

Higher Ed Strike Prep Materials

9 Ways to Prepare for a Strike

Sometimes withholding our labor is the best strategy to win a fair contract. Although few people like to strike, it may become necessary. It does not have to be financially devastating if we all stick together and learn from the experience of others. The important thing is to maintain our solidarity and to be prepared.

9 Things You Can Do To Prepare For A Strike:

1. Begin immediately to save money. Lots of small savings can build up to a significant amount. Brown bag it to work instead of eating out. Don't stop for that latte at the coffee bar. Vacation locally rather than take a trip. Wash your own car. Hold off on big purchases until the contract is settled.
2. If we strike, inform your creditors (credit cards, mortgage company, loan office). Creditors greatly appreciate knowing this and consider such advance warning to be the act of a responsible debtor. Don't keep them in the dark.
3. All SEIU members have access to Union Plus benefits. Check out the services provided through Union Plus that help during a strike (note, many benefits apply only after a prolonged strike): <http://www.unionplus.org/life-planning-services-legal/strike-benefits>
4. Meet with your co-workers to make a plan for raising money for the hardship fund using the ideas below—or create your own ideas.
5. Go as a group to change your W-4 form. Let personnel or payroll know why.
6. Set up a "Strike Support Food Bank" drop box in your break room. If we don't strike, contribute the food to the Oregon Food Bank.
7. Involve your family. If your spouse, child, father, or friend is a member of another Union, ask them to approach their Union for a donation to the strike fund. Send a delegation.
8. Set up a child care bank so people can look after each other's kids while they're on the picket line.
9. Ask for solidarity. If there are SEIU members in your area who are prohibited from joining our strike (i.e. private non-profit or county workers) because they are under a different contract, ask them what they are willing to do to support the strike.

Above All, Use Your Imagination!