

Raytheon Members Stand Strong and Win New Contract

Local 933 members at Raytheon Missile Systems in Tucson, AZ won a new agreement, ending a 10-week strike against the aerospace-industry giant. “The brothers and sisters of Local 933 can be proud. They held the line and didn’t back down,” said IP Tom Buffenbarger, who had walked the picket line with Local 933 members.

Workers won a three percent raise each year of the new three-year pact, lower caps on medical cost increases than Raytheon originally proposed and an increased

lump-sum payment of \$1,000 to offset medical plan costs.

Fight for Health Care

Fueled by determination to win a fair contract and to hold the line on health care costs, more than 90 percent of Local 933 members voted to reject Raytheon’s offer last November and go on strike. Members had made concessions in past years when Raytheon needed help to survive, but the company seemed to forget those sacrifices once it started recording huge profits.

“I am extremely proud of our members and what they have accomplished,” said Local 933 Directing Business Representative Bobby Martinez.

Community Support

The strike was far from easy for Local 933 members and their families, and particularly difficult during the holidays. Yet they made it a practice to help others in need; sponsoring a blood drive and helping fire victims. And the community reciprocated, collecting toys for Machinists members’ children to celebrate Christmas and holding rallies to support the strikers.

“It was touching to work so closely with each other and see all the members become closer and closer,” said Carmen Fotheringham, a 20-year Machinist at Raytheon. “It seemed like we had a committee for everything and it really helped the families. From day one we hit the ground rolling and never stopped.”

“Even during times of trouble and struggle, the message of the labor movement is clear,” said Western Territory GVP Lee Pearson. “We are all part of a large family that depends on each other.”



Standing strong, from left, Western Territory AA Gary Allen, Local 933 DBR Bobby Martinez, IP Tom Buffenbarger and Aerospace Coordinator Ron Eldridge (second from right, back row) joined striking Local 933 members who won a new contract at Raytheon Missile systems in Tucson, AZ.