



# Holding the Line

Strike Update  
Issue #10

## Upcoming Events

Join Assemblywoman Cindy  
Montanez on the picket line  
at Vons in Sylmar

Thursday, Nov. 6, 4-6 p.m.  
13730 Foothill Blvd, Sylmar

Rally with ILWU and  
Los Angeles County  
Federation of Labor  
at Albertsons in San Pedro

Monday, Nov. 10, 6-8 p.m.  
28090 S. Western, San Pedro

## National Coalition Helps "Hold the Line"

I was asked to attend a press conference in Washington, DC, on October 30. This honor that had been bestowed upon me was overwhelming. I actually had to pinch myself to see if it was really happening. I went to my room and I prayed, and literally broke down in tears because I had been secretly harboring some anxieties from being locked out by the company that I have given many years of service to. But, then a sense of calm came over me, and I wasn't afraid anymore.

On the morning of the press conference, I didn't know what to expect. But, as the room began to fill with people congratulating us on the great job we had done in keeping customers out of the stores, you could see our chests literally sticking out with pride and dignity for all our members that we left behind. What a feeling that was!

Then the big guns entered the room—including our International President Doug Dority. We stood for our introductions and shook his hand, and we looked up at a man that appeared to be eight feet tall, followed by another powerful man, AFL-CIO President John Sweeney. We knew then that we were participating in something really, really big. I was totally overwhelmed by the concern and support that we had on a national level. Just remember that you have all of these people standing tall and firm, telling you, "I've got your back." It absolutely blows you away!

I came away feeling so powerful, exhilarated, and most definitely, confident. I will share with the members on my line that we have nothing to fear but fear itself, and as the great leaders assured me, they will build a coalition against corporate greed. In closing, I'd like to leave you with the vision of all of us with locked arms, as I did with President Dority and President Sweeney. Let's pledge to stay strong and hold the line for health care.

—Lillie "Faye" Gibson  
Ralphs #295, Downey



## Rallying Support

---

**Seniors Group Supports Strike:** “We support the UFCW employees in their determination to have adequate health care benefits and urge our members and all fair-minded seniors across California to support them,” said the Congress of California Seniors (CCS) President Hank Lacayo in announcing the group’s support. “Seniors with Medicare know just how crucial health coverage is. In the wealthiest nation on earth, this issue shouldn’t even be disputed. Workers shouldn’t be forced to go on strike for health care for themselves and their families.”

## From the Picket Line

---

- Diane Zabaly, a cashier at Safeway-owned Dominick’s in Chicago and Local 881 member, took her vacation time to come hold the line with Vons workers in the Los Angeles area.
- Los Angeles City Councilmember, and former UFCW member, Tony Cardenas joined the picket lines at three stores in the San Fernando Valley. “I talked to a union member who had, for the first time in ten years, taken his family on vacation before the strike. Now he has to worry about where his next paycheck is coming from and if he has enough in savings to sustain them,” said Cardenas. “Being a father of four with a daughter in college, I understand how difficult it is to put food on the table and save for the future of our children. I joined my friends to ask our communities to respect the picket lines so that these families can get the health care they deserve.”