

**Note: The information in this section should be given to every member before his or her first picket.**

## A picket line has two purposes:

- To convey the information to the public that a strike is in progress.
- To bring pressure upon the employer so as to convince him/her to negotiate a reasonable settlement.

## How to Picket

- Report to your picket captain prior to the start and end of your shift.
  - If you are sick or have some other reason for not being able to do your shift phone your picket captain as soon as possible.
  - To avoid thinning the line, take your breaks at the assigned time
  - Dress warmly. Bring snacks and a lunch.
  - Wear your picket sign or vest while on duty.
  - Keep moving! Patrol the assigned area and refrain from loitering.
  - Inform anyone attempting to cross the picket line of the strike and politely ask them to respect the picket line. Do not argue or debate. Refer problems to the picket captain.
  - If anyone insists on crossing, try to get their name, address, firm represented and the license number of the vehicle. If you have a camera, take a picture. Give the information to your picket captain.
- Do not obstruct the public using the sidewalks or roadways in front of the picket line.
  - Conversation with the public should be as courteous as possible. Focus on take-aways; too many issues discussed at one time limits effectiveness.
  - Bring your family to the picket line from time to time. It is important for them to understand what you are doing and what you are going through.
  - Keep the picket line clean. If possible, have garbage pail near the line and have someone empty it into a garbage bag at the end of each shift.
  - If approached by the media do not speak to them, refer them to the picket captain.

## Dealing With Scabs

A scab is someone who makes the employer's life easier during a legal strike or lockout. They can be obvious, such as when they openly cross a picket line, or more subtle such as when they return emails and phone calls and do scab work from home or other locations. If you know that someone is scabbing, refer the matter to your local union Leadership.