

South Central Federation of Labor

Highlights & Activities Review for 2004

UNION SUPPORT

- Initiated the GetActive e-Activist Internet-based messaging system and collected 875 email addresses to be used for Street Heat mobilizations, advocacy campaigns and announcements of labor events.
- Assisted UFCW Local 538 with turnout for an Appreciation Night dinner for those who provided support for the 470 union members who went on strike against Tyson Foods.
- Joined with UFCW Local 1444, UFF-DA Wal-Mart! and the Sierra Club in efforts to fight the siting of a Wal-Mart SuperCenter in Stoughton and Oregon.
- Mobilized support for OPEIU Local 39's contract campaign at CUNA Mutual with a Town Hall Meeting with area legislators, pickets, rallies and an e-Activist campaign to sway the company's board of directors.
- Successfully fought the award of a five-year \$350,000 city/county uniform contract to Cintas working in coalition with UNITE, the ICWJ's Workers' Rights Center and the Student Labor Action Coalition. The contract was later awarded to Aramark whose workers are represented by UNITE Local 229.
- Mobilized Street Heat for rally supporting CWA Local 4630 members during a four-day strike against SBC Communications.
- Launched e-Activist advocacy campaign urging the Doyle Administration to negotiate and mobilized *Street Heat* for rally supporting Teaching Assistants who undertook a 2-day strike over health care.
- Mobilized *Street Heat* for Taxpayer Rip-off Day Rally and AFT-Wisconsin's rally protesting the State Election Board's award of a \$12 million contract to Accenture for work that could be done by state employees more reliably and at less cost.

ORGANIZING

- Provided various forms of support for SEIU Local 1's Justice for Janitors campaign to win a voice at work for Clean Power janitors including help with coalition building, pickets and rallies – including one on International Human Rights Day.

POLITICAL/LEGISLATIVE ACTION

- Fourteen of 24 SCFL-endorsed candidates won seats in the spring elections ensuring a labor-friendly, progressive majority on both the Dane County Board and the Madison Board of Education.
- In coalition with the Madison Fair Wage Campaign, won passage of an ordinance creating a Madison minimum wage that brings wages up to \$7.75/hour with inflation adjustments by 2008.
- Participated in Gov. Doyle's Minimum Wage Advisory Council which recommended increasing the state minimum wage to \$6.50 in October 2005. Republicans in legislature are currently holding up scheduled increases.
- Cosponsored Neighbor-to-Neighbor voter registration drive with Wisconsin Citizen Action registering hundreds of new voters in highly Democratic but low turnout districts.
- The SCFL-led Labor Electoral Coalition identified 572 union members who volunteered to walk neighborhoods and make phone calls in the November election. Tens of thousands of flyers were distributed at over 50 of the larger worksites. Members of nearly 5,000 union households talked issues with fellow union members at the front door and thousands more were contacted through 25,000 phone calls. In addition, thousands of candidate endorsement and comparison pieces were mailed to union households.
- Labor's efforts in the November elections were rewarded with wins for Sen. Russ Feingold and Rep. Tammy Baldwin, labor's two endorsed State Senate candidates, seven of nine endorsed State Assembly candidates, and two endorsed candidates in Dane County races.
- Labor also mobilized for various fall campaign events including two rallies for John Kerry with Sheryl Crowe and Bruce Springsteen, the Political Fair at Angel Park in Sun Prairie featuring Valerie "Rhoda" Harper, and a "Backwards March" protesting Bush Administration policies on jobs and the environment with the Sierra Club.
- COPE Bean Feed fundraiser served about 400.

(cont.)

EDUCATION

- SCFL continued with a fourth year of its *Labor History – With a Bite* series with five offerings: *Making History: the story of the Student Labor Action Coalition*; *Bait and Switch: the New Right and its Attack on Labor* (Wis. AFL-CIO legislative staff Joanne Ricca); *Uncovering the Legacy of the Ludlow Massacre* (TAA staffer and archeologist Paul Reckner); *For a 21st Century Trade Union Education League* (historian Allen Ruff) and *Labor on the Big Screen* (AFT-Wis.Local 4848 member Ron Blascoe).
- Cosponsored a four week class *Communications & Problem Solving Skills for Stewards and Union Leaders* taught by the UW-Extension School for Workers.
- Cosponsored *Honey, They're Shrinking the World*, a community discussion and film series with Edgewood College, various community groups and local media.
- Cosponsored with the Coalition for Wisconsin Health a *Health Care for All* forum featuring the president of Canada's largest public sector union during National Cover the Uninsured Week .
- With Sierra Club chapter cosponsored the *Good Jobs, Good Growth* conference on fighting "big box" sprawl development.
- 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).
- Coinciding with an appearance by Oliver North at a Wisconsin Manufactures & Commerce fundraiser, mobilized turnout for street protests and a forum on Free Trade and Military Interventionism.
- With the South Central Wisconsin Committee on Occupational Safety and Health (SCWCOSH), cosponsored the *Workers Memorial Day Observance*, a workshop on *Asbestos Hazards* and its fall conference on *Stress Alternatives*.

DIVERSITY

- Partnered with the UW School for Workers, the Building Trades Council and the YWCA in getting additional support for the Training Partnership for the Skilled Trades, an initiative to bring more women and minorities into careers in the construction trades.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

- SCFL Community Services Committee sponsored a personal care items drive.
- 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 a fundraising event.
- Provided volunteers for the annual Martin Luther King Coalition Community Dinner.
- SCFL volunteers painted a home as a part of the annual Dane County Paint-a-Thon.
- Publicized and solicited volunteers for the annual NALC (Letter Carriers) Food Drive.
- Worked with the ICWJ and BLAC to staff information tables at Juneteenth celebration, Fiesta Hispana, and LaborFest '04.
- Raffles at SCFL meetings raised \$675 for food pantry at St. Stephens Lutheran Church.
- Held United Way Campaign Kick-Off/Labor Recognition for volunteers serving on United Way committees and boards with an Ice Cream Social at the Overture Center. Presentations were also given on United Way-funded initiatives with a labor focus.
- Unionized workplaces took the lead in United Way fund-raising efforts and were awarded top honors. Three labor "loaned execs" assisted this year's campaign.
- Encouraged financial contributions to help more than forty Latino workers fired by Copps food stores because of Social Security "no match" letters.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

- Cosponsored and promoted May Day cultural and educational events.
- Mobilized for a post-election rally to *Bring the Troops Home* sponsored by the Madison Peace Coalition which SCFL has endorsed.
- LaborFest 2004 featuring Bumpus and the Andy Linderman/Mel Ford Band brought out the usual large crowd on Labor Day. Hosted the third annual Red Cross blood drive at LaborFest.
- Cosponsored a special one-time performance of *Worthy Allies: Labor and Opera* celebrating opening week at the Overture Center.

For more information visit:

WWW.SCFL.org