

Leadership Update May 8, 2008

Greetings:

Across this nation our brothers and sisters are standing up for workers. We are challenging the Bush/McCain anti worker agenda. Working people are being left behind as wages stagnate, health care costs spiral out of control and the hope of a secure retirement fades. The housing crisis and credit crunch have working families stretched to the limit like no other time in the last 50 years. Wage stagnation and economic inequality form the house of cards upon which our current economy was built. We have been out at the worksites with our message and next week we will join our brothers and sisters from across the nation going door to door.

Join us on Saturday, May 17, as the massive Labor 2008 program launches in Minnesota and other battleground states

What: Minnesota joins nationwide Labor 2008 kickoff

When: May 17 (May 15 in Virginia, May 20 in St. Cloud)

Where: 6 Minnesota locations, 150 Locations nationwide

- Virginia, MN – Thurs., May 15, 4 PM - Local 49 Hall - 8381 Enterprise Dr.
- Metro Area – Sat., May 17, 9 AM - Local 49 Hall - 2829 Anthony Lane S.
- Duluth – Sat., May 17, 9 AM - Labor Temple - 2002 London Rd.
- Grand Forks – Sat., May 17, 9 AM - IBEW Local 1426 - 1714 N. Washington
- Mankato – Sat., May 17, 9 AM - Labor Temple, 310 McKinzie St.
- Rochester – Sat., May 17, 9 AM – Plumbers Local 6, 1470 Industrial Dr. NW
- St. Cloud – Tue., May 20, 4 PM, Laborers Hall - 1903 Fourth St. N.

We'll need your help in the coming months with walks, phone banks, worksite leafleting and other activities. Your help is critical to getting information out to working family voters.



Show union members where John McCain stands

You'll find flyers in English—and in Spanish—on the working families toolkit. And the AFL-CIO will pay for printing when you order flyers through the toolkit. Keep the pressure on, by showcasing www.mccainrevealed.org in your newsletters and on your web site.

FYI: Candidate McCain is on record, saying that he:

- Would tax health benefits
- Supports NAFTA
- Opposes the Employee Free Choice Act
- Is no fan of OSHA or worker safety

Labor Leader of the Week

Steve Claypatch, Business Manager of IBEW 292, has been dedicated to increasing Local 292 participation in politics. One recent example came last week, when a large group of IBEW members lobbied the legislators and urged them to support a multi-million dollar, job-creating expansion at the Mall of America. With its 5000 members, local 292 is fully participating in the Labor 2008 program and will be releasing staff to work full-time on Labor 2008 in June. As Steve says, "This election is about the future. Labor will play a critical role and IBEW 292 will do whatever it takes to win this election for working families."

News from Working America

Working America, the community affiliate of the AFL-CIO, began recruiting members from its third and newest office in the St. Cloud area May 5th. Since reopening the Twin Cities office in May '07 and Rochester in April '08, Working America canvassers have recruited more than **65,000 members**. In addition, **Working America** canvassers are encouraging members to take action on healthcare and an economy that is failing workers. **Working America** canvassers have **collected more than 9,000 signatures** on a petition supporting affordable healthcare, and **delivered 431 hand-written letters to Minnesota legislators** asking them to raise the minimum wage. Read more at: <http://www.workingamerica.org/blog/category/minnesota/>

It's who you know...

- East Central ALC: [Wayne Fleischhacker](#), 503 Maple St. Brainerd, MN 56401 – 218-839-0850
- Mpls. Regional Labor Fed.: [Anna Brelje](#), 312 Central Ave., Mpls., MN 55414 – 612-379-4206
- Northeast ALC: [Chad McKenna](#), 331 E. 5th St., #2, Duluth, MN 55805 – 218-310-8412
- St. Paul Regional Labor Fed.: [Bree Halverson](#), 411 Main St., #202, St. Paul, MN 55102 – 651-222-3787
- Southeast ALC: [Liz McLoone](#), 11 Fourth St. SE, Rochester, MN 55904 – 507-254-9249
- West ALC: [Mark Froemke](#), 811 N. Broadway, Crookston, MN 56716 – 701-722-7404

Calendar

Labor 2008 Steering Committee Meeting: 10 AM, Thursday, May 15

The last word:

Both Houses of Minnesota Legislature support Employee Free Choice Act

On International Workers' Day, May 1, Minnesota became one of only four states that have supported the Employee Free Choice Act in both Houses of its legislature. With more than 30 union members looking on, 84 Minnesota legislators voted for SF 543, a resolution urging Congress to pass the Employee Free Choice Act. The same bill passed the Minnesota Senate during the 2007 Legislative Session...

...But Governor joins McCain, Coleman in opposing freedom to join unions

Senators John McCain and **Norm Coleman** voted against the Employee Free Choice Act in the US Senate, and **Tim Pawlenty** is following in his mentors' anti-worker footsteps. On Thursday, May 8 Pawlenty vetoed a bill supporting workers' freedom to form and join unions.

Brian Winkelaar
Minnesota State Director – Labor 2008

