



THE DISPATCHER

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Local 13 members help homeless veterans. [page 3](#)



Two hundred ILWU members in the Bay Area are taking on Waste Management, which took in almost \$1 billion in profit in 2010. Workers are demanding a fair contract from the company which is seeking to increase employee health care costs for many.

ILWU waste workers organize to win better contracts

When we take our garbage and recycling to the curb, most of us give little thought to what happens next.

Two hundred ILWU members in the Bay Area waste industry are mobilizing to change that by making the public more aware – and their employer more accountable for the wages, benefits and working conditions of the workers in this important, very profitable – but often invisible – industry.

Corporate greed at Waste Management

Waste Management is a powerful company that lives in the upper tier of the Fortune 500. They're the top dog in America's lucrative and sometimes corrupt waste and recycling industry, and have accumulated a long record of criminal, civil and administrative fines, settlements and

convictions. Last year the company took in \$12.5 billion and reported profits of \$953 million. CEO David Steiner collected \$7 million in pay and perks and enjoys the use of a private jet. But when it comes to paying employees and respecting union workers, company executives are stingy – they're demanding pay cuts and benefit reductions for the rank and file.

Hard and dangerous work

"Our work is hard and sometimes dangerous, but most people don't even realize what we do to take care of everyone's trash and recycling," said Maria Sanchez, who works for Recycle America in San Leandro, CA, just a few blocks from Oakland's International Airport.

More than 100 ILWU members are responsible for sorting the recycled materials that come to the sorting facility from residents in Oakland, San Leandro and another

half-dozen East Bay communities. Most recycling workers spend their shift standing-up in front of conveyor belts that move continuous loads of trash, glass, paper and plastic that must be sorted quickly and accurately.

"There's usually lots of dust and dirt, sometimes even dead animals or poop," says Victoria León. "We often cut our hands on sharp glass and metal – and sometimes there are even dirty hypodermic needles." In addition to the cuts and infections, there's damage from repetitive stress injuries and the risk of working around dangerous machinery.

Low pay and cutbacks

Recyclers aren't paid fairly. More than two-thirds of the workers earn just \$12.67 an hour or less, and their opportunities for advancement are few. A majority of these workers are women and most are Spanish-speaking immigrants. The low wages have

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Occupy movement and the ILWU

For the past 100 days, the Occupy protest movement has been sweeping the country, targeting corporate greed by the one percent that's hurting the 99%.

Early praise from the ILWU

ILWU International President Bob McEllrath was one of the first labor leaders to praise the new Occupy movement in a letter sent to Occupy Wall Street on October 5. McEllrath has continued to salute the Occupy goals in subsequent letters and statements.

Groups embracing the "Occupy" goals have sprung-up across the country in hundreds of small towns and big cities. Polling shows the public has been favorable toward the Occupy message when it advocates for the 99%.

Problems in Oakland

Occupy activists in Oakland, CA took a controversial turn by calling for the closure of all West Coast Ports on December 12 – a move that temporarily closed Oakland and several other ports, but had no impact on 90% of coast shipping that day.

Respecting our democratic structure and process

Occupy Oakland leaders ignored the ILWU's democratic structure and decision-making process in favor of taking direction from a few individual ILWU members who advocated for the shutdown – but lacked formal backing from Local and International officers – as well as the union's rank-and-file democratic decision-making structure.

President McEllrath continues to salute the goals of the Occupy movement because they're committed to fighting corporate greed that's wrecking America and benefitting only the 1% – while asking the Occupy movement to respect the ILWU's democratic structure and decision-making process.

**INTERNATIONAL
LONGSHORE &
WAREHOUSE UNION**
AFL-CIO



1188 FRANKLIN STREET
SAN FRANCISCO
CALIFORNIA 94109
(415) 775-0533
(415) 775-1302 FAX
www.ILWU.org

ROBERT McELLRATH
President

RAY A. FAMILATHE
Vice President

WESLEY FURTADO
Vice President

WILLIAM E. ADAMS
Secretary-Treasurer

On October 5, 2011, I published a statement in support of "Occupy Wall Street." In that statement, I thanked the organizers of the "Occupy Wall Street" protest in New York City for shining a light on some of the most pressing issues of our times – corporate influence on democracy, the growing disparity between the rich and the poor, and the failure of accountability for the financial crisis. These issues are linked to issues that concern the membership of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU), namely, the attack on Social Security and Medicare, the refusal to level the playing field by supporting workplace democracy and employee free choice, and the failure to implement any kind of meaningful change to an unjust tax system, and we find strength in the courage of the supporters of the Occupy movement.

Since my October 5 statement, the Occupy movement has spread from the East Coast to the West Coast and captured the hearts and minds of the 99% who have had enough. Some in the movement have begun to draw comparisons between the broader struggle against Corporate America and the ILWU's labor dispute with its employer EGT in Longview. The fact is that the story of corporate greed and its impact on the working class is the story of the 99%, and, of course, this reality connects us all.

While there can be no doubt that the ILWU shares the Occupy movement's concerns about the future of the middle class and corporate abuses, we must be clear that our struggle against EGT is just that – our struggle. The ILWU has a long history of democracy. Part of that historic democracy is the hard-won right to chart our own course to victory. As the Occupy movement, which began in September 2011, sweeps this country, there is a real danger that forces outside of the ILWU will attempt to adopt our struggle as their own. Support is one thing, organization from outside groups attempting to co-opt our struggle in order to advance a broader agenda is quite another and one that is destructive to our democratic process and jeopardizes our over two year struggle in Longview.

Most recently, groups directly connected to the Occupy movement and other loosely affiliated social media groups have called for the shutdown of certain terminals and the West Coast ports. At the same time, these groups seek to link these shutdowns to the ILWU's labor dispute with employer EGT. None of this is sanctioned by the membership of the ILWU or informed by the local and International leadership. Simply put, there has been no communication with the leadership and no vote within the ILWU ranks on EGT associated Occupy actions.

Further, since our November 22, 2011 press release clarifying our position regarding third-party protests to occupy West Coast ports on December 12, 2011, we have been the subject of much criticism from individuals affiliated with the Occupy movement. This is shortsighted and only serves the 1%. We ask only that our internal process be respected and that whatever transpires not be in our name as we have not taken part in the call for that action.

With respect to EGT, the International Officers are fully engaged. That struggle, as managed by the Coast Committee and local elected officers, is center stage and will be until victory is achieved.

In Solidarity,

Robert McEllrath,
International President

DISPATCHER

Craig Merrilees
Communications Director and Managing Editor
Roy San Filippo
Editor

ILWU TITLED OFFICERS
Robert McEllrath, President
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William E. Adams, Secretary-Treasurer

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ILWU waste workers organize to win better contracts

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left many families living on the edge of poverty, despite their full-time work.

Outsourcing union jobs

A few blocks away in a separate office building, more than two dozen ILWU members do clerical and customer service work. These jobs pay better, but Waste Management officials decided to outsource dozens of these positions in 2009 to a non-union operation in Washington State – a move seen by many as retaliation against local union members.

Many miles away, in the hills bordering the Bay Area, another group of ILWU members work at the landfill where Teamster members deliver endless truckloads of trash. The ILWU members, who are mostly men, operate heavy equipment that buries the waste beneath layers of earth. These jobs are the best paying, with some workers earning over \$28 per hour, but working around the dust, noise and filth is no picnic – and these jobs can be dangerous too. Other ILWU landfill workers direct traffic and perform other chores at the landfill, jobs that pay \$22.10 and up.

Showing solidarity in 2007

Waste Management officials haven't hesitated to play hardball when workers try to make improvements. In July of 2007, the company locked-out 500 Teamster drivers and 95 mechanics in the Machinists Union who had been negotiating without success for months. The lockout seemed to surprise the drivers and it posed an immediate challenge to the 300 ILWU workers. Without exception, the ILWU members decided to support their locked-out co-workers by honoring the Teamster and Machinist picket lines.

Waste Management retaliation

The show of solidarity by nearly one thousand East Bay employees enraged Waste Management officials, who expected their surprise lock-out to frighten other workers and dilute support for the Teamster picket line.

With additional support from other ILWU members who donated \$50,000, the workers held firm for almost a month until the company was forced to negotiate a fair contract with Teamster members. After the lockout ended,

Waste Management tried to retaliate against ILWU members by filing a lawsuit for honoring the Teamster picket line. The company also announced they would outsource dozens of good-paying clerical and customer service jobs to a non-union outfit in Washington State. That move left ILWU member Tiffany Douglas and many others out of work since October 31, 2009. Ms. Douglas has looked for other jobs and has applied for various positions at Waste Management, but they said she "wasn't qualified" – despite extensive skills and qualifications, including training experience. The recession has left her and many others without a good replacement jobs to pay the bills and support their families.

Negotiations led nowhere

When it came time to renegotiate ILWU contracts, Waste Management officials were uncooperative. As a result, the recycling workers' contract expired 10 months ago in January 2011; the landfill contract expired 19 months ago on May 31, 2010; and the clerical contract expired 25 months ago on Oct 31, 2009. The delays were designed by the company to undermine workers' faith in the union, but it didn't work.

Support from the International union.

Local 6 Secretary-Treasurer, Business Agent Jose Nuñez and the Bargaining Committee engaged the ILWU International Union for assistance and began work on a joint plan to help waste workers take charge of the situation and win better contracts:

- **Member meetings.** Workers in all three units were encouraged to attend meetings together where they could share their concerns and experiences, ask questions and make suggestions for winning better contracts.
- **Contract Action Teams (CATs).** Volunteers agreed to take responsibility to talk with their co-workers about the need to be involved and take action.
- **Bargaining Committee meetings.** The Committee reviewed a proactive plan that called for more membership involvement and coordination with the CAT.



United for a fair contract: Waste Management is an extremely profitable company and their top executives have lavish compensation packages, however they are seeking take backs from hard working men and women. ILWU members are working together to make sure they get a fair contract. Pictured here from left to right are Elisa Macias, Eva Mojica, Sofia Fajardo and Dominga Ramirez.

- **Training sessions.** Workers learned about their rights on the job and the bargaining process.
- **Research.** Important facts about Waste Management's national and local operations were analyzed then shared with Local 6 officers and members.
- **Meetings with local elected officials.** A list of elected officials who preside over service contracts with Waste Management was compiled and officials were then contacted. Scores of officials began meeting with waste workers, union officials and staff to learn more about the company's practices.
- **Public outreach.** Members began speaking at City Council meetings, County Board sessions and sanitation district meetings to explain the problems with Waste Management's labor practices.
- **Rallies at company headquarters.** Workers held rallies in early November and December where they spoke out, received support from local elected officials, and won positive media coverage.
- **Communication to keep everyone informed.** Flyers have been keeping workers aware of the latest developments and actions, making it harder for the company to divide and confuse employees.
- **Coordination with other East Bay unions.** Other unions, including those representing workers at Waste Management, are offering their support and learning about what they can do to help ILWU members and hold the company more accountable.

All the work by members over the past few months is beginning to bear fruit. Waste Management officials have agreed to resume negotiations in January. And while everyone expects a tough fight, workers now see there's a clear strategy to make progress and a way to win better contracts.

"We're going into 2012 with more strength and more members involved," said Skip Jepson. "If we stick together and keep fighting for what's right, we can do this."



Helping homeless veterans: ILWU Local 13 members joined 200 other Southern California union members to raise \$10,000 to help end homelessness for America's veterans. The "Homeless Heroes Team," sponsored by L.A. County Federation of Labor and Labor Community Services, AFL-CIO participated in the United Way's 5k Home Walk through downtown Los Angeles. In the photo: Bobby Olvera, Jr., Local 13 Vice President, Paul Sanchez, Local 13 Executive Board, and Harry Dong, Local 13 LRC at the finish line.



Double-checking the books: The ILWU's four Trustees meet several times a year to review the union's financial records. An auditing firm conducts an independent review of the ILWU's financial records every three months and prepares a report. The Trustees review the audit results, usually together with the International officers. In order to serve, the Trustees must first be elected to the International Executive Board, then win appointments by the Board to serve as Trustees. "It all boils down to protecting the members' dues dollars," said Trustee Max Vekich. "We have excellent accounting staff and an intensive auditing program, but we try to double-check everything and ask questions to make sure we're doing our duty to protect the membership. The Trustee positions are unpaid. Pictured from L-R are Trustees: James Daw, Local 8; Doug Cabading, Local 142; Max Vekich, Local 52; and President Alan Cote of the Inlandboatmen's Union

As we leave 2011 behind, the *Dispatcher* takes a look at some of the victories and struggles of ILWU members in the past year.

IBU members hold the line against Georgia Pacific

In our January issue, the *Dispatcher* reported on 80 Portland-area warehouse workers who were fighting for safe jobs, healthy families and retirement security. At that time, they had been bargaining for a fair collective bargaining agreement with Georgia Pacific for over a year. Georgia Pacific is one of the largest multi-national paper corporations in the world and is owned by the anti-union, billionaire Koch brothers. Workers at two of the warehouses, Rivergate and Front Avenue, reached agreement with Georgia Pacific in 2011. Workers at GP's warehouse in Kelley Point fought longer and settled their agreement after a "lightning strike" over management's refusal to bargain in good faith with union members.

Community allies: United Students Against Sweatshops

In early February, ILWU International Vice President Ray Familathe travelled to Columbus, Ohio to participate in the annual conference of the United Students Against Sweatshops (USAS). The campus-based organization has won campaigns against powerful companies like Nike and Russell Athletic that were accused of mistreating workers. The group provided critical support for the struggle by Rite Aid warehouse workers in Lancaster, CA who won their fight for an ILWU contract in May, 2011. USAS has groups on 150 campuses in the US and Canada.

"I went to congratulate these student activists for all their previous efforts to help workers, and thank them for their solidarity with Rite Aid workers," said International Vice President Ray Familathe who spent two days meeting with the students.

Defending collective bargaining rights

In our March issue, we reported on a solidarity trip of ILWU members from Locals 13, 63, 26 and 94 who were part of a delegation of 161 workers from Southern California that trav-

eled to Madison, Wisconsin to stand in solidarity with tens of thousands of students, parents, teachers, nurses and other community members fighting to protect union rights for workers. Wisconsin Governor, Scott Walker—and the state legislature dominated by anti-worker politicians – pushed and later passed legislation stripping public employees of their right to bargain for anything other than wages.

"ILWU members need to be in this for the long haul," said Local 94's Franchesta Grove, who made the trek to Wisconsin. "Each ILWU member needs to understand that it is very important to support our brothers and sisters in Wisconsin. It's easier for us to go to the battle than wait for the battle to come to us. When we're asked to step up to help these workers, we need to do so graciously. Those men and women are standing out in the snow fighting for our rights."

When the anti-union legislation was eventually passed, the public outrage led to a massive campaign that successfully recalled two of six anti-union Republican state Senators who were targeted because of their anti-worker views. The recall of two politicians was impressive, but it fell short of the 3 needed to break the anti-union majority in the State Senate. But the recall effort did send a clear message to anti-union politicians throughout the country that attacking workers could be politically risky. A campaign to recall Gov. Walker is currently underway.

Tacoma Longshore turns 125

Our April issue covered the 125th anniversary of the Tacoma Longshore Local. On March 22, Local 23 active members, pensioners, the ILWU International officers and Coast Committeeman Leal Sundet, with Tacoma community members, and representatives from ILWU locals along the coast gathered in the Old Tacoma Cemetery at the burial site for 23 of the original 47 workers who formed the Stevedores, Longshore and Riggers Union of Puget Sound. The gravesite commemoration was followed by a lunch featuring speakers and entertainment.



Standing up for good jobs at Georgia Pacific: L-R: Willie Adams, ILWU International Sec-Treasurer, Alan Coté, IBU President, and Dawn DeBrisay, President, ILWU Local 40 at the Georgia-Pacific rally.



Five hundred workers at Rite Aid's distribution center in Lancaster scored a remarkable victory on May 1st when they reached a tentative agreement on their first contract. Determination, unity, and perseverance were key in the 5-year struggle by ILWU families in Lancaster.

The union was formed on March 22, 1886 after a unanimous vote by the men working the lumber ship, Ivy. They struck for five days before winning their demands for union recognition, wage increases, and the right for a job dispatcher to be elected by union members. "Seven of the 23 founding members buried in Old Tacoma Cemetery were killed on the job," said honorary Local 23 member and historian Dr. Ron Magden, who quoted from an article that he wrote for the 125th anniversary celebration.

Rite Aid workers win a first contract

On May Day, the five-year organizing struggle by Rite Aid workers in Lancaster, CA ended in a major victory for ILWU members when a fair contract agreement was finally reached with the company. On May 12th, a strong majority of employees ratified their three-year agreement that provided guaranteed raises, fair health insurance rates, protection against subcontracting, and powerful new tools to control the pace of work and promote safer conditions inside their million-square-foot warehouse.

"Everyone on the team deserves credit for helping win this fight," said ILWU International President Bob McEllrath, "beginning with the rank and file warehouse workers, our coalition allies around the country, and especially the ILWU members up and down the coast who pitched in to help us win."

ILWU members turn up the heat on EGT

On June 3rd, 1200 ILWU members staged a powerful show of solidarity when members from locals up and down the West Coast rallied in Portland, OR to support efforts by ILWU Local 21 to win their fight against EGT, a wealthy multinational conglomerate seeking to undermine ILWU jurisdiction in Longview, WA.

Besides hundreds of ILWU members from locals 4, 5, 8, 10, 13, 19, 21, 23, 27, 40, 50, 52, 53, 54, 92, and 98, dozens of ILWU Pensioners and Auxiliary members attended. Members of the ILWU's Marine Division – the Inlandboatmen's Union – were also on hand. A wide range of other unions helped to swell the ranks, including members of the United Food and Commercial Workers Union, Laborers, Teamsters, Painters, Roofers, Letter Carriers, AFSCME, SEIU, Carpenters, Masters, Mates & Pilots Union, and theater workers from IATSE. The International Transport Workers Federation sent representatives and the Oregon state AFL-CIO and Northwest Oregon Labor Council encouraged affiliated union members to attend. Community groups including Jobs with Justice, the Working Families Party, and Cowlitz County Deserves Better also came to lend their support. Messages of encouragement and support came from as far away as Australia and New Zealand.



Ten ILWU members joined a delegation of 161 workers from Southern California in late February to stand in solidarity with Wisconsin workers whose collective bargaining rights are under assault. "I don't even have words for the experience," said ILWU Local 94 member Franchesta Grove.



ILWU International President Robert McEllrath was detained by law enforcement while standing up for good jobs with ILWU members against the outlaw multinational, EGT, in Longview, WA, on September 7, 2011.



Panama Canal Pilots welcomed to the ILWU family: By an overwhelming vote, the Panama Canal Pilots Union decided to affiliate with the ILWU on September 7th. From left to right: Capt. Alvaro Moreno, Business Manager, Panama Canal Pilots Union; Capt. Londor Rankin, Secretary General, Panama Canal Pilots Union; Robert McEllrath, ILWU International President; Capt. Rainiero Salas, Assistant General Secretary, Panama Canal Pilots Union; Ray Familathe, ILWU International Vice President.



ILWU Local 6 members at Bayer ratified a new four-year agreement that includes better job security, annual raises of more than 3%, and a freeze on the 18% share of health insurance that workers currently pay.

Seattle Longshore Turns 125

The July/Aug issue reported on Local 19's 125th anniversary celebration of the Seattle Longshore Union that took place. Over 200 people turned out to the event on June 14th. Coast Committeeman Leal Sundet attended the event along with representatives from ILWU locals throughout the Pacific Northwest.

Like the Tacoma celebration, one of the highlights of the evening was a historical presentation on the Seattle longshore local by Dr. Ron Magden. The talk was illustrated by a slideshow of historical photos that chronicled the union's defining moments and figures across its 125-year history.

In the same issue, we also reported on the remembrance of "Bloody Thursday" and the martyrs of the 1934 West Coast Waterfront strike by ILWU members and their families up and down the West Coast. That struggle gave birth to the ILWU and radically improved wages and working conditions for dock workers.

Panama Canal Pilots affiliate with ILWU

Our September issue announced that the Panama Canal Pilots Union voted to affiliate with the ILWU. The vote took place on September 7, the same date that an agreement was signed 32 years ago between the governments of Panama and the

United States to return control of the Canal Zone to Panama.

"This is an historic agreement that unites workers in different countries with a critical link in the global supply chain," said International President Bob McEllrath upon hearing the decision by Pilots to affiliate with the ILWU. "We want to welcome these union brothers to the ILWU family and look forward to helping each other."

Bayer pharmaceutical workers win contract

In the October Dispatcher, we reported that 420 Local 6 members at the Bayer HealthCare plant in Berkeley, California reached an agreement on a new contract. The contract was ratified by 70% of workers on October 12. The four-year contract includes better job security, annual raises of more than 3%, and a freeze on the

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ILWU members give thanks by giving back

ILWU members demonstrated the true spirit of the holiday season by giving back to the community at a time when many families are struggling in a hard economic climate up and down the West Coast. The Southern California's 14th Annual Feed the Community Day was made possible through the donations and volunteer efforts of ILWU members from Locals 13, 26, 52, 63, 94, the Women's Aux #8, So. Cal Pensioners, Local 13 Memorial Association and the Local 63 Memorial Association. Because of them, 1,500 harbour-area families were able to enjoy a Thanksgiving dinner with all of the trimmings. Baskets were also given to the ILWU Local #56 Ship Scalers, Laborer's Union Local #802 and the Hotel and Restaurant worker union local #11 and The Hotel and Restaurant workers union Orange county local #681.

In the Bay Area, Local 10 distributed nearly 200 turkeys to Oakland residents this year including some that were set aside to donate to a local Senior Citizen center. The event was so successful that it will become an annual event for the community.

Ten longshore volunteers from ILWU Local 23 volunteered at St

Leo's Hospitality Kitchen in Tacoma where they served Thanksgiving dinner to 250-300. The volunteers will also serve a Christmas dinner on December 22nd. Local #23 has supported the hospitality kitchen since 1984 through financial donations and active and pensioners volunteer year round.



Helping hands: ILWU members in Southern California pitched in to help make sure 1,500 local families could share a traditional Thanksgiving together.



The 14th Annual Feed the Community Day in Wilmington was one of many events organized along the West Coast by ILWU members to help feed local communities on Thanksgiving.



Photo by ILWU member Jim Paulin

Chillin' in Alaska: ILWU member Leoncio Martinez on the ice-covered Horizon Tacoma in Dutch Harbor, Alaska in November. The container ship arrived in the Aleutian Islands port with a thick coat of ice from stormy seas on a voyage from Anchorage. Extra longshore workers were dispatched to clear ice away before the ship sailed back to Tacoma, Washington.



Holiday Bike Drive: At their October meeting, Local 34 members decided to organize a holiday bike drive to give back to their community. They partnered with the "Cycles of Change" organization in Oakland's Fruitvale neighborhood which sponsors after-school bike clubs, a "Safe Routes to Schools" program that teaches children about safety, and a bike shop that trains young bike mechanics and allows volunteers to "earn-a-bike" by helping in the shop.

During the months of November and December, Local 34 members collected new and used bikes in good condition to donate to Cycles of Change, which will distribute them to young people. Bikes of all sizes began filling the Oakland and San Francisco Dispatch halls. The Bike Drive Committee set a target of collecting 25 bikes – but Local 34 members beat that goal by contributing 40 bikes and \$1,286 in cash donations – more than enough to provide helmets and locks for every bike. Members and staff met on Sat, Dec. 17 at the San Francisco hall to do the final cleaning and assembly of bikes that were delivered to Cycles of Change staffer Matt Geregthy. ILWU Local 75 members were inspired by the drive and contributed a bike of their own along with a \$200 donation.



Local 23 members joined other community volunteers at St Leo's Hospitality Kitchen in Tacoma. Pictured here from right to left are John Westhead, Tom Dolly, Kevin Terrell, Dennis Fillabrant, and Robert Winters.



Local 10 members donated 200 turkeys and distributed them to families in Oakland. Adam Mendez (left) and Derrick Mohammad (second from right) are pictured here with an Oakland family at Morning Star Church in West Oakland where the food was distributed to the community by Local 10 volunteers.

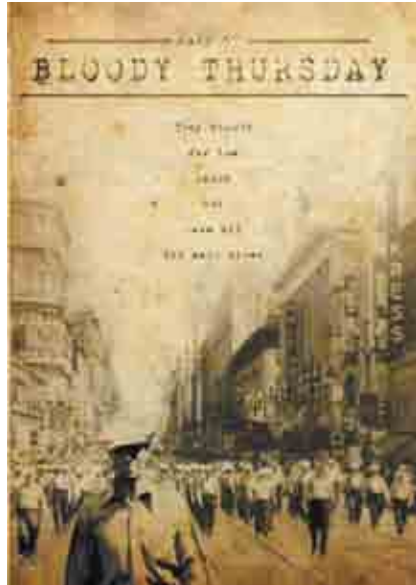


Holiday Gift Guide

VIDEOS

Bloody Thursday

Bloody Thursday is a one hour PBS documentary that tells the story of how West Coast dockworkers overcame huge obstacles to form their union, the ILWU. Set in the midst of the Great Depression, the film shows how longshoremen were fighting for their rights at the same time that most of their families weren't sure where their next meal would come from. The odds were stacked against the longshoremen. Mainstream newspaper publishers, fearful of unionization efforts at their own papers, launched brutal attacks against the dockworkers and drove public sympathy against them. In addition, politicians and the police openly used their resources to side with the shipping companies against the striking dockworkers. Bloody Thursday tells the human stories of the dockworkers who stood up against these odds and changed the course of American labor history.



Bloody Thursday includes a range of filmed interviews with union officials and historians who provide fascinating insight to the dockworker's struggles during the Depression. These interviews are visually supported through an extensive archive of photographs, film, and old newspapers. Dramatic accounts of the longshoremen, labor activists, and politicians who were participants in the tumultuous events of the historic West Coast strike of 1934 are brought to life by actors who read their accounts verbatim and bring a new level of emotional impact to the story through their performances.

The film is available for \$20 at the website www.bloodythursdayfilm.com

Locked Out: Documentary on the struggle of the Boron Miners against Rio Tinto

This documentary tells the David and Goliath story of how the workers from ILWU Local 30 beat back one of the world's largest mining companies despite facing financial hardships during a 107-day lockout.

In the wind-swept sands of California's Mojave Desert sits a small town called Boron, population 2,000. It is home to one of the largest borates mines in the world, where close to 600 workers blast, dig, process and transport the refined mineral to a thousand manufacturers around the world. Borates are essential ingredients for life on our planet. Generations of workers have worked in the mine, and over the years have won good wages and benefits through their union, the ILWU. As part of the middle class in America, they have been able to buy their own homes, send their children to college, and retire with a good pension.

But in the fall of 2009, the owners of this mine, the Rio Tinto Group, a British-Australian multinational company, decided to drastically cut the workers' benefits when the union contract expired in November. The Rio Tinto Group mines iron ore, aluminum, copper, gold, diamonds, coal, uranium and industrial minerals in over 50 countries. As the third largest mining company around the world, their net earnings in 2009 were almost \$5 billion dollars on revenues of \$44 billion dollars, and this was earned through the abusive tactics they have used against miners and their communities—from human rights abuses to environmental destruction.

Rio Tinto threatened the miners in Boron—to either accept their cutbacks in the new contract or find themselves locked out of work. On January 30th, 2010 the workers voted unanimously to reject the company's proposed contract and on January 31st, 2010, they were locked out of work. This film tells the dramatic story of the fight back by families in Boron.

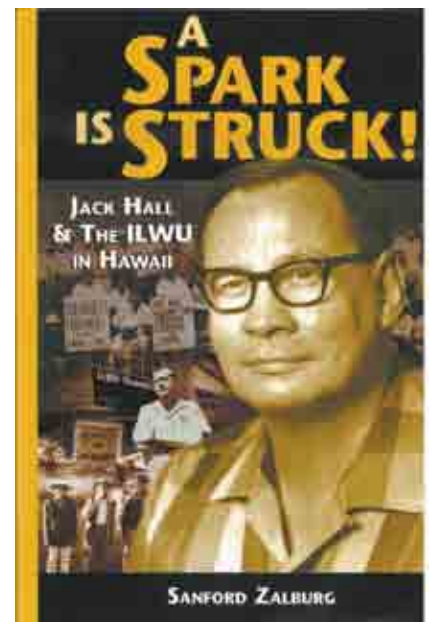
The film is available for \$20 at the website: www.lockedout2010.org

BOOKS

A Spark is Struck: Jack Hall and the ILWU in Hawaii

By Sanford Zalburg

Jack Hall came ashore at Honolulu Harbor as an insignificant seaman and quickly took his place at the forefront of those who forged Hawaii's destiny. *A Spark is Struck!* is Hall's story—and the story behind the International Longshore & Warehouse Union in the Hawaiian Islands. Together, the man and the union helped incite a bloodless revolution, transforming Hawaii from the neo-colonialist paradise of a wealthy few to one of the most liberal states in the nation. It was an era of landmark events: the Red Scare, the consolidation of power, major labor strikes in the fields and on the docks. Here is the inside story of a power broker's career and a union's role in shaping today's Hawaii.

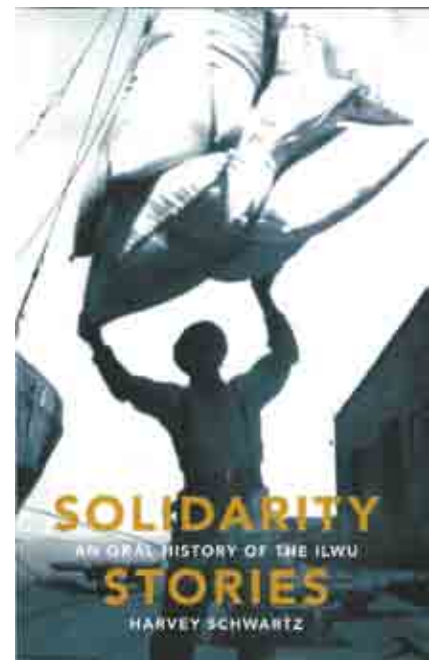


Available for \$13.50 from the ILWU Library. Use the order form on page 8.

Solidarity Stories

By Harvey Schwartz

The International Longshore and Warehouse Union, born out of the 1934 West Coast maritime and San Francisco general strikes under the charismatic leadership of Harry Bridges, has been known from the start for its strong commitment to democracy, solidarity, and social justice. In this collection of firsthand narratives, union leaders and rank-and-file workers - from the docks of Pacific Coast ports to the fields of Hawaii to bookstores in Portland, Oregon - talk about their lives at work, on the picket line, and in the union. Workers recall the back-breaking, humiliating conditions on the waterfront before they organized, the tense days of the 1934 strike, the challenges posed by mechanization, the struggle against racism and sexism on the job, and their activism in other social and political causes. Their stories testify to the union's impact on the lives of its members and also to its role in larger events, ranging from civil rights battles at home to the fights against fascism and apartheid abroad. "Solidarity Stories" is a unique contribution to the literature on unions. There is a power and immediacy in the voices of workers that is brilliantly expressed here. Taken together, these voices provide a portrait of a militant, corruption-free, democratic union that can be a model and an inspiration for what a resurgent American labor movement might look like.



Available for \$17 from the ILWU Library. Use the order form on page 8.

Bound back-issues of the *Dispatcher*

Handsome, leather-bound, gold embossed editions of the *Dispatcher* are available. A year's worth of ILWU history makes a great gift or family memento. Supplies are limited, not all years are available. Cost is only \$10 for a year's worth of ILWU history. Email orders to editor@ilwu.org or make a check out or money order (U.S. funds) to ILWU and send to ILWU Library, 188 Franklin St., San Francisco, CA 94109.



2011 year in review

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18% share of health insurance that workers currently pay. Bayer threatened job cuts Bayer had been seeking takeaways in this contract that included the outsourcing of janitorial jobs, boosting health care rates, arbitrary scheduling changes, and more.

ILWU protects workers and public from exploding containers

Our November issue discussed the steps the ILWU took to safeguard dockworkers and the public from thousands of potentially explosive refrigerated shipping containers that have been arriving from overseas ports.

The ILWU first learned about the hazard on October 20. Officials at the world's largest carrier, Maersk, notified an industry group earlier in October – but only after three dockworkers in foreign ports had been killed by explosions involving refrigerated shipping containers, known as “reefers.”

Experts in the shipping industry

have apparently known since early 2011 that counterfeit or substandard refrigerant was being used by vendors in Vietnam who provided low-cost maintenance and servicing of reefers.

The Coast Arbitrator eventually issued a decision with a definition for at-risk reefers: “A reefer container which, in 2011 in Vietnam, at Cat Lai or elsewhere in that country, had maintenance and repair work to the mechanism of the reefer unit that involves refrigerant fluids is an at-risk container. If that maintenance and repair work did not involve that mechanism, but to other unit mechanisms such as electrical systems or, for example, repairs to exterior dents which do not implicate the refrigeration mechanism of the reefer unit, the container is not at-risk.”

Companies are now providing the union with transit information for all reefers and are providing maintenance and repair records for any that transited Vietnam in 2011. As a result, at-risk containers are now being handled according to safety protocols.

A Helping Hand...

...when you need it most. That's what we're all about. We are the representatives of the ILWU-sponsored recovery programs. We provide professional and confidential assistance to you and your family for alcoholism, drug abuse and other problems—and we're just a phone call away

ILWU LONGSHORE DIVISION

ADRP—Southern California
Jackie Cummings
870 West Ninth St. #201
San Pedro, CA 90731
(310) 547-9966

ADRP—Oregon
Brian Harvey
5201 SW Westgate Dr. #207
Portland, OR 97221
(503) 231-4882

ADRP—Northern California
Hunny Powell
HPowell@benefitplans.org
400 North Point
San Francisco, CA 94133
(415) 776-8363

ADRP—Washington
Donnie Schwendeman
3600 Port of Tacoma Rd. #503
Tacoma, WA 98424
(253) 922-8913

ILWU WAREHOUSE DIVISION

DARE—Northern California
Teamsters Assistance Program
300 Pendleton Way
Oakland, CA 94621
(510) 562-3600

ILWU CANADA

EAP—British Columbia
John Felicella
3665 Kingsway, Ste 300
Vancouver, BC V5R 5W9
(604) 254-7911

TRANSITIONS

NEW PENSIONERS:

Local 8: James L. Cothren; **Local 10:** Melvin Davis; Jose G. Chavez Jr; Willie R. Nious; Youssef Latif; **Local 13:** Joe M. Utovac; Ivan Z. Glavan; Miles E. Ross; Clifford R. Dudley; Aaron Barrios; **Local 19:** Randy K. Brown; **Local 23:** Orlando E. Bauman; **Local 29:** Andres Mendoza; **Local 34:** Manuel R. Santana; **Local 52:** Darrell L. Drugge; Richard W. Spellacy;

Local 54: Brian L. Erlandson; **Local 63:** Richard D. Jimenez; Vienna A. Fleming; Ricardo R. Yanez; Margaret M. Walsh; Dortha M. Gravett; Helene G. Vaughn;

DECEASED PENSIONERS:

Local 8: Douglas J. Ek; **Local 10:** Sam M. Corritore; William M. Wapp; Aurelio Alvarez; **Local 13:** Ralph W. Suggs; Albert R. Fadell; Nick F. Felando (Lillian); Earl B. Bell Jr; **Local 14:** Kenneth Brixey;

Local 19: John I. Flood; **Local 23:** Donald R. Fuqua; **Local 34:** George K. Leschinsky; Ernest Villarico; **Local 54:** Wesley Rainey; **Local 63:** Delbert Blackard (Opal); James D. Mc Donel; **Local 92:** Michael T. Wright

DECEASED SURVIVORS:

Local 4: Verna G. Plummer; Janet M. Spencer; **Local 8:** Iris O. Nelson; Edith E. Cheney; Amelia Mildenberger; Marjorie V. Burditt;

Local 10: Cecilia A. Williams; **Local 12:** Jone A. Phillips; **Local 13:** Irma Miretti; Norma O. Harmon; Norma C. Chapman; Mabel Bezelj; Joy E. Rutz; Cassandra Reed; **Local 19:** Helen Jackson; **Local 24:** Helen E. Schweitzer; **Local 27:** Sharon Parkhurst; **Local 29:** Bertha Arellano; **Local 54:** Annie Waldon; **Local 63:** Victoria Prlia; **Local 91:** Gladys Rollins;

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Books and videos about the ILWU are available from the union's library at discounted prices!

BOOKS

Solidarity Stories: An Oral History of the ILWU. By Harvey Schwartz. An inspiring collection of first-hand accounts from ILWU union leaders and rank-and-file workers. \$17.00.

A Spark Is Struck: Jack Hall & the ILWU in Hawaii. By Sanford Zalburg: A high quality re-issue of the informative epic account of Jack Hall and the birth and growth of the ILWU in Hawaii \$13.50 (paperback).

The Legacy of 1934: An historical exhibit by the ILWU. Produced as a catalogue to accompany the new traveling historical art exhibit about the origins of the ILWU in the 1934 maritime strike, this brief but vivid publication stands on its own as a pictorial history of the coastwise strike and an account of the extraordinary sacrifices and democratic principles of the founding members of the union. **Two (2) for \$5.00**

Harry Bridges: The Rise and Fall of Radical Labor in the United States. By Charles Larrowe. A limited number of copies of this out-of-print and useful biography are now available through the book sale by special arrangement with Bolerium Books in San Francisco, which specializes in rare publications and documents about radical and labor history. **\$10.00**

The ILWU Story. This book unrolls the history of the union from its origins to the present, complete with recollections from the men and women who built the union, in their own words, and dozens of rare photos of the union in action. **\$5.00**

The Big Strike. By Mike Quin. The classic partisan account of the 1934 strike. **\$9.00**

The Union Makes Us Strong: Radical Unionism on the San Francisco Waterfront. By David Wellman. The important new study of longshoring in the ILWU. **\$20.00** (paperback)

The March Inland: Origins of the ILWU Warehouse Division 1934-1938. By Harvey Schwartz. A new edition of the only comprehensive account of the union's organizing campaign in the northern California warehouse and distribution industry. **\$9.00**

VIDEOS

"Eye of the Storm: Our Fight for Justice and a Better Contract." A 58-minute DVD feature documentary film produced and directed by Amie Williams, Eye of the Storm tells the story of the 2002 longshore lockout on the West Coast. DVD Version **\$5.00**

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"Life on the Beam: A Memorial to Harry Bridges." A 17-minute DVD of the original video production by California Working Group, Inc., memorializes Harry Bridges through still photographs, recorded interviews, and reminiscences. Originally produced for the 1990 memorial service in San Francisco. DVD **\$5.00**

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