

Report from the Kodiak Picket Line 7.29.19



Above is a photo from last night's Kodiak ILWU's 3rd Annual Casual Appreciation Gathering, where rank and file honor their up and coming on call part time workers... Casuals. The ILWU here, from Day One, have walked our line with us, seen that we were fed, identified housing options, and have made cash donations to the IBU MV Tustumena Picket Line. They delayed their gathering so that we on the picket line could join them at astonishingly beautiful Fort Abercrombie Park. I am extremely proud our brothers and sisters in our parent organization step up for us without us even having had to ask. It is an honor to be the Marine Division of such stalwart, unselfish, compassionate, and helpful folk.

At the end of today, by a rough count, some three more unlicensed engine, four stewards, and two more unlicensed deck members have left the vessel or are in the process of doing so, in addition to the original IBU Strike Team members. We gain by every member who departs the vessel, and the continuing exodus helps the IBU to bring this industrial action to a swifter and more successful close.

We were joined on the picket line today by a group of retired Unionists, one still sporting his Wobblies (IWW) identification! They also brought for us coffees, cocoa, cookies, fruit cake, and the most delicious smoked salmon. Also, two retired Chicago school teachers whose retirement journey of a lifetime was disrupted by our strike and, Unionists and strike veterans themselves, walked the picket line with us today and brought lunch for us in the early afternoon. In contrast to the Juneau incident with the Troopers today, members of the Kodiak Police Department have stopped by to express their solidarity with our strike and have offered whatever assistance we might need from them. As in previous days, virtually all passersby and motorists stop to ask questions, invariably expressing solidarity and support, or honk their horns, give a shout out, and wave or give a thumbs-up to us as we picket. And the Kodiak ILWU continue their staunch support and physical presence with us on the line, as well as IBU members Richard Waddell, and Sheryl Thorsen.

Our morale is high, our line strong, and the vast community support continues to humble all of us with their smiling sincerity and unceasing kindness.

In Solidarity,

Mike Queen