



Holding the Line

Strike Update
Issue #11

President Dority Walks the Line

International President Visits Strikers

International President Doug Dority visited hundreds of Vons, Albertsons, and Ralphs workers this week, answering questions about the strike and giving words of support. President Dority thanked workers for their unprecedented solidarity and courage in the fight for affordable health care.

“These companies have seriously underestimated your strength and resolve,” said Dority. “You have the entire labor movement and workers across the country supporting you.”

President Dority informed everyone on the picket lines about the national fight to save affordable health care for all working families. He announced that picket lines would be extended to Northern California Safeway stores within the next few days.

Upcoming Events

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

International President Doug Dority visited picket lines from Los Angeles to El Monte, answering questions about the strike and giving support to hundreds of strikers.





Customer Messages

Supporters Speak Out

President Dority (right) and Local 770 President Rick Icaza met Nicole Green-Wallace, a customer at Vons in Los Angeles. “My daughters and I would never cross my friends’ picket line. I think it is terrible how the corporations are trying to take away their health benefits. They just couldn’t make ends meet with what Safeway wants to do to them!” said Nicole.



Holding the Line Across America

For weeks, thousands of us have been walking the picket lines, experiencing some of the worst conditions imaginable. In those few weeks, we have endured heat, wind, ash and rain. Despite this, we have stayed strong and committed to our fight, and much of this has to do with the amount of support we have received from our loyal customers and from brothers and sisters from other unions. It seems that people locally understand how important this is to our families, to our communities, and to our nation. So when I was given the opportunity to fly to Washington, DC, for a press conference regarding our struggle, I was delighted to take part in helping spread our message beyond Southern California.

The point where the magnitude of this situation truly began to set in for me was when Wade Henderson, Executive Director of the Leadership Council on Civil Rights, drew a comparison between the sit-ins and Freedom Rides of the Civil Rights movement, and our present fight for health care. Here we were, grocery clerks, forced to make a stand in order to feed our families, put a roof over their heads, and to make sure we were doing what is necessary to help them stay healthy; and we had the greatest Civil Rights, Labor, and Women’s Rights groups ready to fight for our cause. It was at this point I realized that we were speaking, not only for us, but also for millions of other people who find themselves in similar or worse situations.

When one group fights for dignity, it is a noble cause, but when other communities see that fight as worthy and join in solidarity, that is the point where history is made and success can be won against corporate giants. With so many on our side, our victory will surely be placed in the pages of history.

Solidarity Forever,

Matthew Hart, Steward for Vons #3069