

# Western Region African American Caucus

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September 2001  
Cincinnati, OH
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## National Leadership Summit 2001

By Ruth Forney

Many of our Western Region Leaders attended this meeting. There was a roundtable discussion on several subjects:

- SEIU Social and Economic justice guidelines
- Funding for regional and local AAC operations
- Rethinking AFRAM's organizational structure
- SEIU adopted new strength and unity, so how does this affect AFRAM



The national officers adopted a program that:

- A. This plan will be member driven and put more emphasis on regional autonomy.
- B. Each region that adopts AFRAM's program will create an area wide caucus (multi-locals). The chair will be a rank and file member.
- C. The National will propose changes to the dues structure so the region can get a rebate (money for operational expenses).
- D. Regions accepting our plan will be more accessible and accountable all AFRAM

Planning and looking ahead to 2002

- A. Develop a line of AFRAM merchandise.
- B. Plan a regional conference during the Juneteen weekend.
- C. Hold a National 2003 meeting in the southern part of our region.
- D. Plan regional and national fund raising activities (trips, cruises, BBQ)
- E. Build a national Afram organization of 50,000 members (SEIU understands numbers).
- F. The political Vice-chair of the region will assign someone to meet with the congressional black caucus leader in their region

## What is going on in SEIU?

By Ruth Forney

- During AFRAM's summit our national and regional leaders had a lengthy discussion on changes that have taken place at the International level.
- SEIU International executive board meeting in Chicago voted Brother Tyrone Freeman, as a Vice President. Tyrone is general manager of Local 434B in LA. Since then, he was chosen as a member of the SEIU delegation to South Africa. See the newsletter article on the Internet at [www.afram-seiu.org](http://www.afram-seiu.org). Congratulations Tyrone.
- Also the Executive Board voted Anna Burger, Secretary-Treasurer after the retirement of Betty Bednarczyk. Leaders around the country have a question that is not clear. Can an elected officer hold two elected positions at the top level? It appears to be a constitutional and by-laws change that did not go before the

membership. Make no misunderstanding, yes, the President can choose and appoint whoever he wants as Secretary-Treasurer, but it is unheard of to allow the person to remain in another elected position. There is no provision that allows two international officer positions to be combined or merged. How will salary be set for an officer that is Secretary-Treasurer and a full time Executive Vice-President?

- SEIU has adopted a vision of new strength and unity. On the surface if we look at the process used to fill the secretary-treasure vacancy, was it a fair and inclusive process? As loyal labor people we wish to congratulate Ann Burger as the new secretary-treasure.
- Organizing will be at the top of the agenda in every city and state we meet in. Topics to be discussed will include:
  - Politics 2002/gotv proposal
  - Effective outreach within AFRAM
  - Organizing African Americans
  - Fund raising
  - Shirley Ware Scholarship Fund
  - Discussion of AFRAM's National plan

## Western Region African American Caucus Calendar 2001-2002

Meetings are scheduled for the fourth Saturday every two months. Locations will vary so we can meet at different locals throughout the region. If your local is willing to host these meetings please let us know. If a holiday weekend falls on meeting dates we will move to the week prior or the week following.

The executive board meeting is 11:00 – 1 PM. A general membership meeting follows from 1 PM – 4 PM.

September 29, 2001 Local 616  
1630 Webster, Oakland CA

November 17, 2001 Local 434B  
Los Angeles, CA

January 26, 2002 Local 503  
Portland, OR

March 23, 2002 Local 1107  
Las Vegas NV

May 25, 2002 Local to be announced  
Denver, CO

July 27, 2002 Local to be announced  
Seattle, WA

September 28, 2002 Local to be announced  
Bay Area

November 23, 2002 Local to be announced  
Southern CA

## Local 6 Our Seattle Host

Our thanks to Marc Earls; Local 6 for hosting the July meeting in Seattle.

## The Information Corner

*By John Cuff*

This is the Information age. What you don't know can and will effect you, your family, your community and our country. We have a great opportunity to shape local, state and national events if we are united and ready to act. The old ways of mail, phone calls, notices on bulletin boards is labor intensive, not as effective and more costly then electronic (email) communication.



Email can be FREE. What do you need?

- Access to the Internet.
- Access to a computer. If you do not own one how about using the one at the Union hall, a friends home, your work (if allowed), the library, school, or your church.
- Free email at [www.hotmail.com](http://www.hotmail.com) and [www.yahoo.com](http://www.yahoo.com)? Check them out.
- I will have free email information at every scheduled executive meeting. Please help me save funds by getting an email address today.

Our database has over 370 members from 26 Locals. We are updating membership data daily. To vacillate faster publications and notices please send us your email addresses to [jtcuffor@hotmail.com](mailto:jtcuffor@hotmail.com), leave a message at 541-689-8427 or mail to:

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