

# *South Central Federation of Labor*

## *2000 Projects*

### **UNION SUPPORT**

- Supported SEIU Local 150's struggle and near-strike for what was called the best contract ever with Meriter Hospital.
- Mobilized *Street Heat* support for PACE Local 1202's rally against Rock-Tenn plant closure.
- Activated *Street Heat* for picket prior to MATC Board meeting and circulated petitions to correct problems related to retention of part-time MATC teachers in support of WFT Local 6100.
- Activated *Street Heat* for AFSCME Local 171's rallies at the Fluno Center, passed resolution calling on union members to refrain from making donations to UW-Madison until the UW administration reverses its anti-worker practices
- Activated *Street Heat* for rally at State Capitol with tannery workers fighting for changes in state law that would put workers' wage claims ahead of banks and other creditors under bankruptcy law when a plant closes.
- SCFL activists traveled to South Beloit to support newly organized Steelworkers at Primecast on strike for a first contract.
- In coalition with Madison Teachers Inc. and the Building Trades Council, voiced opposition to naming the new Cross Country elementary school after Cesar Chavez unless and until the Madison Board of Education established a pro-union policy on future construction projects.
- Urged local unions to contribute toward the expenses of the UW Federation of Labor's Labor Center.
- Mobilized supporters for picket at CUNA Mutual after a disabled custodian was unjustly fired.

### **ORGANIZING**

- Held special briefing to coordinate volunteer organizers to assist with HERE hotel worker organizing project.
- Worked with HERE on forum with Minneapolis hotel workers who were turned over to INS after forming a union. Agreement brokered by EOC awarded back pay and deferred their deportation.

- Organizing committee and volunteers assisted Steelworkers' blitz in Reedsburg area.
- Trained an additional 15 volunteer union organizers to assist with organizing drives.

### **EDUCATION**

- Invited State AFL-CIO President David Newby to report on the significance of the WTO protests in Seattle.
- Sponsored a program Services for Seniors and Diversity Training in conjunction with United Way of Dane County.
- Hosted reception, book signing and talk by author Jim Hightower who gave a talk attended by over 300, *Election 2000: a Space Odyssey*.
- With UNITE, cosponsored a symposium *New Coalitions in the Global Economy*.
- With the UW-School for Workers, co-sponsored the *Madison Labor Radio Network* weekly news program broadcast on WORT (89.9 FM).
- With the South Central Wisconsin Committee on Occupational Safety and Health (SCWCOSH), cosponsored a rally on Workers Memorial Day, forums on First Aid in the Workplace, Workers Comp, Indoor Air Quality, and Exposure to Chemical Hazards and Toxic Substances.
- Cosponsored a six-week Advanced Stewards Training course with UW School for Workers.
- Awarded 4 scholarships to college students.
- Initiated plans for *Labor History – With a Bite*, a series of classes geared toward younger union members to begin in 2001.
- SCFL went worldwide on the Internet with the unveiling of [www.SCFL.org](http://www.SCFL.org).

### **POLITICAL/LEGISLATIVE ACTION**

- With the National AFL-CIO's Working Womens Department, hosted a *Working Women Say...* forum with Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin and union members who discussed ways the Federal government can address working women's issues.
- Both Board of Education candidates and 10 of 19 SCFL-endorsed County Board candidates won seats in the spring elections.

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- Rallied with members of the United Auto Workers against Permanent Normal Trade Relations with China at the State Capitol.
- SCFL activists traveled to Milwaukee for rally for quality, affordable health care with AFL-CIO President John Sweeney in conjunction with State AFL-CIO convention.
- In conjunction with the Dane County Labor Coalition, concentrated on workplace communications in addition to plant gate leaflets, voter registration, poll watching, lit dropping and phone banking in the fall elections.
- Eleven of 15 labor-endorsed candidates won seats in the fall elections.
- Successfully lobbied Madison Common Council to require that the new Overture Cultural Arts Center be staffed by unionized city workers.
- COPE Bean Feed fund raiser served over 400

#### COMMUNITY EVENTS

- After helping to formalize the new Interfaith Coalition for Worker Justice, participated in ICWJ activities such as the first ever Religion & Labor Luncheon, the Latino Worker Project, and the Labor in the Pulpits program over the Labor Day weekend.
- SCFL provided cooks and servers feeding over 300 at the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Dinner.
- Cosponsored and promoted May Day cultural and educational events including Milwaukee bus trip to the AFL-CIO Union Industries Show and the Wis. Labor History Society's annual tribute to the Bay View martyrs.
- With various organizations cosponsored Unity picnic of progressive organizations and activists.
- LaborFest 2000 featured *Paul Cebar and the Milwaukeeans* as headliner, bringing out a record crowd on Labor Day.
- Cosponsored the play *Marx in Soho*.
- SCFL activists joined with other anti-sweatshop activists to leaflet at area Kohls department stores protesting treatment of factory workers in Nicaragua.

- Cosponsored the labor opera, *Esperanza*, with the State AFL-CIO and the Wis. Labor History Society, along with various other community events surrounding the performances.

#### COMMUNITY SERVICE

- SCFL volunteers participated in the annual Dane County Paint-a-Thon.
- Raised almost \$2,600 at Labor Day Silent Auction to benefit United Way.
- One local, AFSCME Local 720, and one individual from IBEW Local 159, received Community Service awards at the United Way Labor Recognition Banquet.
- Raffles at SCFL meetings raised over \$800 for food pantry at St. Stephens Lutheran Church.
- With the National Association of Letter Carriers Branch 507 and the United Way, cosponsored annual collection of non-perishable food items to stock area food pantries. Over 131 tons of food were collected.
- Solicited financial support for Clark Anderson, founder and longtime president of the Wisconsin Childcare Workers Union, after he became permanently disabled with a rare illness.
- Community Services Committee coordinated contributions of food, cash, services and job leads for members of PACE Local 1202 after Rock-Tenn plant closing.
- Union members take the lead in United Way fundraising efforts and are awarded top honors among both public sector (9 of top 10) and private sector (5 of top 7) workplaces. Three labor "loaned execs" assisted this year's campaign.

#### DIVERSITY

- Initiated, encouraged and nurtured formation of the Madison chapter of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists.
- Began similar efforts to create a chapter of the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement, an AFL-CIO constituency group that promotes education, training and leadership development among Latino/a workers.
- Sponsored forum on the rights of immigrant workers with various local unions and community groups