

South Central Federation of Labor

Highlights & Activities Review for 2009

POLITICAL/LEGISLATIVE ACTION

- In the spring elections, with one exception, all of the SCFL's fifteen endorsed candidates won election in races for Madison Common Council, Dane County Executive, Madison School Board, Fitchburg Mayor, and other statewide and local seats.
- Held afterwork reception and forum with State Legislators that included remarks on labor's legislative priorities with Rep. Mark Pocan, co-chair of the Joint Finance Committee, and Sen. Jon Erpenbach, chair of the Senate Health Committee.
- Engaged union members in the campaign for Health Care reform with letters to Sen. Herb Kohl, participation in a National Call-in Day, turnout for rallies with Rep. Tammy Baldwin and the Mad as Hell Doctors, training for listening sessions in Congressional Districts, and Town Hall meetings with Baldwin and talk radio/TV personality Ed Schultz.
- COPE's Fiftieth Annual Bean Feed fundraiser served a crowd of over 400.
- Campaigned unsuccessfully against privatization of the Countryside nursing home in Jefferson County with door knocks and lit drops.
- Asked union members to contact their legislators urging a yes vote for legislation that adds the teaching of labor history to model standards for Wisconsin public schools; legislation passed.

SOLIDARITY SUPPORT

- Turned out support for actions by the Workers' Rights Center protesting unjust firings at Taco Bell, a National Day of Action against the growing epidemic of Wage Theft, and a picket protesting wage theft at Palis Cafe.
- Turned out supporters to protest AT&T's concessionary bargaining at a State Capitol rally held by CWA locals from around the state.

- Mobilized support in the form of letters, phone calls and emails for UAW Local 443 at Wisco Industries when company laid off permanent workers while hiring temps to work at much lower wages with no benefits.
- Turned out picket line support for Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra musicians (American Federation of Musicians Local 166) and publicized free concert to build support for a fair contract.
- Encouraged labor activists to register support for new federal rules making it easier for airline and railway workers to organize.
- Encouraged turnout at Save Our Services rally organized by state employee union members to protest cuts of essential public services.
- Promoted speaking tour by Honduran factory workers as part of SweatFree Wisconsin's effort to ensure that state and local tax dollars are used to improve, not degrade, workers' rights.
- In support of Sheetmetal Workers Local 565, urged unionists to sign online petition asking that Wisconsin Supreme Court justices Gableman and Ziegler recuse themselves in a case that would allow bosses to get rich while running a company into the ground and weakening collective bargaining agreements.

EDUCATION

- With the UW School for Workers cosponsored a two day steward training.
- Hosted talk by author and AFGE labor educator Bill Fletcher entitled *Progressives and the Possibilities for Renewing the Labor Movement* during a visit sponsored by the UW's A.E. Havens Center.
- Awarded 6 scholarships to college students, including two targeted to Dodge County students.

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- C.J. Hawking co-author of *Staley: The Fight for a New American Labor Movement*, appeared at SCFL meeting to introduce and autograph the book.
- Cosponsored the Madison Labor Radio weekly news program broadcast on WORT (89.9 FM).
- Held focus group discussions on Labor's Next Generation, facilitated by the UW School for Workers, to inform future educational efforts and encourage new leadership development.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

- Assisted the Interfaith Coalition for Worker Justice with participation in the annual Clergy/Labor Breakfast which featured clergy from Postville, IA who discussed community response to the largest immigration raid in history.
- Publicized and solicited volunteers for the annual NALC (Letter Carriers) Food Drive.
- Provided training in United Way 2-1-1 online referral database (formerly known as First Call for Help) prior to SCFL Delegate meeting.
- Rapid Response Orientation Sessions were presented by labor's United Way Liaison to over 1,000 laidoff/displaced workers.
- Raffles at SCFL's monthly delegate meetings raised \$968 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 Labor Day drive for personal care and household items, in addition to its annual holiday drive to supplement area food pantries.
- Provided volunteers for the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Coalition Community Dinner.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

- SCFL's Dodge County Chapter organized a prominent union presence with a booth at the Dodge County Fair and placed Labor Day ads in Dodge County newspapers. The Chapter also held its first annual dinner and gathering of Dodge County union leaders.
- With the Student Labor Action Coalition (SLAC), cosponsored talk by Honduran apparel workers urging the UW to cut its licensing contract with Russell Athletic after factories were closed in response to union organizing efforts.
- Following the inauguration, cosponsored *Obama and the Progressive Agenda*, featuring talks by prominent authors and peace activists, with numerous other local unions and progressive organizations.
- Cosponsored and promoted May Day rally and march to the State Capitol with immigrant and worker rights groups.
- Cosponsored and encouraged participation in a "Real Change Means No More War" anti-war rally and march.
- LaborFest 2009 featured Westside Andy/Mel Ford Band and Paul Cebar, and a special award ceremony recognizing Rep. Tammy Baldwin for her leadership on health care reform.
- Helped promote a *Union Makes Us Strong* concert by labor singers Anne Feeney and David Rovics.
- Promoted screenings of the film *Labor Day* about the efforts of SEIU in the Obama campaign, and a series of environmental films on the UW campus called *Landscapes of Labor* in the *Tales From Planet Earth* film festival.

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