

Labor Wins Big in 2008

Congratulations go out to all of the Ohio AFL-CIO affiliated unions and Central Labor Councils for an outstanding election season.

President: We will report the labor performance for the presidential race as the data becomes clear, however, initial review indicates that labor may have exceeded its 2004 performance. Obama wins Ohio 51 - 47%.



Gov. Ted Strickland visits the Ohio AFL-CIO Call Center on election day.

Representatives with the legislative lines drawn by Republicans. As it stands now the Democrats picked up 7 seats (see below for seats which changed party hands), which would put them at a 53 - 46 majority. Remarkable. There was no change in Senate majority status as Republicans retain their 21 - 12 edge, however, 2 AFL-CIO endorsed Republicans were elected.

Congress: Democrats picked up two, possibly three, Congressional seats in Ohio. John Boccieri (CD16) and Steve Driehaus (CD1). Mary Jo Kilroy (CD15) was locked in a dead heat as provisional and absentee ballots were counted, but in the end won by over 2,500 votes. The Ohio Congressional delegation will stand at 10 - 8 Dems with the Mary Jo Kilroy victory being announced over a month after the election.



The IBEW had their annual picnic at Stricker's Grove in Hamilton County. Steve Driehaus stopped in to thank them for their endorsement.

State House: Democrats made history by seizing the majority of the Ohio House of

AFL-CIO Endorsed House Candidates Where Party Control Switched:

- HD17 - Brady (lost)
- HD18 - Patten (won)
- HD19 - Harris (won after recount)
- HD 20 - Garland (won)
- HD 22 - Carney (won)
- HD 28 - Pillich (won)
- HD 42 - Moran (won)
- HD 58 - Traster (lost)
- HD 63 Schneider (won)
- HD 85 - Pryor (won)
- HD 92 - Phillips (won)

Attorney General: State Treasurer Rich Cordray won in a landslide for the special election for Attorney General.

Thank you for making these outcomes possible. Time to govern and then prepare for victory in 2010 to sustain a progressive majority for a generation.

Central Ohio Election Roundup

If you read the front page of the Ohio ALF-CIO website it will tell you, "We are firefighters and factory workers, electricians and educators, plumbers and postal workers, miners and municipal employees." However, on November 4 2008, we became something more. We became the makers of history. The drive in Central Ohio to empower and educate the membership was unprecedented. Not only did central Ohio help to win the Presidential Election, but helped win several local campaigns as well.



Seth Rosen of the CWA District 4 Vice President spends time on the Ohio AFL-CIO Call Center in Columbus.

Approximately 582 locals throughout the Central Ohio ALF reported activity and supplied volunteers this election cycle. This equates to over 89% of the

Central Ohio membership. It was great to see unions working together to achieve a common goal. GMP, and IBEW locals donated their halls to host phone banks and labor events. USW, IUPAT, CWA and AFSCME/OAPSE release staff hit the ground running every day. CLC leaders worked with ALF leaders to lead the way on the walks. It was union members; active and retired, working around the clock side by side that won this election. The efforts of all the supporting unions within Central Ohio are something all members can be proud and thankful of.



Billy Boyce, President of the Central ALF, and Amy Atkins, Chief Steward for USW 730, at a worksite flyer event at Medco in Columbus.

Important Dates

December 11: Ross-Highland CLC meeting /7:30 pm/ Chillicothe, OH

December 13-14: One New Toy / 9:00am - 4:30pm UAW # 969 Hall, 3761 Harding Dr., Columbus, OH

December 13: Charity Newsies Drive /Starts at 7:00am/ Meijers on W. Broad St.

December 17: Central ALF Board Meeting / 11:30am/ Planks Café, Columbus, OH

December 17: Central Ohio CLC Meeting / Cancelled for December

December 17: Licking-Knox CLC Meeting /7:30pm/ Newark, OH

What Happened in November in Northeast Ohio?

The sense of pride, anticipation, and hope I felt on the night of November 4th simply can't be overstated. Watching state after state turned blue on the networks' maps, I was almost afraid to breathe – after all, we'd come so close in the past only to see victory snatched away in the wee hours of the morning after the polls closed. This year was different, though – there was an energy in the air on Election Day, the people and the nation were charged up and more than ready to change the direction of this Country.

As the returns continued to roll in we recorded victory after victory. We re-elected great public servants to Congress like Zack Space, Tim Ryan, Charlie Wilson, and Betty Sutton - and we didn't

send them back to Washington alone. Joining them will be John Bocchieri representing the 16th Congressional District, ending a long dark history of bad representation for workers in Stark, Wayne, Medina, and Ashland counties.

Working people in Akron overwhelmingly beat back a poorly thought out plan to privately lease the city's wastewater treatment facilities. While the mayor tried to dress up the proposal as a way to fund college education, activists from AFSCME got the message out so the public saw the plan for the job-killer it really was.

See Northeast / Page 4

Happenings in the Southwest ALF Zone



Getting signatures of support for the Employee Free Choice Act at an APWU union picnic in southwest Ohio.

Cleaning up since the election, reflecting on all the hard work done by so many and thanks to all! Working now with the locals in the Southwest Zone, primarily on the bridge loan for the auto workers. It's the topic of all discussions at any and all meetings I've attended, including our last CLC meeting on November 24, 2008 along with EFCA. Encouraging all members for all their support on both very important endeavors.

Executive Director Wes Wells will be working to get the resolution for the County passed,

hopefully soon after the first of the year. The special hosted retiree member meeting that was held at the Labor Council on the November 25, 2008.

Next item...we will be having our Christmas celebration at the next CLC meeting on December 22, 2008 at 6:00 pm. Everyone is invited!! It's been a hard fought battle for Labor 2008 this year, but, our work is not done and we look forward to what 2009 will bring. Hope to see you all at the Christmas Party!



IUPAT President Jim Williams Addresses Cincinnati IUPAT Rally

Northeast Continued



Members gather at the Golden Lodge in Canton for a rally featuring newly-elected Congressman John Bocchieri.

In the Ohio House we put the gavel of leadership in the hands of worker-friendly Representatives for the first time in far too long. This achievement was made even more notable by the fact that this is the first time in Ohio history for a party to reclaim the majority in the House when the district lines were drawn by the opposing party.

Countless local and county government races, and school and library levies further illustrated the message of the night. Ohio's working people were ready for real change – and they went en masse to the ballot box to demand that change.

As that map turned more and more blue, that hope shined brighter. We had done it! All of a sudden things like real health care reform, a more balanced trade policy, and the Employee Free Choice Act are within our grasp.

I think it's very important to take a moment and reflect back on the process that allowed us to achieve all these victories. The Labor 2008 plan was a proven one: talk to our members about the issues that affect their families and jobs, and get that message to them in the most effective means possible – through their Local leaders and people they trust, at their worksites and doorsteps.

I don't think it's any secret that the Labor Movement was divided going into 2008 – perhaps more divided

that at any time in our history, but as November 4th loomed on the horizon something magical happened. Difference of opinion and perspective were put aside. Personal and institutional differences paled in comparison to the task set before us. By the beginning of November leaders, activists, and volunteers of different labor unions had pulled together so tightly in formation that the collective strength of purpose couldn't be stopped. Regional, State, and National organizations that in the past clashed over resources and ideologies came together under a common yoke and pulled with a strength that was truly greater than the sum of its parts.

We all know that when workers come together in common purpose, as the old song says, "There can be no power greater anywhere beneath the sun" – We proved that on November 4th, 2008. On that day we won not only an election, but a new beginning. We won an opportunity to rebuild the working class in this country. The challenge before all of us from this day forward is to keep the unity forged in this battle.

If we do stand united, the Employee Free Choice Act, health care that we can count on, and FAIR trade policies are just the beginning. The battle will never be easy, but the reward is immeasurable in worth – a nation we can be proud to leave to our children, and their children.



On October 5, Ohio AFL-CIO President Joe Rugola began a 300-mile trek to highlight the loss of 180,000 Ohio jobs in the last eight years. In that time, 1,098 worksites have closed or held mass lay-offs. Pres. Rugola will visit some of those sites along his way. Here, Pres. Rugola (holding the sign) meets members outside an Amweld Plant in Niles, OH.

November in the North Coast was a Success



Theresa Jackson, Fannie Dean, Rose Bonner, and Lola Phillips, all of OAPSE/AFSCME 318, Before a Cleveland Labor Walk

The North Coast ALF is not only celebrating the success of the November elections but also planning strategies for holding our newly elected politicians feet to the fire on our issues. We have many issues of concern to pursue. The first of which is the Employee Free Choice Act if we expect to grow our memberships and affiliations. We can only become stronger if we pass EFCA. It can help us to win on other issues like Jobs, the Economy, Health Care, Trade Agreements, Energy, Infrastructure and Iraq & Afghanistan Wars just to name a few.

The Ashtabula CLC Delegates meet the second Tuesday each month at 6 PM (Dec. 9th next meeting). The North Shore CLC Delegates meet the second Wednesday each month at 6 PM (Dec. 10th next meeting). The Lorain CLC Delegates meet the second

Thursday each month at 7:30 PM (Dec. 11th next meeting). The Retirees Delegates meet the 4th Friday at 10 am each month 10 AM. The Cleveland Building Trades meets every Tuesday at 10 AM. The Lake/Geauga Building Trades meets every Wednesday at 10 AM. The Lake/Geauga AFL-CIO meets the third Monday at 6 PM each month (Dec. 15th next meeting).

Some current items being worked on in the North Coast are as follows:

UFCW 880 & Jobs with Justice supporting Case Farm striking workers. Lorain CLC supporting Sheffield Village Firefighters organizing efforts. Support for Sherrod Brown's legislation (Trade Reform Accountability Development and Employment Act) to bring about fair trade not just free trade. Ashtabula and North Shore CLC's are involved in their nominations and elections for their officers. North Shore CLC had no opposition in any position and all were elected by acclamation.



The CNA Bus Tour in Willoughby, Ohio

OPEIU Supports Our Troops

OPEIU Local 19 and Toledo Edison are collecting items to send to our troops during the holiday season. Many union members have sons, daughters and spouses serving over seas, and the Red Cross has committed to help in the effort to send care packages to them. Items must be collected by December 12th and they can be taken

directly to the Holland Service Center (Toledo Edison), or call the union hall at 419-246-1540 to make arrangements to drop items off at the hall. Some items that have been requested are personal hygiene items (no aerosol cans), food and snacks, powdered drinks, toys, stamps, envelopes, stationary, and books.



Twenty years ago Organized Labor, local businesses and United Way began One New Toy, a program here in Columbus, to provide new toys and food to low-income families, families who have lost their livelihood due to lay-off or plant closing and low-income senior citizens.

This year we anticipate serving 1200 families through this program.

We are asking you to consider participating this year by volunteering your time and/or donating a gift.

If you would like to donate a gift, the greatest need this year is “teen” gifts, ages 12-16. The ONT program is one of the few holiday programs in the city that takes ages 12-16. If you are interested in volunteering, volunteers are needed to help sort canned goods, package gift bags and fill orders. Any amount of time you have will be greatly appreciated. A hot lunch will be provided to all volunteers.

Dates: December 13, 9:00AM – 4:30 PM
December 14, 9:00AM – 4:30 PM

Location: United Auto Workers #969 Hall,
3761 Harding Dr., (West Broad & Wilson Rds.)

Please contact Joan Fluharty, 614-227-2729, or by email at joan.fluharty@uwcentralohio.org if you are interested in volunteering.

Thank you for sharing the holiday spirit with others.

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

Why We Need the Employee Free Choice Act

Thanks in large part to the efforts of union volunteers around the country, working families won a strong victory on Nov. 4, sending Barack Obama to the White House and electing a stronger pro-worker majority of senators and representatives.



promised to be beside us in this fight and a president who has promised to sign the Employee Free Choice Act.

Here are the facts on why we need the Employee Free Choice Act:

However, winning an election isn't the end of the fight. Now, our elected leaders need to tackle the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression. They have to keep their promises to the people who voted for them—and we have to give them the support they need to make the tough choices. We need an economic recovery package that will turn around this broken economy for working families with good jobs, green jobs, re-regulation of our financial system and health care that works for all of us. But no matter what else we do, it won't result in real shared prosperity unless we restore workers' freedom to form unions so they can bargain for a better life with better wages and benefits. That's what this proposed legislation, the Employee Free Choice Act, will do. The Employee Free Choice Act will:

- Put real teeth in the laws that are supposed to bar companies from intimidating, harassing—even firing—workers who want to form unions.
- Allow workers to form their union when a majority signs cards indicating that's what they desire.
- Require arbitration to end corporate foot-dragging when workers try to get a first contract.

And Big Business and the front groups set up by corporations are preparing an all-out, \$200 million propaganda and lobbying war to block it.

Unions have made passage of the Employee Free Choice Act a top priority for this year because it is the key to good wages, benefits, a voice in the workplace and the amplified political voice unions bring workers. In 2007, the U.S. House passed the measure and it had majority support in the Senate, but a minority killed it with a filibuster, emboldened by President George W. Bush's promise to veto the legislation. Now we have elected a new Congress that has

Working families are struggling. For too long, workers haven't had the power to get their fair share of the value they create. Workers are finding it harder and harder to stay in our homes, pay for our health care and save for our retirement. And our economy is suffering as a result.

Unions make people's lives better. The freedom to form unions and bargain for a better life is a basic human right, and it makes a difference: Union members make 30 percent more than workers who don't have unions. They're 59 percent more likely to have health benefits and four times more likely to have pensions. That's real economic security. Communities with strong unions have higher standards of living for everyone.

But the system is broken. More than 60 million workers who don't have a union would join one if they could. But under existing law, corporations essentially have a veto over the process. In our company-dominated system, workers can be intimidated, coerced and even fired by their bosses for trying to form a union. A decision that should be in the hands of workers is instead in the hands of corporate executives.

Why union members should support the Employee Free Choice Act. The Employee Free Choice Act doesn't just matter for workers who are trying to form a union. When more workers are in unions, workers have the strength in numbers they need to demand good wages and good benefits across communities and industries. That helps all workers bargain for better contracts and counterbalance corporate power.

The Employee Free Choice Act means long-term shared prosperity. The Employee Free Choice Act is essential to rebuilding the middle class and ensuring the survival of the American Dream. We can build an economy that works for everyone if workers can exercise the freedom to form unions.

Rapid Response Program More Important Than Ever

In the face of Ohio's budget crisis, a threatened auto industry, and an increasing number of plant closures and layoffs, Ohio's AFL-CIO Workforce Development Rapid Response program sponsored an educational forum to address the future of Ohio's workers. The November 18th and 19th event brought together leaders from labor, economic development and workforce development to focus on this complex issue.

Over 160 people participated. Nearly half were union leadership and included labor representatives from local Workforce Investment Boards. Nearly all of the twenty local WIBS were represented, with ten of their directors joining the discussions.

The forum addressed the issue at several different levels—the economic and political environment, resources available, and strategies to get resources to current and dislocated (laid off) workers and to struggling companies.

Information about the economic and political environment was provided by several highly respected experts. Lieutenant Governor Lee Fisher discussed his economic development goals. Daniel Marschall, the Legislative and



Policy Specialist for Workforce Issues at the national AFL-CIO discussed the political environment for dislocated workers. Joel Rogers, a professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison who directs the Center for State Innovation spoke about green jobs and their potential financial impact. Sean McAlinden, the Chief Economist and Vice President of Research at the Center for Automotive Research updated information on the auto industry and its impact on Ohio's manufacturing industry. J. Peri Sabety, Ohio's Director of the Office of Budget and Management outlined the state's economic challenges.

Rochelle Daniels, a respected lawyer with expertise about WIBs detailed the responsibilities of and resources available to WIB Boards.

Some examples of successful programs were shared. The Ohio AFL-CIO Rapid Response Program's strategies for dislocated workers—labor management committees, transition centers, and peer support systems—were presented from a front-line perspective by people who had suffered a layoff and company executives who had to implement layoffs.

Upgrading the skills of Ohio's existing workforce continues to be a statewide priority. Resources available for apprenticeship training and incumbent skilled workers, along with the importance of credentialing in manufacturing, were addressed.



Chrysler Retirees Discuss the Crisis in Dayton



Executive Director Wes Wells, Dayton AFL-CIO Labor Council hosted the Chrysler Retiree Group on Thursday 11/25/08 with the main topic of discussion being the upcoming changes in their health care. Also discussed was the importance of having retirees call/write/e-mail their representatives and ask them to support the Bridge Loan for the Auto Industries & EFCA.

Union Vets Come Out in Support For Obama

Bruce Krupp, a veteran and a member of the American Postal Workers Union local 170, wanted to tell voters that John McCain would be a poor choice for working families and for veterans. That is why he came up with the idea to have a 'Veterans Against McCain' Rally. Krupp said, "I'm tired of people thinking that just because I'm a veteran, I'm supporting John McCain for President. There are a lot of us that are not going to vote for McCain, and we want to let people know why."



Jim Wasser, an IBEW member and spokesperson for the AFL-CIO Union Veterans Council spoke out against John McCain's record on veterans issues, and talked about how the Senator repeatedly voted against benefits for veterans. Greg Printy, from the Disabled American Veterans organization, told an emotional story about his struggles with Post

Traumatic Stress Disorder, and spoke about the importance of taking care of veterans when they return home from war. There were over 50 veterans and union activists that attended the demonstration on October 31st. John Boellner, a veteran and NALC political coordinator said, "The reason we had it on Halloween was because there is nothing scarier than John McCain's voting record on veterans and workers issues."

Ohio AFL-CIO Harley Raffle Winner Announced



The Ohio AFL-CIO is pleased to announce that Julie Truss, VP, OPWU, won the 2008 Harley Davidson raffle which was held during the Convention in Cleveland. Pictured from left to right is: Tim Burga, Ohio AFL-CIO Chief of Staff, Terry Grant, President, OPWU, Julie, and Joe Rugola, Ohio AFL-CIO President. Special thanks to Jeanette Mauk and Theresa Willis for organizing and running the raffle.