

...Daimler Truck strike

(From Page 1)

will be working with Labor's Community Service Agency to get benefits to strikers who need them. LCSA's Helping Hands program paid for glaucoma medication for one striker. There are also plans to set up a food bank if the strike drags out.

Striking Machinists got their first union-provided strike benefits July 16. A Lodge 1005 strike fund provides a \$120-a-week benefit starting the second week of the strike. In week three, the international union will kick in an additional \$150 a week. Members who serve one day a week of picket line duty are eligible for the strike benefits, which will be disbursed every Tuesday at the union hall in Gladstone.

Painters Local 1094, by contrast, doesn't have a strike fund, but the Oregon AFL-CIO is calling for contributions to help them set one up. Checks can be made out to IUPAT Local 1094 and sent to: 6770 E. Marginal Way South, Building E, Room 303-B, Seattle, WA 98108. Be sure to write 'Strike Fund' in the memo line.

Thus far, strikers have received statements of support from United Auto Workers, which represents Daimler workers in North and South Carolina, and from the German union IG Metall.

"It is an encouraging sign that our brothers and sisters take control of their

destiny, even if it entails conflict," said Erich Klemm, IG Metall's representative on Daimler's supervisory board. "As unionists we know that we have to resort to industrial action from time to time in order to protect the best interests of our members ..."

Daimler is headquartered in Germany, where by law workers have a representative on corporate boards.

Pickets continue 24 hours a day at seven sites outside the Portland truck assembly plant and a separate facility that performs pre-delivery inspections.

Striking members told the Labor Press July 12 that they are being harassed by security guards, who have called Portland police "four or five times" complaining of pickets blocking gate entrances. One call was for splashing water on a guard (accidentally, from a spilled water bottle, a picketer said). Two police cars sped past a picket line at North Basin Avenue on July 12 as the Labor Press was taking photos.

"They said they were called because we supposedly were blocking the gate," Machinists at a closed front gate in front of the Western Star plant on Fathom Street told the Labor Press. "The police told us just to keep moving. They didn't care how slow, just keep moving."

Through it all, spirits remain high as members rally behind the principle that they deserve to benefit from their company's rising profitability.

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