

**Action Coalition of Strikers Records**

5 linear feet (4 SB, 1 OS)  
1994-2001, bulk 1995-1997

Walter P. Reuther Library, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI

Finding aid written by Leslie Van Veen on November 8, 2012.

**Accession Number:** UR001694

**Creator:** Action Coalition of Strikers

**Acquisition:** The records of the Action Coalition of Strikers were donated to the Walter P. Reuther Library in August, 2002.

**Language:** Material entirely in English.

**Access:** Collection is open for research.

**Use:** Refer to the Walter P. Reuther Library *Rules for Use of Archival Materials*. **Restrictions: Researchers may encounter records of a sensitive nature – personnel files, case records and those involving investigations, legal and other private matters. Privacy laws and restrictions imposed by the Library prohibit the use of names and other personal information that might identify an individual, except with written permission from the Director and/or the donor.**

**Notes:** Citation style: “Action Coalition of Strikers Records, Box [#], Folder [#], Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs, Wayne State University”

**Related Material:** Dale Rich Collection  
Detroit Newspaper Guild Local 22: Detroit Records  
Ellen Creager Papers  
Nancy Dunn Papers

Photographs have been transferred to the Reuther’s Audio/Visual Department.

**PLEASE NOTE: Folders in this collection are not necessarily arranged in any particular order. The box folder listing provides an inventory based on their original order. Subjects may be dispersed throughout the collection.**

**Abstract**

The Action Coalition of Strikers (ACOS) was a rank-and-file group of strikers and their families who were active during the Detroit Newspaper Strike. Representing reporters, editors, pressmen, and truck drivers, the coalition opposed the newspaper union leadership and their proposed back-to-work offer and instead pressed forward with a campaign to fight to restore all lost jobs. They sponsored peaceful and disciplined mass demonstrations in support of the strikers, and published the weekly *Detroit Sunday Journal* from 1995-1999, selling copies throughout metro Detroit. They sought to win the broader labor movement's participation in their struggle, and did enjoy continued support from other local and regional labor unions.

The records document the coalition's activities from 1994-2001. Particular focus is given to the strikers' fight against replacement workers in an effort to bring economic, political and moral pressure on the newspaper companies (Gannett and Knight-Ridder) involved in the labor dispute. The records document ACOS strike participation through correspondence, court rulings, evidence of strikers' activities, publications, news clippings, and visual materials such as buttons, stickers, posters, and photographs.

**Important Subjects:**

Detroit free press  
Detroit news.  
Detroit Sunday Journal  
Detroit Typographical Union No. 18 (Mich.)  
Human rights  
Labor unions  
Newspaper Strike, Detroit, Michigan, 1995-2000.  
Picketing  
Strikes and lockouts  
Strikes and lockouts—Newspapers—Michigan—Detroit.

**Important Names:**

Maryann Mahaffey  
Armand Nevers  
Frank Vega

## **Arrangement**

Folders are listed by their location within each box. They are not necessarily arranged, so any given subject may be dispersed throughout the entire collection.

### **Box 1**

1. Lessons of the Newspaper Strike
2. Ten UAW Points for a Meeting
3. Constitutional Right to a Job Activity, Draft
4. Paper, Samuel Gompers Union Leadership Award, by Eddie Burke, 1990 October 18
5. Action! Motown '97, Action Pack
6. Court Documents, National Labor Relations Board, 1997
7. Know Your Civil Rights
8. Affirmative Action
9. Labor Party Electoral Strategy Committee, 1997 December
10. Court Documents, National Labor Relations Board vs. Teamsters, 1996
11. Individual Adjudicators, Unemployment Benefits, 1997 January 30
12. Working to Rule, 1997 July 30
13. Solidarity Songs
14. Recommendations from Coordinating Committee for June Mobilization, 1997 March 17
15. First Day Action Committee Proposal
16. Statement by the Labor Party National Council, 1996 August 23
17. Proposal for Free Press and News Negotiations
18. Motions Passed
19. Motions for Caucus Members
20. Constitution: Metropolitan Detroit Joint Council of Newspaper Unions
21. Resolutions Passed by Detroit Typographical Union 18, 1995 November 22
22. Draft, Membership Agenda to Win the Strike, 1995 October 16
23. Management Featherbedding at Gannett Co., Inc, 1996 Spring
24. Newspaper Agreement between Detroit Newspaper Agency & Detroit Typographical Union No. 18
25. Detroit Newspaper Strike Fact Sheet
26. Statement of Interfaith Committee Worker Issues, 1995 September 3
27. How to Build Public Support for the Strike in Our Own Communities
28. Advertisers in SCAB Papers, 1995 September 27
29. Suggestions for Detroit Newspaper Strike, 1995 November 18
- 30-31. Unity Victor Caucus
32. Legal Questions Regarding Unconditional Offers to Return to Work
33. Labor / Community / Religious Coalition in Support of Striking Newspaper Workers, 1995
34. Meeting Agenda, 2000 February 13
35. Universal Declaration of Human Rights
36. Showdown in Motown, 1995-1997
37. Labor Party Advocates
38. Proposals, 1995-1996
39. Highlights of A.E. Staley Contract, United Paperworkers International Union Local 7837

40. History of A.E. Staley Dispute
41. Handbook for Nonviolent Action
42. Armand Nevers, DTU #18, Strike Notes, 1997 April
43. National Labor Relations Board, Detroit Newspaper Cases, 1998 July 21
44. Petition for a Mass Meeting, 1997 September 14
45. Resolutions
46. Armand Nevers, DTU #18, Correspondence, 1997
47. Armand Nevers, DTU #18, Affidavit, 1997 June 13
48. Strikers Activities
49. News Clippings, 1995-2001
50. Correspondence to and from Strikers, 1995-2001
51. Pamphlets, Strikers Activities
52. Strike Stickers
53. Publication, "How to Win Strikes," by Harry DeBoer, 1994 July
54. Publication, "Overview of the Detroit Newspaper Workers' Strike, Some Lessons for the Labor Movement," by Jack Richards
55. Publication, "TAPS Moratorium," by Donald G. Smock
56. Paper, "Violence & the Detroit Newspaper Strike," by Thomas Bernick
57. ACOS Publication, "Battleground Detroit," 1997-1998
- 58-59. Labor Publications

#### **Box 2**

1. Detroit Sunday Journal; Vol. 1, No. 2 1995 November 26 – Vol. 3, No. 22, 1998 April 12-18

#### **Box 3**

1. Detroit Sunday Journal; Vol. 3, No. 23, 1998 April 19-15 – Vol. 5, No. 1, 1999 November 21

#### **Note**

*Detroit Sunday Journal* volumes missing:

- 1995, Vol. 1, No. 1
- 1997, Vol. 2, No. 30
- 1998, Vol. 4, No. 2
- 1999, Vol. 4, No. 29
- 1999, Vol. 4, No. 30

#### **Box 4**

1. 15 Buttons
2. 1 Luggage Tag
3. 3 Rubber Stamps
4. 1 Knit Hat, "No Surrender! United Victory Caucus"
5. 1 Apron, "Detroit Sunday Journal"
6. 1 Pirate Flag, "No News or Free Press"
7. 1 T-shirt

**Box 5**

1. Poster, "The Detroit Sunday Journal On Sale Here"
2. Poster, "Wanted Criminal, Frank Vega"

**Audio/Visual Materials**

1. Photograph, Chain Gang