

South Central Federation of Labor

Highlights & Activities Review for 2005

ORGANIZING SUPPORT

- Sponsored *Being Right is Not Enough – Creative Organizing, Strategy & Tactics*, a 2-day training conference at the Lowell Center which filled to capacity with 100 registrants. The conference was designed to help participants wage effective community and union organizing, contract, issue and legislative campaigns. Plenary sessions offered training in Power Analysis and Strategic Planning, while workshops explored a variety of essential skills and tactics. The event featured a keynote by AFL-CIO organizing director Stuart Acuff and entertainment.
- Provided various forms of support to SEIU Local 1's Justice for Janitors campaign to win a voice at work for Clean Power janitors. Activities included passage of a Madison Common Council resolution supporting union organizing, a march led by the Teaching Assistants' Association (TAA) through downtown Madison, and a vigil with the Interfaith Coalition for Worker Justice at American Family Insurance. Local unions have also been asked to pass a resolution condemning Clean Power's anti-union campaign.

LOCAL UNION SUPPORT

- Mobilized for AFSCME, AFT-Wis. and State Employee Action Coalition demonstrations including a rally for a fair contract with AFSCME's Gerald McEntee, an event mourning the 'demise' of Wisconsin's Civil Service, a New Orleans-style Funeral March marking the 'death' of collective bargaining, and holiday caroling for a contract.
- Assisted with memorial service for the late Tina Campbell, a Clean Power janitor and union activist, and sponsored a 50/50 raffle to raise funds for Campbell's son on Labor Day.
- Provided support for Student Labor Action Coalition's "Phase Two" campaign to leverage union organizing in factories producing UW branded apparel.
- Planned Street Heat picketing, pushed Concourse Hotel into settling a fair contract with SEIU Local 1.

EDUCATION

- Initiated efforts to have a Madison Labor History mural painted in the south entry foyer of the Labor Temple with formation of a steering committee and fundraising efforts. To support the project, a collection of Madison Labor History materials including a narrative history, photo gallery and a reproduction of the *Madison Labor: Building a City, Building a Movement* video were created for web access (www.SCFL.org). Created new narrative, photo gallery and began work on video of Madison Labor History for the period 1985 to present.
- SCFL continued with a fifth year of its *Labor History – With a Bite* series with three offerings: the celebrations of the 100th anniversary of the International Workers of the World (IWW) and the School for Workers' 80th anniversary, and a program on the evolution of labor law.
- Cosponsored a six-week Steward Training class and a five-week class on Bargaining Health Care 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).
- Sponsored a forum on the Future of Labor preceding the AFL-CIO convention and the split by Change to Win Coalition unions.
- Hosted a presentation on effective organizing strategies, "Against the Odds – Workers Winning in Trying Times," with Baldemar Velasquez, president of the Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC). (DVD and streaming video available at www.SCFL.org.)
- With U.S. Labor Against the War, sponsored appearance by Iraqi union leader Amjad Al-Jawhary as part of national tour preceding the AFL-CIO convention where a SCFL-supported resolution was passed calling for the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq. (Streaming audio of Al-Jawhary's talk is available at www.SCFL.org.)

(cont.)

- With Rainbow Bookstore Cooperative and *Labor Notes*, sponsored a talk by labor and immigrant rights organizer Teo Reyes: *LaMigra, Maquilas and Minutemen: The Assault on Immigrant Workers and Labor's Response*.
- With the South Central Wisconsin Committee on Occupational Safety and Health (SCWCOSH), cosponsored a Workers Memorial Day Observance.

POLITICAL/LEGISLATIVE ACTION

- Joined the Healthy Families, Healthy City Coalition's campaign to pass a city ordinance requiring that firms with more than 5 employees provide paid sick leave. Activities included a news conference introducing the campaign, a Town Hall meeting, a Common Council public hearing, and an e-Activist campaign and door-to-door canvases to win support from Council members.
- In coalition with Wisconsin Citizen Action called for legislation that would make Wal-Mart and other large corporations provide health care benefits or pay a "Fair Share for Health Care" to cover expenses currently assumed by taxpayers. Activities included a rally and a Town Hall legislative listening session at the State Capitol.
- Ten out of 13 labor-endorsed candidates won seats in the Spring municipal and school board elections. In a special election, one of three labor-endorsed school funding referenda was approved.
- Mobilized for a demonstration at the offices of Charles Schwab to protest the company's support for Social Security privatization.
- Provided backing and volunteer support for the Bring Our Troops Home referendum campaign to place the question on Madison's Spring 2006 ballot.
- COPE Bean Feed fundraiser served about 400.
- Unsuccessfully fought legislation that preempted a Madison ordinance passed in 2004 that would have raised the local Minimum Wage to \$7.75 an hour by 2008. Mobilized with a rally and e-Activist campaign aimed at Gov. Jim Doyle.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

- Working with Wal-MartWatch and WakeUpWal-Mart, provided publicity for the

movie *Wal-Mart: The High Cost of Low Price* and also for *Walmartopia – the Musical* by Mercury Players Theater.

- Cosponsored and promoted May Day and IWW Centenary cultural and educational events.
- Mobilized participation in an anti-war rally cosponsored by the Madison Area Peace Coalition.
- LaborFest 2005 featuring Phat Phunktion and the Andy Linderman/Mel Ford Band brought out the biggest crowd yet on Labor Day. Hosted the fourth annual Red Cross blood drive at LaborFest.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

- Worked with Interfaith Coalition for Worker Justice and other community groups to get Unemployment Compensation Division to ease its Social Security No-Match practices.
- SCFL Community Services Committee sponsored a holiday school supplies drive.
- Assisted with participation in the programs of the Interfaith Coalition for Worker Justice such as the annual Clergy/Labor luncheon and a fundraising event.
- Stepped up fundraising support among affiliates for the Interfaith Coalition for Worker Justice's Workers' Rights Center.
- Provided volunteers for the annual Martin Luther King Jr. 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.
- Raffles at SCFL meetings raised over \$645 for food pantry at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church.
- Held United Way Campaign Kick-Off/Labor Recognition for volunteers serving on United Way Board and committees with an Ice Cream Social. 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. Four labor "loaned execs" assisted this year's campaign. For the first time ever, had a labor member of the United Way's Alexis de Tocqueville Society (contributing over \$10,000).

For more information visit: WWW.SCFL.org