

Boeing Machinists' Victorious Strike



Boeing District 751 members man the picket line at the K-35 gate in Renton, WA after members in Kansas, Oregon, California and Washington voted overwhelmingly to reject Boeing's takeaway proposal.

"Doing The Right Thing For All The Right Reasons," was the rallying cry for more than 18,500 determined IAM members who won a 28-day struggle against the giant Boeing Company, winning key gains in pension, healthcare and job security.

"Boeing workers gave a resounding 'No' to corporate takeaways," said IAM President Tom Buffenbarger. "Their courageous stand is a signal that North American workers will fight hard to defend themselves against corporate greed."

The strike at Boeing is a

victory for the labor movement nationwide. "Despite three years of consistent profits, Boeing sought huge healthcare cuts and offered the lowest percentage pension benefit increase in decades," said Aerospace Coordinator Dick Schneider. "The workers at Boeing said enough is enough."

A Fight for All Workers

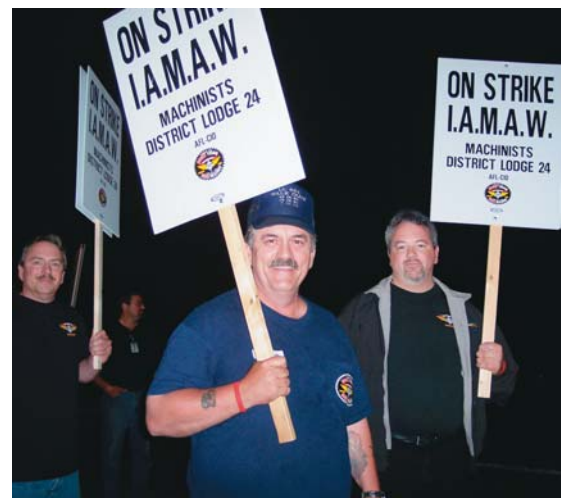
The historic battle began when formal negotiations between the two sides

District 24 members in Portland, OR, put up picket lines at midnight on the first day of the 28-day strike against Boeing.

opened in June, 2005. With the current agreement set to expire on September 1, round-the-clock negotiations began in mid-August.

The top issues identified by the members at Boeing – retirement benefits, health-care and job security – are the same issues troubling millions of working men and women across North America. They became the centerpiece of the talks. Boeing proposed massive takeaways on every issue and offered only a meager pension increase.

On September 1, IAM members gave their answer. They rejected Boeing's offer overwhelmingly and voted to strike the company by 86 percent. At midnight workers put down their tools and put up picket lines in a walkout





Nearly four-thousand Machinists and their families turned out for the traditional “march for a contract” led by the Main Table negotiators; Aerospace Coordinator Dick Schneider; District 751 President Mark Blondin; District 70 President Steve Rooney; District 24 DBR Bob Petroff and the Negotiating Subcommittees.

that shut down Boeing’s commercial operations in Kansas, Oregon, Edwards Air Force Base, California and Washington.

Boeing Backs Down

Solid determination by IAM members forced Boeing to withdraw their takeaway proposals on every major issue and concede to IAM members’ demands.

After 28 tough days on the picket line, IAM members voted to accept Boeing’s vastly improved offer and returned to work.

“This agreement, and the dramatic improvement over what the company originally proposed, should be the last word in any debate over the value of a militant union and a determined membership in today’s cutthroat economic environment,” said Buffenbarger. “Holding the

line on healthcare is huge – especially as others continue to accept cost shifting and eliminating benefits for new hires. Our members accomplished something no one else has done since the 1990’s.”

“Because of the solidarity and unified courage of our members, we achieved a better pension, better seniority and recall rights, preserved our healthcare, achieved better job security and preserved retiree healthcare for past retirees, current members, and future hires,” said District 751 President Mark Blondin. Boeing also withdrew a proposal that would have pro-

vided less in pay and benefits for IAM members working in Wichita, KS.

“We went into these negotiations together and we were determined to come out together,” said Steve Rooney, president of District 70 in Wichita. “Rather than be divided by sellouts and takeaway proposals, we are more unified than ever.”



Members stand strong on the picket lines at the Boeing Everett plant, the world’s largest building by volume.