Glossary of Common Strike-Related Terms

**Strike** - A strike is a temporary stoppage of work to protest employment conditions. Withholding our labor is necessary in order to exert the leverage needed to obtain a fair contract.

**Strike order** - A strike order is the directive to a union’s membership to stop working. This only occurs after a union’s membership votes to support a strike authorization and the National Board approves the strike.

**Struck company** - A struck company is one that union members are prohibited from performing labor for while the strike action is in effect.

**Reserve gate** - A reserve gate is set up exclusively for the struck company to use. Picketers can only picket outside of the reserve gate. A reserve gate must be clearly marked so that anyone from the street or sidewalk can see that this entrance is reserved exclusively for those working for or visiting the struck company.

**Neutral gate** - During a picket, a neutral gate is the entrance used by employers (and their material suppliers) who do not have a dispute with the union.

**Picket line** - A picket line is a boundary established by workers on strike, especially at the entrance to the place of work, which others are asked not to cross.

**Picketing** - Picketing is the action of workers standing or marching outside of a place of employment while carrying signs and educating the public about why they are striking.

**Leafleting** - Leafleting is the action of distributing handbills or printed information in order to inform the public about a cause.