

# *South Central Federation of Labor*

## *Highlights & Activities Review for 2008*

### **NEW ALLIANCE**

- Statewide labor reorganization results in merger of the Dodge and Jefferson County Central Labor Councils with SCFL which now has 91 affiliated labor organizations representing more than 40,000 workers in Dane, Sauk, Iowa, Columbia, Jefferson and Dodge counties.

### **POLITICAL/LEGISLATIVE ACTION**

- In the spring elections, labor-supported candidates won in 13 of 17 races for Dane County Board of Supervisors, with additional wins in the Beaver Dam and Horicon mayoral races and a Dodge County judicial race.
- Mounted an unprecedented effort to elect Barack Obama and take back the State Assembly in the fall elections with Labor Walks, phone banks, activist trainings and educational programs.
  - SCFL-led Labor Political Coalition sent nearly 88,000 pieces of literature to union homes on behalf of targeted candidates and referenda.
  - Prior to election weekend, union volunteers and release timers visited the homes of nearly 7,000 union members living in six targeted Assembly Districts.
  - The Friday before the election through Election Day, 165 volunteers made nearly 20,000 phone calls and 154 volunteers knocked on over 6,000 doors of union households.
  - As a result, won 19 out of the 24 races and ballot referenda SCFL was involved in, including Jefferson County D.A. and both Madison and Lodi school referenda.
- COPE Bean Feed fundraiser served an unusually high crowd of about 460.

### **SOLIDARITY SUPPORT**

- Supported Woodman's workers (UFCW Local 1473) fighting union busting efforts at Woodman's Madison, Janesville, and Beloit stores. Activities included a Janesville rally, a petitioning and letter writing campaign, and encouraging activists to hand out palm cards supporting the union and talk with workers at the stores.
- Support for pre-strike activities by UNITE HERE Local 229 members at Aramark that led to a satisfactory contract settlement. The deal preserved health care benefits, won pension contributions for the first time, and gained wage and vacation improvements for part-time workers.
- Supported striking Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra musicians (American Federation of Musicians Local 166) with picket line support and other activities such as an alternative concert performance and potluck dinner.
- Joined with members of Steelworkers Local 2-0009 for a State Capitol rally to save 425 jobs at the NewPage paper mill in Kimberly, Wisconsin.
- Provided picket line support for the Workers' Rights Center in its campaign to get La Hacienda restaurant to pay a group of workers approximately \$35,000 in back wages and overtime pay.
- Asked SCFL activists to attend informational picket to support UW custodians (members of AFSCME Local 171) protesting unilateral shift changes.

*(cont.)*

## EDUCATION

- With the UW School for Workers cosponsored training for newly elected union officers and a Labor History Through Film class.
- Short, educational vignettes were presented at delegate meetings on unions in the construction trades, manufacturing sector and public schools.
- Awarded 4 scholarships to college students.
- Cosponsored the Madison Labor Radio weekly news program broadcast on WORT (89.9 FM).
- Promoted bus trip to biennial Labor Notes Conference.

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

- Assisted with participation in the programs and activities of the Workers' Rights Center and the Interfaith Coalition for Worker Justice such as the annual Clergy/Labor Breakfast which featured Kim Bobo, founder of Interfaith Worker Justice.
- 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 South Central Federation of Labor's monthly delegate meetings raised \$858 for food pantry at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church.
- Held *United Way Campaign Kick-Off and Labor Recognition* event for volunteers serving on United Way of Dane County Board of Directors, Vision Council, Campaign Cabinet and other committees.

- SCFL Community Services Committee sponsored a holiday drive for cleaning supplies and other household staples to supplement area food pantries.
- Provided volunteers for the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Coalition Community Dinner.

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

- Cosponsored and promoted May Day cultural and educational events.
- LaborFest 2008 featured Westside Andy/Mel Ford Band and Paul Cebal and the Milwaukeeans and a special theater skit for kids, *Trouble in the Henhouse*, by State Employee union activists.
- Cosponsored screenings of *At the River I Stand*, a documentary film recounting events leading up to Martin Luther King Jr.'s death in 1968, coinciding with the 65-day strike by 1300 Memphis sanitation workers.
- Encouraged participation in protests and support activities following the largest immigration raid in history in Postville, Iowa.
- With the Madison Institute, cosponsored a talk by journalist Naomi Klein, author of the *Shock Doctrine*, on the forces behind modern economic disasters.
- With Iraq Veterans Against the War, cosponsored the *Winter Soldier Speak Out*.

*For more information visit:* [WWW.SCFL.org](http://WWW.SCFL.org)