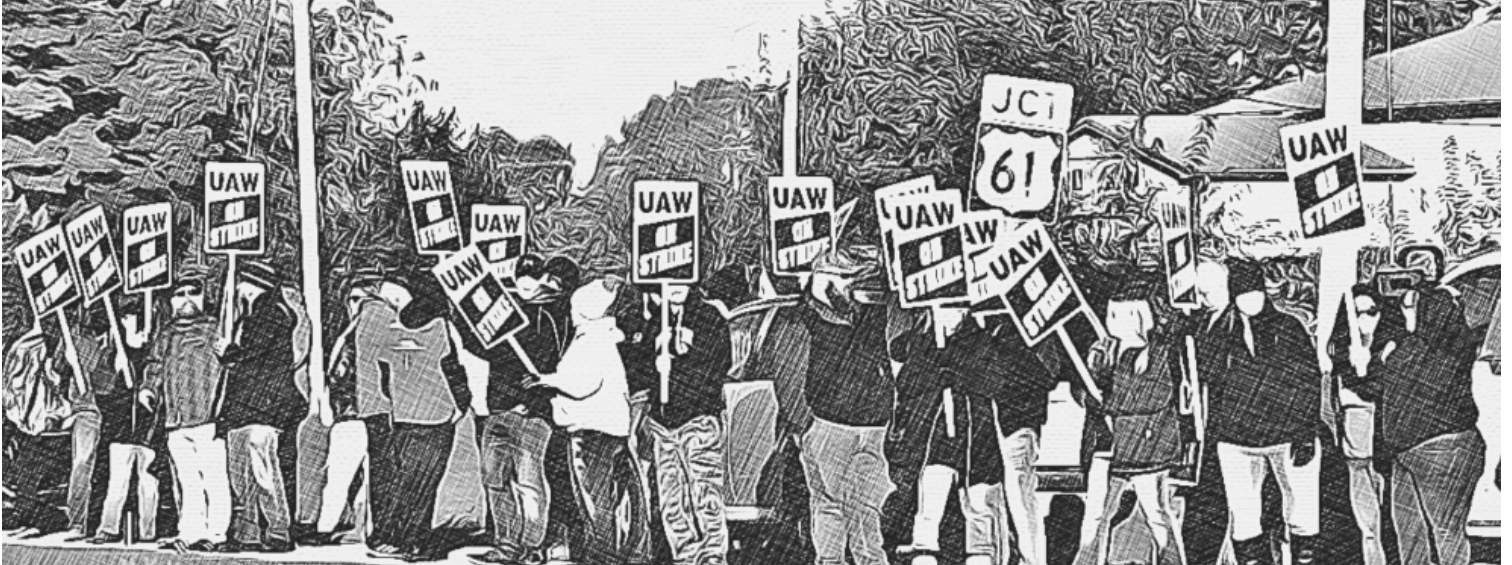


# DES MOINES DEFENDER

*The People's Paper*

## SOLIDARITY WITH UAW LOCAL 450!



The *Des Moines Defender* editorial board and our readers stand firmly in support of the striking United Auto Workers in Ankeny and all organized labor refusing to cross the picket line. We are the unrepresented worker, the unemployed, the houseless, the imprisoned and the persecuted. We are the local food bank. We are the 40 million American's who cannot or will not return to the work force until wages improve. The strike has put fear into the hearts of the ownership class and challenges their supremacy. Your struggle and collective action gives us newfound courage.

Behind every welder, painter and assembler on strike, lurks the monster of revolution. The striking workers at Deere have strengthened our understanding that the owner is our enemy and the working class must prepare to struggle together for the people's rights regardless of party politics.

There is no amount of shareholder profit that can benefit Deere if they have no one to run their factories. This strike lays painfully obvious that labor produces value and when united holds all the cards.

We are all wheels in a giant machine, the supply chain that makes the product, processes it, delivers it and ultimately consumes it. The supply chain is entirely dependent on the worker, who runs the plant, extracts the raw material, physically assembles the product and delivers it to the end user. When we refuse to work, the entire mechanism stops. This general resignation reminds people like John May that it is the worker and not the CEO who is the real power broker.

When a company that has made billions in profits off generations of Deere workers, refuses the smallest raise, or even tries to reduce wages, it becomes readily apparent that your immediate co-workers are the best friends you'll ever make.

Of course, the ownership class has done their best to deceive the public since October 14th, posing as the benevolent corporation with help from their friends at Sinclair and Gannett. These wolves have received positive headlines for paying wages that were owed and kindly not canceling workers health insurance during a pandemic. Corporate friendly US courts have granted broad permissions to ban friendly strike activity in Davenport. Efforts have been made to falsely portray picket lines as threatening. The very prosecutor in charge of enforcing a potential injunction at Des Moines Works is flooding the hall with donations.

## SOLIDARITY CON'T

The government knows full well that strikes open the eyes of workers. The workers of UAW have them shook and they are doing everything possible to shut them down. The rules are made to benefit Deere and Deere alone. We see this. This action demonstrates that we can struggle against all of these forces only when we are united. You strike for the entirety of the working class in our fight against our bosses, the police and the local government. Two years ago we did our jobs without complaint, scared to speak about working conditions or even share what we made. The unspoken general strike has led us to mutual aid and a mass network of allies ready to stand up for the rights of all people to have agency and control over their own wages and workplace.

Every successful movement in US history has involved elements of suffering; wage losses, banishment, even arrest and incarceration. Mutual aid braces us. We take care of each other. Victory will come through hard earned political power. The struggle does not end or begin here. Those supporting the strike from the outside cannot limit ourselves to strike funds and free meals. Now is the time to organize your own co-workers, create mutual aid and unite with workers of all backgrounds. People who suffer so much to bend one single institution will eventually break the power of the whole damn system.

## IOWA MUTUAL AID NETWORK

[www.iowamutualaid.org](http://www.iowamutualaid.org)

Des Moines BLM

Des Moines Mutual Aid

Edna Griffin Mutual Aid

North Des Moines Mutual Aid

Prairielands Freedom Fund

Community Fridge! Free to all! 24/7! Take what you need! 5720 Urbandale Ave.

Free Breakfast Program & Fresh Produce Giveaway!! October 30th & every other Saturday! 1613 13th Ave. Des Moines. 8AM-10:30.

Rent Relief Program:  
<https://iowamutualaid.org/dsm-blm-rent-relief>

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