



Holding the Line

Strike Update
Issue #5

Solidarity Works

Union Members Walk the Line

From Teamsters to Longshoremen to teachers, strikers have been joined on the picket lines by hundreds of workers from many industries—showing solidarity amongst all union members. Last week, the United Farm Workers (UFW) became the latest union to publicly announce its support for Southern California UFCW members with the passage of a resolution backing the supermarket strike.

UFCW members at other supermarkets are also standing behind the strike. Workers at Stater Bros. and Food 4 Less have brought food and drinks to picketers in Orange County and Los Angeles.

A checker at Gelsons in Calabasas went even further. Her store has been more crowded than ever before—and she is proud that the strike is effectively keeping customers out of

Vons, Ralphs, and Albertsons. She cashed her market share bonus check to buy snacks for picketers at her neighborhood Ralphs store. She then walked the line with them and told them how she and her co-workers appreciate their sacrifices to save affordable health care.

Unemployment Benefits

Albertsons and Ralphs employees should file for unemployment benefits immediately.

Applications are taken by telephone only at:
1-800-300-5616



(Top) Keeping the aisles empty: Customers stay out of Ralphs in San Diego, while signs are made to meet the high demand on the area's picket lines (bottom).



Customer Messages

Supporters Speak Out

Upcoming Events

San Gabriel Valley
Community Picket &
Asian Pacific Islander
Press Conference

Thursday, October 23
1:30 p.m. at Vons
1421 East Valley Blvd.
Alhambra

Dear Mr. Burd:

Inspired by your reported comments in today's *Los Angeles Times* to take a "hard line" in your negotiations with striking workers, as Vons Club members, we have decided to take a hard line, too.

Enclosed is our Vons Club card which we are returning to you because it is defective. It used to work when it was handled by cashiers receiving health benefits, but it does not work when handled to wheezing scabs. Much like the perishables in your stores, the card is beginning to take on an unpleasant odor. Please place it in your "hard line" file.

If you are able to fix it, please let us know by negotiating a fair contract with the unions representing your employees that provides for health benefits.

*With kind regards,
Michael Hersh
and Deborah Myers*

I have been retired from Local 1428 since 1983 and draw a pension of \$250 per month. The union has been good to me and my husband, and since we are unable to walk the picket line, we would like to make a donation to your strike fund. My husband Jim and I are sending \$1000 to help. It took way too many years to have the benefits and we would not have been able to make ends meet without our medical benefits.

*Juanita Sanders,
Calimesa*

Dear Vons:

I have been a loyal Vons market patron for many years. I also feel loyalty to the checkers and employees that have treated me so well these past years.

During the strike, I have chosen not to cross the picket lines. To my surprise, however, during my shopping experiences at Stater Bros. and Food 4 Less, I have found the experience to be pleasant. Maybe not all the items I usually buy are available, but maybe you and the rest of the companies not willing to negotiate better stop and think: maybe some of your former patrons will find other places to shop when the strike is over. I am thoroughly disgusted that there have been no further talks scheduled and you're not concerned to try and remedy this situation. I know for a fact you have continued to grow in your profits. Let's try to bring this to an end for the sake of your employees, the horrible economy in California, and your loyal patrons.

B.Rosen



In Your Words

There is some good that has come out of this strike—seeing how many customers in this community support us, their everyday cashiers, baggers, etc. Seeing our store parking lot empty and convincing a customer to shop somewhere else by pleading our case makes us all feel united. Being here with all our co-workers gives us a chance to understand where we are coming from and why we are out here. I want to give a special thanks to all of our customers who have stayed away and honored our picket lines.

—*Naomi Loyaly*
Picket Captain, Ralphs # 268

When one of us breaks into tears, wondering what is going to happen, the rest of us give support and comfort one another. We know we have to stay strong. We are already in this and we are not giving in. I cannot say enough to thank all of our regular customers for supporting us. They drive by and honk, and our parking lot is empty.

—*Judith Jimenez,*
Ralphs #265

Picket Chant

by Marty Maldonado, 10 years old

The CEO in a trance
Taking his employees health insurance
The employees started to picket
And drove the CEO into a wicket
The CEO said, "Stop this dance!"
The employees replied, "You took our health insurance!"
The employees finally succeeded
When the CEO was defeated!

**Visit your local union web site or
log on to www.saveourhealthcare.org
for more information.**