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Struggle □ La Lucha PDF - October 25, 2021

written by Struggle - La Lucha

October 25, 2021

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#STRIKETOBER!

The working class rises up

By Stephen Millies

The U.S. working class is waking up angry and defiant. More than 100,000 workers are on strike from coast to coast. Here are some of the biggest battles that broke out during "Striketober":

- 10,000 members of the United Auto Workers are on strike at 14 John Deere plants in Iowa, Illinois, Colorado, Georgia, and Kansas. The manufacturer of construction and agricultural equipment, including tractors, is expected to rake in profits of nearly \$6 billion this year. That hasn't stopped Deere from demanding pension cuts for newly hired workers. Salaried, non-union employees are being forced to cross picket lines to try to break the strike. It's dangerous for these workers to perform jobs that they're not trained for.

- 38,000 Kaiser Permanente health care workers in California and Oregon have authorized a strike. After 19 months of putting their lives on the line fighting COVID-19, they want better staffing and wages that get ahead of inflation.



- 60,000 members of IATSE (the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees) authorized a strike that would have shut down Hollywood. They're sick of working 14 or more hours a day so that movies can be

completed. The workers' solidarity forced the studio bosses to come to a tentative agreement.

- 1,400 Kellogg's cereal workers — members of the Bakery Workers

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'Mobilizing in our own name'

Interview with author and labor activist Clarence Thomas

This season is being called #Striketober. Workers are showing their power by striking, and demanding better conditions. The release of the anthology, "Mobilizing in Our Own Name: Million Worker March" is timely.

Author Clarence Thomas — an African American labor activist, longshore leader, and an organizer of the 2004 Million Worker March — has been speaking at meetings and gatherings around the country. We talked with Thomas on Oct. 17, the anniversary of the Million Worker March in Washington, to get his insights on the labor struggle today.

Struggle-La Lucha: Welcome to Striketober. Tell us about your new book.

Clarence Thomas: Thank you for the opportunity to have this conversation. I have been a member of International Longshore and Warehouse Workers (ILWU) Local 10 for 31 years. Though retired from the waterfront, I'm still in the struggle. After I finished the book, I first reached out to the ILWU Local 10 members. I introduced the book at the Local 10 commemoration of Juneteenth



Million Worker March Movement contingent at the New Orleans 'Justice after Hurricane Katrina' march in December 2005. Clarence Thomas on right end of banner.

and at a Labor Fest program on July 10 where I did a book signing and reading for union members and the community.

There are Local 10 members that are featured in "Mobilizing in Our Own Name." For many, it was their first opportunity to meet an author who wrote a book about them and their union. Of course, they're very enthusiastic about the book.

Since then, most of my interactions have been through Zoom. In the past

several weeks, I've begun to travel to events. I attended and sold books at the Teamsters Women's Leadership Conference that took place in Las Vegas, Nevada. We met with workers from across the country: Louisville, Kentucky; Houston, Texas; Seattle, Washington; New York City; Milwaukee, Wisconsin; and from Phoenix, Arizona. It was the first time that we had a chance to meet workers in one location from various parts of the country.

The Teamsters National Black Caucus (TNBC) invited us to the women's conference. They played a very important role in organizing the 2004 Million Worker March. Brother Chris Silvera who is the longest serving principal officer in the Teamsters, heads up Teamsters Local 808 in Long Island City, New York. Local 808 members are responsible for maintaining the track at Metro-North. Chris Silvera was the East Coast coordinator of the Million Worker March (MWM) along with sister Brenda Stokely from AFSCME DC 1707.

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National Day of
Mourning 2021

THURSDAY NOV 25
12 NOON

Cole's Hill, Plymouth, MA
(hill above Plymouth Rock)

Join us as we continue to create a true awareness of Native peoples and history. Help shatter the untrue image of Pilgrims and the unjust system based on racism, sexism, homophobia and the profit-driven destruction of Earth that they and other European settlers introduced to these shores. Masks Up, Mayflowers Down!

Please join and check the UAINE facebook group at [Facebook.com/groups/UAINE](https://www.facebook.com/groups/UAINE) for updates.
E-mail: info@uaine.org
Website: [Uaine.org](https://www.Uaine.org)

- #STRIKETOBER!
- 'Mobilizing in our own name'
- Justice for Ahmaud Arbery! Lynched for jogging while Black
- Supply chain crisis? There's more to that story
- Free Ruchell Magee!
- NFL's racism, misogyny and homophobia
- Capitalism stands in the way of reversing climate crisis
- Union victory for New Orleans city workers
- South Korean labor calls general strike to free union president
- China is not labor's enemy, Wall Street is
- Biden kidnaps Venezuelan diplomat: #FreeAlexSaab now!
- Washington escalates: U.S. special forces secretly operating for past year in Taiwan
- Propping up the U.S. military is driving the economy down
- Congreso quiere frenar la agroecología en Puerto Rico

