



# the Workers' Voice

## OHIO AFL-CIO, OHIO CONFERENCE OF TEAMSTERS AND UNITED AUTO WORKERS, REGION 2B, ENDORSE RICHARD CORDRAY FOR OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL

(COLUMBUS) – Unions representing more than 1 million active and retired Ohio workers joined together today to endorse Richard Cordray for Ohio attorney general.



Joe Rugola, president of the Ohio AFL-CIO, said union members have worked for and voted for Cordray in the past because of the qualities he has shown throughout his public life.

Cordray earned the endorsement of the Ohio AFL-CIO, the Teamsters and the UAW because of his long history of supporting working families, according to Lloyd Mahaffey, director of UAW Region 2B, which covers Ohio.

“He is honest, bright, hard working and experienced. We have counted on him during every step of his career – from local government to the State House to the Ohio

“I have known Rich Cordray for a long time, and our members have supported him for a long time. In fact, UAW Local 969 on the west side of Columbus, was the first union to endorse Rich in his initial run for the State House. Our active and retired members know he is a person of integrity, a hard worker, and completely committed to fairness and justice for workers and our families,” Mahaffey said.



Treasurer’s office – and we have never been disappointed. I am proud to support Rich Cordray and to stand here today with the UAW and the Teamsters to pledge to do everything it takes to help

The Ohio Conference of Teamsters is backing Cordray because he has shown “the same kind of integrity and honesty that we see in our governor, Ted Strickland. Rich is a stand-up guy we can count on. We are confident he will always do what is right for the people of Ohio,” said President Roger Insprucker.

him win this fall,” Rugola said.

The Ohio AFL-CIO represents more than 800,000 active and retired workers. The Ohio conference of Teamsters has more than 80,000 Ohio members, and UAW Region 2B has 160,000 active and retired members in Ohio.

# Union Pickets for Vandalia City Workers

*Peaceful protest before council meeting is staged to support 16 full-time street department employees*

By Bethany Meisinger-Reiff  
Contributing Writer / Dayton  
Daily News

VANDALIA — A disagreement over contract provisions for city of Vandalia service department workers prompted AFSCME Ohio Council 8 to stage an informational picket on July 14.



Donned in fluorescent yellow shirts and carrying signs urging equality for Vandalia employees, members of unions affiliated with AFSCME held a peaceful demonstration in front of the city administration building prior to the council meeting. Union leaders estimated 150 union members turned out for the event.

"We are asking for equal work, equal pay, equal treatment," said Tom Ritchie, director of field services and organization for AFSCME Ohio Council 8. "This is not about one specific issue. We ask for fair treatment of all employees and call on city council to do the right thing."

At issue is a contract for the city's 16 full-time street department employees. The employees are recognized by the State Employee Relations Board as part of AFSCME, but the city and AFSCME have not agreed on the terms of the contract. A fact finder's report

was rejected by the city council at the June 16 council meeting.

"The fact finder's report was not in the best interest of the city," said city manager Jeff Hoagland.

The report must be accepted in its entirety; the city and the union cannot agree to some portions of the report, but not others. The union

agreed to the fact finders report even though it did not "like" the report, said Marcia Knox, AFSCME Council 8 Dayton regional director.

Knox said the issue is not about money, and she said any information that the union turned down the contract because of the 3.5 percent wage proposal is "unfair and untrue." Because of the impasse with the fact finder's report, the service department employees do not have a contract with the city.

"They are being treated and working like they were two years ago, five years ago, 10 years ago," Hoagland said.

He said the city and the service department employees will continue to follow the city's rules and guidelines until the issues are resolved.

## OPCM Members Represent Labor at State Fair

Once again at the Ohio State Fair this year the Plasterers & Cement Masons represented union labor at it's finest. The OPCM have represented union labor for over 35 years at the state fair & is the only union that still participates at the fair & demonstrates to the general public just how skilled union workers are. Various demonstrations were held daily & as usual unique plaster molds were given away free to the public. A wonderful time was had by all.



## Attorney General Candidate Rich Cordray gets union support

Tony Hammond, Business Agent with SMWIA for local # 24, and President of the Lima Building Trades Council along with the Council, welcomed Ohio State Treasurer, Richard Cordray to a special meeting on Friday, July 18<sup>th</sup> at IBEW local #32, in Lima, Ohio.

Cordray is running for the Attorney General office this November and will be campaigning around the state in the coming months. He spoke highly of the Treasury Department and the great work they do helping people with their finances, but emphasized that the Attorney General's office has stronger tools at their disposal to enforce the laws.

"There are a lot of laws that get passed, but unless someone follows the law, the paper means nothing," Cordray said. He specifically spoke on fair competition in the construction industry and stated that as Attorney General, he will be "enforcing the prevailing wage law with vigor in the state of Ohio."

Treasurer Cordray also spoke of the campaign for control on credit card companies, to help working people who are being taken advantage of, With the loose interpretations of what these companies are using to determine risk. These companies are finding loop holes to raise (and sometimes double) the interest rate, of even customers who have never violated the terms of their agreement with the company. To add to that they are doing this without notice to their customers. Treasurer Cordray is working to put some reasonable guidelines in place to protect the consumer. To help, or to learn more about it, go to, [www.Ohiotreasurer.gov](http://www.Ohiotreasurer.gov) or call 614-466-3639



Richard Cordray was endorsed last week by the Ohio Assoc. of Public School Employees, in his run for the Attorney General seat this coming November, and has the full support of Governor Ted Strickland.

### 2009 Fat Boy!

We are celebrating our 50<sup>th</sup> Ohio AFL-CIO Biennial Convention in Cleveland Ohio, September 9 - 11, 2008.

To celebrate we're giving you a chance to win a **2009 Harley-Davidson Fat Boy!**



Tickets: \$20.00 each

*Need not be present to win!  
If ticket sales are not met, money will be refunded!*

Drawing will be held during the Convention on September 11<sup>th</sup>

For further information please call the Ohio AFL-CIO (614) 224-8271 and ask for Jeanette ext. 7144 or Theresa ext. 1002

Opeiu/lu98

# Union rally hails veterans, blasts McCain

By Thomas Gnau  
Staff Writer / Dayton Daily News

DAYTON — A rally celebrating creation of AFL-CIO veterans councils around the country took a strong political slant from the very start at Memorial Hall Thursday, July 10.

Minutes before the rally, signs declaring "AFL-CIO for Obama" began appearing.

"Are we political? Absolutely, as a matter of survival," said Wes Wells, executive director of the Dayton Miami Valley AFL-CIO Regional Labor Council.

The rally featured John Sweeney, AFL-CIO president, and Mark Ayers, president of AFL-CIO Building & Construction Trades. The councils' formation was announced in Dayton first, Sweeney said.

"We think that Dayton is really a good example of some



AFL-CIO president John Sweeney shakes Vietnam veteran Roger Tackett hand after the rally in Dayton Thursday.

of the problems workers face around the country, especially on the economic issues," Sweeney said.

Sweeney and others distinguished between the military service of Republican presidential candidate John McCain and his political record. While speakers said they honored McCain's service as a U.S. Navy pilot, the Arizona senator was blasted for opposing the 21st century GI Bill, supporting the war in Iraq and backing international trade agreements.

"I think it's important to realize that there are heroes and people who sacrificed on both sides of the political aisle," said Roger Tackett, a Vietnam veteran, Clark County commissioner and Democratic Ohio Senate candidate.

Wells blamed NAFTA for the loss of more than 30,000 jobs locally, saying, "Let him (McCain) come to Dayton to tell us how good NAFTA is, my brothers."

An AFL-CIO spokesman, Mike Gillis, said it was too soon to say who would serve on the local veterans council.

An Ohio-based spokesman for McCain referred questions to the Republican National Committee, which responded with a statement: "Big Labor bosses have answered the call for liberal Democrats for decades, but they're mistaken if they think they can use hardworking workers' money to malign a war hero who has dedicated his life to serving his country."



Dayton, Ohio local AFL-CIO members along with the community gathered in front of Memorial Hall in Dayton Thursday for a rally.

# McCain continues to support trade agreements even when the cost Ohioans good jobs



Amweld closing in Niles, Ohio, which closed 8 months ago, was directly due to NAFTA. Labor leaders along with Capri Carfaro did a job loss action with the local president whom lost his job also. McCain has vowed to continue support for NAFTA and wants to add even more trade agreements with other countries. McCain needs to go to those plants and see the results of outsourcing the jobs to Mexico and other countries and the effects those job losses have on our great Ohio communities.

## OAPSE Local 238 Rally For Their Jobs

OAPSE 238 members rallied outside the Madison Board of Education office in Madison, Ohio. The Board recently privatized the bus service, leaving approximately fifty bus drivers, mechanics, and other bus service workers laid off in tough economic times.



Gina Knapp, President of OAPSE 238, and Lloyd Rains, OAPSE Regional Director, have been working hard with local members to pressure the Board to rescind its decision. She said at the rally Tuesday (one of several planned), "We're here as community members who support the community. Private companies are usually from out of district, or they don't have the community first in mind. They have their profit first in mind."

Joanne Johnntony, State President of OAPSE, said, "They need to make their profit somewhere else, not on the backs of this community." Davida Russell, OAPSE Vice President, said, "Big business has been sucking profits out of our community for too long. Any bus that drives up to our home should be a public school employee and a union driver."

Gina understands the relevance of the issue of privatization in the election this year. John McCain has supported Bush's privatization agenda, while Barack Obama has supported keeping public jobs

public. Pres. Knapp says, "it's important to get the message out that these things start at the top with policies that encourage privatization, and they filter down to the working class. That's why we have to make sure we're working on member-to-member communications like worksite flyers, to give folks the information they need."

People came from many unions, some driving from as far as Youngstown, to support OAPSE 238 workers. It was a really strong show of solidarity – folks came out from AFSCME Council 8, CTU, CWA, IBEW, IUPAT, NATCA, OPEIU, UA, UAW, USW, UWUA, and others. "We're just one county over," Diane Watson, a UAW 1834 bus driver who attended the rally, said. "We're hoping this [privatization effort] doesn't work at all because it could really spread" to take their jobs as well.

"I've been with the Madison local school system for twenty-one years as a school bus driver, and I've now lost my job to privatization," said Debbie Zylak, an OAPSE 238 member. The struggle continues to bring these union jobs back to the Madison community.

## Ohio Labor Activists Rally for the Employee Free Choice Act and Speak Out Against John McCain at the NAACP's National Convention in Cincinnati

July 16, union members and activists held a rally in Cincinnati after the NAACP's labor luncheon. The NAACP is holding its national convention this week in the city. The rally was in support of the Employee Free Choice Act, which would greatly strengthen workers' rights in the U.S.

Arlene Holt Baker, Executive Vice President of the national AFL-CIO, spoke at the luncheon before leading folks to the rally. She commented on the depth of the relationship between the civil rights movement and the labor movement, a relationship which has lasted decades. She also acknowledged the racism that marked the early labor movement.

In large part, however, her speech responded to Sen. McCain's words at the NAACP convention earlier in the day. He spoke at length about educa-



tional reform, and said that more public funds ought to go to vouchers so that families in poor-performing school districts could use tax money to send their kids to charter school.

## Sen. Barack Obama Speaks to Union Activists Around the Country

“The fundamental truth at the heart of this country, and the heart of the labor movement, is that we have mutual obligations in this country. We rise and fall together,” Sen. Obama said on a conference call last Thursday with over 2,500 union members and activists from around the country, including 103 in Ohio.



*Erika White, Vice President of CWA 4319 in Rossford*

“Change doesn’t happen from the top down, it happens from the bottom up... People trust their union and local union leaders, because they work alongside you. They elect you. It means more than any other phone call, more than any other piece of political mail,” he said. Sen. Obama also pledged to be “a champion for working families,” by signing the Employee Free Choice Act, supporting companies that keep jobs in the United States, instituting fair trade policies, and developing a new energy policy that could create five million green jobs for Americans.

Erika White, Vice President of CWA 4319 in Rossford, was on the call. She said:

“As always, when I am able to hear Barack Obama speak to an audience, I am energized by his move to action as much as his words of hope. When I am personally able to be a participant, as I was last Thursday, I am

encouraged by his non-stop focus on organizing. What a movement when a leader can say he cannot do it alone and is listening to what working people are saying! However, what I find the most refreshing when I hear him speak is his focus on what issues are important to the citizens of America rather than wasting time bashing his opponent. I commend him on taking the time to speak to labor and keep us in the forefront!”

# Retirees Team Up with Senator Brown To Celebrate Medicare's Birthday

In Cleveland on August 7, the Ohio Alliance for Retired Americans and its community advocacy partners from Senior Voice! hosted a forum of 165 people, where keynote speaker U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown addressed the prospects for Medicare's future. Specifically, Senator Brown warned against privatization of the crucial federal program: "These undeserved [Medicare Advantage] subsidies have destabilized Medicare.



*US Senator Sherrod Brown speaks about the need to protect retirement benefits.*

Part D needs a lot of work." The event highlighted Medicare as the national healthcare that is available, affordable, accessible, comprehensive, there when we need it, with low administrative costs and choice.

In addition, the event presented the Leadership Council of Aging Organizations principles for strengthening Medicare as a guide for what changes the Ohio Alliance and Senior Voice! would like to see in the future.

## Retirement Update

### Social Security and Medicare NOT a "Disgrace"

In an effort to educate OARA members and the public about the benefits of Social Security and Medicare, OARA activists greeted Senator McCain in Cincinnati at the NAACP Convention and in Columbus at the Livestrong Cancer Summit and spoke with reporters. The actions were taken in light of the Senator McCain's remark that it is a "disgrace" that young workers are supporting retired workers with Social Security taxes, a system that has existed all his life and from which he accepts a monthly payment. The



*Pickers rally against McCain's stance on retirement benefits.*

OARA posed the following questions: How is it a disgrace that those who have worked honestly and honorable all their life get paid an income and have health care in an exchange for leaving the workforce? What is disgraceful about carrying out the biblical ask that we care for the aged, the widows and orphans through a common pool of insurance?

# 50th Anniversary & Convention Reminder



The Ohio AFL-CIO will hold its 26<sup>th</sup> Biennial Constitutional Convention and 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration September 9-11 in Cleveland, Ohio at the Greater Cleveland Convention Center.

Special invited guests include:

- Presidential Candidate Barack Obama
- Governor Ted Strickland
- Ohio Attorney General Candidate Richard Cordray  
and many more.

## 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Grand Reception

**Come celebrate 50 years of service to Ohio's working families Tuesday night at the Cleveland Browns Stadium.**

Please make sure you are a part of this momentous occasion by securing your hotel room at *The Crowne Plaza Cleveland City Centre* by calling 888-444-0401 and by mailing in your credentials no later than Friday, August 29, 2008 to:

Rodell Davis  
395 East Broad Street, Suite 300  
Columbus, Ohio 43215.

Delegate registration will be held at the Greater Cleveland Convention Center on:

- Monday, September 8, 4:00 p.m.- 6:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, September 9, 9:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, September 10, 8:00 a.m. -10:00 a.m.

If you have any questions about your credentials contact Rodell Davis, all other convention questions should be directed to RiChawn Moncrease.

614-224-8271

LABOR

A reminder that Labor 2008 is hard at work planning walks, bringing the remote dialer to your area and conducting all kinds of member-to-member contacting. To see whom your ALF Coordinator is, head to [www.ohaficio.org](http://www.ohaficio.org). To schedule a walk, order walk packets, request the dialer or for any questions you have about the Labor 2008 program, call 614-222-0732.

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# Lab★r 2008

In the last month, the Labor 2008 program has kicked into a higher gear. The energy in our Columbus headquarters office – and around the state – is incredible, thanks to the amazing release staff and zone staff who are helping labor leaders organize political activities, managing data, running the Vote-by-Mail program and the phone bank system, and setting the stage for a better future for Ohio's working families in countless other ways.



Of course, it's at the local union level that we're really going to make that future a reality. Union activists around the state have ordered an amazing 741,000 customized worksite flyers in the last four weeks alone, for distribution at the worksite or with local union letters. Local union leaders are publishing great newsletters and sending local union mail to make sure Ohio's workers have the information they need to make educated choices in the voting booth (or when they fill out their early vote ballot). The predictive dialer has been making its way around the state as well – folks have volunteered at phone banks to call fellow union members during seventeen of the last thirty days, in Mansfield, Columbus, Marion, Marysville, Cleveland,

and Akron. We're also looking forward to the September 4<sup>th</sup> labor walks.

All of this work is serving a grand purpose – to give working Americans in Ohio and around the country a set of leaders that will be accountable not to corporations and the wealthy but to working people. We're working on several key Congressional and State House and Senate races, we're collecting petition cards for the Employee Free

Choice Act, and we've got our noses to the grindstone for Sen. Obama's presidential campaign. As Ohio AFL-CIO President Joe Rugola said before a conference call with Sen. Obama last month, "Sen. Obama has a long history of advocating and fighting for working families in this country. And after the disastrous years that we've been through, we think we need a President who'll focus on health care for working families, retirement security, and will bring us stability and peace around the world. ... We intend to focus every energy and every resource on sending Barack Obama to the White House as the next President of the United States."