

# Local 54 Newsletter

NEWS FROM THE HOSPITALITY UNION UNITE HERE LOCAL 54

September 2024

## Member Spotlight Dajenaba Blackwell, Hard Rock Housekeeper & LOA

I am the Political Recruitment Lead and a proud member of the Black Leadership Advisory Committee. I serve as a Shop Steward in the Housekeeping Department at Hard Rock Casino and have been a dedicated member of Unite Here Local 54 for 27 years. I live in Atlantic City, New Jersey, with my three beautiful children, Exotika, Michael, and Tiyetta, and my wonderful granddaughter, Promise. I come from a large family with eleven siblings. My biggest influencer has always been my mother, Vernessa Blackwell-Jones, who taught me the invaluable lesson that “you have to stand for something, or you would fall for anything.” This wisdom truly resonated with me as I grew older and took on the responsibility of raising my three younger sisters after my mother passed away. Fighting for people’s rights is something that was instilled in me from a young age. When I started working at Tropicana Casino, I knew I was in the union but didn’t fully understand its significance until 2003, when I found my second family in Unite Here Local 54. Being part of something bigger than myself is incredibly rewarding, and I do this work for all 58 of my nieces and nephews who are watching their auntie make a difference.



## Solidarity Alert!



**Local 274** - In solidarity we joined hundreds of fired-up food service workers from Philly, UNITE HERE Locals 23, 25, 7, 100, 217, 34, 33, 35 and 26, as well as other unions to demand family-sustaining wages and healthcare. Workers delivered passionate speeches, sharing their struggles and determination to fight for their worth.