



South Central Federation of Labor Organizing for Justice in Our Community

New President Elected to Lead South Central Federation of Labor

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January 20, 2012 (*Madison*) - A new generation labor leader will take the reins at the South Central Federation of Labor on February 1, following a vote by over 200 area union leaders who elected 44-year-old Kevin Gundlach to head the organization, January 16.

Gundlach takes over from SCFL's retiring president Jim Cavanaugh who has served in the position for the last 25 years. The South Central Federation of Labor is an umbrella organization for labor unions in Dane, Dodge, Sauk, Columbia, Jefferson and Iowa Counties. Currently there are 94 labor organizations, representing more than 30,000 workers, affiliated with the central labor council.

A longtime Wisconsinite, Gundlach has been active in AFSCME Local 705 for much of his adult life, serving in a variety of roles, most recently as local union president, vice president of the Dane County Joint Council of AFSCME unions, and as chair of the AFSCME political action committee for the 2nd Congressional District. As an activist, Kevin has gained broad experience in political and legislative action, contract bargaining, community organizing and coalition building.

Gundlach was one of the first to protest at the Governor's mansion just days after Walker's union-stripping Act 10 was announced. He slept overnight frequently throughout the Capitol occupation while at the same time ensuring contract settlements were signed for unionized Dane County employees. Once the Recall efforts began, Gundlach was first on the ground as an organizer, volunteer recruiter, and event coordinator for We Are Wisconsin, a coalition of labor and over 20 advocacy groups.



**SCFL's President-Elect
Kevin Gundlach**

(cont.)

Cavanaugh Retiring After 25 Years at South Central Federation of Labor (cont.)

In addition to building a strong organization and political action program during his decades at SCFL, outgoing president Jim Cavanaugh mobilized support for countless union organizing drives, contract campaigns and strikes. He was also key in passing strong Living Wage ordinances for employees of firms under contract with the city of Madison and Dane County in 1999. His other successes include formation of the Interfaith Coalition for Worker Justice and the Workers' Rights Center located in the Villager Mall.

Under Cavanaugh's lead, SCFL became one of the first 14 labor councils in the country to be designated a "Union City" by the AFL-CIO at its 2001 Convention.

"The Greater Madison Area labor community is as strong, vibrant, and effective as it is, because of the leadership and efforts of Jim Cavanaugh. That was evident in last spring's Wisconsin Uprising," say John Matthews, executive director at Madison Teachers, Inc. (MTI).

In addition to heading up the daily activities at the labor council, Cavanaugh also served in leadership positions on the boards of Citizen Action of Wisconsin, the Institute for Wisconsin's Future, Madison College (MATC), the Workforce Development Board of South Central Wisconsin, and United Way of Dane County.

"When tens of thousands of average citizens took to the streets to defend labor rights last year, I think they were realizing a vision of democracy and solidarity that Jim Cavanaugh has been working for his entire career," says Wisconsin Citizen Action's executive director Robert Kraig.

For more information on Cavanaugh's 25 Years, visit www.SCFL.org



***SCFL's Retiring President
Jim Cavanaugh***

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