

South Central Federation of Labor

Highlights & Activities Review for 2003

TYSON STRIKE SUPPORT

- Assisted UFCW Local 538 with a variety of strike support activities including media strategies, mobilization, fundraising and development of an Adopt-a Family program.
- Mobilized labor support for plant gate rallies and drives for material aid on February 28, March 16, March 29, April 26, May 10, June 22, August 17, September 28 and December 13.
- Held joint press conference with Sierra Club exposing Tyson Foods' Dirty Rap Sheet, a report detailing incidents including worker deaths, trafficking in undocumented workers and dumping untreated waste into rivers.
- Backed efforts that won institutional boycotts of Tyson Food products by the Dane County Board, Madison's Common Council, Madison School Board and the University of Wisconsin.
- Sponsored a concert fundraiser with the Madison Folk Society featuring Anne Feeney, Chris Chandler, Faith Petric and Peter & Lou Berryman raising close to \$4,000 for Tyson strikers.
- Assisted with a town hall meeting featuring AFL-CIO President John Sweeney who joined UFCW Local 538 members in thanking the Jefferson community for its support of the Tyson strikers and their families.
- Mobilized a *Picket the Tyson Grinch* action at the home of Tyson Board of Directors' member David Jones, CEO of Rayovac.
- SCFL Community Services Committee conducted drive for nonperishable food and personal care products for families of Tyson strikers prior to the holidays. The effort yielded 3 truckloads, cash donations of \$2,200 and 30 American Girl dolls.

OTHER UNION SUPPORT

- Mobilized *Street Heat* for rally at Oak Park Nursing Home in support of contract bargaining for nurses represented by SEIU District 1199/W.
- Mobilized support for AFSCME/WFT state employee rally for workers who had been

without a contract for almost two years.

- Mobilized *Street Heat* for SEIU District 1199/W's Nurses' Week rally.
- Mobilized support for AFSCME Local 171 rally at Memorial Union protesting the abuse of LTEs on the UW Campus.
- Helped organize a rally and candlelight vigil for UFCW Local 1444 when Roundy's purchased area Kohls stores and reopened them as non-union Copps stores.
- Mobilized *Street Heat* for rally supporting UFCW Local 1444 members at Whole Foods on the one-year anniversary of their union election. Other support efforts included encouraging store visits showing support for the union.
- Passed resolution in support of UNITE's nationwide organizing campaign at Cintas laundries.

EDUCATION

- SCFL continued with a third year of its *Labor History – With a Bite* series geared toward the next generation of union leaders. Sponsored six offerings during 2003: *Faith & Labor: the History, the Connections* (Kim Bobo); *Women Labor Pioneers in Wisconsin* (Jamakaya); *Immigrant Workers Leading the Way* (Peter Rachleff); *Strikes, Wages and Dunkings: Unions at the UW* (various presenters), *Labor History Through Song* (Anne Feeney); and *The Origins of Labor's Cold War* (David Nack).
- Cosponsored a six-week Advanced Steward Training class and a six-week Steward Leadership Training class taught by the UW-Extension School for Workers.
- Awarded 4 scholarships to college students.
- With the UW-School for Workers, cosponsored the *Madison Labor Radio* weekly news program broadcast on WORT (89.9 FM).
- With the Colombia Support Network, cosponsored a talk with Steelworkers' attorney Dan Kovalik entitled *Foreign Aid, US Corporations and the Murder of Trade Unionists in Colombia*.

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- SCFL ad hoc Peace Committee sponsored a panel discussion, *Guns and Butter: Labor, Foreign Policy and the War at Home* with John Nichols, David Nack and David Newby.
- With the UW Havens Center and Rainbow Bookstore Cooperative, sponsored a talk *Why Tomorrow's Labor Movement will be Community-Based* by Dan Clawson, author of *The Next Upsurge: Labor and the New Social Movements*.
- Invited representatives of the Palestine Labor Federation to speak to SCFL delegates about unemployment and the growing apartheid system in the Israeli occupied territories.
- Promoted an Internet-based retirement planning system authored by a UW PhD candidate as a free service to area union members.
- With the South Central Wisconsin Committee on Occupational Safety and Health (SCWCOSH), cosponsored the annual *Fight for Safe Jobs* spring conference.
- Through the AFL-CIO Community Services Liaison, hosted a training "Legal Research on the Internet" by the Dane County Legal Research Center.

POLITICAL/LEGISLATIVE ACTION

- Candidates winning seats in the spring elections included all five SCFL-endorsed City Council candidates and one Dane County judge.
- Labor-supported school funding referendum won passage.
- COPE Bean Feed fundraiser served about 400.
- Assisted with mobilizing turnout for Quality Health Care rally at the State Capitol in conjunction with Wisconsin Citizen Action's Lobby Day and Legislative Conference.
- Collected ballots for a hemispheric campaign to stop creation of the FTAA (Free Trade Area of the Americas).

COMMUNITY EVENTS

- Cosponsored and promoted May Day cultural and educational events.
- After passing motion to oppose the Iraq war, mobilized *Street Heat* participation in a worldwide anti-war march on the eve of the Iraq invasion.
- LaborFest 2003 featuring the Andy

Linderman/Mel Ford Band brought out the biggest crowd yet on Labor Day. Hosted the second annual Red Cross blood drive at LaborFest.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

- SCFL Community Services Committee sponsored a Valentine's Day United Union Food Drive collecting ten tons of food and \$2,500 to supplement donations to area food pantries.
- Assisted with participation in the programs of the Interfaith Coalition for Worker Justice such as the annual Clergy/Labor luncheon, Labor in the Pulpits program over the Labor Day weekend, and recruiting volunteer Worker Advocates for the new Workers' Right Center.
- Provided volunteers for the annual Martin Luther King Coalition Community Dinner.
- SCFL volunteers participated in the annual Dane County Paint-a-Thon.
- Publicized and solicited volunteers for the annual NALC (Letter Carriers) Food Drive.
- Staffed information tables at Juneteenth celebration (with ICWJ and BLAC) and at Fiesta Hispana (with ICWJ).
- Raffles at SCFL meetings raised \$680 for food pantry at St. Stephens Lutheran Church.
- Held United Way Kickoff and Labor Recognition Dinner for volunteers serving on United Way committees and boards.
- Union members took the lead in United Way fund-raising efforts and were awarded top honors among both public sector (9 of top 10) and private sector (5 of top 10) workplaces. Two labor "loaned execs" assisted this year's campaign.

DIVERSITY

- With the ICWJ's Workers' Rights Center and community allies, organized local activities around the national Immigrant Worker Freedom Ride including fundraising, media outreach, and a luncheon and send-off rally for Freedom Riders featuring Sen. Russ Feingold.
- With the Black Labor Action Coalition (B.L.A.C.), cosponsored a community dance party to showcase union initiatives including efforts to recruit minorities into building trade apprenticeships and the ICWJ's new Workers' Right Center.

For more information visit: WWW.SCFL.org