

STRIKE STORIES



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My strike experience was threefold: as unofficial transportation provider, department work assignment organizer, and as a person assigned to strike duty.

The first day of the strike, I noticed two women at a bus stop. I explained in a combination of English and terrible Spanish that the bus would not come. They explained that they were stranded. Despite warning bells in my head about picking up strangers, I gave them a ride. My weekend was spent picking up strangers at bus stops and delivering them to their destinations. They were always extremely grateful and I was once again cognizant of the vital service we provide to the community.

As department strike coordinator, I couldn't ask others to do work I wasn't willing to do myself. So, I spent more than a week in divisions answering phones, sorting papers, starting buses and staring at security monitors. This was easy compared to scheduling our staff to provide strike coverage in a variety locations during strange work hours. For many, these assignments were difficult, even intimidating. Despite their initial misgivings, they met the challenge. In short, they were wonderful.

I've always heard that the most difficult circumstances can bring out the best and the worst in people. I continually saw the best. I'm extremely grateful that our department met the challenge without overly burdening our staff, without sending people great distances from their homes, without causing childcare problems and without putting people in situations that would interfere with their families and their health.

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