

STRIKE STORIES



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After 17 years with LACMTA, I have experienced different kinds of strikes. The latest 32-day strike is the worst. While management and the unions were in a fracas, union members were busy picketing in front of every MTA facility, tired and receiving no paycheck.

My first week of picketing at different divisions, I came home with a leg cramp. I tried to find a solution that would relieve my physical problems. As a Facilities Systems Technician, I mustered all my creativity to develop a basic leg massager. I used it and found it relieving.

As the strike went on, I improved my idea, which turned out to be a multi-functional apparatus beneficial to health and relaxation. This was the birth of an invention I called "The Suma."

"The Suma" is a super massager from neck to foot. It can be used as a legs and feet exerciser, reliever and footrest. It also serves as a stand for the multi-purpose table. The device is portable and lightweight.

I conducted usability tests among senior citizens, bus operators, office employees, mechanics and students with affirmative results. "The Suma" can be used for relaxation at the office desk, at home, while studying and at other times.

An application has been submitted to the Patent and Trademark Office. Hopefully, the product will be released to the public next year.

Hence, the 32-day strike was one of the unforgettable moments in my life at MTA. Perhaps, without this strike, my invention would not have been conceived.

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