

Hello Sisters and Brothers,

Last Thursday I was on the picket line in Timonium and I started some chants, some of the chants were regular picket line chants, "they say cut back, we say fight back" "what do we want ?" "contract!!" everyone knows the drill. I introduced a new chant to many of the picketers, it was a chant that in 22 years at this company and as a member of CWA that I never really needed to know nor would I shout it with conviction and goosebumps, but now I shout it loud and clear "LIES AND TRICKS WILL NOT DIVIDE!"and my fellow brothers and sisters respond louder "WORKERS STANDING SIDE BY SIDE!!" .

Brothers and Sisters we are under attack like we have never been in our history, this company knows no boundaries and they will lie cheat and deceit to break this Union. We have all seen the scabs coming from out of state and we have all seen the advertisements on the internet, tv, in the newspapers etc... and the company is taking anyone that is willing to come work for them This is what I know, I am a damn hard worker and a bust ass worker, I argue with managers all the time that I have the best people in the country, the most productive and the best quality. Every Union President hopefully believes this about their local and hopefully they are at least partially right. The fact is that there are 39000 people on strike and the company is not getting the work done and what work they are getting done is not quality and we will one day be going to fix it. No one ever thought the company was not going to try and throw money at scabs and get them to cross the picket lines and no one ever thought

that the company was going to lay down after 21 days and concede to the Union that their demands and give backs are to much and they would suddenly be reasonable. Sisters and Brothers we have high skilled jobs and we have been beaten down by this company for three years and finally we have stood together and we must continue to stand together. Every job function has a fight in this fight, everyone of us is fighting for the other and everyone of us is fighting for job security , fair treatment and the ability to raise a family or be part of your grand children's lives. We must tighten our lines and stay strong we must help each other and continue to fight. We must make sure all of those that are not with us understand they are against us. Lean on each other and if you think someone is ready to quit or join the other side then get some help and talk to them and make them understand that going to the other side means they are giving up on the ability for us all to be middle class working people. If we accept the offer on the table now many of us will not have a job at the end of the contract and many of us will be so miserable we won't want to stay here. I have 22 years invested in this company and I am going to fight like hell to keep what I have earned and not give away my pension or my human rights. Know your value and realize that a scab driving a pick up truck is not as valuable as a good Union man or woman reporting to work on time EVERY DAY. Realize there is a reason that he or she is a scab and he or she was available to work on the drop of a 100 dollar bill. I surely wouldn't want them in my house or my family members house.

"LIES AND TRICKS WILL NOT DIVIDE!!" "WORKERS STANDING SIDE BY SIDE!" This has never been so true in the history of CWA and I am more proud then ever that 23, 24, 28 days into the strike that I see continued strength and solidarity on our

picket lines. I received a picture from Bel Air picket line today and it was deeper then ever, in Westminster Mall the security guards were trying to tell the picketers that there was too many and they had to send someone home. My message to them was to tell them to get the hell away from my picketers or I will have 150 people in there chanting and the most awesome thing about that statement is that I know our members are that strong and they would show up.

There seems to be some question about unemployment and whether to file or not. There is no precedent that says you will receive unemployment while on strike and if the state of Maryland authorizes unemployment for striking workers then I am sure there would be a ruling to allow all the strikers to apply. If you want to apply then that is your decision but there has been no message from anyone that you will receive it nor has The CWA said apply.

We will win because guys like Charlie shows up to the hall and hands me 12 gift cards and says I am sure there are some that could use these!! Thank You Brother Charlie!

I am not a financial expert and will not tell people how to handle their money but many have asked me about borrowing from your 401K or taking withdrawals to get through the strike. You should call 888 324 4969 or Fidelity.com and check for yourself and make your own decisions.

UNION STRONG!

"WE CAN DO THAT BECAUSE WE ARE UNION STRONG"

Mike Somers \*

President

CWA Local 2100