

UNION BULLETIN BOARD NETWORK UBBN

February 2024

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Throughout U.S. labor history, Black workers have played a key role not only in forming unions, but helping secure improved pay, benefits and working conditions even amid ongoing discrimination.

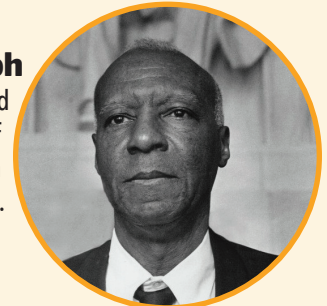


AFSCME Black History

On 1 February 1968, two Memphis garbage collectors, Echol Cole and Robert Walker, were crushed to death by a malfunctioning truck. Eleven days later, 1,300 black men from the Memphis Department of Public Works went on strike. They were members of AFSCME Local 1733. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., a key supporter of their movement, was assassinated while in Memphis to help the striking workers after giving his famous "I've been to the Mountaintop" address.

A Philip Randolph

In 1925, trade unionist and labor organizer A. Philip Randolph helped found the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, the first union of predominantly Black members to receive a charter in the American Federation of Labor.



Bayard Rustin

The labor movement has long stood as an ally to the civil rights movement, often working together, Randolph also played a key role in advancing civil rights, including working with other leaders such as Bayard Rustin to protest discrimination in the defense industries and armed forces.

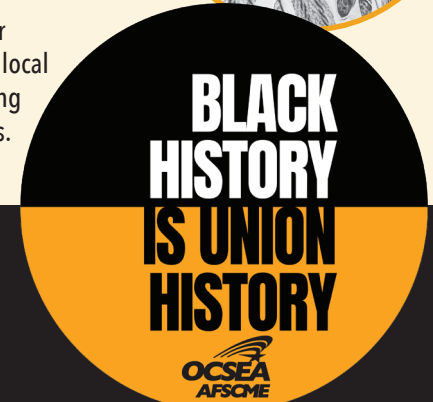
Dora Lee Jones

Dora Lee Jones helped establish the Domestic Workers' Union in Harlem in 1934, which is believed to be a stepping stone in ending the exploitation of Black domestic workers.



Dorothy Lee Bolden

Dorothy Lee Bolden led efforts for workers to gain political clout in local governments in Atlanta, including through voter registration drives.



Printed in-house by



Ohio Civil Service
Employees Association

390 Worthington Rd.
Westerville, OH 43082
800-969-4702
www.ocsea.org