Caucus delegates and longshore leaders: Ninety Longshore Caucus delegates who met in San Francisco on December 15-16 received an update on contract negotiations from ILWU International President Bob McEllrath (top left), Vice-President (Mainland) Ray Familathe (bottom left), Coast Committeeman Ray Ortiz, Jr. (bottom center) and Coast Committeeman Leal Sundet (bottom right).

Local 12 fights for good jobs in Coos Bay page 3

Longshore Caucus meets to review status of contract talks

When the Coast Longshore Caucus recessed last July, most delegates assumed the contract with the Pacific Maritime Association (PMA) would be put to bed before Christmas. Instead, delegates who gathered in San Francisco on December 15 heard a sobering report from ILWU International President Bob McEllrath.

“We’re now entering our 8th month of talks, which is completely new territory. This is the longest set of negotiations in recent history – at least since 1971, when there was a 134-day strike,” said McEllrath. “I told our Negotiating Committee when we got started that these negotiations would be much more difficult, and now we can see that’s the case.”

In explaining some of the challenges, McEllrath pointed to industry restructuring schemes and new business models that have triggered massive industry-induced congestion at Pacific Coast ports. These include:

- Outsourcing work on the docks that was previously done by longshore workers, including the management, maintenance and inspection of tens of thousands of container chassis units.
- Creating new companies, twice removed from PMA-member employers, who are receiving subcontracted work that formerly done by longshore workers.
- Failing to provide sufficient training for current and future dockworkers to improve safety and protect ILWU jurisdiction.
- Other factors contributing to massive congestion are increased container volumes, use of new “mega-ships” carrying up to 14,000 containers, shortages of port truckers, tighter railroad capacity and a host of other factors that have caused the crisis due to corporate greed and poor planning.

McEllrath declared that the ILWU would not be intimidated by industry efforts to blame workers and the union for company-caused port congestion problems. He thanked members for remaining strong and united.

“We’re not going to roll-over for the employers,” he said. “We’ve already reached terms on a tentative agreement that will maintain our health benefits – and we’ve made progress on some other important areas – but there’s still a lot more to do before this can be settled in a way that protects our jobs and jurisdiction down the road.”

continued on page 4
Help ILWU workers have a voice in Washington, donate the Political Action Fund

In April the ILWU Political Action Fund (PAF) launched a new section on the ILWU.org website where members can securely donate to the PAF using a credit card. One-time and recurring monthly or quarterly donation options are available. To access the site go to www.ilwu.org and click the Political Action Fund button on the right-hand side of the navigation bar. When prompted, enter the password 1934k to access the site’s Political Action Center, then click the Donate button to reach the donation form.

The purpose of the ILWU Political Action Fund is to make expenditures in Federal Elections to protect and advance the interests of ILWU members and the entire ILWU community.

Your contribution is voluntary and is separate from your union dues and is not a condition of membership. No favor or disadvantage will result from contributing or refusing to do so, and you are free to contribute more or less than the suggested amounts. Federal law prohibits the ILWU Political Action Fund from receiving contributions from individuals other than members of the ILWU, executive and administrative personnel of the ILWU, Union with an enduring and independently significant financial or organizational attachment to the ILWU, and their Families. All donations will be screened and those from persons outside the restricted class will be returned.

Happy Holidays from the Officers and Staff of the ILWU

Happy New Year!
Corporate subsidies for anti-union employers:
are taxpayers being hosed in Coos Bay?

For the past several months, Local 12 members and supporters have been picketing whenever non-union barges arrive at the Southport Forest Products dock in North Bend, Oregon – a waterfront employer who’s trying to operate without ILWU labor.

Non-union barges: Raw logs coming in and wood chips going out are being moved without ILWU workers on shore. The tugs and barges are also operating with non-union crews.

Machine guns

“The weather is sometimes nasty, but that doesn’t stop us,” said Local 12 Secretary-Treasurer Gene Sundet, who was sealed to the barge on December 4th but remained in good spirits with co-workers who picketed in front of the company gates and out in the bay, thanks to a flotilla of small fishing boats. Local law enforcement treated the protest as a major event; mobilizing seven officers and four squad cars – the better part of local law enforcement – while a Coast Guard vessel patrolled nearby with a 50-caliber machine gun. Sheriff’s deputies said they wanted to “practice dealing with protestors” who are expected to visit Coos Bay in the future if a controversial liquefied natural gas (LNG) facility goes forward.

Going non-union

Two years ago, Local 12 had an agreement with Southport to use ILWU workers for unloading log barges, through Port America. Many logs were unloaded with ILWU help during the past two years – but the company refused to reach terms with Local 12 for shipping wood chips from their facility. Southport was soon searching for non-union tow and barge operators to help them move their chips – and recently started moving both logs and chips without ILWU labor.

“We’ve organized five picket lines at Southport since September,” said Jill Jacobson, who also serves as Local 12’s Secretary-Treasurer. “We’d like to set this as soon as possible, because we can’t let Southport or anyone else drive down standards on the waterfront.”

Anytime, day or night: Picketing at Southport lumber has taken place at night and in the pouring rain to protest the company’s refusal to recognize ILWU jurisdiction on their docks.

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Lying about jobs

In 2005, the Port secured another grant for Southport worth $506,000 from the “Oregon Connect” program. The Port and Southport were supposed to provide additional funding of $140,000, bringing the total project cost to $646,000. The grant said the funding would be used to refurbish the barge slip that had filled with silt. A local newspaper reported: “The project is expected to increase employment in Southport’s local operations, and in maritime services and the longshore labor sector.” But after Southport received the public grant money, the Port granted the company a waiver from the competitive bidding process – allowing the firm to pocket money by repairing the barge slip themselves without hiring local contractors to do the work.

Promoting public good

“Southport has received hundreds of thousands of dollars in corporate welfare, but remains arrogant and disrespectful of our community,” said Local 12 Secretary-Treasurer Gene Sundet. “They need to be held accountable, and we intend to educate the community about their abuse of the public interest.”

Bottom line

Local 12 leaders say they’re committed to fighting the attack on longshore jurisdiction in their small port by privately owned mills and docks.

“Maintaining good jobs with high standards that support our community is what we’re about,” said Jill Jacobson. “It may start in a small port, but eventually these non-union operators threaten everyone on the waterfront if they get a foothold.”

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Longshore Caucus meets to review status of contract talks

In addition to reviewing the contract negotiations, other Caucus business included an update from the Longshore Legislative Committee, delivered by Local 52’s Max Vekich along with International Secretary-Treasurer Willie Adams, Local 34’s Sean Farley, Local 19’s Dan McKisson, Local 10’s Adam Mendez, Local 63’s Mike Podue and Local 8’s Jeff Smith.

Area reports were delivered by William “Baba” Haole of Hawaii’s Longshore Division, President Chuck Wendt of the Alaska Longshore Division, and Local 502 President Tim Farrell who represented the ILWU Canada delegation for ILWU Canada President Mark Gordienko who had to return early.

Brief updates were provided by Coast Committee officers Ray Ortiz, Jr., Leal Sundet and International Vice-President (Mainland) Ray Familathe.

Ortiz noted that dialogue with employers has become much more difficult in recent years – making it harder to solve problems that arise on the job. Familathe reported about his experience at an industry conference on new technology where company officials spoke openly about their quest to eliminate longshore jobs.

Local 23’s Conrad Spell proposed a resolution supporting the ILWU’s Negotiating Committee, which read: “The rank-and-file membership of the ILWU and this Caucus unequivocally support the Negotiating Committee and President McEllrath in the pursuit of our contract.”

The statement was unanimously approved by delegates who recessed on December 16, agreeing to reconvene when the Negotiating Committee has reached a tentative agreement that will be subject to a Caucus recommendation and membership vote.

Legislative update: Members of the ILWU Coast Longshore Legislative Committee provided reports to the Caucus about efforts to secure political support. Pictured (L-R) are: Local 19’s Dan McKisson, Local 10’s Adam Mendez, Committee Chair and Local 52 member Max Vekich, Local 63’s Mike Podue, Local 8’s Jeff Smith and Local 34 President Sean Farley.

Political accountability: ILWU International Secretary-Treasurer and Legislative Committee member Willie Adams told Caucus delegates that politicians who consistently support working-class issues are in short supply.

Chairing the Caucus: Local 13 veteran Joe Cortez chaired the latest Caucus session on December 15-16 in San Francisco where the focus was on contract negotiations with the PMA.

Solidarity visit from the International Dockworkers Council (IDC)

The ILWU Negotiating Committee was honored to receive a solidarity visit from leaders of the International Dockworkers Council (IDC) on December 17. IDC General Coordinator Jordi Aragunde and Office Coordinator Susana Busquets addressed the ILWU Committee and pledged to “mobilize the IDC’s network of support and organization to help the ILWU win this important contract struggle.” An IDC flag was presented to President McEllrath that was hung in the conference room where negotiations take place. Affiliates of the IDC met in Brussels on December 12 where they adopted a solidarity statement that concluded: “The IDC will fully support the ILWU’s effort to negotiate a good contract for all West Coast dockworkers and will organize any actions deemed necessary to protect dockworkers’ rights on the West Coast.” ILA Vice-President Ken Riley, who serves as IDC’s East Coast Coordinator, was also part of the delegation that visited San Francisco to offer his support and solidarity.

Solidarity pledges and support have also been received from the International Transport Workers Federation (ITF), another global union network. Vice-President (Mainland) Ray Familathe serves as First Vice-Chair of the ITF Dockers Section and recently attended an ITF meeting in London where he provided an update on the ILWU/PMA negotiations. ITF President Paddy Crumlin attended the ILWU longshore Caucus on February 24, 2014, as did IDC leader Antolin Goya.
A growing number of social justice activists are coming to admire and respect the contributions made by Carlos Bulosan, despite the fact that many are still unaware of the contributions from this remarkable man and important union leader who excelled as a gifted writer, poet and activist.

**Early years**

Like many Filipinos of his generation, Bulosan emigrated from his homeland as a young man of 17 in 1930 when the islands were still a U.S. colony. During his childhood years in the Philippines, he and his farming family were cruelly exploited and abused by wealthy landowners – establishing a formative experience that was later recounted in “America is in the heart.”

During the next two decades, Bulosan chronicled the experience of immigrant workers in the U.S., providing a rare voice for workers and families who enjoyed rich lives but were often ignored and marginalized by an America ripe with racism.

**An inspiration**

Being Filipino American myself, I was inspired by Bulosan’s writings because they helped me become more mindful and aware of my own experience. When I first read “America is in the Heart,” I was struck by his unique “Bulosan style” and masterful use of imagery to tell a story. But I must admit that my respect for “Manong” Carlos (Manong is a Filipino term of respect, similar to the English term “brother”) was also strong because of our personal connection to the Alaska Cannery Workers Union ILWU/IBU Local/Region 37 - where I served sixty years ago and I serve today. Back then, Bulosan was an elected official of Local 37; today I am currently the Executive officer of the same union. Naturally I take great pride in Bulosan’s association with our union – especially his priceless writings and passages that were penned during his tenure here at Region 37. I still consider it the highest honor to work in a position that was once shared by such an important and brilliant icon.

Some of my personal experiences with our union are similar to those described by Bulosan, although with less tension and hostility than he faced in the early days of Region 37.

**Brave young man: Carlos Bulosan**

was only 17 when he left the Philippines and came to the United States.

**Holiday dinner table. Written at the end of the Great Depression and dark days of WWII – the essay and painting inspired millions of Americans who were hoping and struggling for a better life. Bulosan’s essay also resonated widely with the public because it shared values outlined in a famous speech by President Franklin Roosevelt, called “Four Freedoms,” including the “freedom from want.”**

**Showcasing Bulosan’s life:** The University of Washington has created a special exhibit of Carlos Bulosan’s life and work that is appearing in the lobby of the Allen Library from November 2, 2014 to March 13, 2015.

**The Conference also discussed how “America is in the Heart” could be used as a teaching tool for students. At the Conference conclusion, a reception was hosted by IBU Region 37 and the Harry Bridges Center for Labor Studies. The reception allowed us to update conference participants about the current state of Carlos Bulosan’s union, and share information about our union with local labor leaders who were invited to the reception. Participants were also able to view the impressive Carlos Bulosan exhibit, featuring many documents and photos, which will remain on display at the University of Washington’s Allen Library Special Collections area until March 13, 2015.**

**Brave young man: Carlos Bulosan**

was only 17 when he left the Philippines and came to the United States.

**“We in America understand the many imperfections of democracy and the malignant disease corroding its very heart. We must be united in the effort to make an America in which our people can find happiness. It is a great wrong that anyone in America, whether he be brown or white, should be illiterate or hungry or miserable.”**

– from America Is in the Heart by Carlos Bulosan

America is in the heart

Carlos Sampayan Bulosan lived a brief but brilliant 45-year life. He was born in the Philippines and died in Seattle in 1956. His most renowned writing contribution is found in his book, “America is in the Heart.” Like Jack London and John Steinbeck, Bulosan’s writing and political views were based in working class struggles. His writing focuses on events and characters located in Seattle and the Western United States where he worked and travelled. The issues he tackled include passionate portrayals of immigrants facing racial injustice – much like the poet Langston Hughes documented in the lives of African Americans in New York City about the same time.

**Celebrated essay**

A famous essay by Bulosan, titled “Freedom of Want,” brought him worthy acclaim when it was published in the Saturday Evening Post in March 1943. His essay was accompanied by a painting from the famous illustrator Norman Rockwell, showing a working class organizer – especially his priceless writing and paintings that were penned during his tenure here at Region 37.

**Inlandboatmen’s Union (IBU)**

**Richard Gurtiza, Regional Director Inlandboatmen’s Union (IBU) Region 37**

**Brilliant writer and union activist: Filipino immigrant Carlos Bulosan, who grew up poor in his home country, came to the U.S. where he expressed passionate feelings for social justice through his writing and union organizing.**
Recognizing worker struggles: A panel of experts including ILWU members participated in a San Francisco Commonwealth Club forum on December 3 that explored “80 Years of ILWU History on the City and West Coast” in front of a packed audience. In the top photo, John Castanho, Local 10 member and Coast Benefits Specialist joined ILWU Historian Harvey Schwartz to explain ILWU history and traditions. At bottom right, Local 10 President Melvin Mackay welcomed and introduced the panel who appears in the bottom left photo (L-R): San Francisco Labor Council Executive Director moderated the event; ILWU Historian Harvey Schwartz; SF State History Professor Emeritus Robert Cherny and San Francisco Chronicle reporter Carl Nolte. The event was broadcast on public radio and can be found on the Commonwealth Club website.

The Legacy of 1934

The panelists tackled the question of the legacy of the 1934 West Coast Longshoremen’s strike for dock workers and Historian Harvey Schwartz, who has written several books on the history of the ILWU and conducted numerous oral histories of ILWU members including veterans of the 1934 strike, detailed the many abuses on the waterfront from the “shape up” and kickbacks demanded by bosses as a requirement for work to speed ups and poor safety and working conditions. Among the many important legacies of the 34 strike cited by Schwartz included the rise of Harry Bridges and the ILWU’s commitment to civil rights. Schwartz also said that the ‘34 strike also inspired other unions to organize. He cited the minutes from a carpenters union meeting in the Central Valley shortly after the longshore strike, “If the longshoremen can do it, so can we,” the minutes stated.

Professor Cherny cited the strong organization built by the longshoremen after the strike. “They built a strong union up and down the West Coast, with a great system of communication, a coastwise contract, a union run hiring and a dispatcher elected by the membership,” Cherny said.

Carl Nolte recalled the overt hostility by the newspapers in San Francisco during the 1934 strike. “On July 5th, 1934 there was battle between maritime workers and police. There were people who were clubbed, hit with sticks and shot. The wounded were taken to the ILA hall. The two workers, who killed, Howard Sperry, and Nicholas Bordois, were taken to the ILA hall. The two workers, who killed, Howard Sperry, and Nicholas Bordois, were taken to the ILA hall. The two workers, who killed, Howard Sperry, and Nicholas Bordois, were taken to the ILA hall.”

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.

John Castanho, a third generation ILWU member said some of the strike’s legacies were more apparent than others. He contrasted the more concrete gains of the strike cited by Cherny with other legacies that are not as apparent.

“I got an education on the waterfront that I couldn’t have gotten in a classroom. I learned about struggles that were going on in other countries like the fight against apartheid in South Africa. I learned the importance of looking out for each other, the importance of sharing with one another,” said Castanho. “That is so counter to the current corporate American culture. There was a time in this country when we really looked out for one another and I’m proud to say that I belong to an organization that still believes in those values.”

Commonwealth Club to honor 1934 longshoreman’s HQ

The Commonwealth Club is purchasing the building that used to be the old headquarters for the International Longshoremen’s Association (ILA) on Mission and Steuart streets in San Francisco during the 1934 strike. The building will be renovated and used as meeting and office space for the Club.

The facade facing Steuart will retain the appearance it had in 1934 but the side of the building along Mission Street will be completely renovated. The Commonwealth Club has committed to put up a plaque to educate people about the history of the building and the 1934 strike. Currently there are no historical markers on the building and it has not been used for many years. There will also be display material inside the building so that people who attend Commonwealth Club events will have the opportunity learn about history and legacy of the ILWU in San Francisco, said Schwartz.

“It is important to remember that wasn’t just an ILA office building,” Castanho reminded the audience. “On July 5th, 1934 there was battle between maritime workers and police. There were people who were clubbed, hit with sticks and shot. The wounded were taken to the ILA hall. The two workers, who killed, Howard Sperry, and Nicholas Bordois, were taken to this building and they laid there in state until July 9th, the day of the funeral and march.”
Local 10 Holiday Party for kids: On December 13th, BALMA hosted their Kid’s Holiday Party. The event featured food, games, clowns, animal balloons and face painting and a special visit from Santa.

In the bottom left photo are the Local 10 volunteers who made the event possible. Top row from left to right are: Carlos Villanueva, Valerie Butler, Dana Harrell, Rene Sharp, Christopher Christensen, Kelly Kane, and Steve Carson. In the bottom row from left to right are: Debbie Kilgore, Ricorah Wanzo, Tammie Arnold, and Trevyn McCoy. Not pictured: Tracy Adams and Willie Sanchez.

Photo on the right: Local 10 member Demitria Owens and her niece Telia were among the many who had their faces painted at Local 10’s annual holiday party for kids.

Discussion and debate:
Longshore Negotiating Committee member Tony DePaul (left) of Local 23 is a Major Ports representative who serves with Local 51 member Duane Johnson, representing Small Ports for the Washington State/Puget Sound Region. Committee members have spent countless hours developing proposals to help secure a good contract.

Speaking up for small ports:
Anthony Soniga of Local 29 in San Diego is the Small Ports Representative for the California Region on the Longshore Negotiating Committee. Soniga is the Committee’s youngest member and is asked to share his views about how various proposals could impact dockworkers at smaller ports.

Negotiating Committee keeps working to settle contract
After the Longshore Caucus recessed on December 16, Longshore Negotiating Committee members immediately resumed efforts to reach an agreement with the Pacific Maritime Association. The ILWU’s 16-member Negotiating Team is led by President Bob McEllrath with Vice-President (Mainland) Ray Familathe, and Coast Committeeemen Leal Sundet and Ray Ortiz, Jr. The Committee includes Jim Daw of Local 8, Melvin Mackay of Local 10, Frank Ponce De Leon of Local 13, Cam Williams of Local 19, Tony DePaul of Local 23, Anthony Soniga of Local 29, Brad Clark of Local 4, Duane Johnson of Local 51, Dane Jones of Local 40, Joe Gaspers of Local 63, Daniel Miranda of Local 94 and President Rich Austin of the Pacific Coast Pensioners Association. Another eight delegates serving on the Safety Sub-Committee are responsible for negotiating improvements to the ILWU-PMA Pacific Coast Marine Safety Code. Local 10’s Ed Ferris Chairs the Sub-Committee with Vice-Chair Mike Podue of Local 10 and Secretary Adam Wetzell of Local 8, plus Committee members Luke Hollingsworth of Local 13, Ryan Whitman of Local 23, Tracy Burchett of Local 53, Ray Benavente of Local 13 and Paul Weiser of Local 98.
ILWU negotiating committee hosted a lunch for the Benefits Plan Office staff, the ILWU staff and officers and their families at the Local 10 Hall. And on December 12th the Bay Area Pensioners Pensioner party: BALMA hosted a holiday lunch for Bay Area ILWU pensioners and their families at the Local 10 Hall. And on December 12th the Bay Area Pensioners hosted a lunch for the Benefits Plan Office staff, the ILWU staff and officers and the ILWU negotiating committee.

TRANSITIONS

NEW PENSIONERS:
Local 8: Douglas L. Lundy; Lonnie A. Cranston; Local 10: William L. Taylor Jr; Local 13: Daniel A. Imbaglazioz; Donnell Bushing; Donald N. Nelson; Joe A. Lopez; Mark A. Placentia; Frank D. Kelleher; John E. Ramos; Feliberto V. Vargas; Donnie McGuire; Frank Gonzales; William R. Lisenberg; Local 19: Roger A. Witsoe;
Local 23: Robert D. Clark; Karen L. Hardy; Local 53: Robert L. Halverson; Local 63: Louise A. Hay; Local 94: Gary D. Wolfe; Steven V. Trutanich;
DECEASED PENSIONERS:
Local 10: John S. Williams; Ireland Hill; Frank J. Guzzo; Robert Stitt; John H. Andrews (Jean); Local 12: Jack T. Bolan; Shelly M. Prow; Local 13: Charles Lampkin;
Charles L. Winans (Nancy); Local 19: Kenneth E. Woolding; Local 23: James C. Adey (Faye); Local 26: Ray Ventura; Local 34: Hugo P. Iannacoone; Local 40: Gilbert K. Ridout; Local 94: Forrest T. Moore;
DECEASED SURVIVORS:
Local 8: Macel F. Pearce; Grace G. Cuiaman; Local 10: Adeline Neves; Ida Lee Spikes; Mildred Gilbert; Barbara L. Munn; Ruby D. Mobley; Local 13: Ada Sutton; Sally M. Carter; Dorothy Young; Trinidad Villanueva; Carmen Winyin; Mary Kordich; Local 19: Georgia Henslee; Local 23: Marjorie Carrano; Local 34: Catherine A. Maurice;

ILWU BOOKS & VIDEOS

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

BOOKS
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 historical 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 Jarrore. 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 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
“We Are the ILWU.” A 30-minute color video introducing the principles and traditions of the ILWU. Features active and retired members talking about what the union meant in their lives and what it needs to survive and thrive, along with film clips, historical photos and an original musical score. DVD or VHS version $5.00.
“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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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.

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