



# THE DISPATCHER

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Photo by Robbin Doyno

ILWU members up and down the coast pitched in to make sure struggling workers in their communities had a happy holiday season. [page 3](#)



**Standing up for families:** Georgia Pacific warehouse worker and IBU member Travis McKinney brought his daughter to rally for good jobs on December 4th in Portland. "The company would rather we push toilet paper than take care of our families."

## Georgia-Pacific workers rally for justice in Portland warehouses

**O**n the cold afternoon of December 4th, fourth generation Georgia-Pacific (G-P) employee Travis McKinney raised his voice above the frigid wind as he stood with close to one hundred of his co-workers, union allies and community supporters in front of the office at the company's largest distribution center for paper products in Portland, Oregon.

He described to an outraged crowd, management's cold-blooded refusal to allow him to tend to his daughter's health: "When I had to take my daughter to the hospital to be diagnosed, the company told me I had to stay and work overtime instead." Travis was eventually able to get medical help for his daughter – despite G-P's lack of support – and found that she was autistic.

Doug Stilwell, another G-P

employee, spoke at the rally about management's constant pressure to speed up forklift operations. "There is no safety... ever since they put this computer system in here [to automatically direct workers when to move loads], we're all taking shortcuts trying to get this stuff down, pushing their paper out. It's wrong," said Stilwell.

Earlier in the year, production employee Cyrie Bellici had her leg severely injured and almost ripped off due to a common practice – condoned by management – that allowed cargo loads to be manually directed on the distribution center floor.

As members of the Inlandboatmen's Union of the Pacific, ILWU's Marine Division, Travis, Doug and Cyrie are part of a group of almost 80 G-P workers who have been fighting for safe jobs, healthy families and retirement security and bargaining for a fair collective bargaining agreement since February 2010.

IBU President Alan Coté pointed

out "safety is more than a page in a manual, and there is no safety culture in here as far as I'm concerned—just a greed culture."

Leaders from other unions whose members work at G-P in other locations, joined IBU members in denouncing G-P's reckless approach of putting corporate profits before workers' health.

Greg Pallesen, Vice-President of the Association of Western Pulp and Paper Workers (AWPPW), said "they don't care about anything other than profit. 'Safety First' is a line of you-know-what." Bill Kerr, Recording Secretary of United Steelworkers (USW) Local 1097, concurred: "They will preach 'Safety First', and I honestly believe its 'Production First.'"

After dozens of members and supporters picketed the company last May, subsequent months saw G-P repeatedly attempting to gut key protections and force drastic concessions on members.

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



# LETTERS TO THE DISPATCHER

Dear Editor,

We are the children of Frank F. Marinkovich, Sr. – Frank, Jr. and Jean Marie. We are honored for this opportunity to pay tribute to his memory, and to acknowledge the essential role of the ILWU which enabled him to provide so well for his family over the many years. The Book of Proverbs in the Bible states that a good man leaves an inheritance, a legacy, to his children’s children. Our dear dad was such a man. It was through him with the help of the union that his legacy lives on. Indeed, his wife, children and grandchildren all call him blessed.



Our dad loved God, his family, baseball, the ILWU, his community and his country. He played ball with great skill and passion earlier in life; similarly, when he joined the union, he enthusiastically committed himself. He was a proud brother for sixty years who never retired from working.

For him and for us as a family, the union has been and continues to be a tremendous blessing. He dedicated himself to sending us to private (parochial) school, and then on to the best universities. In so doing, he set us up for life with a great education. Frank, Jr. went to medical school and earned his Doctor of Medicine degree. Jean Marie

went to graduate school and earned her Doctor of Philosophy degree in science and engineering. Growing up, we also enjoyed good vacations, a nice home and good medical coverage. All of these benefits were made possible through his hard work and the action of the ILWU. During his recent illness and subsequent passing, the union again stepped up. Dad’s health insurance covered his medical bills. Also, our mother receives great benefits and continued support from the union. This is what our dad fought for as a brother of the union. To be sure, there occurred several strikes along the way, but we think he would say that it was worth it.

We, as his family, encourage the current members of this great union not to become complacent, to continue to fight to keep the union strong and unified, and to keep those hard-earned benefits that have been won by its previous members, such as Frank F. Marinkovich, Sr. That is what dad would have wanted.

Jean Bear

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

**ILWU Locals 13, 63, and 94 invite you to attend...**



A special screening of the new documentary film about ILWU members by Joan Sekler

**LOCKED OUT:  
THE STORY OF THE BORON MINERS' STRUGGLE**  
Wednesday, February 16th at the Warner Grand Theatre  
478 W. 6th Street @ Pacific, San Pedro, CA

**Special  
Guest  
Speakers**

- 6 pm** free film screening
- 7 pm** meet the filmmaker
- 7:30 pm** "New technologies and the impact on union jobs"
- 8 pm** The Importance of "Beat the Canal"

**Friends &  
Family  
Welcome**

*Locked-Out* is a powerful and inspiring "David and Goliath" story about 560 ILWU families in the tiny desert town of Boron, California who stood-up and won their fight against a powerful multinational employer – thanks to critical help from harbor-area ILWU members, many unions in Southern California, and solidarity from working families around the world.

For more information, contact your local union office.



**ILWU helps raise \$25,000 for Miller's Children's Hospital:** ILWU's Tri-Party Golf Tournament held last year raised \$ 25,000 for Miller Children's Hospital ( Long Beach) and \$2,100 for Arnie's Army Battles Prostate Cancer. Sponsors of the tournament included ILWU Locals 13, 63 and 94. Other help came from locals 92 and 142, ILWU Coast Longshore Division, Southern California Pensioners Club, the ILWU Credit Union and several Harbor Area businesses. Pictured in the photo are: Front row, L-R: Jim Normandin, for Miller Children's Hospital; Lou Loveridge, SoCal Pensioners; Mondo Porras, Local 13 Sec. Treas.; Middle row, L-R: Bobby Olvera Jr., Vice President Local 13; Danny Miranda, President, Local 94; John Dadich, Tournament Co-Chair; Joe Cortez, President, Local 13; Jerry Garretson, President, SoCal Pensioners; Michele Aragon, Tournament Co-Chair; Roger Olson, Vice President, Local 63; Back row, L-R: Mike Trudeau, Sec. Treas. Local 94; Gary Alexander, Tournament Co-chair; Mark Gargas, Tournament Chairman; Peter Peyton, President, Local 63; Rich Dines, Tournament Co-chair; Not pictured: Alex Bandy, Tournament Co-Chair; Jim, "Red" McGovern, Tournament Co-

## New ILWU website launched!

Stop by our newly designed website.

- ✓ Expanded content
- ✓ YouTube Videos
- ✓ Photo galleries

[www.ilwu.org](http://www.ilwu.org)

Submit your photos, stories and feedback on the new site to [editor@ilwu.org](mailto:editor@ilwu.org)

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# ILWU's holiday spirit is recession-proof



**Help for harbor-area kids:** Toy drive coordinator Lisa Tonson of Local 13 with a union Santa Clause. Tonson's work every year on the holiday toy drive and Thanksgiving basket giveaway has been invaluable. According to one volunteer, "Christmas doesn't happen in San Pedro without these two." (Photo by Robin Doyno)



**Bayer workers help the laid off:** ILWU Local 6 members working at the Bayer production facility in Berkeley, CA donated enough money to purchase gifts for children from families who were hit by layoffs in August, 2010. Bayer demanded the layoffs despite record sales and billions in profit.

Year after year, ILWU members, Auxiliaries and pensioners assist families who are struggling through hard times, especially during the holiday season. With the prolonged recession that has hurt so many workers these past few years, the help that ILWU members gave their communities was especially valuable. ILWU members organized toy drives, worked in hospitality kitchens and much more to ensure that struggling workers and their families were not left out this holiday season. Thanks to all of the ILWU members who volunteered their time and donated money to those in need.

On December 20th, ILWU Local 13's Lisa Tonson organized this year's toy drive. Fifteen hundred area

kids benefited from generous donations from Southern California ILWU members.

On Saturday, December 18th Local 23 held their annual holiday toy drive giveaway at their hall in Fife. Members donated over \$20,000 to purchase toys and clothing for children in need this season and the gifts rapidly filled the union hall. Enough was raised so that members could donate two toys to each child. Over 400 children from nine different selected organizations were helped. Organizations who are receiving help from ILWU Local 23 members are:

- Pierce County Aids Foundation
- St. Leo's Food Connection
- Children's Home Society
- The Hospitality Kitchen
- South Sound Recovery Services
- Lions for Kids House (children's clothing bank)
- Local women's shelters
- Local schools

Representative from the nine local organizations, assisted by local #23 volunteers, were on hand to "shop" through our collection of donated toys, children's clothing and bicycles for each child. In addition to the toy drive, members also donated \$200 gift cards to low-income children at local schools, as a reward for achievement in the classroom.

Local 19 members contributed throughout the year \$11,000 which was used to buy gifts this holiday season for kids at the following charities:

- Children's Hospital
- Tree House
- Teen Feed
- Cobb group home

They also had a giving tree set-up in the hall for several local families. Members could pull a gift tag from the giving tree to fulfill the family's needs. Through the gift tree, Local 19 mem-

bers donated an additional \$2,000.

For the 5th year in a row, members and pensioners from locals Local 4, 40 and 92 filled the Local 4 dispatch hall in Vancouver with dozens of shiny new bikes. The Children's Home Society and Children's Justice Center distributed the gifts to families in the area after the bikes were purchased and assembled by active and retired longshore workers. Members of the international Association of Fire Fighters donated helmets that were provided with the bikes.

Auxiliary Local 11 members in Vancouver organized a Children's Christmas Party at the Local 4 hall that treated dozens of children to an afternoon of face-painting, cookie decorating, holiday decorating, and visiting Santa. Emmy Bishop and other volunteers did a fantastic job, according to Local 4 Dispatcher Troy Olson.



## Serving the community:

Local 23 members volunteered at a hospitality kitchen over the holidays. Members support the kitchen with year-round donations. They also help prepare and serve food once a month. (Photos by Byron Baydo).



Southern California ILWU members' generosity benefited 1,500 local children.



Locals 10, 34 and 91 joined with Farley's coffee shop, Goat Hill Pizza and Blooms Saloon to help the San Francisco Fire Department Local 798 gather over 2,000 toys for needy children in San Francisco.



Longshore members and pensioners from Locals 4, 40 and 92 bought and assembled dozens of bikes for children in their community who are living through hard times.



Local 19 volunteers wrapping presents for the toy drive.



Local 30s members took on and defeated one of the largest mining companies in the world with the help and solidarity of labor unions and other community groups.

## Breaking the lockout in Boron

One of the largest mining companies in the world – Rio Tinto – tried to take out ILWU Local 30 members last year in Boron, CA but the company folded in the face of an impressive show of solidarity at home and abroad. Rio Tinto had reason to be confident after forcing nasty concessions on other union miners in the U.S. and around the world. The 570 families in Boron won their 15-week struggle thanks to support from the ILWU family, labor unions in Southern California and solidarity from union members around the world. Small businesses, neighbors and church leaders provided vital support at home in the high-desert communities. Local 30 members won a six-year agreement that phased-out a defined benefit pension plan but preserved essential rights on the job along with guaranteed raises and a \$5,000 bonus.

“Local 30 members deserve the credit for sticking together and fighting for the best agreement we could get from a company that wanted to destroy our union, explained Local 30 President Dave Liebengood. “We didn’t get everything we wanted, and we had to make some compromises, but most workers felt that the final contract was a real victory for us.”

## ILWU members shine in Oakland Mayor’s race

The 2010 election also saw the reemergence of ILWU members as an important force in a key Bay Area race for Oakland’s Mayor. In one of the largest political mobilizations in years, Bay Area ILWU members provided the critical support to Jean Quan, a long-shot candidate who took on establishment Democrat Don Perata who was heavily favored to win. Perata waged the most expensive mayoral campaign in Oakland’s history, outspending Quan nearly 6-1 in a crowded field of 10 candidates.

The agreement with Rio Tinto was reached with help from ILWU International President Bob McEllrath, Vice President Ray Familathe, and Secretary Treasurer Willie Adams. Local 30 President Dave Liebengood and the rank and file Negotiating Committee asked the ILWU International officers to assist them during the final week of intensive negotiations.

The victory against Rio Tinto could not have happened without the support from labor unions in Southern California who donated more than \$50,000 in food to help families survive. Other money – more than \$100,000 – was raised by ILWU Locals, the International, and other union groups to help Local 30 members keep their health insurance, pay mortgages, rent, car payments and utility bills.

Member Kim Evans expressed the views of many: “When we first got locked out I thought there was no way in heck we would win this. But we had so many people that showed up out here. I grew up out here, but for other people it’s a shock to see our little tiny desert town that looks like it would blow away. The Teamster trucks brought us \$30,000 worth of groceries and then another \$20,000, so we had a food bank.”

Quan’s success rested on a grassroots campaign and network of ILWU volunteers who stepped up to participate in the campaign. For many, this was their first experience in electoral politics.

“We’re thrilled that Jean Quan won the campaign, but we also won something else important because our union got more involved in the community and gained respect for our work,” said Local 10 President Richard Mead.

Besides paying for many of the groceries, members of the United Food and Commercial Workers Union (UFCW) in Southern California also delivered hundreds of Easter Baskets to families. Members at UFCW Local 8 in Sacramento donated 3,500 pounds of chicken. Members of ILWU Local 17 in Sacramento collected enough donations to buy and deliver 2,000 pounds of rice.



Bye scabs: Scab workers leaving Boron after Local 30s members defeated Rio Tinto’s lockout.

## Rite Aid campaign makes progress

Rite Aid workers in the Lancaster distribution facility made important progress during 2010 as they continued their five-year fight for a fair contract. During the past year, a network of Rite Aid employees around the country was formed, known as the “Coalition of Rite Aid Unions.” Workers in Lancaster also built stronger ties with two powerful national activist networks that decided to join the fight, each with a track record of getting results: United Students Against Sweatshops and Jobs with Justice. Inside the giant distribution center in Lancaster, unity was strengthened among rank-and-file workers by deepening support among those who had previously been skeptical of what could be accomplished with a union – and by taking action inside the plant to show unity. At the

Darrell Nichols was typical of many Local 30 members who stepped up and took on new responsibilities during the lockout. Before it was over, he had served on the Contract Action Team (CAT), as a Gate Captain, and a member of the Emergency Support Committee that allocated funds to families in financial distress. And that’s all in addition to his duties as a local pastor.

“The support we got here in our community and from around the world was unbelievable,” said Nichols. It’s just amazing when you come from a little town like we do. It was really mind blowing to see all the unions donating food and money to help our families because it showed everyone that people really do care about each other. I learned that if you stick together and you have a common goal, you’ll come out OK,” said Nichols. “I’ve seen our union fall apart before, but this time we stuck together, and we did it.

The David vs. Goliath story is told in the new documentary by filmmaker Joan Sekler: “Locked Out – The Story of the Boron Miners’ Struggle.” The film debuted in Boron to an audience of Local 30 families and neighbors in December. The film will also be shown on Wednesday, February 16th at the Warner Grand Theater in San Pedro at an event sponsored by Locals 13, 63 and 94. Contact the locals for more information. DVD copies of the film can be purchased from the filmmaker at <http://www.lockedout2010.org>

negotiating table, the pace quickened as Rite Aid officials agreed to important contract provisions. One of the key roadblocks to a first contract emerged in late 2010: a scheme by Rite Aid to overcharge employees for health insurance. Like many employers, Rite Aid is trying to shift health care costs onto employees and their families. The issue has catalyzed Rite Aid workers to fight back with more actions and unity in Lancaster.

Rite Aid workers ended 2010 on a high note with an impressive “National Day of Action” that was organized on December 15th. The event brought together hundreds of students, workers and retirees, representing dozens of community groups, student organizations, church groups and unions at 40 actions across the United States.



Peru longshore protest against DP World, September 2010.

## Coast Committee stands with Latin American dockworkers

In 2010, the Coast Longshore Division increased its solidarity efforts and support of dockworkers in Latin America. These workers have faced assaults from governments and corporate forces who – with the support of the United States government – seek to destroy the dockworkers’ unions and rollback social gains they have won. The Coast Committee stood firmly behind dockworkers in Costa Rica and Peru who are facing fierce attacks from their governments and corporate forces who are try-

ing to privatize ports at the expense of workers’ wages, health and safety.

The Coast Committee took actions in support of dockworkers in the Costa Rican ports of Limón and Moín after the democratically elected leadership of their union, SINTRAJAP, was illegally ousted by the Costa Rican government and replaced by an employer-run board of union directors. The sham union board then quickly signed a privatization agreement in exchange for a \$137 million buyout in the name

of a World Bank-funded project to promote “port reform.”

The Coast Committee publicized the plight of the Costa Rican dockworkers and filed a petition with the U.S. Department of Labor under the Dominican Republic-Central American Free Trade Agreement (DR-CAFTA) for “serious and repeated failures by the government of Costa Rica to enforce its own labor laws” and for illegally ousting the leadership of SINTRAJAP. The petition asked the US Government to invoke the labor provision in DR-CAFTA requiring the Costa Rican government to remedy the violations of international and domestic labor laws.

With help from the Coast Longshore Division and fellow Costa Rican unions, the rightfully elected SINTRAJAP union leaders told their story to the Costa Rican public and to dockers worldwide. In August, a decision by Costa Rica’s high court restored them to their posts and threw out the \$137 million privatization agreement made by their sham replacements.

The Coast Committee also stood behind Peruvian dockworkers at the Port of Callao in their struggle with terminal operator DP World. DP World is refusing to negotiate with Callao’s longshore union, known as SUTRAMPORPC. Instead of hiring registered longshoremen, DP World has been replacing registered union members with workers off the street, a violation of Peruvian law. Rather than enforce the law, the government of Peru has taken a hard line against the union.

Without enforcement of the federal laws to protect them, Callao’s longshore workers agreed to return to work, but have drawn international attention to their plight. In June, a life-long union advocate who was elected to Peru’s Congress, Luis Negreiros, met with Coast Committeemen Ray Ortiz, Jr. and Leal Sundet in San Francisco to update them on the situation in Callao.

“What we’re seeing in Callao and across Latin America is a corporate drive, backed in full support by the United States Government, to extract a profit at any cost, and that means workers pay the price,” said Coast Committeeman Leal Sundet. “The tool of the trade is loan shark lending by the World Bank and the IMF with terms that are designed to dismantle social contracts to allow looting of the country’s resources by foreign corporations through privatization.”

ILWU President Robert McEllrath wrote a letter to Peru’s President expressing concern over the government’s inaction. McEllrath called on the government to demand that DP World comply the labor rights contained in the International Labor Organization Declaration.

The Coast Committee also sponsored the SUTRAMPORPC General Secretary to attend a Global Terminal seminar in Long Beach to tell the union’s story, but he was denied a visa by the US Department of State under the dubious claim that he had insufficient ties to motivate his return to his home in Peru.

## U.S. election results strengthen anti-union forces

The November 2010 elections were a setback for workers across the country. In Congress, a new crop of anti-union forces now control a majority of votes in the House of Representatives and with it, the power to push their anti-worker, corporate agenda.

Anti-union politicians are using the Wall Street-caused recession to launch an assault on public-sector workers – blaming them for massive state and federal deficits – while simultaneously pushing tax cuts for the super wealthy that fuel the growing deficits. A new wave of anti-immigrant legislation seeks to overturn the 14th Amendment that assures due process and equal protection against racist state laws that once allowed segregation and denial of basic civil rights including the right to vote.

The West Coast was a notable exception to the right-wing anti-union wave that swept across the country. California voters beat back two anti-union corporate millionaires – one in the state’s race for governor’s race and another who tried to defeat US Senator and union ally Barbara Boxer. In Oregon, union supporter John Kitzhaber won a close victory over Chris Dudley in the race for Governor and anti-union forces also came up short in their attempt to take down Congressman Peter DeFazio, a sponsor of the Employee Free Choice Act that would make it easier for workers to join unions. In Washington State, US Senator Patty Murray squeaked by anti-union candidate Dino Rossi. In Alaska, anti-union extremist Joe Miller lost to Lisa Murkowski who won a rare write-in campaign.



Congresswoman Laura Richardson with Local 13 member Sal Pardo.

Photo by Robin Doyne



Local 6, 10 & 34 members at an event in support of Jerry Brown who defeated billionaire Meg Whitman for California governor.

# Nationwide Rite Aid actions show solidarity for workers in Lancaster and across America

**R**ite Aid workers, union activists and community supporters mobilized for a national “Day of Action” on December 15th to focus attention on the company’s disrespect for workers’ rights. Rite Aid workers in Lancaster, CA, Philadelphia, PA and Cleveland, OH are fighting for fair contracts with decent health benefits. The actions were organized by the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU), the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW), the AFL-CIO, Jobs with Justice (JwJ) and United Students Against Sweatshops (USAS).

In total, Day of Action participants organized more than 40 store actions in 13 states and the District of Columbia. On the West Coast, ILWU members joined many of the actions including those in California at San Pedro, Wilmington, Los Angeles, San Diego, Oakland and West Sacramento. There were seven actions in Oregon and Washington, including Portland, Eugene, Seattle, Aberdeen, Longview, Vancouver and Bellingham.

Participants included high school students, long-time union members, retirees and other community activists.

Twelve local Jobs with Justice coalitions helped organize actions and eight events were sponsored by affiliates of United Students Against Sweatshops, UFCW Local 880 held a big rally in downtown Cleveland. Workers at Rite Aid’s Lancaster, CA distribution center had a lunchtime rally in their cafeteria where they educated co-workers about the company’s healthcare proposal and sent a strong message to Rite Aid that workers won’t roll over for Rite Aid’s health insurance rip-off.

The Coalition of Rite Aid Workers was formed to support employees at Rite Aid stores and distribution centers who are fighting to change the company’s culture of corporate greed. The National Day of Action was the Coalition’s biggest effort to date.

Several elected officials came out to support the Rite Aid workers. In Oakland, mayor-elect Jean Quan attended a rally outside of a Rite Aid store in downtown Oakland. Quan talked about her long history of support for workers and pledged her solidarity and support with the Rite Aid workers in Lancaster and around the nation.

In Cleveland, State Senator Michael Skindell, State Representative Mike Foley and Cleveland Councilwoman Dona Brady delivered a letter in support of Rite Aid workers to a local store.

Readers of the *Dispatcher* are already familiar with the stonewalling tactics used by Rite Aid executives against the 500 workers at the Southwest distribution facility in Lancaster, CA and the attempt by the company to gouge employees by “marking-up” the cost of health insurance 28 times over the increases charged by insurers. The struggle for a fair contract and for decent health benefits is not just limited to Southern California. Rite Aid workers across the United States are being targeted while executives’ pay continues to rise. For example, while CEO John Standley recently doubled his own compensation, Rite Aid has:

- Proposing onerous health insurance hikes for workers in Northern Ohio, which may force them to strike;
- Closing a unionized distribution center in Rome, NY and going non-union, leaving 400 employees without work.
- In Pennsylvania, thousands of Rite Aid workers are trying to reach a fair settlement.

Rite Aid workers across the country are coming together to take a stand against this culture of greed. Here are just two of the many demonstrations that took place on the Day of Action:

More than 70 UFCW Local 1776 members gathered in downtown Phila-

delphia to leaflet the public about how Rite Aid is shortchanging employees and communities out of good jobs that support working families.

In Oakland, ILWU members joined more than 30 demonstrators who protested outside a Rite Aid store near City Hall. Demonstrators were treated to a live performance from a team of professional actors who portrayed Scrooge, Marley’s ghost and Rite Aid CEO John Standley. All three later joined the picket line. ILWU International Vice President Ray Familathe led a delegation of workers into the store to deliver a letter to the store manager. He was asked to pass the letter along to Rite Aid executives.

“Most Americans are fed up with the way that corporate greed is wrecking America,” the letter said. “Rite Aid is becoming an example of what’s wrong with our country—when it could be an example of a well-managed company that treats its workers with respect,” the letter stated.

The Coalition of Rite Aid Workers and its supporters will continue to work with Rite Aid employees and our community, student and labor allies to ensure Rite Aid workers and their families get the fair wages and benefits and the respect they deserve.



ILWU International Vice President Ray Familathe addressed the crowd in Oakland, CA.



**Denver, CO:** Colorado JwJ and the state AFT organized an action outside the Rite Aid store at the busy 16th Street Mall in Denver. The group educated customers, passed-out 600 flyers and collected 4 pages of signatures on the letter of support that was delivered to store management.



**Los Angeles, CA:** Students from USAS organized a dynamite action in downtown Los Angeles at the Rite Aid store on Broadway and Fifth Street. Members of the United Steelworkers (USW) union also participated. The students and USW representatives did outreach to customers for about an hour before a delegation met with the manager to explain the reasons for the National Day of Action. In other LA area actions, ILWU Locals 13, 13A, 56 and 63 turned out dozens of members at Rite Aid stores in San Pedro and Wilmington, CA.



ILWU members in Aberdeen demonstrated at a Rite Aid store.



**Bellingham, WA:** Dozens of activists, including International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) members and retirees, members of Amalgamated Transit Union Local 843, JwJ and United for National Health Care, and students from Western Washington University and Whatcom Community College rallied at a Bellingham, WA Rite Aid store.



**Seattle, WA:** Seattle Jobs with Justice led a group of 30 supporters in an action at a downtown Rite Aid store. Participants represented a variety of organizations, including: ILWU Local 19, the Inlandboatmen’s Union, the International Transport Workers’ Federation, IATSE, Teamsters Local 117, the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, the Coalition of Labor Union Women, the Alliance for Retired Americans, and the IWW.

# ILWU opposes Korea-United States Free Trade Agreement

Later this month, President Obama is expected to send the Korea-United States Free Trade Agreement to Congress for ratification. Business leaders are hailing the move as step towards greater bi-partisanship, which these days means Democrats stepping across the aisle to join Republicans in their efforts to further enrich business interests at the expense of workers.

In December, ILWU President Robert McEllrath sent a letter to then-House Speaker Nancy Pelosi expressing the ILWU's opposition the South Korean Trade agreement. Despite potential increases in cargo movement benefiting dockworkers, the ILWU opposes the proposed Korea-United States trade agreement because it continues failed trade policy and is harmful to workers, consumers, and the environment in both South Korea and the United States.

Here is the full text of President McEllrath's letter:

Dear Madame Speaker:

President Obama has reached a trade agreement with South Korea. That agreement must now be submitted for Congressional ratification. We anticipate that the President will aggressively shepherd this pact through Congress.

The International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) represents approximately 14,000 full time dockworkers and 14,000 part time dockworkers on the West Coast of the United States and in Hawaii and Alaska. Our members are in the business of moving cargo. By all accounts, the Korea-United States Free Trade Agreement (KORUS FTA) will increase trade between South Korea and the United States, which will result in an increase in cargo movement between the two countries. An increase in cargo movement is good for dockworkers. However, this fact alone is insufficient to overcome the vast deficiencies of the KORUS FTA.

The KORUS FTA will cost jobs, lower environmental, labor, food and product quality standards, and empower corporations from the United States and South Korea to challenge public interests in both countries. The labor standards provision of the agreement only provides that each country enforce its own laws to adhere to the core labor standards identified by the International Labor Organization. The United States and South Korea's laws and enforcement in this area are completely inadequate and must be amended prior to the implementation of the agreement.

Labor supported President Obama and numerous other democratic candidates two years ago. In exchange

for this support, we were promised a return to policies and practices that maintain, restore, and strengthen the middle class and working people across the United States. For two years, we have watched campaign promises be broken, one after the other, on this relentless march down the road of business as usual. Now, despite his campaign promise that he would only support trade agreements that "put workers first", the President is pushing a trade agreement, the largest since the NAFTA debacle, that undeniably puts workers in South Korea and the United States in jeopardy.

On December 10, 2010, the International Executive Board of the ILWU voted unanimously to oppose the KORUS FTA. The ILWU will not support trade policy that exacerbates inequities, awards special rights to foreign investors, allows banks to practice the same disastrous policies that resulted in the current economic downturn, opens domestic environmental laws to foreign challenge, increases the trade deficit, and costs jobs. We urge Congress to support the Trade Reform, Accountability, Development and Employment (TRADE) Act, which outlines a way forward to a new trade and globalization agenda that would be better for labor, the environment, the economy, consumers, and our trade partners.



**Labor demonstrates against KORUS-FTA:** Organized labor is taking a stand against the Korea-US Free Trade Agreement. This event, sponsored by the San Francisco Labor Council and other organizations will be taking place in mid-January.

If my letter serves but one purpose, let it be to communicate this basic message: we have had it. Today, we join the growing chorus of labor unions who oppose the KORUS FTA. We also ask that our representatives in the Democratic Party stand up, discard meaningless oration, and remind us, with action, what the Democratic Party stands for because we have forgotten.

The Democratic Party needs to reject the KORUS FTA and stop taking its base for granted.

Sincerely,

Robert McEllrath

## Georgia-Pacific workers rally for justice in Portland warehouses

continued from page 1

But when management tried to intimidate workers in October with a supposedly "final" offer to eliminate members' pension, render health benefits unaffordable and slant attendance rules such that more members would likely be disciplined and/or discharged, the company got a rude awakening. Every single member voted down the contract offer, slamming corporate managers with an unequivocal message of unity and militancy.

In spite of record earnings as one of the largest multinational paper corporations, Georgia-Pacific is still clinging to its attempts to end retirement security, gouge families out of medical coverage and punish and/or fire more workers at managers' discretion.

"Seven years ago," said Doug, "I walked into this company and thought, 'here's G-P, one of the biggest paper companies in the world, with good ben-

efits, pay and retirement'—now they want to take all that away from us."

Travis added, "they want us to choose between taking care of our children and paying our mortgages... do you know how much of a financial burden [finding out my daughter is autistic] that's going to cost me? And they tell me that's none of their business."

"We live in a country where every twelve minutes a worker dies for want of health care," observed Oregon AFL-CIO President Tom Chamberlain.

"They're challenging us to go where we really need to go," emphasized Willie Adams, ILWU Secretary-Treasurer who spoke at the rally. "They did us a favor giving us a hard time, because it's bringing us together...nothing is ever given without a struggle. We're not entitled to anything unless we earn it, unless we fight for it."

"We pledge that we stand with you in this struggle, because every time you

get hurt, we get hurt," explained Denny Scott of the Carpenters' Industrial Council, which represents around 20,000 workers across the country including G-P workers in plants throughout the Southeastern United States. Similar pledges of solidarity were made from the AWPPW, USW Local 1097, the Oregon AFL-CIO, and ILWU Local 6 and ILWU Local 26 with members who do warehouse work at Georgia-Pacific in the Bay Area. Several of these sister unions are also currently bargaining with the company, while IBU members will likely head back to the negotiating table on March 3rd.

A spirited group of IBU members working inside the warehouse came out to join the action during their break, standing shoulder-to-shoulder with sisters and brothers from other unions and community groups.

After Doug thanked everyone for coming together in support, Travis sounded a note of resolve that resounded in the shouts and raised fists of the picketing crowd.

"I want respect. I've earned it. We've earned it! My grandfather died becoming union, and I'm willing to do it too. Not just for us, but for my daughter."

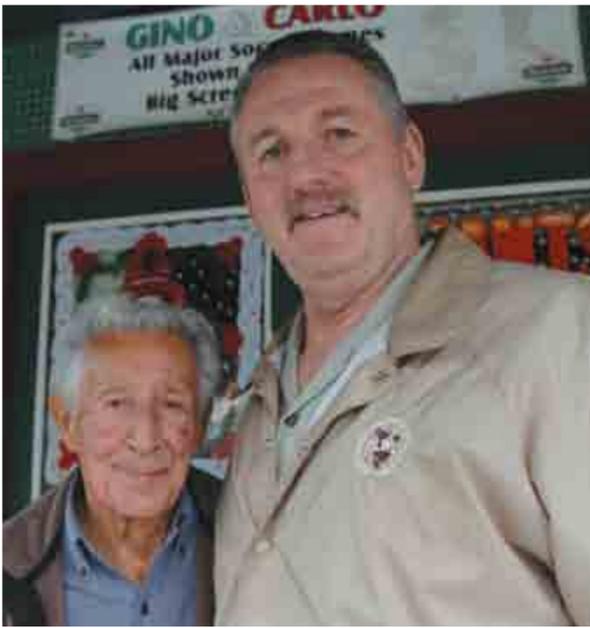


**Speaking out for good jobs:** L-R: Willie Adams, ILWU International Sec-Treasurer, Alan Coté, IBU President, and Dawn DeBrisay, President, ILWU Local 40 at the Georgia-Pacific rally.



Photo by David Bacon

**Making history:** Local 10 President Richard Mead speaking before Oakland Mayor Jean Quan's inauguration. ILWU volunteers were instrumental in helping Quan win a major upset against establishment candidate Don Perata in the November election. Quan singled out ILWU members for their contribution to her election. Quan is the first ever Asian-American to be elected as Mayor of Oakland.



## Remembering 1934:

ILWU International President Robert McEll-rath visited with 91-year old pensioner Gino DiCarlo (left) in San Francisco, CA. "Thank God for Harry Bridges," DiCarlo said. "He could have retired a millionaire but stayed a good friend of the working class." DiCarlo talked about the 1934 General Strike in San Francisco which he remembered from his youth. "Greatest day ever," he said. "I remember the schools closed and the cable cars stopped running."

## Nate Thornton, ILWU retiree, brigadista, internationalist, 1915-2011

ILWU Local 34 retiree Nate Thornton passed away quietly on January 2, but his life was anything but quiet. His political activism spanned seven decades and he was one of the last living survivors of the International Brigades. The International Brigades were military units made up of anti-fascist volunteers from different countries, who traveled to Spain to defend the Second Spanish Republic against the fascist forces led by General Francisco Franco in the Spanish Civil War between 1936 and 1939. The volunteers from the US are referred to as the Abraham Lincoln Brigades. In Spain, the volunteers were known as *brigadistas*.

Nate's politics were shaped by his experience as a youth in the Great Depression and the labor struggles of the 20s and 30s. Those struggles eventually led, him and thousands of others of his generation who saw so many workers suffering, to join the Communist Youth League. His father, Mark, joined the Communist Party at the same time. In 1937, both Nate and his father enlisted in the Lincoln Brigades to fight fascism where they served as ambulance and truck drivers.

Despite the fascist victory in Spain, Thornton remained a self-declared internationalist. "I am an international," Thornton said in his biographical pamphlet published in 2010. "I believe in the international rule of the world and that the people of the world should get together and decide that there are going to be no classes in this society. We work and we decide when we are going to quit working. We decide collectively. And everything of importance will be decided collectively."



However, he remained embittered about the treatment Brigade members received from the US government, which refused to take a stand against Franco's fascist forces in the Spanish Civil War. "They didn't make friends with us," Thornton is quoted as saying in a 2009 article in the *Eastbay Citizen*. "First thing they did was label us 'premature anti-fascists'. It was okay to be anti-fascists but don't be 'premature'. We had to wait for the United States to tell us when we could be anti-fascists."

Thornton remained politically active throughout his life. He supported the struggles of the United Farm Workers in the 60s and protested the training of right-wing Latin American military personnel by the US government at Ft. Benning, GA.

Although Thornton did not expect to see a more equitable world in his lifetime, his optimism for the future remained firm. "Once this is all done, the capitalists are going to have to work with a pick and shovel like the rest us," Thornton said. "That's what they don't like. That's what they don't want."

Nate Thornton is survived by his wife, Corine, who continues the fight for a better world.

## TRANSITIONS

### NEW PENSIONERS:

**Local 8:** Rodney F. Barnes; **Local 10:** Jack Heyman; James T. Walker; Tommie J. Silas; George Williams Jr; **Local 13:** Richard W. Madariaga; Roneilio S. Garcia; Ronnie L. Barber; Alfred L. Carrasco; Joseph Ferrara; **Local 19:** David P. Bradford; Charles H. Yeoman; **Local 29:** Jesus Postigo; **Local 32:** Rick J. Hoekendorf; **Local 34:** Jessie J. Hawkins; Wesley S. Gouveia; **Local 46:** Alfredo O. Flores; **Local 51:** David R. Smith; **Local 54:** Bruce W. Erlandson; **Local 63:** Henry J. Falkenstein; Brian Van Mulligen; Lisa A. Nation; Rose Mary D. Ponce; Johnny G. Vines; Calvin V. Thomas; Marjorie L. Bellhouse; Pamela Bergstrom; **Local 91:** Howard E. Oliver; Juan Pineda; **Local 94:** Hector Durazo; **Local 98:** Brian L. Welfringer

### DECEASED:

**Local 8:** Glen A. Parks (Marcy); Robert L. Jones; Ralph D. Beaman

(Doris); **Local 10:** Francis Mallia; Eugene Myles; Edward M. Chock; Stanley R. Kolpak; **Local 13:** Bert Tufele (Vailili); Vincent Medina (Emma); Anthony Solnic (Rose Marie); **Local 19:** John Kezele; Francis H. Bell (Gwen); Lloyd Holloman; **Local 21:** James M. Monahan (Jacqueline); Jerry D. Malone; **Local 24:** Walter O. Hendrickson; **Local 26:** Frank D. Rodriguez; **Local 40:** Robert Finkle; **Local 50:** Delbert L. Orand; **Local 54:** Bradley Sells; **Local 94:** James H. Adams; **Local 98:** Joe A. Ross Jr.

### DECEASED SURVIVORS:

**Local 13:** Giselda Canaday; Rufina Nunez; Zorka Rengel; Adela Benich; Helen M. Smith; Julia M. Daniels; Elizabeth A. Carter; Dorothea A. Cusolito; **Local 14:** Josephine M. Roberts; **Local 19:** Sallie E. Wolcuff; **Local 34:** Catherine Hackett; **Local 63:** Gwendolyn Metzger; **Local 94:** Charlotte Bloomingdale

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