

# *South Central Federation of Labor*

## *Highlights & Activities Review for 2007*

### **ORGANIZING SUPPORT**

- Mobilized various forms of support for UNITE HERE's campaign to organize workers at Superior Health Care Linen including attendance at a public hearing on workplace conditions, newspaper advertising, lobbying and letter writing, rallies at St. Mary's Hospital (one of Superior's largest customers), and activities around a visit to Madison by actor Danny Glover.
- Provided various forms of support to SEIU Local 1's Justice for Janitors campaign to organize Clean Power janitors including rallies, leafleting and pickets at downtown office buildings and at American Family Insurance.

### **EDUCATION**

- With the UW School for Workers cosponsored a full-day Membership Mobilization training.
- Sponsored *Healthy Wisconsin and Your Union Contract*, a half-day class on preparing for the implementation of health care reform in Wisconsin and its impact on collective bargaining.
- Sponsored a film series on Latin American Labor which included *Grain of Sand*, a film about the struggle to maintain the public school system in Mexico, and *The Take*, a film about unemployed auto-parts workers who take over their factory in the wake of Argentina's economic collapse.
- Cosponsored a *Class Matters* workshop by Betsy Leondar-Wright and a book signing by Ellen Bravo for her new book *Taking on the Big Boys*.
- Awarded 4 scholarships to college students.

- With the UW-Extension School for Workers, cosponsored the Madison Labor Radio weekly news program broadcast on WORT (89.9 FM).

### **AFFILIATE SUPPORT**

- In an effort to reach a rapid and reasonable resolution to the State Budget stalemate, mobilized for a demonstration to counter an "anti-tax" rally held by front group for Big Oil and Tobacco.
- Mobilized support for the Workers' Rights Center's boycott of La Hacienda restaurant with repeated picketing at the restaurant during lunch, dinner and on Badger game days.
- Participated in a delegation to present Unfair Labor Practice charges to Aramark for its harassment of a union officer.

### **POLITICAL/LEGISLATIVE ACTION**

- Successfully fought a "Hatch Act" proposal to restrict the political rights of City of Madison employees.
- Won passage of Best Value Contracting at City Council, County Board and MATC requiring that contractors bidding on public works construction projects participate in apprenticeship programs.
- Won passage of a Dane County Board ordinance requiring that contractors adhere to certain Fair Labor Standards.
- Five of nine labor-endorsed candidates won seats in the spring Common Council races, as did two of three labor-endorsed School Board candidates and Madison Mayor Dave Cieslewicz.

(cont.)

- Held event expressing appreciation to Rep. Tammy Baldwin for cosponsoring the Employee Free Choice Act after passage in the U.S. House. A delegation also visited office of Sen. Russ Feingold to thank him for support.
- COPE Bean Feed fundraiser served about 400.

### COMMUNITY SERVICE

- Assisted with participation in the programs and activities of the Interfaith Coalition for Worker Justice and the Workers' Rights Center such as the annual Clergy/Labor Luncheon.
- 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 with an 80 percent increase in donations collected.
- Publicized and organized three classes held during the community-wide "Money Smart Week".
- Served as host/site committee for the 2007 Wis. AFL-CIO's Community Services Conference.
- Helped coordinate and staff blood drive with IBEW Local 159.
- Raffles at South Central Federation of Labor's monthly delegate meetings raised \$940 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 of Directors, Vision Council, Campaign Cabinet and other committees.
- SCFL Community Services Committee sponsored a holiday diaper and baby care products drive.

### COMMUNITY EVENTS

- Sponsored a Cesar Chavez Birthday Celebration featuring a talk by UW Regent and former farmworker organizer Jesus Salas, along with the photo exhibit *Struggle for Justice: The Migrant Farmworker Labor Movement in Wisconsin*.
- Mobilized participation in a march for immigrant rights protesting the state's implementation of the federal REAL ID law denying drivers licenses to new immigrants and another march and rally on May Day, International Workers Day.
- Passed a resolution and mobilized participation in a rally calling on Congress to end the Iraq War and redirect funding to humanitarian needs and postwar reconstruction.
- Cosponsored and promoted May Day cultural and educational events.
- LaborFest 2007 featured John Chimes Natch'l Blues Band and Chicago's Bumpus with a big turn out on Labor Day.

### ADMINISTRATION

- Held discussions and educational events in preparation for the New Alliance restructuring of the labor movement in Wisconsin which will merge the Dodge and Jefferson County Labor Councils with SCFL in early 2008.
- Began efforts to build the capacity of SCFL's e-Activist program with a contest.

*For more information visit:*

**[WWW.SCFL.org](http://WWW.SCFL.org)**