



THE DISPATCHER

www.ilwu.org

VOL 71, NO 4 • APRIL 2013

THE INSIDE NEWS

LETTERS TO DISPATCHER 2

Local 13 pensioner receives WW II replacement medals 3

Hong Kong dockers strike 3

Longshore Caucus convenes in San Francisco 4

Vancouver, WA grain lockout update 7

TRANSITIONS 8



Secretary-Treasurer Adams goes to China. [page 6](#)



Protest at the PMA: A busload of ILWU members and pensioners from Local 13 drove all night to protest at PMA headquarters on the morning of April 9. They were joined by Pensioners and members of ILWU Locals 10, 34, 75 and 91.

Longshore workers & officers protest medical claim delays

Dozens of longshore workers joined with ILWU officers on the morning of April 9 in San Francisco to tell waterfront employers: “Stop fooling around with our health benefits and start paying our medical claims!”

Dozens of Local 13 members made their point by travelling all night on a bus from the Los Angeles harbor area to the headquarters of the Pacific Maritime Association (PMA) on Market Street in San Francisco where they were met by Pensioners and members of ILWU Locals 10, 34, 75 and 91.

ILWU International officers, Coast Committeemen, Coast Benefits staff and local officers greeted members as they arrived and thanked everyone for joining the protest.

“Members and pensioners have every right to be fed-up with all these delays and denials when it comes to

paying legitimate medical bills,” said ILWU International President Bob McEllrath who mingled with members in front of the PMA headquarters. “We won’t tolerate any members or pensioners being abused by a claims processing company that can’t do their job properly.”

McEllrath then led a delegation of ILWU officers up to the third floor of a high-rise office building where PMA executives were braced inside with officials from Zenith American Solutions, the controversial claims-processing company that was hand-picked by the PMA and sanctioned by the Coast Arbitrator, over the vehement objections of the ILWU. The company that the Union Trustees wanted to select to replace CIGNA for processing medical claims had a much better reputation for working well with Taft-Hartley Healthcare Plans, according to Coast Benefits Specialist John Castanho. He said the problems ILWU members are currently experiencing with claims pro-

cessing are the same issues that have been experienced by other healthcare plans managed by Zenith in the past.

In the meeting inside PMA’s office, ILWU officials confronted PMA and Zenith executives, demanding that they end the delays and red tape that have frustrated so many families because of unpaid or delayed medical bills. As ILWU officials pressured Zenith and PMA on the inside, members outside grew restless. At one point a large group of ILWU members left the plaza and headed up to PMA’s offices where they filled the hallway, making their presence known, and sent company officials scurrying in response to the commotion.

The protesting members eventually left the PMA office entrance after making their point, as did ILWU officials after several hours of meeting to demand action steps by Zenith to address the claims processing problem. By the end of the meeting, it was agreed that Zenith would deploy

continued on page 7

Postmaster: Send address changes to The Dispatcher, 1188 Franklin St., San Francisco, CA 94109-6800.



LETTERS TO THE DISPATCHER

Dear Editor,

I just finished with the most interesting assignment of my career. I was Supercargo on the good ship "Fairpartner" which was aptly named, as they were the best crew I have ever worked with. They were young, extremely competent, and just plain likable. We discharged the major components of the world's largest tunnel boring machine starting on April 7th and finished on April 15th. There were a total of 39 lifts involving 7,535 Metric Tons or 16.6 million pounds; some of the heavier pieces topped 870 tons and the shackles alone weighed 500 pounds. The drilling machine cost \$80 million and had a cutter head that's over 57 feet across. Only 5 ships in the world have the capability to carry and off-load a project of this scope. The spirit of cooperation and hard labor from all the different workers made for a job that was very satisfying. I have never been more proud to be a member of the ILWU. Everyone pulled together and formed a cohesive team to "git-r-done" with no cargo damage and no serious injuries. The union brothers from Barnhart Crane, the team from TTI, the crew of the M/V Fairpartner and members of Locals 19, 98 and 52 made some history. Thanks to all involved.

Steve Noe, Local 52 Supercargo
Seattle, WA



Dear Editor,

My father, Raymond Hurt, passed away on November 15, 2012. His memorial service will be held at Arlington National Cemetery on June 3, 2013 at 2pm.

Dad was a second generation longshoreman who worked as a checker at the ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles for 52 years. He was a member of Local 63 and contributor to the ILWU Political Action Fund. While serving as a Navy corpsman stationed with the 1st Marine Division in Korea he was awarded the Silver Star for valor.

As I have no way of contacting those he worked with for so many years, I am hoping you may be able to get the word out for me. Thank you.

Pamela Arroues
Helena, Montana

Dear Editor,

I want to recognize the Local 10 members who helped established our ILWU Federal Credit Union in the Bay Area during the 1970's.

Charlie Smith was the member who deserves credit for coming up with the idea of creating our credit union in 1974. Jim Fowler was a charismatic guy who was well-educated, knew about business, and served as the Credit Union's first Secretary. Joe Zamora was a regular guy who worked nights and got involved when we first met. James Trotter had a steady job on the crane at Matson and also happened to be there when we got rolling. Harold Dickerson was also there with us in the beginning; he was a real quiet guy who also had a steady crane job. Robert Sharp was a somewhat controversial guy who talked a lot, but he supported the union. He became the Credit Union's first Manager and attracted most of the criticism and complaints because he was so outspoken.

I was also one of the six founding members and served several terms as Chairman of the Credit Union Board.

We first operated upstairs in the Longshore administrative building at North Point, then moved around the corner to an apartment building that we remodeled to accommodate our growing Credit Union membership.

In the old days, people would just come up to Bob Sharp and tell him they wanted a loan. Over the years, we helped a lot of members buy cars – but mostly we helped them to just get loans. The thing that helped us really grow was the payroll deduction for making payments and contributing to the savings plans. After a few years, members had contributed lots of money, which we combined with federal dollars to make millions available for membership loans. We served ILWU members from as far away as Stockton and even Los Angeles before they had their own credit union. We also welcomed Clerks, Walking Bosses, Security Guards and other ILWU members.

I served on the Board for five years. Looking back, I feel good about what we did to help guys get loans, including many who didn't have resources or perfect credit, but paid back their loans. We helped a lot of members who were going through hard times. We held annual meetings that were open to all shareholders. Some people came to complain and yell at us; others came to thank us and express their appreciation. I think it's important for members to know a little bit about how we got started, and also that we went through some hard times – but the credit union survived in the end with new Board members, and continues to serve members today.

Don Wallace, Local 10 Pensioner
Stockton, CA

Send your letters to the editor to: *The Dispatcher*, 1188 Franklin St., San Francisco, CA 94109-6800 or email to editor@ilwu.org

CORRECTION:

In the March issue of the *Dispatcher* we incorrectly identified Earl Sherman as a member of Local 98. He is a member of Local 23. We regret the error.

Southern California Pensioners
Present
First Blood
Plaque Dedication, March, & Memorial
May 15, 2013

Honoring Brothers Parker and Knudsen and all of those who were killed on the waterfront.
Let's honor the individuals and families who have sacrificed for all of us.

Event 1
Plaque Dedication

Place: Wilmington Waterfront Park, Main Plaza
(C Street and Neptune)
Time: 9:00 A.M.

The site is near where Parker and Knudsen were killed.
The original plaque will be rededicated. Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa will attend.

Event 2
March and Memorial

Time: March starts at 10:30 am
Place: 22nd and Harbor Blvd.
(Plenty of Parking)

Lunch will be passed out as you reach the Memorial site on 2nd and Harbor Blvd.
Memorial Services will be held from 12:10 P.M. to 12:50 P.M.
None to all family members & friends.
If you have lost a loved one, please bring a picture, photo, or picture honoring your loved one to carry in the parade.
Let's show our respect for our fallen brothers and sisters.
Let's show our love and respect for our union, the ILWU.

"An Injury To One is an Injury to All."

Longshore Working Dangers

The blowing winds of the mighty seas
The cargo that the seamen bring
The essence of the longshore life
The loading & unloading of the ships
Creating activity the workers need
Production! Is the culprit lurking in the dark
As the company prompts workers to speed
When the longshore force, face the companies plan
And they know the agenda, that tells them to hurry
Safety be the forethought of their every move
Their action extracts the need for worry
Why do we tolerate, in this day and age
The Corporate greed (that sets-apart)
The need of a safe place to work
And what the company really has in its heart
Can our workers of the longshore union
Look forward to a positive mode
Can the ever-persisting infractions
Be collectively banished down the road
When will the companies grant the rights
For the workers to share as they go down the row
Can management change its callous way
to stem the danger from the industrial flow
The unions asks companies to be honest and forth-right
Predicting the future is a soothsayers job
Seeking not, a fortune-tellers insight
The union asks management to bargain, not rob
When workers are killed from moving cargo
Snuffing out lives from safety neglect
Killed because greed floods like waves
Gone like the wind, blowing o'er the graves
Our fallen brothers are legend heroes
Their legacy of pride and solidarity lives on
We hope for collective co-operation
So that longshore working dangers are gone.

– Jerry Brady, Local 63 (Ret.)

DISPATCHER

Craig Merrilees
Communications Director and Managing Editor
Roy San Filippo
Editor

ILWU TITLED OFFICERS
Robert McEllrath, President
Ray A. Familathe, Vice President, Mainland
Wesley Furtado, Vice President, Hawaii
William E. Adams, Secretary-Treasurer

The *Dispatcher* (ISSN 0012-3765) is published monthly except for a combined July/August issue, for \$5.00 a year and \$10.00 a year for non-members by the ILWU, 1188 Franklin St., San Francisco, CA 94109. Periodical postage paid at San Francisco, CA. The *Dispatcher* welcomes letters, photos and other submissions to the above address © ILWU, 2012. Postmaster: Send address changes to The *Dispatcher*, 1188 Franklin St., San Francisco, CA 94109-6800.

Local 13 pensioner receives replacements for WW II medals destroyed in fire

ILWU Local 13 pensioner Manuel Torres is a decorated World War II veteran. He received the Combat INF Badge, Bronze Star, Purple Heart, WW II Victory Medal, Asia Pacific Medal, Good Conduct Medal, and Occupation of Japan Medal. He never received his Bronze Star from the military and his other medals were destroyed in a house fire years ago.

In March 2012, Torres was attending a memorial service and ran into Congresswoman Janice Hahn who represents the Southern California Harbor-area and he told her about the lost medals. Earlier this year at Representa-

tive Hahn's victory celebration, Manuel was presented with all of the medals he earned for his military service.

In early 1944, Manuel was a student at San Pedro High School. He, along with other students were met by members of the Selective Service and directed to report for induction into the US Army. Manuel Torres had been drafted and was soon on a bus to Camp Roberts for basic training.

After completing basic training, he spent a few days at home before waving good bye to his mother and father at Union Station in Los Angeles. That was the last time he saw his father, who passed away a short time later.

Torres boarded a troop transport in San Francisco that was bound for the

Philippines for an assault to retake the islands. Torres's first order was to give up his M1 rifle for a Tommy Gun and become the forward scout. His actions in this operation earned him the Bronze Star in Leyte. He received the Purple Heart for injuries in Luzon. After recovering in Manila, Torres was deployed to other Pacific Islands and then to Tokyo Bay where he witnessed the signing of the Japanese surrender and the end of the Second World War.

Even in retirement, Manuel remains an active part of the ILWU as a dedicated member of the Southern California Pensioners Club.

Well done, Sergeant.

— Jerry Garretson, Southern California Pensioners.



Local 13 Pensioner Manuel Torres

Hong Kong Dockers Strike



As *The Dispatcher* goes to press, Hong Kong dockworkers are approaching the first month of a strike for better pay and working conditions. The Union of Hong Kong Dockers is squaring-off against one of China's wealthiest and most powerful

tycoons: Li Ka-shing, owner of HutchisonWhampoa, Hutchison Port Holdings, and Hong Kong International Terminals.

The Hong Kong dockers are mobilizing within their own ranks and reaching out to win public support. On April 6, 4,000 marched and rallied outside Hutchison's headquarters in Hong

Kong with family members, union supporters, students, community members and representatives from the International Transport Workers Federation (ITF). Two days later, ITF President and Maritime Union of Australia (MUA) National Secretary Paddy Crumlin was walking on the picket line and meeting with union leaders to coordinate international solidarity. Within a week,

a delegation of MUA dockers arrived from Australia to lend their support. On April 17, the Hong Kong strike leaders presented a report to the ITF Dockers Section meeting in London, attended by ILWU Vice President (Mainland) Ray Familathe who also serves as 2nd Vice Chair of the ITF Dockers Section. Familathe immediately flew back to attend the conclusion of the ILWU Longshore Caucus meeting in San Francisco where he updated delegates on the Hong Kong struggle and other international developments. ILWU International President Bob McEllrath presented a motion to Caucus delegates for a \$20,000 contribution to help the Hong Kong dockers which was unanimously adopted.

On April 22, workers at Hong Kong International Terminals agreed to end a "work-to-rule" campaign after their employer finally agreed to pay an overtime rate of 140%. The strikers, most of whom are subcontracted employees, are still refusing to work until Hutchison agrees to better pay and basic improvements that include bathroom breaks. On April 25, efforts by Hutchison to secure an injunction banning demonstrators outside their headquarters was rejected by the court. *The Dispatcher* will follow this story and provide an update in the next issue.

MAY IS MEDICAL, DENTAL PLAN CHOICE MONTH

Active and retired longshore families in the ports where members have a choice can change medical and/or dental plans during the Open Enrollment period May 1 to May 31, 2013. The change will be effective July 1, 2013. In addition to the May Open Enrollment period, members may change their medical plan and/or dental plan once at any time during the Plan Year (July 1-June 30).

The July 1, 2008 Memorandum of Understanding between the ILWU and PMA provides that new registrants in the ports where members have a choice of medical plans shall be assigned Kaiser HMO Plan or Group Health Cooperative HMO Plan for the first 24 months of registration. After 24 months, those registrants who have qualified for continued eligibility under the Mid-Year/Annual Review hour's requirement will have a choice of medical plans. New registrants in San Francisco, Sacramento, Stockton, Los Angeles, Portland/Vancouver and Washington will have a choice of dental plans on the first of the month following registration, and may change dental plans during the Open Enrollment period and one additional time during the Plan Year.

MEDICAL CHOICE: The medical plan choices are Kaiser Foundation Health Plan or the ILWU-PMA Coastwise Indemnity Plan for Southern California Locals 13, 26, 29, 46, 63 and 94; Northern California Locals 10, 18, 34 (San Francisco), 34 (Stockton), 54, 75 and 91; and Oregon-Columbia River Locals 4, 8, 40, and 92. In the Washington State area, the medical plan choices for Locals 19, 23, 32, 47, 52 and 98 are Group Health Cooperative or the ILWU-PMA Coastwise Indemnity Plan.

DENTAL CHOICE: For Los Angeles Locals 13, 26, 63 and 94 the dental plan choices are Delta Dental of California, Harbor Dental Associates or Dental Health Services. For Southern California Locals 29 and 46 the dental plan choices are Delta Dental of California or Dental Health Services. For San Francisco Locals 10, 34, 75 and 91 the dental plan choices are Delta Dental of California, Dental Health Services, or Gentle Dental San Francisco. For Sacramento and Stockton Locals 18, 34 and 54 the dental plan choices are Delta Dental of California or Dental Health Services. For Portland/Vancouver Locals 4, 8, 40 and 92 the dental plan choices are LifeMap-Willamette Dental, Oregon Kaiser Dental Plan or Oregon/Washington Dental Service. For Washington Locals 7, 19, 21, 23, 24, 25, 27, 32, 47, 51, 52 and 98 the dental plan choices are Washington Dental Service or Dental Health Services.

Information on the medical and dental plans, and forms to change plans, can be obtained at the Locals and the ILWU-PMA Benefit Plans office.

All Medical and Dental Program Choice Forms and enrollment forms, as applicable, must be completed and received by the Benefit Plans office by May 31 for the enrollment change to be effective July 1.

Longshore Caucus convenes in San Francisco



Honoring George Cobbs: Local 10 pensioner George Cobbs (center) was presented with a bronze hook for his work in establishing the ILWU-PMA Alcohol, Drug and Rehabilitation Program. "I'm just blessed that I was able to do something in life to help other people," Cobbs said. In the photo from left to right are: Coast Committeemen Ray Ortiz, Jr. and Leal Sundet, George Cobbs, ILWU International President Bob McEllrath and Caucus Chair Joe Cortez.

Eighty-one delegates elected from Longshore, Clerk and Foremen Locals attended the Longshore Division Caucus that was convened in San Francisco from April 15-19. Among the key issues discussed were the ongoing lockout of grain handlers in Vancouver, WA; new technologies and mechanization; efforts to resolve the ongoing problems with ILWU-PMA Coastwise Indemnity Plan's new third party administrator, Zenith-American Solutions; preparations for the 2014 Coastwise Longshore Contract negotiations; and international solidarity efforts as employers increase their attacks on wages and working conditions of dock workers around the world.

Shortly after the Caucus started, delegates got word of the tragic bombing at the Boston Marathon. The Caucus paused for a moment of silence to honor those who were killed and injured by the brutal and senseless act of violence.

Health and Welfare

The Coast Committee reported on continued challenges in the area of health and welfare. In 2008 contract negotiations, the parties agreed to replace Cigna as the administrator of the ILWU-PMA Coastwise Claims Office (CCO) in San Francisco. After negotiations, a study was conducted regarding the feasibility of bringing the administration of the CCO in-house. PMA refused to bring this function in-house. A "request for proposal" (RFP) process was initiated in order to find a replacement for Cigna as required by 2008 negotiations. The field of potential third-party administrators was narrowed to two companies. The Union moved to hire BeneSys, and the Employers moved to hire Zenith-American Solutions. This deadlock was arbitrated, and the Coast Arbitrator agreed with PMA over the strenuous objections of the Union Trustees. Zenith began operating as the new third-party administrator of the CCO on January 1, 2013, and problems with claims management were immediately evident.

In addition to having to find a new third-party administrator of the CCO to review and pay medical claims, the replacement of Cigna also required

the parties to find a new Preferred Provider Organization (PPO) network in California – since Cigna refused to continue supplying the network if it would not be allowed to retain the contract to administer claims processing at the CCO. Since it became necessary to replace the Cigna network, the Union and the PMA Trustees directed the Welfare Plan Consultant (Milliman) to conduct a search for a new PPO network for California enrollees. After eliminating several companies due to mandatory pre-authorizations and less than adequate access to providers and facilities, it was agreed to select Blue Shield's PPO network in California. This company was selected because they had the largest network coverage for providers and facilities in the areas where members reside. Blue Shield is only providing a network of providers and facilities who agree to charge certain negotiated fees. These fees are negotiated and set in a process that is wholly independent of the Union and PMA. The ILWU/PMA Indemnity Plan remains a fully independent, non-profit organization run for the benefit of ILWU members and pensioners, and is not controlled by Blue Shield or any other private insurance company. Today's problems of CCO management (review and payment of claims) is a problem associated with Zenith-American Solutions and not the Blue Shield of California PPO network.

At the Caucus, the Coast Committee and delegates had lengthy discussions about how to solve the now intolerable problem with PMA's pick, Zenith. See the cover story about the April 9 protest outside of PMA headquarters in San Francisco.

New technology

The Clerk's Technology Committee and Longshore Technology Committees made presentations that included updates on information technologies, remote off-dock control centers, and web portals that allow employers to control information flows in ways that undermine job security for all dock

workers – not just Clerks. The Committee concluded their presentation by summarizing the challenges – and offering solutions for future consideration and action.

The International Transport Workers Federation (ITF) is organizing a conference at the end of April on automation and new technologies in Sydney, Australia. Many ILWU officers and representatives from Longshore Division locals will attend the conference. *The Dispatcher* will have a full report in the next issue.

International solidarity

Vice President Ray Familathe delivered the international relations report and introduced speakers General Secretary Joe Fleetwood of the Maritime Union of New Zealand (MUNZ) and Assistant Branch Secretary Will Tracey from the Western Australia Branch of Maritime Union of Australia (MUA-WA) which recently signed a solidarity agreement with ILWU Local 23.

"There's a war on militant dock workers around the world by employers," said Fleetwood. "All of us are under attack; the ILA and ILWU, the MUA and MUNZ, European and Hong Kong dockers. Why? Because of the good terms and conditions we work under, and because we aren't afraid to fight."

MUA-WA Asst. Branch Secretary Will Tracey discussed efforts by the MUA and other Australian labor unions to secure good paying jobs for Australian workers in the country's mining and mineral development projects. He explained how companies are circumventing Australia's visa system to undermine wages and working conditions in the country. He pledged to support ILWU struggles and closed by saying: "We have a slogan in the MUA that is very similar to yours," he said, pointing to his shirt that read, "Touch one, touch all!"

International Vice President (Mainland) Ray Familathe gave an update on the ITF meetings in London he attended immediately before arriving at the Caucus in San Francisco in order to spread the word about the grain handlers lockout in Vancouver, WA to the 4.5 million ITF affiliated-transport workers around the world. The ITF sent out an e-mail bulletin to their affiliates about the lockout that generated 6,000 letters of protest to Mitsui within 24 hours from around the world.

Familathe also reported on a recent trip to Peru where he chaired a meeting of the ITF's Latin American Dockers Section meeting. He said that the privatization of Latin American ports is stripping the rights of dock workers throughout the region and driving down wages and working conditions. The Caucus passed a resolution standing in solidarity with ITF-affiliated dock workers in El Salvador, STIPES, who are struggling against a proposed privatization scheme that would threaten their right to exist as a union.

Solidarity with Hong Kong Dockers

International President Bob McEllrath introduced a motion for the Longshore Division to donate \$20,000 to support the Hong Kong dock workers who have been on strike for several weeks at the world's third busiest port.



Harrison gets a hand: Local 63 member Tommy Harrison (right) was recognized for his many decades of service to the ILWU and the industry by Local 63 President Mike Podue (left). Podue presented Harrison with an engraved crystal plaque.

Brother Dan Imbagliazzo, Local 13 member and Southern California Area Representative for the Coast Pension and Welfare Committee

In response to the extensive problems with the ILWU-PMA Welfare Plan's change from Cigna to Zenith-American Solutions as the Coastwise Claims Office administrator, the Coast Pension and Welfare Committee was ordered to meet in San Francisco March 20-22.

Committee members from the five major ports, the small ports, the pensioners and the Area Directors participated. So the membership will better understand why the change in our plan occurred, here is a re-cap. The previous administrator, Cigna, was incompetent. Cigna didn't pay claims in a timely manner, didn't thoroughly investigate over-charges or prosecute provider fraud, and, in too many instances, overpaid provider claims to doctors, hospitals, surgery centers, therapy offices & medical equipment suppliers. Cigna's incompetence meant bad service and higher costs to our plan. This ineffectiveness cuts in service. Providers can be greedy little buggers. Each is happy to accept more and more money.

Once the word of our Plan's lavish payments got out, we became an instant target. Remember too that the Los Angeles area has one of the highest incidents of medical fraud in the country. Southern California is where schemers hatch and devour any plan that is not paying attention. Higher costs equal BIG Employer pressure to decrease or eliminate benefits. The union was forced to request a change. During the 2008 bargaining, we demanded that Cigna be replaced. It is important to also note that all genuine cost savings demands have historically been proposed by the union. We suggested practical changes that would protect our hard won benefits. All the Employers ever do is look at the bottom-line costs and demand give-backs. The companies we work for are not our partners who are interested in the welfare of their employees. They have no desire or interest in protecting our benefits. It is all up to us. It took some time, but Cigna was finally replaced. Just before Cigna left they tried one last trick. Cigna bought our provider network and tried to extort us into retaining Cigna's Professional Providers Organization (PPO) services. A provider network is comprised of practitioners that agree to compensation and other terms of membership in order to be in that particular network. Cigna thought if the new network couldn't retain all the providers in their old Cigna network, we would give in and keep Cigna. Their extortion gambit didn't work. The Trustees researched and hired Blue Shield of California, a PPO network that is much larger than Cigna, offers more choices and included all but a very small number of our previous providers. Blue Shield is attempting to enlist that small number of providers

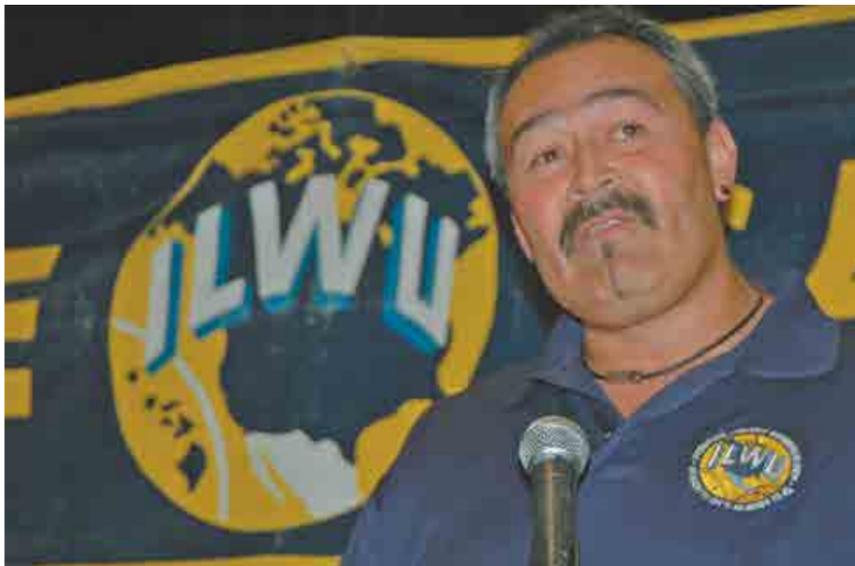
that were not included in the change of networks. We will get a report on how successful that effort has been.

To better understand our problems, here is the second set of facts you should understand. After you go to a doctor or other provider, two companies, Blue Shield of California and Zenith, get involved. Your Coast Benefits Committee interviewed each of these companies. Blue Shield has the provider network and is doing a good job. The Welfare Plan pays a fee to use the Blue Shield network. Compared to Cigna, Blue Shield has a much larger number of providers, higher standards, better oversight, experienced well-trained staff and lower costs than Cigna. The back of your card instructs providers to send claims to Blue Shield in Chico, CA. All California providers and facilities, with the exception of California chiropractors, are required to submit all claims to Blue Shield. California chiropractors must submit their claims directly to Zenith by mailing them to the P.O. Box address listed on the card. Blue Shield takes the claim and "prices" each service. This "price" is the discounted fee providers agree to accept in return for being in the network. The priced claim is then sent to a second company, and that's when our troubles begin. The second company, Zenith, takes the priced claim and is responsible for paying the provider. Zenith is understaffed, poorly trained and doing a terrible job. Zenith is causing us all kinds of problems. When you get an Explanation of Benefits (EOB) stating a claim is "denied," that EOB was generated by Zenith. Too often this company has been flat wrong. When you get an EOB stating that your claim for a service was denied, Zenith that denied the claim – not Blue Shield.

How did we get stuck with Zenith? Here is the answer. There was a disagreement between the PMA and the Union over the choice of a company that would pay the bills. Zenith was the Employer's choice. The Union thought a company named "Benysys" was a better choice. The disagreement went to the Coast Arbitrator for a decision. Instead of trusting the Union's opinion, the Coast Arbitrator, John Kagel, chose Zenith. It is my guess that the Coast Arbitrator gave the benefit of the doubt to the PMA because the Employers pay the bills. Mr. Kagel should have understood that it is the union that is better able to protect benefits and watch costs. With the selection of Zenith came all sorts of problems. I want to make sure that Mr. Kagel understands the effect of his decision. Our Pension and Welfare Committee agreed to send the Trustees a letter outlining all of our problems with Zenith. So he can understand that Zenith made promises that have not been kept, Mr. Kagel will get a copy. If problems persist, our Union Trustees will take further action.



Touch One, Touch All!: MUA-Western Australia Asst. Branch Secretary Will Tracey said that attacks on militant dock workers in one part of the world was an attack on dockers everywhere. "We stand in the way of their unfettered greed and power," Tracey said.



Dock workers in the cross hairs: General Secretary Joe Fleetwood of the Maritime Union of New Zealand said employers are targeting dock workers because of their militant culture and fighting spirit.

The resolution passed unanimously. The dockers are striking for fair wages, better working conditions and the right to form a union. They currently earn about \$90 for a double shift which is less than they earned in 1997. Crane operators work 12-hour shifts during which they aren't able to leave their cranes, even to use the bathroom.

President McEllrath and Vice President Familathe met with the Hong Kong dockers on a recent trip to China. The ITF has had a 4-year campaign to pressure the terminal operator, Hong Kong International Terminals (HIT), to recognize the collective bargaining rights of the dockers. HIT is a subsidiary of Hutchison Port Holdings Trust, which is part of Hutchison Whampoa Ltd. That company is owned by billionaire Li Ka-shing – one of the richest men in the world.

Honors for George Cobbs

Caucus delegates gave special recognition to ILWU Local 10 pensioner George Cobbs for his work in establishing the ILWU's Alcohol, Drug and Rehab (ADRP) program, noting that he has been instrumental in making the program a success.

"The ADRP program has saved the lives of a lot of people," said Local 63 President Mike Podue. "From the families that you brought back together, there are not enough words of gratitude and ways to express what you have done for this union."

Other resolutions passed by the Caucus included \$100,000 allocated for the James R. Herman Memorial

Advisory Committee that will oversee the design, creation and maintenance of a memorial for the former ILWU International President who succeeded Harry Bridges, serving from 1977 to 1991. San Francisco's Pier 27 cruise ship terminal will be named in Herman's honor. Funding of \$60,000 in each of the next two years was approved for the Labor Archive of Washington State University which has become an invaluable resource for the preserving labor history. Approval for up to \$100,000 a year was approved for after-school activities at the Harry Bridges Span School in Wilmington, CA. Delegates also approved a resolution sponsored by Bay Area locals allocating \$7,500 for events related to the 150th Anniversary of the Port of San Francisco.

Battling blood cancers

Local 13 delegate Dan Imbagliazzo introduced guest speaker Michael Guglielmo, who is the donor recruitment coordinator for DKMS, a non-profit organization dedicated to expanding the nation's base of blood marrow donors. The effort will save the lives of those stricken with blood cancers, including leukemia. Guglielmo took up the cause when his own son, Giovanni, struggled five years with the disease that finally took his life in April of 2012. Guglielmo will be working with Imbagliazzo and ILWU locals to organize a Coast-wide registration drive for potential blood marrow donors. More information about DKMS can be found at <http://www.deletebloodcancer.org/>

My visit to China

In March, I embarked with San Francisco Port officials on a trade mission to China. I attended as a San Francisco Port Commissioner and was joined by the Port's Deputy Director of Maritime, Peter Dailey and Maritime Marketing Manager Jim Maloney.

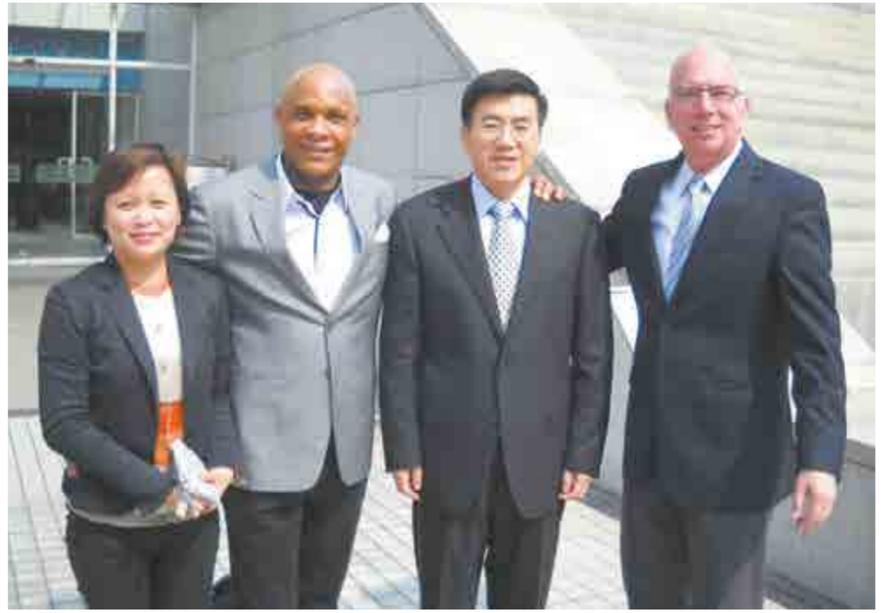
Break-bulk and bulk cargo shipping are key maritime markets for the Port of San Francisco. The majority of the Port's break-bulk imports are sourced in Asia and our leading steamship customers have key offices in Shanghai and Beijing. Our visit was timed so that we could attend a "Break-bulk China" Conference in Shanghai that allowed us to meet with leading shippers, carriers, terminal operators and ports involved in the transpacific break-bulk shipping market.

China has increasingly garnered the global spotlight with its growth in exports and imports of break-bulk and project cargo. China's dynamic economy has become not only a huge consumer of raw materials and finished commodities for domestic use, but also a supplier to foreign infrastructure construction projects. During the two-day conference, panelists discussed China's growing involvement in the world's

break-bulk and project cargo transportation, and whether this trend will continue in coming years. Over 100 companies staffed booths at the conference exhibit hall where we met with many shippers and carriers and explained the advantages of doing business at the Port of San Francisco.

We also made marketing visits to the Shanghai and Beijing offices of current and prospective shipping customers in order to cultivate additional trade opportunities for the Port. I was especially interested in our meetings with officials from the Port of Shanghai, the world's largest port and a sister port to the Port of San Francisco. We toured the Port of Shanghai's international break-bulk and bulk cargo terminal. The officials seemed to appreciate that I was an elected leader of the ILWU, in addition to my position as a Port Commissioner.

I made some special time on my own to have dinner with the Deputy Director of Shanghai's Municipal Trade Union Council, Mr. Zonga. Last year, Mr. Zonga met with Local 13's Bobby Olvera Jr., UCLA Labor Center Director Kent Wong, and Los Angeles County Labor Federation Director Maria Elena Durazo. Eight million workers are represented by the Shanghai Trade Union Council. Deputy Director Zonga speaks fluent English and said that he's a big



Searching for new S.F. Port business in Shanghai: *The world's largest port is located in Shanghai where the Port of San Francisco sent a delegation in March to search for new bulk and break-bulk customers. Pictured are (L-R) Shanghai Sister Ports Representative Du Jian, San Francisco Port Commissioner and ILWU International Secretary-Treasurer Willie Adams, Shanghai Deputy Port Director Gao Yiyi, and San Francisco Port Maritime Director Peter Daley.*

fan of the ILWU. I presented him with an ILWU lapel pin "hook" and gave him a copy of our Dispatcher newspaper. Mr. Zonga has travelled around the world, entertained visitors from abroad, and told me about his visits to the Ports of LA and Long Beach. He told me that he admires ILWU members and other strong docker unions around the world. He told me about the efforts by Chinese workers who are fighting for their right to win respect, dignity and safer working conditions. I briefed him on our upcoming 2014 contract negotiations.

High speed train

I took my first trip on a high speed train when I travelled from Shanghai to Beijing – a distance of 820 miles – in under 5 hours by travelling at speeds up to 186 mph. It felt like we were flying; the ride was so smooth that I could have easily slept – but I stayed awake most of the time to watch the beautiful countryside.

In Beijing, we were able to meet with U.S. Ambassador Gary Locke, who I've known for 20 years in Washington State where he served as a state representative, completed two terms as Governor, then served as U.S. Secretary of Commerce under President Obama. Now he's the U.S. Ambassador to China and spends most of his time in Beijing, but when we arrived

he immediately showed awareness for events back home by expressing his concern for the families of Local 23 members Jeff Suber and Dana Gorham who died in separate incidents during March at the Port of Tacoma. We also discussed other issues, including the status of the Harbor Maintenance Fund, and developments at the Ports of Tacoma and Seattle. One thing I've always liked about the Ambassador is that he grew up working-class in a Seattle housing project. He also attend the same high school as San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee. Our delegation spent an hour talking with the Ambassador and we ended by presenting him with an ILWU hook that was hand-crafted by Local 19 pensioner Ron Gustin. I told the Ambassador that we wanted to recognize his courageous stand in 2002 when he successfully resisted efforts by the Bush administration to call in the National Guard against the ILWU. I thanked him for his many years of service for working men and women and their families.

We concluded our visit in China knowing that we had made some important contacts that will hopefully bring more break-bulk business to the port of San Francisco. Already, a potential new customer has made arrangements to visit the Port in the coming months.



Holding the hook for helping workers: *ILWU International Secretary-Treasurer Willie Adams presents U.S. China Ambassador Gary Locke with an ILWU hook in Beijing. Adams recognized Locke's successful effort as a former two-term Washington State Governor who resisted efforts by the Bush administration to deploy National Guard troops against union members during a contract dispute. Accompanying Adams were San Francisco Port Maritime Marketing Director Jim Malone (far left) and San Francisco Port Maritime Director Peter Daley (far right).*

ATTENTION: LOCAL 10 MEMBERS

Trustees of the Smolin-Melin Scholarship Fund are prepared to accept applications for scholarships for the academic year 2013-2014. Now is the time to indicate your interest. **June 1, 2013 is the application deadline.**

Victor Smolin and Carlton Melin were long time members of Local 10. They left a sum of money to establish the scholarship fund. They specified that scholarships were to be available to children of Class A Local 10 members to further their "collegiate" education. Trustees of the Fund interpret "members" to **mean active members in good standing at the time of disbursement of scholarship funds, deceased members and retired members.** The Trustees interpret "collegiate" to apply only to **full-time** study (at least 12 units per semester or quarter) at either a four-year college or an academic junior college.

The Trustees have agreed that (1) no applicant will be awarded more than four scholarships, (2) a fifth scholarship would be considered after careful review of the applicant's record and if circumstances warrant and (3) in no event would an applicant be considered for a sixth scholarship.

Based always on available assets, the Fund historically has awarded scholarships in a range from \$1000 to \$2500 for full-time students at four-year colleges or universities, and from \$750 to \$1750 for full-time students at two-year colleges.

Trustees are Beth Ross, counsel for ILWU Local 10, David Erkkila, a retired member of Local 10 and a friend of Victor Smolin, and Eugene Vrana, retired Director of Educational Services and Librarian for ILWU.

If you have a son or daughter who is applying to enter college next fall, or is already a college student who is planning to continue, and the above requirements are met, you might want to apply for one of these scholarships.

To request an application, simply call Nicole Bridges at (415) 771-6400. She will then send you the application form with the necessary explanatory materials.

Longshore workers & officers protest medical claims

continued from page 1

more staff and send a delegation of claims processors to meet in person with concerned ILWU members and pensioners at Local 13's dispatch hall.

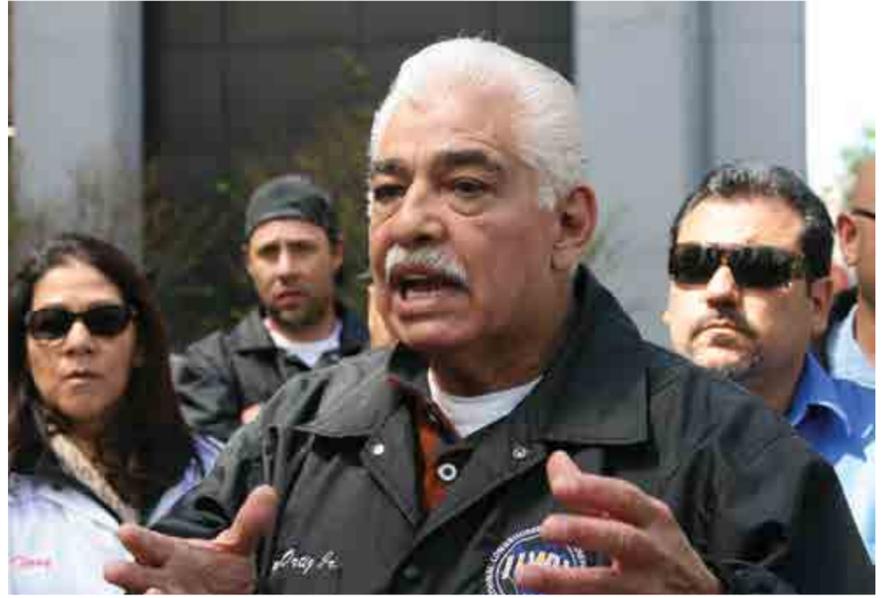
"We intend to hold the PMA and Zenith accountable and take care of the mess they created for so many of our families with unpaid medical bills," said ILWU Local 13 President Chris Viramontes. "Having all that pressure on the inside and outside made a difference on April 9."

When Zenith claims processors came to the Local 13 hall in mid-April, they got an earful from angry members with unpaid medical bills, some of whom brought piles and files of unpaid bills with them.

Local 13 member and Caucus

Delegate Frank Ponce De Leon had firsthand experience with the frustration caused by Zenith's bungling of his family's medical bills.

"My son needed an important operation that generated hundreds of thousands of dollars in medical bills that Zenith refused to pay," he explained, noting that some of the bills were heading to collection agencies that could compromise his credit rating. "It's a mess that has to be straightened-out fast," he said. De Leon got his chance to keep up the pressure because he was one of 81 Longshore Caucus delegates who met in San Francisco on April 15-19, where they discussed plans to keep pushing PMA and Zenith to fix the problems and pay members' medical claims.



Holding them accountable: Coast Committeeman Ray Ortiz Jr., briefed members outside of the PMA on the progress of the meeting with PMA officials.



Going to be heard: After protesting outside of PMA headquarters, members marched up to the PMA offices where they filled the hallway, making their presence known.

According to Dan Imbagliazzo, Southern California Area Representative for the Coast Welfare and Pension Benefits Committee, the problem started when employers chose Zenith to handle claims processing for the ILWU-PMA Coastwise Indemnity Plan. The union wanted another company to do the job, but PMA refused, so the matter had to be resolved by Coast Arbitrator John Kagel who sided with the company's preference for Zenith. Imbagliazzo says he has received many reports that Zenith lacked enough staff to handle the claims for ILWU members and Pensioners. "That's something they promised to fix, but people want to see more results and fewer promises from Zenith," he said.

Local and International union officials will be monitoring Zenith's work to see if there are signs of progress or further problems. Earlier this month, President McEllrath asked International Vice President Ray Familathe and Coast Committeeman Ray Ortiz, Jr., to attend Local 13's "stop-work" meeting so they could gather the concerns of members. Familathe and Ortiz, Jr., listened respectfully as many members came forward to voice their complaints and frustrations with medical bills that were not being paid by Zenith.

"The PMA is responsible for fixing this mess and we intend to hold their feet to the fire," said President McEllrath.

Lockout by Mitsui-United Grain in Vancouver, WA sparks community education effort to expose taxpayer subsidies

Longshore grain workers who were illegally locked-out of their jobs at the United Grain terminal in Vancouver, Washington since February 27 are getting favorable response from a public outreach effort explaining how a foreign corporation that's destroying good jobs is benefitting from lavish U.S. taxpayer subsidies.

The community outreach effort is spearheaded by ILWU members who maintain a daily presence outside the Mitsui-United Grain headquarters in downtown Vancouver, where they talk and distribute informational flyers to the public. Additional outreach is being provided by ILWU members in Seattle, who are distributing fliers in the Puget Sound.

Local 4 President Cager Clabaugh says the public has been receptive to the union's message about generous

taxpayer subsidies going to a company that locked-out local workers and hired out-of-state replacements who don't pay local taxes for schools and other vital services.

"About ninety percent of the people we talk to would like to see United Grain end its lockout and allow us to do our jobs," said Clabaugh.

The taxpayer subsidies benefitting Mitsui-United grain have been generous, including \$275 million for the West Vancouver Freight Access rail project that the company uses to efficiently move grain shipments to their terminal, and \$178 million for the Columbia River channel deepening project that allows Mitsui to transport grain vessels to and from their facility.

United Grain Corporation at the Port of Vancouver, WA is owned by Mitsui, a Japanese conglomerate which has the United Grain facility prominently displayed on its corporate web site. Mitsui-United Grain is a member of the Pacific Northwest Grain Han-

dlers' Association, which also includes Columbia Grain in Portland (owned by Japan's Marubeni); Louis Dreyfus Commodities (LDC) in Seattle and Portland (LDC is French-owned but presently headquartered in the Netherlands to avoid French tax increases on the wealthy), and Tacoma-based TEMCO, with facilities in Kalama, Tacoma and

Portland. All of the employers except TEMCO imposed a concessionary agreement on workers in December that had been rejected by 94% in a union membership vote; TEMCO continued to negotiate with the ILWU and reached an agreement that was passed by the membership by a 74% yes vote and ratified in February.

Two of the 200 local taxpayers locked out by Mitsui-United Grain Corp. since February 27, 2013.

MITSUI PROFITS FROM TAXPAYER FUNDS, HURTS LOCAL JOBS

\$275 MILLION West Vancouver Freight Access rail project allows Japan's Mitsui to export grain shipments for record profits

\$178 MILLION Columbia River channel deepening project moves Mitsui's massive grain ships in and out of United Grain

TAXPAYERS INVEST IN RAIL AND PORT PROJECTS TO CREATE JOBS FOR LOCAL FAMILIES. WHEN MITSUI IMPORTS OUT-OF-STATE WORKERS INSTEAD, THEY LEAVE LOCAL WORKERS UNEMPLOYED AND UNDERMINE OUR ENTIRE COMMUNITY.

Japan-based Mitsui, owner of United Grain Corp. in Vancouver, makes huge profits by using Washington's public ports, highways and railroads. Mitsui-United Grain violates the public's trust by importing construction crews from out-of-state, and by replacing longtime Vancouver longshoremen with non-union workers from Wisconsin, Florida and beyond. Mitsui's lockout is illegal, and it's wrong.

Mitsui needs to end its illegal lockout of ILWU workers and reach a fair agreement that puts local people back to work, just as Tacoma-based TEMCO did in February.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Learn more at www.LongshoreShippingNews.com

Federated Auxiliary member Holly Hall Stamper runs for Southwestern Oregon Community College Board

Holly Hall Stamper, member of the ILWU Federated Auxiliary 1 and the widow of labor troubadour and Local 12 longshoreman, Harry Stamper, announced she is running for Southwestern Oregon Community College Board. Southwestern Oregon Community College (SWOCC) was established with assistance from members of Local 12. The idea for the college was originated by Henry Hansen who was Local 12's first Vice President and is now honored as the founder of SWOCC.

Henry's goal was to have a local community college that would provide an affordable education for children of working class families. Students could gain the skills to aid them in finding a family wage job, or the student could begin a college education locally before transferring to a larger university.

But the administration at SWOCC is anything but labor friendly. College workers are feeling the strain as their wages plummet, administration wages rise and contract negotiations are continually contentious, said Auxiliary President Caroline Williams.

The president of the American Federation of Teachers Classified Union contacted Auxiliary 1 members in early March and asked for assistance in finding a candidate that would respect the rights of workers at SWOCC. "What's happening at SWOCC is a slap in the face to both ILWU and working class members of Coos, Curry, and Western Douglas County," said Williams. "If you live in any of these districts, please vote for the pro-worker candidates for SWOCC Board, Holly Hall Stamper, Julie Kremers, Danny Stoddard and Renee Menkins," she said.



Photo by David Bacon

Tribute to a fallen fighter: Ms. Johnnie Robinson (center) holds the Nelson Mandela Humanitarian Award that was bestowed by the government of South Africa in memory of her late husband and Local 10 member, Leo Robinson, for his lifelong devotion to justice and solidarity efforts that helped hasten the end of Apartheid. The award was presented at a memorial service held at Local 10 on March 23 to honor Robinson who passed on January 14, 2013. The award was presented by South Africa's Ambassador Ebrahim Rasool (L) and Consul-General Cyril Ndaba (R).

TRANSITIONS

NEW PENSIONERS:

Local 10: Steven H. Alley; Robert L. Zackery; **Local 12:** Jennifer Lynn Gumm; **Local 13:** Cornelio R. Martinez; Michael Bob Villarico; Antonio M. Jaramillo; Andres R. Magana; **Local 19:** Charles L. Reinsmith; Patrick S. Griffith; **Local 23:** Claude A. Thornbrugh; **Local 34:** Shing T. Tam; **Local 40:** Larry W. Hogg; Donald I. Weiss; **Local 52:** John C. Richied Jr; **Local 63:** Gilbert Ortega;

Ramon E. Quesada; Danko Bijelic; **Local 98:** Herbert A. Lenz;

DECEASED PENSIONERS:

Local 8: Donald J. Leichtman; Douglas A. Julian; Michael R. Smith; **Local 10:** Henry J. Atencio (Diane Kay); Theodore Haynes; Kurt R. Browarzik (Santa); **Local 12:** Douglas Mc Cready Jr; **Local 13:** Tony Milosevich; Joe G. Venegas Jr; Steve J. Lauriano (Cathy); William Ramirez (Lucille); **Local 19:** Arthur N. Wallace; Richard S. Maletta; Ernest L. Jennings;

Local 23: Steven P. Hays; **Local 26:** Dale E. McMillin; **Local 29:** Ramon P. Contreras; **Local 34:** Tsuneo Nagayama; Michael Salvato; Alfred M. Perio; Gerald F. Morten (Betty); **Local 52:** Eugene W. Everson; **Local 91:** Alexander Sanders; **Local 94:** Arthur Ortega Jr;

DECEASED SURVIVORS:

Local 8: Marcella M. Piwarchuck; **Local 10:** Concepcion Lazcano; Marjorie Golden; **Local 10:** Mary R. Trizuto; Aurelia V. Perez; Elouise

Dove; **Local 13:** Juana Valdez; Rosie Royal; Mary G. Bellhouse; **Local 19:** Amy R. Brandon; **Local 21:** Myrtle L. Everdell; **Local 23:** Josephine Viramontes; **Local 24:** Gladys E. Spurrell; **Local 34:** Alvera P. Brochier; **Local 40:** Violet M. Killian; **Local 91:** Melba F. Larson; Bruna D. Mordus; **Local 94:** Martha A. Trujillo



Se unen los trabajadores del reciclaje: El miércoles, 10 de abril, muchos trabajadores del reciclaje afiliados al Local 6 que trabajan para Waste Management en el condado de Alameda tuvieron el honor de reunirse en su sala de descanso con Nohra Padilla y Silvio Ruiz de Bogotá, Colombia. Ellos organizaron a miles de sus compañeros de trabajo, exigiendo respeto y tomando acción para conseguir mejoras extraordinarias y empleos seguros para los trabajadores del reciclaje en Colombia. El 15 de abril, Nohra Padilla aceptó el prestigioso Premio Medioambiental Goldman, el cual incluye una recompensa de \$150,000, en una ceremonia realizada en San Francisco. Padilla aceptó el premio a nombre de la Asociación de Recicladores de Bogotá (ARB), una organización que representa a 3,000 recicladores no oficiales de la ciudad, y la Asociación Nacional de Recicladores (ANR) que cuenta con 12,000 afiliados. El 1 de marzo, los grupos movilizaron a 14,000 trabajadores del reciclaje en las calles de Bogotá para seguir luchando por mejores condiciones de trabajo. Los miembros de la Mesa Ejecutiva de Trabajadores del Reciclaje del Local 6 de ILWU dieron una cena para Padilla y Ruiz el 9 de abril, dándoles la bienvenida a la zona de la Bahía. También asistieron a la cena líderes de la red mundial GAIA que vincula a los trabajadores con cuestiones ambientales y el grupo de defensa Mujeres Unidas Activas (MUA). Padilla empezó a trabajar en el reciclaje cuando solo tenía 7 años de edad, y fue

Recycling workers unite: On Wednesday, April 10, many recycling workers who belong to Local 6 and work at Waste Management in Alameda County, were honored to meet in their break room with Nohra Padilla and Silvio Ruiz of Bogotá, Colombia. Padilla and Ruiz helped organize thousands of their co-workers to win dramatic improvements and job security for recyclers in Colombia by demanding respect and taking action. On April 15, Nohra Padilla accepted the prestigious Goldman Environmental Prize – which includes a \$150,000 award – at a ceremony in San Francisco. Padilla accepted the award on behalf of the Association of Recyclers of Bogotá (ARB), an organization that represents the city's 3,000 informal recyclers, and the 12,000-strong National Association of Recyclers (ANR). On March 1, the groups mobilized 14,000 recycling workers in the streets of Bogotá to continue pushing for better working conditions. Members of the ILWU Local 6 Recycling Workers Executive Board held a reception dinner on April 9 to welcome Padilla and Ruiz to the Bay Area. Also at the dinner were leaders of the GAIA global network that links worker and environmental concerns and the advocacy group, Mujeres Unidas Activas (MUA). Padilla began working as a recycler when she was only 7 years old, rising through the ranks of her co-workers who today have secured legal rights, better conditions and a powerful voice because of their organizing efforts.