

South Central Federation of Labor

2001 Projects

- *The South Central Federation of Labor was named one of 14 Union Cities at the National AFL-CIO Convention, December 4. The distinction recognizes accomplishments the labor council has made in mobilization, education, political and legislative activities, and support for organizing and diversity in the local labor movement.*
- *To more fully integrate community services work with other aspects of union education and activism, this year SCFL initiated a Labor Education and Action Program (LEAP) that will recognize well-rounded union activists annually on Labor Day.*

ORGANIZING

- Held regular committee meetings to support efforts of area union organizers.
- Through media/community outreach and *Street Heat* mobilization for plant gate rally, supported efforts of Village Hearth workers to organize with the Bakery, Confectionery and Tobacco Workers Union.

UNION SUPPORT

- Cosponsored various efforts to support the Charleston 5 dockworkers including a dinner/talk with ILA Local 1422 President Ken Riley in conjunction with the Madison chapter of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists and the Madison C5 Defense Committee. Local unions helped raise more than \$4,000 for the defense fund.
- Mobilized *Street Heat* support for three rallies calling for fair raises for members of state employee unions.
- Mobilized support for UFCW Local 1444 members when their jobs and union representation were on the line when Sentry stores were being sold in Middleton and Monona.
- Mobilized support for rally calling for legislation to ban mandatory overtime in health care facilities.
- Helped mount pressure from area unions on UW Hospital's Public Authority to settle contract dispute with nurses represented by SEIU District 1199W/UP.
- Mobilized *Street Heat* for rally at Zander Insulation to support workers on strike for a first contract.
- Mobilized *Street Heat* for MATC part-time teachers (WFT Local 6100) rally at the State Capitol and talk by author/filmmaker Michael Moore on the UW campus as part of Campus Equity Week activities.

- Passed resolutions and provided education to support Mount Olive and New Era boycotts.
- Publicized events such as the annual Worthy Wage Day celebration and the Walk on the Child's Side rally to welcome citizens walking from northern Wisconsin to protest revenue caps on school districts.

EDUCATION

- Initiated dinner/education series, *Labor History – With a Bite*, geared toward younger union members. Offerings included: *How the 8-Hour Day Was Won (and Lost)*; *Home Town – Union Town; 1934! – The Turning Point for American Labor*; *Organized Labor and Community Services*; *Labor on the Move – the Early CIO*; and the *Taming of the CIO*.
- Invited AFL-CIO Assistant Director for International Economics Thea Lee to speak on *Labor's New Internationalism* following protests in Quebec. (Due to flight delays, program resulted in viewing video on globalization followed by discussion.)
- Cosponsored talk by Mark Ritchie on the World Trade Organization prior to its meeting in Qatar.
- With the UW-School for Workers, cosponsored the *Madison Labor Radio* weekly news program broadcast on WORT (89.9 FM).
- Featured talk, *Which Way for the Labor Movement*, by Bill Fletcher, then-Special Assistant to AFL-CIO President John Sweeney.
- Sponsored workshop, *Resourceful Rabble Rousing*, by hell-raiser and songstress Anne Feeney.
- Cosponsored a six-week Stewards Training course and classes on Employment Law by the UW-Extension School for Workers.
- Awarded 4 scholarships to college students.
- With the South Central Wisconsin Committee on Occupational Safety and Health (SCWCOSH),

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cosponsored its spring *Struggle for Safer Jobs* conference, a briefing with the OSHA Area Director on OSHA's proposed Ergonomic Standard, and forums on Safety on the Street, Universal Health Care and Fire Safety.

POLITICAL/LEGISLATIVE ACTION

- Six of six SCFL-endorsed candidates won seats in the spring elections.
- Cosponsored a State Capitol rally on legislative issues in conjunction with Wisconsin Citizen Action's Legislative Conference and Lobby Day.
- Twice Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin gave SCFL delegates reports on action in Congress.
- COPE Bean Feed fund raiser served over 400.
- Worked with allies on Dane County Board to push better standards for airport security workers.
- Passed resolutions supporting a ban on Cyanide in mining and a reuse plan for the Badger Army Ammunition Plant.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

- Participated in Interfaith Coalition for Worker Justice activities such as the Latino Worker Project, and the Labor in the Pulpits program over the Labor Day weekend.
- Provided volunteers for the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Dinner.
- Cosponsored and promoted May Day cultural and educational events.
- LaborFest 2001 featured headliner *Paul Cebar and the Milwaukeeans* and brought out the biggest crowd yet on Labor Day.
- Helped publicize various events including the return of *Temp Slave, the Musical*, the film *Bread & Roses* about organizing janitors in LA, labor singer Utah Phillips in concert to benefit Wisconsin Wetlands, a candlelight vigil sponsored to support Universal Health Care; *Struggles in Steel* a documentary on African American Steelworkers, and a reading by labor singer Joe Glazer from his new book.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

- SCFL volunteers participated in the annual Dane County Paint-a-Thon.
- Raised almost \$4,200 (an increase of 62% over previous year) at Labor Day Silent Auction to benefit United Way.
- Staffed information tables at the Juneteenth and Fiesta Hispana celebrations.

- Raffles at SCFL meetings raised over \$830 (plus \$600 in gift certificates from Carpenters Local 314) 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.
- Union members take the lead in United Way fund-raising efforts and are awarded top honors among both public sector (7 of top 10) and private sector (5 of top 10) workplaces. Three labor "loaned execs" assisted this year's campaign.
- Collected over 30,000 books in the Reach Out to Kids Book Drive, a combined effort of area Letter Carriers, Postal Workers and Teamster Locals with the help of other labor volunteers.

DIVERSITY

- Cosponsored a *Coming Out Party* with the Madison chapter of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists featuring talk by Bill Fletcher and a spaghetti dinner served by the Student Labor Action Coalition (SLAC). Also asked local unions to affiliate with CBTU.
- Initiated 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 workers.
- Cosponsored forum on Employment Rights & National Origin Discrimination with the US Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and other community groups.
- Surveyed local union needs and interest in Spanish language and Latino culture training to better assist Spanish speaking workers.
- Helped lead efforts to promote legal status for undocumented immigrants already working in the US. Cosponsored meetings attended by over 300 Latinos on changes in immigration law. Passed resolution urging elected officials to support the AFL-CIO's position on the issue.
- Mobilized broad support when 28 Latino custodians were fired at the UW over questions of proper work authorization. Media attention given a Cinco de Mayo rally focused on need to get legal status for undocumented workers. Pressured the UW to institute new policies on Social Security checks with input from the labor and Latino communities. An EEOC complaint resulted in a \$24,000 grant from the UW to the ICWJ for its Workers Center and/or for a worker relief fund.

For more information visit: WWW.SCFL.org