

South Central Federation of Labor

Highlights & Activities Review for 2002

ORGANIZING

- Mobilized *Street Heat* for rallies supporting Whole Foods workers' successful campaign to organize with UFCW Local 1444. Other support efforts included letter writing, store visits and phone calls after Whole Foods fired two union leaders.
- Mobilized *Street Heat* for rally and picket to support two Kinko's workers who were fired for trying to organize with UFCW Local 1444.
- Held special meeting for union organizers with the AFL-CIO's Esther Lopez on best approaches to organizing new immigrant workers.
- Lent various forms of support to a successful Steelworkers' organizing campaign at Holt Products, and to a SEIU Local 150 effort that successfully organized over 300 workers at Oakwood Village Retirement Communities.
- Asked affiliated unions to heighten awareness of asbestos removal operations by non-union contractors and support organizing efforts directed at those workers by the Laborers.
- Asked candidates in local elections to offer statements pledging various levels of support for workers' right to organize and collectively bargain.

UNION SUPPORT

- Mobilized *Street Heat* support for AFSCME Local 171 rally at Memorial Union protesting the abuse of LTEs on the UW Campus.
- Mobilized support for two AFSCME/WFT public employee rallies calling for maintaining necessary public services under threat due to declining state revenues.
- Initiated a No Sweat Uniform Campaign with the Student Labor Action Coalition (SLAC) with support from UNITE.
- Passed resolution in support and promoted the UFCW's People's Campaign for Justice at Wal-Mart.
- Supported rally held by AFSCME-represented workers at the Madison Area Rehabilitation Center protesting stingy pay increases prior to Dane County Board meeting.
- Hosted the 22nd Biennial Wisconsin State AFL-CIO Convention at Monona Terrace Convention and Community Center.

EDUCATION

- SCFL received a special commendation from the Wisconsin Labor History Society for its *Labor History – With a Bite* series geared toward the next generation of union leaders. The Society and SCFL's Education Committee also created a do-it-yourself handbook to help labor organizations in other locales to replicate the program.
- Sponsored six *Labor History – With a Bite* offerings during 2002: *The Incomplete History of Labor Cartoons; Rebel Girls - Women, Work, and the US Labor Movement; One Big Union for all the Workers of the World; Labor and Other Movements; Scab Papers - the 25th Anniversary of the Great Madison Newspaper Strike; and Farmworker Organizing in Wisconsin.*
- Cosponsored a six-week Steward Training course, Union Leadership classes, and a series on the Respectful Workplace, taught by the UW-Extension School for Workers.
- With the UW-School for Workers, cosponsored the *Madison Labor Radio* weekly news program broadcast on WORT (89.9 FM).
- Sponsored a reception and talk, *Not Your Father's Labor Movement*, by Amy Dean, leader of California's South Bay Labor Council and chair of the National Central Labor Council Advisory Committee.
- With the Madison Fair Trade Action Alliance (MadFTAA), cosponsored a panel discussion with union leaders from Mexico and Columbia on tour with the Mexican Solidarity Network.
- Also with MadFTAA, hosted a meeting with Global Trade Watch's Director Lori Wallach to discuss future trade legislation and fair trade strategy.
- Awarded 4 scholarships to college students.
- With the South Central Wisconsin Committee on Occupational Safety and Health (SCWCOSH), cosponsored the annual *Struggle for Safe Jobs* conference and *OSHA With a Bite*, an update on OSHA's enforcement role and work in the area of ergonomics.
- Held presentation and dialog with David Newby on the Wisconsin State AFL-CIO's health care proposal that would mandate coverage for all Wisconsin workers and their families.

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POLITICAL/LEGISLATIVE ACTION

- SCFL-endorsed candidates winning seats in the spring elections included the two School Board candidates, the one City Council candidate, and 9 out of the 16 candidates for Dane County Board.
- Cosponsored forum with Wisconsin Citizen Action on health care issues featuring Second Congressional District candidates.
- In addition to helping elect labor-endorsed candidates for Governor/Lt. Gov. and Attorney General, the labor electoral coalition helped Rep. Tammy Baldwin win a resounding two-thirds of the vote and brought the only Assembly candidate to successfully unseat a Republican incumbent, Sondy Pope-Roberts, to victory in the Fall elections. Eight of the ten COPE endorsed candidate won election.
- SCFL led a successful campaign enlisting broad union and community support to pass resolutions favoring federal action on immigration reform by the Madison Common Council and Dane County Board.
- Mobilized attendance at the WEAC/Labor Coalition-sponsored Political Fair in Sun Prairie and at an SEIU Local 150 pre-election rally at the State Capitol.
- SCFL delegates voted to support a Coalition of Black Trade Unionists-backed statement calling for a negotiated settlement between Israel and the Palestinians.
- SCFL went on record in opposition to the Governor's Budget Reform Bill, especially the attack on shared revenue, sending postcards to elected officials.
- COPE Bean Feed fund raiser served over 400.
- SCFL delegates voted to join various other unions taking a stand against going to war with Iraq.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

- Cosponsored and promoted May Day cultural and educational events.
- Cosponsored rally to defend civil liberties and end racial profiling with various student and community organizations.
- LaborFest 2002 featured headliner *Paul Cebar and the Milwaukeeans* and brought out the biggest crowd yet on Labor Day. Also held successful Red Cross blood drive for the first time at LaborFest.

- SCFL endorsed Cities for People points of unity and two events during U.S. Conference of Mayors' convention in Madison.
- Cosponsored Havens Center Conference on Local Democracy.
- Lent support to the Coalition of Imokolee Workers' Taco Bell Truth Tour stop in Madison.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

- Lent assistance to the efforts of the Interfaith Coalition for Worker Justice (ICWJ) to create a store-front office to assist low-wage workers in the community. The new Workers Rights Center located in the Villager Mall held its grand opening November 13 with a community celebration.
- Assisted the Interfaith Coalition for Worker Justice with other programs such as its annual Clergy/Labor dinner and its Labor in the Pulpits program over the Labor Day weekend.
- Provided volunteers for the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Dinner.
- SCFL volunteers participated in the annual Dane County Paint-a-Thon.
- Raised almost \$3,400 at Labor Day Silent Auction to benefit United Way.
- Staffed information tables at the Juneteenth and LaborFest celebrations.
- Raffles at SCFL meetings raised \$623 for food pantry at St. Stephens Lutheran Church.
- Union members took the lead in United Way fund-raising efforts and were awarded top honors among both public sector (7 of top 10) and private sector (5 of top 10) workplaces. Two labor "loaned execs" assisted this year's campaign.
- Provided support for UAW Local 1329 workers faced with the closing of the Rayovac plant in Madison.

DIVERSITY

- Provided support for the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists' (CBTU) *Construct Your Future* project to educate area youth about career options and apprenticeships in the construction trades.
- Endorsed efforts of the Coalition for an Inclusive United Way calling on the organization to fund only organizations that do not engage in unjust discrimination.

For more information visit: WWW.SCFL.org