

South Central Federation of Labor

Highlights & Activities Review for 2006

STRIKE SUPPORT

- Provided various forms of support for 250 members of USW Local 904 in Sun Prairie on strike against Goodyear. Activities included two massive plant gate pickets, a National Day of Action store leafleting, and formation of an Adopt-a-Family program to assist families in hardship.
- Provided financial and moral support to Road Warriors from Boilermakers Local 484 who were locked out by Celanese Emulsions in Merdosia, IL.

ORGANIZING SUPPORT

- Mobilized support for UNITE HERE's campaign to organize workers at Superior Health Care Linen with a candlelight vigil at St. Mary's Hospital.
- Provided various forms of support to SEIU Local 1's Justice for Janitors campaign to organize Clean Power janitors. Activities included email and fax campaign, and regular rallies, parades, pickets, delegations, and leafleting at downtown office buildings and American Family Insurance. Passed the hat for fired Clean Power activist.

EDUCATION

- Work began on Madison's Labor History Mural in the south entrance of the Labor Temple. *Related events included:*
 - ◆ A fundraising effort raising over \$50,000 from local unions, individuals and grants.
 - ◆ Two *Labor History with a Bite* presentations focusing on Madison labor history to stimulate ideas for events to be represented in the mural.
 - ◆ Production of a *Madison Labor: Building a City, Building a Movement* DVD with *The Early Years* (30 min., digitally remastered from a 1985 slide/tape/video format), and an additional 15 min. video *Madison, A Union City* representing the period 1985 to present.
 - ◆ An event, *Welcoming Madison's Labor History Mural*, featured Professors Paul Buhle and Melanie Herzog speaking about labor history and public art.

- ◆ A *Labor History Mural Unveiling* event featured labor historian Prof. Michael Gordon who put local events in the national context, and remarks by Mayor Dave Cieslewicz and AFL-CIO Exec. VP Linda Chavez-Thompson.

- Cosponsored a five-week Steward Training class and a five-week class, *Building Arguments for Bargaining Power*, taught by the UW-Extension School for Workers.
- Awarded 4 scholarships to college students.
- With the UW-Extension School for Workers, co-sponsored the Madison Labor Radio weekly news program broadcast on WORT (89.9 FM).

LOCAL UNION SUPPORT

- Mobilized for AFSCME Local 171 rally for a Living Wage for LTEs, and a rally opposing racism on the UW Campus sponsored by the State Employee Action Coalition.
- Mobilized support for two rush hour pickets in support of IBEW Local 2304's efforts to preserve defined benefit pensions for new hires in contract negotiations with MG&E. Created committee to explore municipalization of MG&E.
- Supported efforts of AFT Local 3220 (TAA) and the Coalition for Affordable Public Education to defend 700 graduate students' jobs.
- Provided support for Student Labor Action Coalition's nationwide campaign to source collegiate apparel from unionized factories.

POLITICAL/LEGISLATIVE ACTION

- With the Healthy Families, Healthy City Coalition, campaigned unsuccessfully for a city ordinance requiring that firms with more than 5 employees provide paid sick leave. Activists provided testimony at various Common Council committee hearings, contacted their alders, and rallied before the vote. SCFL also cosponsored a Mothers' Day luncheon leading up to the vote.
- Cosponsored a community forum and discussion of four comprehensive health care reform measures including the State AFL-CIO's Health Care Partnership Plan.

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- Eight out of 14 labor-endorsed candidates won seats in the spring County Board and School Board elections. The effort solidified a progressive majority on the Dane County Board and won passage of the Bring Our Troops Home referendum by a wide margin.
- The Labor 2006 effort contributed to a nationwide sweep in the November elections with neighborhood canvasses, phone banks, work-site leaflets and mailings. Won two of three State Assembly races targeted by the Labor Coalition and successfully passed a school funding referendum.
- COPE Bean Feed fundraiser served about 400.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

- SCFL Community Services Committee sponsored a holiday personal care products drive for members of USW Local 904 on strike against Goodyear.
- Assisted with participation in the programs of the Interfaith Coalition for Worker Justice such as the annual Clergy / Labor luncheon.
- Stepped up fundraising support among affiliates for the Interfaith Coalition for Worker Justice and held a special fundraiser with AFL-CIO Exec. VP Linda Chavez-Thompson.
- Provided volunteers for the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Coalition Community Dinner.
- SCFL volunteers painted a home as a part of the annual Dane County Paint-a-Thon.
- Publicized and solicited volunteers for the annual NALC (Letter Carriers) Food Drive.
- Raffles at SCFL meetings raised \$720 for food pantry at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church.
- Held *United Way Campaign Kick-Off and Labor Recognition* event for volunteers serving on United Way of Dane County Board, Council, Cabinet and other committees.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

- With Veterans for Peace, cosponsored the *Out of Iraq & Impeach the Leaders* town hall meeting.
- Cosponsored and mobilized participation in the *Home Improvement* antiwar rally sponsored by the Madison Area Peace Coalition.

- Cosponsored and encouraged attendance at the Midwest Social Forum organized by the UW Havens Center.
- Cosponsored and promoted May Day cultural and educational events.
- Activists organized a labor contingent in Madison's Gay Pride Parade.
- Labor contingent marched with Allied Drive residents at a *Move Forward, Not Out* rally for low-income housing, jobs and safety as the city moves forward with redevelopment of the neighborhood. Delegates passed hat for donations to help fund the event.
- LaborFest 2006 featured Phat Phunktion and the Andy Linderman/Mel Ford Band and a Welcoming Salute to immigrant workers which brought out the biggest crowd yet on Labor Day. The crowd also heard from AFL-CIO President John Sweeney and Machinists President Tom Buffenbarger on the importance of the November election.

IMMIGRANT RIGHTS

- Mobilized union participation in the April 10 *A Day Without Latinos* march and the May 1 International Workers Day rally for fair immigration reform.
- Invited immigrant workers to march to join the annual Labor Day celebration and collected funds to help the families of workers arrested in an ICE (INS) raid in Whitewater.
- Cosponsored a panel discussion on the Immigrant Rights movement.
- Sponsored workshop, *Forward Together: Labor Rights and the New Immigrant Movement*, for union leaders and immigrant workers.
- Organized an Immigrant Rights Defense Team to respond to incidents such as the firing of workers at Cintas for Social Security no-match problems and to advocate for humane reform of immigration laws.
- Delegates approved a resolution for just and humane immigration reform.
- SCFL agreed to take the lead in mobilizing a rapid response to ICE raids in our area.
- Delegates approved resolution supporting the Teachers' strike and popular resistance in Oaxaca, Mexico.

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