

American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations



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October 5, 2007

TO: Labor Activist

FROM: Richard Womack, MLK Labor Committee Co-Chair
Clayola Brown, MLK Labor Committee Co-Chair

RE: AFL-CIO Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Observance

The 2008 AFL-CIO Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Observance will be held January 17-21 in Memphis, Tennessee. Holding our Observance in Memphis in 2008 is significant as it marks the 40th Anniversary of the Memphis Sanitation Workers Strike. This was a valiant strike of men who dared to take a stand for dignity and respect on the job. This strike was also Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s final campaign. He was assassinated in Memphis in 1968 while supporting these striking workers.

In Memphis, the labor movement will come together to remember Dr. King and the sanitation workers strike. We will join with our allies at the observance to advance the agenda for civil and workers' rights and to carry on Dr. King's legacy through a program of education and community service.

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Observance weekend will begin on Thursday, January 17 at noon and will end on Monday, January 21 following the morning MLK parade. Friday, January 18 will be a day of commemoration and reflection on the Memphis Sanitation Workers courageous strike. On that day we will also engage in political training to prepare ourselves for the important 2008 elections. Saturday will be dedicated to community service. A detailed agenda for the weekend is being prepared and will be available shortly.

We have obtained an outstanding rate of \$104 at the Memphis Hilton Hotel, at 939 Ridge Lake Boulevard. Participants should make reservations directly with the hotel at (901) 684-6664. The conference registration fee of \$150.00 includes conference attendance, the labor breakfast, awards dinner and all conference materials. A conference registration form is attached.

If you would like additional information, please contact either of us, or Eva Walton in the AFL-CIO Civil, Human and Women's Rights Department at ewalton@aflcio.org or by phone at (202) 637-5274.

We encourage you to bring your working attire, as we will be participating in several restoration projects.

We look forward to seeing you in Memphis.

Enclosures

cc: Nat LaCour
Rosalyn Pelles

RW/CB:ew

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