) and finding ways to increase marketshare and membership.