

Leadership Update May 22, 2008

Brothers and Sisters,

Minnesota's Labor 2008 Kickoff week has been a great success! You mobilized more than 230 volunteers who went door to door to talk issues with fellow union members. An unprecedented feat this early in the election year. We've included photos that you sent us in this newsletter and they'll be in Just the Fax, too. Thanks for putting Minnesota at the top of the nation!

Brian Winkelaar
Labor 2008 State Director

Kick off week photos & and numbers



Bree Halverson (left) East Metro Regional Labor Federation (RLF) hands packets to the volunteers.



Candidates Steve Sarvi (left) and Ashwin Madia, U.S. Rep. Keith Ellison, East and West Metro RLF presidents Shar Knutson and Bill McCarthy, and Elwyn Tinklenberg, 6th CD candidate.



AFSCME Local 517 member Judie Atkins knocked on the door of a union household in Lauderdale May 17.



Dotty Danley and Dan Mikel, MN State Retiree Council



Jeannette Rebar, East Metro RLF and Anna Brelje, West Metro RLF

Photos courtesy of Michael Moore, St. Paul Union Advocate Editor and Jennifer Munt, Communications Coordinator, AFSCME Council 5

Metro area door knock: 127 volunteers
St. Cloud area door knock: 64 volunteers
Southeast area door knock: 18 volunteers
Northeast area door knock: 29 volunteers
State door knocks with more volunteers than Minnesota: 2 (Ohio, Pennsylvania)
Great job everyone!!!

Ready, set, meet

Making sure that union members know about, support and participate in Labor 2008 is a huge task--and the AFL-CIO is now providing its 'meeting in a box' service to help us keep members in the loop. During the next 3 months, we'll be focusing on Health Care, Employee Free Choice and An Economy That Works for All. Your local Regional Labor Federation will be presenting this in the next few months and will be able to order copies for unions that are interested in showing to their members. Please make an effort to have delegates to the RLF's attend these meetings.

Labor Leader of the Week

Mike Buesing

As president of AFSCME Council 5, Mike Buesing has been at the forefront of politics for many years. AFSCME Council 5 had tremendous volunteer turnout for our May 17th door knocks, with over 70 volunteers they were the top international in the state for turnout. Talking to members about important issues has been a priority for AFSCME. "AFSCME Council 5 is committed to winning Minnesota for working families. That's why our members turned out in force for the Labor 2008 Kick Off and it's why we'll continue to talk with folks at the worksite, over the phone, and at the doorstep," said Mike Buesing, President of AFSCME Council 5. Thanks for all of your hard work Mike.

Calendar

- Phone banks: Calls have started around the state and will be running for the next 2 weeks. Calls are focused on talking about issues that are important to union members.
- Walks: Our next round of Labor to Labor door knocks will be the week of June 21
- Meetings: Statewide Steering Committee Meeting is Thursday, June 12th at 10:00 AM.

The last word

Just a quick note about what our volunteers were hearing on the doors. A volunteer in St Cloud was talking to a member of the building trades and when asked who he was supporting for president he said, "I'm a working class guy, I'm with you all the way." It is great to see such energy and passion about the upcoming election.

Congratulations and great job in the May 17th walks! Your dedication is greatly appreciated.