

## 2008 WINNERS LABOR HISTORY AWARDS: NATIONAL HISTORY DAY

Listed below are the Junior and Senior winners in six regions as well as the State Event winners in the Junior and Senior Events, held May 3. Regional competition was held earlier in the year, with selected students going to the State event. *(There are no winners listed for the Northern Great Lakes region, which was snowed out.)* The Wisconsin Labor History Society presented cash awards of \$50 each to the regional winners and \$100 to the two statewide winners; selections were based on their relevance to Wisconsin labor or worker history, plus other factors. To see the winners in all categories in the State Event, go to <http://wisconsinhistory.org>.

**Southeastern Region — Junior** Amy Nycz, Jamie Weigel and Alex Anania, of West Milwaukee WI Middle School,  
"Allis Chalmers Strike, 1946" *Junior Group Performance*

Our project was a performance about the Allis Chalmers strike of 1946. Our storyboard is based around the actual events of the strike. Some of the scenes we reenact include the strike, the fights caused by the strike, and the compromise between Allis Chalmers and Local 248. This strike was a perfect example of the hard work, effort, conflicts, and struggles of the entire labor movement.

**Southeastern Regional — Senior** Valerie Dingman, of Random Lake High School, Random Lake  
"Mining in Mineral Point" *Senior Individual Exhibit*

My exhibit was about mining in Mineral Point, Wisconsin. The main mining boom was during the mid 1800s. The labors of the hard working miners helped shape Mineral Point into a political and economic powerhouse, which in turn helped form the great state of Wisconsin.

**Northeastern — Junior** Samantha Phillips and Megan Swain, of  
Gibraltar Middle School, Fish Creek  
"Stuck in the Factories!"  
*Junior Group Documentary*

**Northeastern Regional — Senior** Samantha Francar, of  
Lincoln High School, Manitowoc  
"Understanding Child Labor Through the Newsboy Strike of 1899"  
*Senior Individual Exhibit*

**Western Regional — Junior** Julie Phillips, of West  
Salem Middle School, West Salem  
"Children in Need: Abolishing Child Labor"  
*Junior Individual Exhibit*

My project was a scrapbook explaining the conflicts and compromises of child labor in the 1900s. It relates to labor history because children were forced to work.



**Their scrapbook on child labor won for Samantha Phillips and Megan Swain of Gibraltar Middle School, Fish Creek. They are shown with WLHS Board members Bob Agen and Jim Reiland.**

**Western Regional — Senior** Laticia White, of Cochrane-Fountain City High School, Fountain City  
"Social Insurance for All: Conflicts and Compromises in Creating a Social Security Act"  
*Senior Individual Documentary*

I presented a documentary describing why the Social Security Act of 1935 was written, the conflicts that led to the writing and the conflicts and compromises that arose while writing and passing the Social Security Act. This documentary presents facts about the Great Depression, Roosevelt's New Deal, and the Social Security Act. This act helped many that weren't able to work and encouraged people to work at the same time. It created things such as stabilized employment and a source of income for those who couldn't work.

**South Central Regional — Junior** Anne Zhao, of EAGLE School, Madison  
"The Bay View Tragedy: Worker's Struggle for Freedom" *Junior Individual Documentary*

On May 5, 1886, the Milwaukee militia fired into a crowd of unarmed workers during an 8-hour-day protest at the North Chicago Rolling Mills in Bay View, Milwaukee. My project was based on this event, the Bay View Tragedy. I believe this event was crucial to Milwaukee's workers as well as workers across America. If five strikers had not sacrificed their lives on May 5, American workers would probably be living in the same conditions.

**South Central Regional — Senior** Ryan Knuteson, of Mount Horeb High School, Mt. Horeb

“The Baseball Strike of 1994” *Senior Individual Exhibit*

I believe my exhibit “The Baseball Strike of 1994” best meets the criteria of the American Labor History Award because it examines the issues that exist between the players union and the owners which led to the stoppage of the baseball season in 1994 including the cancellation of the World Series. My project highlights the timeline of the labor-management dispute, what each side was fighting for and a summary of the eventual outcome. My research showed that this was a very complicated issue.

**Northwestern Regional — Junior** Mariah Lopez, of DeLong Middle School, Eau Claire

“Cesar Chavez, Labor Union Organizer” *Junior Individual Exhibit*

My project was about Cesar Chavez and how his nonviolent acts helped the immigrant workers get better rights in the 1960s.

**Northwestern Regional — Senior** Will Beckfield and Bill Ogden, of Regis High School, Eau Claire

“The United AutoWorkers General Motors Sitdown Strike” *Senior Group Documentary*

**Central Regional — Junior** Alexis Ingman, of D.C. Everest Junior High, Schofield

“The Kohler Strike: 7 Years of Brutal Conflict Ending in One Simple Compromise”

*Junior Individual Performance*

**Central Regional — Senior** Paul Merchant, of D.C. Everest Senior High, Schofield

“Conflict and Compromise in the Minnesota Iron Range During the Progressive Era”

*Senior Web Site*

I did my project on some of the struggles that went on during the Progressive Era in the Minnesota Iron Range. Many of the miners on the range were immigrants and they were new to the idea of labor unions, and the way American mines and companies operated. This along with the lingering effects of the Panic of 1893 led to three major strikes, two of which were lead by the WFA and the IWW. The immigrants stood up for what they believed in and although it took a while, the miners were granted their wish for labor unions twenty-five years later.



**Alexis Ingman**

**State Event — Junior** Amy Nycz, Jamie Weigel, Alexander Anania, of West Milwaukee Middle School

“The Allis Chalmers Strike of 1946” Description Above *Junior Group Performance*

**State Event — Senior** Eleanor Hagerman of University School of Milwaukee

“The Allen-Bradley Strike of 1970” *Senior Individual Documentary*

## GREAT EXHIBITS FROM AROUND THE STATE

The judging at each of the regional meetings was done by volunteer members of the WLHS. Melanie Schaller (photo right) examines materials at an exhibit in the Northwestern Regional. The exhibit (below) from Alexis Ingman of Schofield depicts child labor issues through a newspaperboy strike of 1899.

