

UNION VETERANS

AFL-CIO

<http://www.unionveterans.org>

- In July 2008, the National AFL-CIO launched the Union Veterans Council and announced plans for state Union Veterans Councils in Ohio, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Colorado, Virginia and West Virginia. Union activists in Michigan, Pennsylvania, New Hampshire, Oregon and Arizona are also interested in forming state councils or are planning union veteran-led events.
- The Union Veterans Council Labor 2008 activities brought union veterans together on issues that matter most to veterans, our families and working men and women to make the Council a permanent fixture in the labor movement beyond the elections.
- The Union Veterans Council includes representatives from 20 unions and labor organizations. It is chaired by Mark Ayers, President of the Building and Construction Trades Department and U.S. Navy veteran during the Vietnam War. American Federation of Government Employees Secretary-Treasurer J. David Cox, and United American Nurses President Ann Converso serve as Co-Vice Chairs of the Council. Cox and Converso combined have over 50 years of service in the Veterans Administration.
- Over 2 million union members are military veterans. Hundreds of thousands of retirees are veterans, and countless union families have relatives currently serving or recently returned from military duty. The voices of union veterans and their families are powerful. When veterans speak, veterans and other union members listen.
- Through our website, www.unionveterans.org, we have already identified over 4,600 e-activists who want to keep informed of Union Veterans Council events, and over 400 volunteer union veteran spokespeople.
- Elements of the Union Veterans Council efforts include:
 - Bringing together top union leaders who are also veterans to strategize and mobilize union veterans at all levels of the union movement.
 - A television ad featuring Jim Wasser, Vietnam veteran and IBEW union member discussing how John McCain's agenda was wrong for working people;
 - New Union Vets Council website with written and video testimony from union veterans;
 - Building veteran-focused communications materials on the Working Families Toolkit;
 - Union veterans leading walks, worksite visits and roundtable discussions talking to union members about key issues;
 - Launching an e-activism campaign to union veterans;
 - Letters to the editor campaigns.
- To learn more about the Union Veterans Council and how to participate in the Ohio Union Veterans Council, Contact Jeanette Mauk, Field Director, Ohio AFL-CIO at jmauk@ohafclcio.org or 614-224-8271 ext. 7144.