

Dayton-Miami Valley CLC & Other Partners Conduct Employee Free Choice Rally



Wes Wells, President of the Dayton-Miami Valley Central Labor Council addresses a crowd of over 70 Employee Free Choice Act supporters at the CLC Hall in Dayton, Ohio.

The Dayton-Miami Valley Central Labor Council, Ohio AFL-CIO and the Dayton Building and Construction Trades led a protest against the law firm of Taft, Stettinius & Hollister, the US Chamber and the Dayton Area Chambers of Commerce who held a seminar January 14 to supposedly “describe the business communities efforts to educate lawmakers on the impact of Employee Free Choice Act legislation and what employers can do to assist in the effort to defeat it.”

Partners in bringing back the middle class for working Americans also showed their support, including religious groups such as members of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. Over 70 supporters of the Employee Free Choice Act joined the partners in showing solidarity for a worker's right to have a voice in how the union election process should occur at their workplace. This proves that the Employee Free Choice Act is not a union member issue, but a middle-class America issue.

Senator Sherrod Brown Makes His Way to Southern Ohio During Statewide Visits

Submitted by: Austin Keyser and Sarah Smith

United States Senator Sherrod Brown (D-OH) fulfilled a promise that he made two years ago to visit all of Ohio's 88 counties and meet with citizens in each with a final stop in Scioto County. On December 18th at an event hosted by Plumbers and Pipefitters Local #577, Brown met with Scioto County community leaders for a roundtable discussion on healthcare, infrastructure, and economic development.

Several local Labor Leaders were invited to participate in this event. Among those involved was Austin Keyser, Secretary-Treasurer of Shawnee District Labor Council. "I think the fact that our CLC was invited by the Senator to sit at the table and discuss issues that affect the local labor movement speaks volumes about his commitment to the working class in Ohio. He brought a very diverse group of community leaders to the table; we discussed everything from job creation to higher education and he actively sought the input of labor on each and every topic."

"The needs of Ohio's middle class families must be heard in Washington," said Brown. "These roundtable discussions across the state have provided a way for me to work together with local communities to set new policies in Washington that



US Senator Sherrod Brown toured all 88 counties in Ohio to learn more about what is needed to Turn Around Ohio.

reflect the values of families like those here in Scioto County today."

Other Southern Ohio labor leaders participating were Donald Criner, UA Local 577 Business Manager and Shawnee District Labor Council President; Jim Kalb, Mayor of Portsmouth and UFCW 1059 member; Randy Basham, Steelworkers Rep. and Scioto County Democratic Party Chairman; Gary Coleman, LIUNA Local 83 Business Manager; Don Hadsell, Owner, J+H Electors (unionized employer); Kim Platzer, Elementary Teacher (OEA); and Van Stephens, Boilermakers Local 105 Business Manager.



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Portsmouth Flood Walls Tell the Tale of Labor

Submitted by: Austin Keyser

Photos by: Joe Crytser

November produced more for union members in Southern Ohio to celebrate than a successful election cycle, they are also very proud to boast the completion of the first phase of a series of murals honoring the history of local labor unions in the Portsmouth area. Portsmouth's flood wall is full of beautiful murals depicting 2000 years of local history and now organized labor is being acknowledged as an important part of that past. Not only are labor unions being recognized, they have been granted a 450ft long 20ft tall section of the wall to display their significant contributions to the region.



The Portsmouth Mural Project started in 1993; it is an ongoing endeavor by Portsmouth Murals Inc. and world renowned

muralist Robert Dafford. "In early 2007 I became aware that Portsmouth Murals Inc. had been allotted additional flood wall space by the City of Portsmouth and intended to expand on the already existing 2000 feet of murals" said Austin Keyser, Secretary-Treasurer of Shawnee District Labor Council and IBEW Local 575 Organizer. Austin and his wife Cherice, after gaining the support of U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown and Portsmouth native Gov. Ted Strickland, decided to propose organized labor as a theme for one of the murals that would be commissioned. "We were hoping to get a mural comparable in size to the other murals on the wall; they are typically 20ft by 20ft. We were actually nervous that the murals committee would accept our proposal and we would have to figure out a way to include all of the unions, both past and present, in such a small space."

Not only did Portsmouth Murals Inc. embrace the Keyser's proposal, after some discussion with Austin and

Cherice they offered Portsmouth area labor unions the largest portion of the wall devoted to any one theme and a large green space for a murals park dedicated to organized labor. "Cherice and I immediately went to work raising the \$90,000 needed for the first phase, which was dedicated to the building and construction trades. It took us exactly one year to educate everyone about the project, collect necessary information about local unions, work with Robert Dafford on the design and raise the money. It was well worth our effort; we received a huge amount of support and ultimately generous donations from every building trades union."

Phase two of the Portsmouth Labor Murals is set to start this summer and will include Industrial and Public Sector Unions. Shawnee District Labor Council will be taking the lead on phase two and has established a murals committee. According to CLC President Donald Criner "Austin reported at the last CLC meeting that State Rep. Todd Book has secured a significant grant through the Ohio Arts Council to help with phases two and three of the mural. However, we are still going to



need to raise approximately \$70,000 and collect a lot of information before we can start work".

You can help this important project by making a tax deductible contribution, of any amount, to the Portsmouth Labor Mural Fund. To make a contribution, contact Austin Keyser at austinkeyser@msn.com or Cherice Keyser at rosebud.245@hotmail.com.

Employee Free Choice Act Campaign Kicks Off in Cleveland

Submitted by Les Wiley

The North Shore CLC held a Public Forum on the Employee Free Choice Act at the Gallery at Trinity Cathedral in Cleveland on December 16th, 2008.

It was very well attended with over 100 people from the general public and unions. Speakers were Matthew Etlinger, Center for American Progress, Amy Hanauer, Policy Matters Ohio, John Ryan, Sherrod Brown's representative, Rev. Marvin McMickle, Pastor Antioch Baptist church, Frank Snyder, National AFL-CIO, and Harriet Applegate, Executive Secretary North Shore Federation of Labor.

The Employee Free Choice Act Meeting in a Box was presented at the following delegates meetings: Ashtabula on January 12th, 2009 at 6



A large crowd gathered at Trinity Cathedral in Cleveland to discuss the Employee Free Choice Act and support a middle-class working America.

PM at LIUNA 245 in North Kingsville, North Shore on January 13th, 2009 at 6PM at LIUNA 310 in Cleveland. Lorain will conduct their Meeting in a Box on February 12th, 2009 at 7:30 PM at LIUNA 758 in Lorain.

Lorain CLC will be having their annual spaghetti dinner fundraiser for their political fund on March 1st, 2009. The time and place to be named later.

What is the Employee Free Choice Act?

The Employee Free Choice Act (H.R. 800, S. 1041), supported by a bipartisan coalition in Congress, would enable working people to bargain for better wages, benefits and working conditions by restoring workers' freedom to choose for themselves whether to join a union. It would:

- * Establish stronger penalties for violation of employee rights when workers seek to form a union and during first-contract negotiations.
- * Provide mediation and arbitration for first-contract disputes (PDF).
- * Allow employees to form unions by signing cards authorizing union representation.

UAW Holds Annual Holiday Celebration

Photos Submitted by JoAnn Johnntony



Lloyd Mahaffey, UAW Director Region 2B, David Green, President UAW Local Union 1724, & JoAnn Johnntony, President of OAPSE/AFSCME share a moment to celebrate the holidays.



Patrick Harris, Ohio Treasurers Office, Ohio House of Rep. Speaker Pro-Tempore Matt Szollosi, JoAnn Johnntony, State President OAPSE/AFSCME, Bill Padisak, President Mahoning/Trumbull Labor Council & Jim Kaster, former President of UAW Lordstown

Pro Working Family Groups Come Together in Cincinnati To Support Employee Free Choice Act

Submitted by Maggie Priebe

Over 60 unions members, leaders from the religious community and candidates for this year's Cincinnati City Council race attended the Employee Free Choice Meeting in Cincinnati on Tuesday, January 7.

Secretary Sizemore spoke on the importance of the passage of the Employee Free Choice Act and attendees watched the DVD called, "EMPLOYEE FREE CHOICE ACT, NOW!" with Executive Vice-President Arlene Holt-Baker.

At the end of the meeting, a majority of those attending took the time and wrote letters to Senator Voinovich asking to vote YES on Employee Free Choice Act.



Most of the information presented came from the Employee Free Choice in a Box presentation that the AFL-CIO is offering free of charge to anyone who wants to present this important information at meetings.

Cincinnati AFL-CIO Labor Leader Doug Sizemore Responds to December Jobs Report

Backs President-Elect Obama's Economic Recovery Plan And Reaffirms The Importance Of The Passage Of The Employee Free Choice Act

Submitted by Maggie Priebe

With the unemployment rate hitting 7.2 percent in December, the seriousness of the current recession smacks working families in the face as the New Year begins. The 524,000 American jobs lost this past month pushes the job loss total for the year to over 2.5 million.

"As President-Elect Barack Obama and Congress begin to unfold the economic recovery plan, it should focus on creating good paying jobs by investing in rebuilding our schools, roads, and bridges. And restore growth in the areas of communication, transportation, and energy infrastructure," said Doug Sizemore, Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the Cincinnati AFL-CIO Labor Council.

However, the economic stimulus package won't turn around America unless this



country changes the way it does business. Working people have been the backbone of the American economy from its inception, yet corporations and CEO's

benefit as the middle class loses the American Dream: fair wages, affordable healthcare, quality education, and a secure retirement.

In order for a sustained economic growth and a broad shared prosperity, all-encompassing economic changes must be made. This is why the passage of the Employee Free Choice Act is so critical to the American economy. It would ensure that all workers could bargain for a better life. And it would level the playing field and lead to rebuilding the middle class.

Fact

More than three-quarters of Americans—77 percent—support strong laws that give employees the freedom to make their own choice about whether to have a union in their workplace without interference from management

2009 Annual Ohio AFL-CIO Workers' Compensation Institute

State Fund and Self-Insured

February 16 – February 20, 2009

The Annual Workers' Compensation Institute will be held Monday, February 16- Friday 20, 2009 at the Renaissance Hotel, 50 North 3rd Street, Columbus, OH 43215. The registration fee, which covers cost of the manual, other materials, and coffee breaks, is \$300 per participant.

There will be basic classes for those who do not have much experience in workers' compensation, as well as advanced classes for those who have attended the Institute for several years. Some examples of classes being offered include; life cycle of a claim, occupational disease, permanent and partial awards, and mock classes in lump sum settlements.

We have made arrangements with the hotel to set aside a block of rooms for persons attending the Institute. You should make your hotel room reservations directly with the hotel by calling 800-417-1057. Be sure to identify yourself as being with the Ohio AFL-CIO to ensure the special rate of \$119 plus tax for a single or double. Parking will be \$10 for overnight valet and day of event parking. The room cut-off date is January 23, 2009.

Advanced registration is strongly recommended. Check in for all registrants will be held Monday, February 16 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The Institute will begin promptly at 1:00 p.m. You can download the registration form at www.ohaflcio.org.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Contact information for the Ohio AFL-CIO Workforce Development Program - Rapid Response

Field Staff Representatives

Pamela Fox - Southeast 614-330-2378

Sue Grazia - Northeast 216-392-0049

Tina Kavanaugh - Southwest 614-330-2379

Tammy Vitaz - Northwest 419-503-2775

Manufacturing Analyst

John Paradore 419-979-3588

Workforce Analyst

Nancy Roth 614-330-2381

Director

Marcia Tolles 614-330-2397

Office: 395 East Broad Street Columbus, Ohio 43215 * 614-223-1047

Unions Step Up Call Center Capacity

A major component in this victory was member to member communication, and the Ohio AFL-CIO predictive dialer played a large role as over 5 million dials were made to members about this election. Within each of those dials was a volunteer member who spoke from the heart about the importance of turning around America.

These volunteers came from all across the state to use the predictive dialer stations and hard line phones to ensure as many members as possible heard from a union member. Although the Ohio AFL-CIO had 20 of these predictive dialer stations, it was determined early on that more stations would be needed in order for members to talk to enough members to win.

When the IUE-CWA in Moraine and the Dayton Building trades heard this, both labor entities stood up and added capacity in order to reach the numbers we needed to achieve victory for all working Ohioans.

Nick Comstock, Business Manager for IBEW Local 82 as well as IBEW Local 82 President James Taylor, agreed to host the 5 Building Trade stations at their hall while IUE-CWA President Jim Clark saw the benefit of adding four stations to not just win in Ohio, but used the stations to call members in targeted states across the



Members and retirees of the IUE-CWA make calls from their hall while using the productivity and efficiency of the Ohio AFL-CIO Call Center.

country. The Building Trade stations were used to help member Charles Morton in his bid for Ohio House of Representatives as well as calling thousands of Montgomery and surrounding county members. IBEW Local 82 also used the stations several nights to make personal member-to-member calls; which as we all know is the most effective form of political communication. The IUE-CWA focused its efforts on member-to-member outreach and turned the stations over to Labor 2008 for major outreach initiatives across the state.

Both plan on using the stations year round for member-to-member communication, local political elections and reaching out to the public about issues concerning members and working families in general. 2009 will prove to be a year with big programs and issues. The Employee Free Choice Act is in the front burner for many national unions while the state budget and the 2010 elections are going to be a focal point for most state local unions. With this in mind, the Ohio AFL-CIO call center is a great investment for member outreach around these issues and any issue into the future. For more information on the Ohio AFL-CIO call center and to find out how to invest in permanent stations or if a need for temporary stations is needed, please call Jason Perlman, Ohio AFL-CIO Communications Manager, at 614-224-8271 ext. 7142.



Phone banking from IBEW Local 82 in Dayton helped Labor 2008 make over 5 million dials to win for working families.

USW passes contract with Cooper Tire & Rubber Co.

Submitted by Laura Faught

Members of USW Local 207L in Findlay passed a contract on December 8th by a vote of 648 to 264, a move that will allow the Cooper Tire plant to remain open in Findlay. The three-year contract included 10 million dollars a year in pay cuts and a freeze on pensions for next year. George Shafer, Political Coordinator for 207L remained optimistic



saying, "I'm just glad that there will not be any layoffs. We got a wage cut, but at least people will be working." Cooper Tire is the nation's second largest tire manufacturer and is struggling to remain competitive in the global economy. While it is increasing production at the Findlay plant, Cooper plans to close down a non union plant in Albany, Georgia, affecting 1300 workers.

UAW gives back this holiday season

Submitted by Laura Faught

The UAW Local 12 in Toledo is doing their part to help out the community during the holiday season. The Local 12 Assistance Program sponsored an angel tree this year to help families who are displaced from their jobs. Members can choose names of children from the tree and purchase gifts for them for the holiday. Local



12 staff member Cindy Rickman is shown here with Community Services Liason Larry Chasteen. "This has been a rough year for labor all around Northwest Ohio, and we see it in the adopt-a-family program as well," said Chasteen. Local 12 members and staff were also busy putting together hundreds of food baskets to pass out to laid off and displaced workers.

Have A Story for the Newsletter?

Email your submissions and photos to Jeanette Mauk at jmauk@ohafclcio.org or call Jeanette at 614-224-8271. Stories can also be turned into the local ALF Coordinators.



STATE AND LOCAL ACTION

Please fill out form below and fax to 202-637-5012.



Sign up to feature a special presentation on the Employee Free Choice Act during your upcoming meeting. You will receive materials, a DVD and support to help you host a successful meeting about the Employee Free Choice Act and the next steps in our push to turn around America. *Thank you for your leadership in this important fight.*

If you have any questions, please send an e-mail to freechoice@aflcio.org.

YES! We agree it's time to turn around America!

Your Information: (*required field)

- *Organization: _____
- *Name: _____
- *Title: _____
- *E-Mail: _____
- *Phone Number: _____

Where to Ship Materials:

- *Address: _____
- *City: _____ *State: _____ *ZIP: _____
- *Meeting Location: _____
- *Average Monthly Meeting Attendance: _____
- *Date Set for Meeting: _____

Point of Contact for Meeting (person who will manage event if different from above):

- Name: _____
- Title: _____
- E-Mail: _____
- Phone Number: _____
- Address: _____
- City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Please fax form to 202-637-5012.