



THE DISPATCHER

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Power in numbers: ILWU members, families, auxiliary, pensioners and community members from throughout the Southland commemorated Bloody Thursday on July 5th by marching 5 miles from the Harry Bridges Memorial in San Pedro to the newly installed First Blood Memorial in Wilmington. An estimated 2,500 marchers filled the road as the somber procession headed toward the First Blood Memorial.

Thousands march to honor Bloody Thursday

ILWU members and pensioners came together on July 5 along the West Coast to remember Bloody Thursday and honor the memory and sacrifice made by the martyrs of the 1934 West Coast Strike—the struggle that gave birth the ILWU and radically improved the wages and conditions for dock workers.

The 1934 strike began on May 9. Longshoremen in West Coast ports walked out; they were joined by sailors several days later. Violent confrontations between union dock workers and police and private security forces took place in ports up and down the Coast and several workers were killed.

While Bloody Thursday marks the police killings of two strikers on July 5, 1934 in San Francisco that sparked a general strike, the Bloody Thursday remembrance honors the sacrifices of all the workers who gave their lives in the 1934 strike in Wilmington, Seattle, San Francisco, Smith Cove and Hong Kong.

SoCal solidarity march

With medical benefits under attack by employers and the 2014 Longshore contract negotiations around the corner, the Southern California Longshore locals staged a massive showing of ILWU strength and solidarity with a march of approximately 2,500 ILWU members, pensioners, casuals and family members. Clad in white hats and shirts, the marchers assembled at the ILWU Fallen Members Monument at 5th Street/Harbor Blvd., in San Pedro and marched to the First Blood Monument at Wilmington's Waterfront Park where a memorial service was held.

"This is a march of solidarity showing that labor is still strong here in the harbor area," said Coast Committeeman Ray Ortiz, Jr. "We move that cargo. Longshore workers made this port through our hard work and sacrifices including the fallen workers that we are honoring today."

"These guys made the ultimate sacrifice," said Local 13 President Chris Viramontes referring to the workers who were killed in 1934.

"What we have today is because of their sacrifices." Viramontes said that ILWU members should keep in mind the hard-fought struggles of 1934 as 2014 approaches. "If any of you think we are going to have a smooth ride into a contract year—you better think twice and you better start saving. We've got to be prepared," he said.

A moment of silence was observed for Mark Passaro, a casual who was killed on the job on July 2. "We do dangerous work," said Ortiz. "We work hard and want to go home after our shift and that doesn't always happen. That is why we must continue to fight for safe conditions on the docks."

Bay Area memorial service

Bay Area ILWU longshore locals honored Bloody Thursday in traditional fashion by gathering at the Local 10 Memorial Hall on July 5 where the Drill Team performed, wreaths were laid and mock coffins carried to honor martyrs Howard Sperry and Nick Bordoise who were murdered by police in 1934 during the waterfront strike.

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Most longshore workers know that our six-year contract with the Pacific Maritime Association (PMA) expires next summer. As we prepare for negotiations next spring, the employers have been watching - and testing us.

The first test came in 2010, when we took-on Rio Tinto's lockout against 600 families in Boron. That fight was a long way from the docks in the middle of the Mojave Desert - but you can be sure that waterfront employers were watching to see if a big corporation could take us down. In the end, we held our ground against one of the world most powerful mining corporations - and gave them a fight. In the end, the ILWU prevailed.

The stakes were just as high in our five-year fight that helped 500 Rite Aid warehouse workers win their ILWU contract in Lancaster, CA. Like the Boron lockout, the Rite Aid warehouse was 100 miles from the docks, but employers were watching us again to see who would win. When it ended on May Day in 2011, those workers won their ILWU contract - thanks in part to solidarity from longshore workers who organized a "pinpoint" boycott of Rite Aid pharmacies in San Pedro. Our fight - and the way we won it - sent a powerful message to all employers that the ILWU is a force to be reckoned with. And in the end, the ILWU prevailed.

"Weaker unions mean employers have a freer hand to do what they want to the working class. The result is corporate greed that's gotten out of control - from Wall Street to the waterfront."

Recently, we've been sparring with employers on the waterfront. The battle in Longview against EGT was our first major waterfront challenge in decades. It may have seemed different because the dispute was with grain companies who weren't part of the Longshore Contract, but it was seen by everyone - especially employers - as another test of our ability to fight powerful corporations and another union, the

Operating Engineers, who crossed our picket line. Members rose to the challenge and won a contract that protects ILWU jurisdiction. Through unity, the ILWU prevailed.

When the other grain companies decided to pile-on and test us again, nobody was surprised. Our fight for good jobs and against the lockouts by Mitsui-United Grain and Marubeni-Columbia Grain is just the latest test. And the dispute with ICTSI in Portland is one more example of a company testing our resolve to protect ILWU jurisdiction.

The problem we're having now with the PMA over delays and denials of our health care bills is like a qualifying round for a heavyweight fight. It's just one more test to see if we're in shape for the main event next summer. All these fights involve different issues, but they all tell a similar story.

The corporations we're fighting now are bigger and more powerful than ever. They sense that most unions are getting smaller, weaker and more isolated than we've been in almost a century. Weaker unions mean employers have a freer hand to do what they want to the working class. The result is corporate greed that's gotten out of control - from Wall Street to the waterfront.

This situation is tough, but it isn't hopeless. There is a way out of this mess - if we can learn the right lessons and learn from our own history.

One of those lessons is that we have to fight back hard every time we're challenged. We may not win

every fight, but we're going to win the war, and make them pay a high price for corporate greed, no matter what the outcome.

But to do this, we have to stay united. Inside our own house it means taking the high road and looking for what unites us instead of the things that divide us. Outside, it means trying to stop unions from fighting with each other, especially over jurisdictional disputes, or



ILWU International President Bob McEllrath.

when other unions cross our picket lines. We have to focus our fire on the employers.

And when you look back in our history, you'll see that employers have always used racial conflict to play divide and conquer. But it only works if we're stupid enough to let them get away with it. That's what Harry Bridges concluded after he watched years of organizing and militant strikes go down the drain because workers were lured into fighting with each other and scapegoating minorities instead of uniting to take on the bosses.

Harry took that lesson to heart, and made racial integration and anti-discrimination a cornerstone of his organizing strategy. His approach led to success in 1934 and the formation of the ILWU. He always said, if someday there are only two jobs left in the union, one of the members would be Black and the other White. If he hadn't put his foot down to stomp out racism back then, we wouldn't be here today. So when I hear reports and allegations that some ILWU members have been accused of making racial comments on the lockout line, we can't afford to ignore them or look the other way. It has to be challenged straight-up, and it has to stop. Because if it isn't confronted - from the bottom-up by rank-and-file members - and from the top down by this administration - it will become a cancer that weakens our union. We must remember: our fight is against corporate greed - not with each other, and never over the color of someone's skin!

We're facing tough times and real challenges. It won't help for me to tell you not to worry or that

everything will be OK. Everything now that we hold onto, and any gains that we make, will require a real fight. Let's learn from our history and avoid the mistakes from our past, whether it's the ugliness of racial bigotry or the stupidity of fighting other unions. If you think solidarity is something that all unions agree on, let me tell you what happened a few weeks ago.

Most ILWU members know that our brothers and sisters from Local 4 have been locked-out of the Mitsui-United Grain Terminal in Vancouver, Washington, since February 27, 2013. But you might be surprised to learn that two groups of union members have been crossing our picket lines there and are still working inside.

Members of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW Local 48) are continuing to do electrical work for Mitsui-United, and members of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME Council 28) are continuing to conduct grain inspections at the terminal. Both have contracts to work at Mitsui-United in Vancouver, and both apparently decided to keep working there after ILWU members were locked-out and our picket lines went up.

ILWU members tried to talk with these IBEW and AFSCME members to seek their support, solidarity and willingness to respect our picket lines. We heard that honoring our picket lines would require them to violate their union contracts. We also heard that if union members honored our picket lines, the company would replace the IBEW and AFSCME members with non-union workers. Both of these concerns are

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understandable and true as far as they go, but this raises a more basic question for all union members: should we always support picket lines?

For me, the answer to this question is simple, straightforward and contained in the ILWU's "Ten Guiding Principles." This document was adopted in 1953 by delegates to the ILWU International Convention of that year. Here's what the 4th Guiding principle of the ILWU says:

IV "To help any worker in distress" must be a daily guide in the life of every trade union and its individual members. Labor solidarity means just that. Unions have to accept the fact that the solidarity of labor stands above all else, including even the so-called sanctity of the contract. We cannot adopt for ourselves the policies of union leaders who insist that because they have a contract, their members are compelled to perform work even behind a picket line. Every picket line must be respected as though it were our own.

Those words still ring as true today as when they were written 60 years ago. As you can see from the 4th Principle, the question of whether to respect picket lines is not new. In 1953, many unions were crossing our picket lines. Some unions crossed our lines because they said we were too hard on employers. A few unions even approached our employers with "sweetheart" deals - offering to replace us with more "reasonable" and "business friendly" contracts. Other unions crossed our lines because they thought we were too "radical" or "red."

There's always some kind of excuse for crossing a picket line - especially when it involves a sacrifice. It's easy to honor picket lines when there's little or nothing at stake - or when we have no skin in the game - but much harder when jobs, incomes and families are on the line. That's when we're tested and when our true colors come through - from true blue to running yellow.

Our ILWU Longshore contract still allows us to respect another union's bona-fide picket line. The fact that so few unions have been able to hold onto this right - once common in union contracts - tells us two things. First, it reminds us that the ILWU sees the honoring of picket lines as a fundamental principle that can't be compromised. Over the years, employers have approached the ILWU many times with schemes to reward us for giving up our picket line language. The ILWU's answer has always been "no" - but more colorful language has sometimes been used to make our point clear.

My second point is that the lack of solidarity language in most contracts shows how dangerously weak and fearful our union movement has become. Let's face it, if we can't reach out to help each other in times of trouble - then everyone will be left to feel like we're on our own - which is exactly how the employers want us to feel.

With all this in mind, the members of ILWU Locals 4, 19 and 23 decided to raise the question of solidarity within the broader labor movement by submitting the following resolution

to the Washington State Labor Council Convention that met in Vancouver, WA on July 25 - 27:

Resolution Condemning IBEW Local 48 for Crossing ILWU Picket Line at MITSUI-United Grain

WHEREAS, the purpose of a labor union is to leverage the collective power of workers to improve and protect the working conditions and living standards for working men and women; and

WHEREAS, the strength of each union and the union movement as a whole depends on the unity of all of the members therein; and

WHEREAS, West Coast dockworkers marched by the thousands and seven were killed at the hands of law enforcement in 1934 in their fight to form the union known today as the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU); and

WHEREAS, the ILWU has worked in all Northwest grain export terminals since that bloody beginning and has spent decades honing its contractual safety procedures, working conditions, wages and benefits with the grain export employers since 1934; and

WHEREAS, the ILWU began negotiations for a new contract with the grain employer association in August of 2012 with seventeen (17) demands, while the employer made more than 700 proposals, barely budged from its original position and implemented a deeply concessionary "last, best and final" contract offer that had been rejected by 94% of the eligible ILWU membership in December 2012; and

WHEREAS, ILWU Local 4 has been locked out of Union Grain Co., a grain export terminal at the Port of Vancouver USA, which is owned by Japanese conglomerate Mitsui since February 27, 2013; and

WHEREAS, Longshoremen have respected IBEW Local 48's collective bargaining agreement with Mitsui-United Grain Co. and

WHEREAS, ILWU member have sacrificed their personal wages in order to respect other unions' picket lines in acts of solidarity and support over the decades; and

WHEREAS, IBEW's failure to respect the ILWU's picket line reduces the leverage that the man and women of the ILWU have to gain a fair contract with their primary employer, now, therefore, be it RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2013 Washington State Labor Council support the ILWU in their struggle with Mitsui-United Grain; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Washington State Labor Council and its local union affiliates condemn in the strongest terms possible the actions of the IBEW Local 438 at Mitsui-United Grain Co.; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that the Washington State Labor Council will send a letter to IBEW Local 48 demanding that the local immediately cease and desist from allowing its members to cross ILWU picket lines at Mitsui-United Grain Co. at the Port of Vancouver, USA.

The process got off to a promising start when the Resolutions Committee debated our proposal and recommended a "yes" vote to the full convention. Some members of the Committee voted "no," and a few abstained, but enough voted "yes" to keep the resolution alive so we could have a healthy debate on the convention floor. During the two days that led up to the Convention vote, ILWU delegates used their time to talk with members of other unions. We explained why solidarity was a principle that shouldn't be compromised. At the same time, delegates from IBEW Local 48 and AFSCME Council 28 were busy lobbying against our resolution.

"...while we may feel angry and betrayed, ILWU members on the picket line also understand - much better than any union bureaucrat ever will - that our only real weapons against corporate greed and capitalist exploitation - are unity and solidarity. "

As your International President - and a Vice President of the AFL-CIO - I was doing my part to win votes for our resolution. But I was also approached and lobbied by others who wanted us to water-down or withdraw our resolution. Some asked me, "what difference will the resolution make, since it can't really force unions to stop walking through your picket lines?" I was also asked not to name the specific unions involved

who were directing members to cross our picket lines. But we stayed firm and kept our resolution the way it was written. At one point I was told that I would have to leave the convention floor because I wasn't an official delegate - even though I sit on the AFL-CIO Executive Council where I serve as a Vice President of the national body. Fortunately, Local 23 had an open position in their delegation and quickly seated me as an official delegate.

When our resolution finally hit the convention floor, an AFSCME official quickly moved for "non-consideration" - a motion that is non-debatable. Enough delegates supported his motion (voting 155-125) to kill our resolution and end the possibility for any further debate. In addition to the AFSCME and IBEW delegates, it appeared there was support from some of the building trades and a few other delegates who wanted to avoid the debate .

For many of us, this was a disappointment - not just because we lost the vote - but because we lost an opportunity to debate an important issue with our brothers and sisters in the labor movement. Even if we'd eventually lost the convention floor vote, the process of openly discussing and debating this problem would have opened up a critical issue that now divides us. We weren't afraid of that debate; but the ones who killed our resolution obviously were.

For the members of Local 4 - who do their time each week on the picket line and watch other union members go inside to work - this was tough. But while we may feel angry and betrayed, ILWU members on the picket line also understand - much better than any union bureaucrat ever will - that our only real weapons against corporate greed and capitalist exploitation - are unity and solidarity. For those who've forgotten the power of these weapons, or how to use them in a fight, we can only keep trying to push for unity and set an example for others to follow as we live by our creed:

An injury to one is an injury to all.



ILWU members honor Bloody Thursday

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This year, a political issue arose before the morning events could be concluded. Oakland's Port Commission held a last-minute meeting concerning new terminal leases that could impact ILWU jurisdiction and waterfront jobs. Local 10 President Mike Villeggiante and Local 34 President Sean Farley quickly assembled a delegation of ILWU leaders who blasted the Port for meeting at the last minute and conducting business on Bloody Thursday. After hearing the ILWU's concerns, Commissioners delayed their decision – for a week – then moved forward with a consolidation plan to greatly expand the size and duration of Stevedoring Services of America's (SSA) lease at the Port of Oakland.

Aside from the political drama, the Bloody Thursday activities went smoothly as hundreds of family members were entertained by live music, clowns, face-painting, balloon art, and a wide variety of food offerings – all made possible with support from the Bay Area Longshoremen's Memorial Association (BALMA).

Portland, OR

Approximately 1,300 ILWU members, pensioners, family and friends attended Portland's Memorial Picnic that was held at Oaks Amusement Park. Members from Local 5 (Powells Books), Local 8, Local 40, Local 92 and the IBU were on-hand for the remembrance and celebration of ILWU solidarity. Before the picnic, a memorial service was held to honor those who fell in 1934. A wreath was placed in the river while *Taps* was performed.

Local 8 member, Dave Degman and the Rogue River Band performed during the picnic. Federated Auxiliary 5 organized bingo games for everyone. The day was festive and everyone was well-fed. Volunteers served over 1,700 hot dogs, 400 hamburgers, 42 gallons of chili, a ton of watermelon, 24 boxes of corn on the cob, and 1,800 ice cream bars.



Standing united: Coast Committeeman Ray Ortiz, Jr. said worker solidarity will be the key to defeating attacks by employers on ILWU members and dock workers around the world.



Bay Area remembrance: The ILWU drill team stand at attention behind the ceremonial coffins to honor Howard Sperry and Nick Bordoise who were murdered by police in 1934 during the waterfront strike.

Everett, WA

Local 32 in Everett, WA celebrated Bloody Thursday with their Summer Family Picnic—Western style. Gay Soriano and other members of Federated Auxiliary 4 made sure everyone had a good time. There were games for the kids, a bouncy house, pony races, and some friendly competition games for the “young-at-heart” adults. There was plenty of food, including pulled pork, hot dogs, salads galore, and refreshments for all.

“Bloody Thursday is a reminder that the working class is under constant attack, that our struggle continues,” said PCPA President Rich Austin. Austin recounted the history of Bloody Thursday, but then went on to alert everyone about the current battle over medical benefits. “Medical benefits are under attack and bills are not being paid as required,” Austin said. Adding that active members and pensioners are being hounded by collection agencies for unpaid medical bills.

“Today, up and down the coast Pensioners are speaking at Bloody Thursday ceremonies. Our message is clear. The PMA is testing us. They are testing us to see if we have what it takes to fight back. They are testing our mettle in preparation for negotiations next year. Well they picked a fight they cannot win. Save your money. Get prepared,” Austin said. He also announced that Pensioners would be picketing PMA Offices up and down the Coast. “Those benefits are ours and we won't let anyone chisel us out of them!”



San Diego celebration: Local 29's Bloody Thursday picnic took place in National City's Pepper Park approximately 300 people attended including retirees, members, casuals and their families.



Portland picnic: From left to right—Local 8 members Jeremy Richter, Geri Cranston, and Stephanie Evans.



ILWU family: ILWU Local 26 members at the memorial service in Wilmington, CA.

Photo by Local 29 casual, Christine Torres.

Longshore, warehouse & marine divisions support ILWU 'shipscalers' at Local 56 convention

ILWU members and leaders attended a rousing convention in late July to support ILWU Local 56 members, known as the "shipscalers" who have a proud history and are preparing for a tough contract fight this November.

History of the "scalers"

Today, the "scalers" are employed by contractors who provide hazardous-materials and spill prevention services at Los Angeles and Long Beach harbors. Local 56 members have their hiring hall just down the street from Local 13 in San Pedro, but many ILWU members are just beginning to learn more about the fascinating history of these longtime ILWU members. For old-timers, the family connections between Local 13 and 56 run deep.

Powerful documentary film

Connections like this were detailed during Local 56's fast-paced, two-hour convention on Saturday, July 27th at the San Pedro Boys and Girls Club. One highlight was a dramatic 15-minute film, produced by talented local filmmaker Nathan Sacharow, who captured the unknown history of this important ILWU Local that is organizing non-union environmental service companies who operate in the harbor area. Using vintage film and photos from early in the last century, the film explained how Local 56 members once scraped barnacles from the hulls of old ships – a dirty and difficult job for the men called "shipscalers."

97-year-old ILWU member

The star of the film was 97 year-old ILWU member Felix "Blacky" Alvarez, who told of the hard work and difficult days that he and others faced in the early days of their union. Remarkably, Alvarez appeared in-person at the convention where he quickly became a celebrity, surrounded by children, ILWU members and leaders.

ILWU International Vice-President Ray Familathe was on hand to congratulate the "scalers" for their past accomplishments and goals to organize non-union environmental service companies.

"ILWU Local 56 was struggling a few years ago, but now the members

are working hard to put things back in order. Your hard work – on display at this convention – is a positive sign that the best days of Local 56 are still ahead."

Familathe introduced ILWU leaders at the convention, including Local 13 President Chris Viramontes, Local 63 President Mike Podue, Local 94 President Danny Miranda, Local 26 President Luisa Gratz, and President of the Inland Boatmen's Union (IBU), Alan Coté, who attended with IBU Regional Director John Scow. Familathe also introduced former Local 13 President and former International President Dave Arian who now serves as a Los Angeles Port Commissioner.

Viramontes praised the "scalers" for their work and effort to organize non-union environmental services companies.

"We can't afford to have any more non-union outfits working in our harbors," said Viramontes. "It's wrong because those environmental workers are being exploited by non-union companies – but it's also bad because we don't want PMA employers thinking that the ILWU will tolerate non-union outfits working around us."

Calls for solidarity were offered by the ILWU leaders who followed Viramontes – and all joined him in signing a "support" banner that confirmed the solidarity. Support pledges were also signed by other unions, including Teamsters Port Division Local 848, Hotel and Restaurant workers Local 11, the AFL-CIO, and Steelworkers Local 675. Community supporters offered their support too, including Cathy Jurado from the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), the Southern California Pensioners Group and ILWU Auxiliary #8 activist Maureen Montoya.

Political leaders were on hand to show support and sign the solidarity pledge to help Local 56 workers. State Assembly member Bonnie Lowenthal, Long Beach Council members Steve Neal and Patrick O'Donnell, and State Senator Rod Wright were introduced by Cathy Familathe, President of the ILWU's Southern California District Council. Other officials represented at the event included staff from Congress member Janice Hahn and Los Angeles City Councilmember Joe Buscaino, along with Lorena Cervantes of the Compton College Board of Trustees.



Surrounded by solidarity: In addition to officials, members and families with young children who attended the Local 56 Convention in San Pedro on July 27, the event featured Felix "Blacky" Alvarez, a 97-year old Local 56 veteran who starred in a short film honoring him and other ILWU "ship-scalers." (L-R) Local 63 President Mike Podue, Local 56 Dispatcher/Business Agent Ruben Hurtado, IBU President Alan Cote, Local 56 President Ilugardo Mendoza, International Vice President (Mainland) Ray Familathe, Local 13 President Chris Viramontes, Local 56 veteran ship scaler Felix "Blacky" Alvarez, and Local 94 President Danny Miranda.

But the focus of the convention was on rank-and-file members – not politicians – who shared their hopes and concerns in their own words. Most were speaking in public before a large audience for the first time – and they were doing it in their native language – Spanish. A professional translator provided remote-powered earphones that were made available to everyone – made it possible for both English and Spanish speakers to talk and be heard without difficulty.

Member Maria Lapov explained how Local 56 families need health benefits for their families; a priority that members want to win this November when their contract expires.

Armando Trujillo told of the relatively low wages that Local 56 members now receive for their difficult and sometimes dangerous work. He said better wages should also be a priority.

Margarito Suarez reminded delegates and guests that members currently have no pensions or health insurance, but are committed to fighting for these goals in November.

Sergio Naboia gave an eloquent speech about the good work done by Local 56 members to protect the environment – and the need for companies to provide safer working conditions.

And Jesse Lopez warned delegates and guests about the threat posed by non-union environmental companies –

and the need to protect ILWU jurisdiction in this area.

After hearing these presentations, workers unanimously adopted these goals as their platform to win better contracts when their current agreements expire on November 4.

"We're trying to re-build our union from the bottom-up and hold companies more accountable for better jobs and a more secure future," said Local 56 Business Agent/Dispatcher, Ruben Hurtado. "This convention was a big step for us and all the support from Local 13 and the rest of the ILWU family is making a huge difference to us."

Before adjourning for the carne asada lunch that was prepared for delegates and guests, President Ilugardo Mendoza reminded everyone that a major struggle is brewing – in the form of a contract campaign and possible strike – that may be necessary on November 4th to win basic contract improvements that many union members take for granted, such as decent wages, family health benefits and pensions.

"Many of us are immigrants who have struggled hard to survive. We love being a part of the ILWU family, because it's a union that isn't afraid to stand up and fight. Working together is the most important way for all of us to win."

ILWU files suit against Port of Portland

The ILWU Union filed a lawsuit against the Port of Portland (POP), alleging numerous ongoing violations of the Oregon Public Records Act.

The lawsuit, filed on July 25, outlines public records requests submitted by the ILWU in June, September and December of 2012. The Port responded by sending the union an "arbitrary and excessive estimate of approximately \$200,000, just to identify and locate the requested records. The \$200,000 quote covered only what POP labeled as 'first phase' costs

and did not include 'second phase' costs of attorney and paralegal fees to review and segregate records between exempt and non-exempt information before production of any documents. The Port asserted it could not provide an estimate of such 'second phase' fees 'other than to say that it could be a substantial amount.'"

"Oregonians have a right to know how whether the Port of Portland is irresponsibly managing the biggest public port in our state," said Leal Sundet, ILWU Coast Committeeman and member of ILWU Local 8 in Portland. "The Port's lack of transparency is

inexcusable, especially at a time when its deals with overseas companies have resulted in attacks on American working conditions and created unrest among its longtime labor force."

POP demanded that ILWU make the \$200,000 payment up-front. The advanced payment would not necessarily result in production of any requested records. According to the lawsuit "POP's treatment of ILWU's public records requests ... were motivated by discrimination, retaliation, and hostility against ILWU in bad faith because of ILWU's participation in ongoing litigation involving POP,

rather than objective considerations that comport with POP's disclosure obligations under the Oregon Public Records Act."

The union is seeking, among other remedies, that the court issue an order declaring POP's handling of ILWU's public records requests to be dilatory, in bad faith, and in violation of the Oregon Public Records Act; issue an order compelling POP to waive or substantially reduce its fees; and issue an order compelling POP to produce to ILWU the non-exempt records requested by ILWU in June, September, and December 2012.

Pensioners protest at PMA offices over health payment delays

On July 8th ILWU pensioners staged demonstrations at the Pacific Maritime Association (PMA) offices in 6 cities to protest the continued delays in processing medical payments by Zenith American. Zenith was hand-picked by PMA to handle the claims processing and sanctioned by the Coast Arbitrator over the objections of the ILWU.

The delays have resulted in hardships for ILWU members and pensioners. Many unpaid bills are being sent to collections, members, pensioners and surviving spouses are receiving threatening phone calls from collection agen-

cies. Credit ratings are being ruined and doctors are refusing to see patients whose bills have not been paid.

Pensioners demonstrated outside of PMA offices in Long Beach, San Francisco, Oakland, Portland, Tacoma and Seattle. Many pensioners travelled long distances in order to participate in the protests and send a message to PMA officials, said Pacific Coast Pensioner Association (PCPA) President Rich Austin. Scores of ILWU members exercised their right to not show up for work and instead joined the pensioner-led demonstrations.

“The motto of the PCPA is ‘Retired from the job—not from the struggle,’ and up and down the coast pensioners and their spouses gave life to those words when they picketed at PMA

offices,” said Austin “Folks in their 70’s, 80’s and 90’s joined the picket lines. I am so proud of their commitment to activism in the struggle for social and economic justice on the docks, in our communities, and throughout the world. We also applauded the many active members who joined our protests.”

An arbitration hearing to determine whether Zenith should be replaced was held on July 16 in San Francisco and lasted several days. As the *Dispatcher* was going to press, a ruling by the Coast Arbitrator had not yet been issued.

Pensioners have vowed to keep up the pressure until the situation is resolved. “We will continue our protests, and make no mistake about it; we’ll turn up the heat if relief is not forthcoming,” Austin said.



Las secciones de trabajadores portuarios, de almacenes y marítimos apoyan a “escaleros” del Local 56 de ILWU



Para las familias: A los afiliados del Local 56 se les animó a que llevaran a sus familiares a la Convención celebrada el 27 de julio en San Pedro. Se ofreció cuidado de niños gratuito, además de una carne asada al mediodía para todos. Los afiliados de dicho Local expusieron la necesidad de mejorar sus condiciones de trabajo y proteger el medioambiente para las futuras generaciones.

Los afiliados y líderes de ILWU asistieron a una convención entusiasta a finales de julio para apoyar a los afiliados del Local 56, conocidos como los “escaleros,” que tienen un historia digna de orgullo y están preparándose para una fuerte lucha por su contrato en noviembre de este año.

Historia de los “escaleros”

Hoy en día, los “escaleros” trabajan para contratistas que hacen limpieza de materiales peligrosos y previenen los derrames en los puertos de Los Ángeles y Long Beach. Los afiliados del Local 56 tienen su salón de empleo justo en la misma calle que el Local 13 en San Pedro, pero muchos afiliados de ILWU apenas empiezan a conocer mejor la fascinante historia de estos compañeros que son parte de ILWU desde hace mucho tiempo. Para los trabajadores veteranos de los puertos, los lazos familiares entre el Local 13 y 56 son profundos.

Película documental conmovedora

Estos vínculos se expusieron en mayor detalle durante las dos horas que duró la dinámica convención del Local 56 el sábado, 27 de julio en el Club de Niñas y Niños de San Pedro. En el evento destacó una película dramática de 15 minutos, producida por un talentoso cineasta local, Nathan Sacharow. Esta captó la historia desconocida de este importante Local de ILWU que está organizando a los trabajadores no sindicalizados de compañías de saneamiento ambiental que trabajan en la zona de los puertos. Usando secuencias filmadas de principios del siglo pasado, se explica en la película cómo los afiliados del Local 56 alguna vez tumbaban las lapas de los cascos de los barcos viejos – un trabajo sucio y difícil para los hombres que se llamaban “limpiacascos”.

Afiliado de ILWU de 97 años de edad

La estrella de la película fue un miembro de ILWU, Felix “Blacky” Alvarez, de 97 años que recordó el trabajo duro y los tiempos difíciles que

vivió y que otros pasaron cuando su sindicato estaba recién formado. Lo increíble fue que Alvarez asistió a la convención, y pronto se convirtió en toda una celebridad, rodeado de niños, afiliados y líderes de ILWU.

El Vice Presidente de ILWU, Ray Familathe, estuvo presente para felicitar a los “escaleros” por sus conquistas y por emprender la organización de trabajadores no sindicalizados de empresas de servicios medioambientales.

“El Local 56 de ILWU estuvo en zozobra unos años atrás, pero ahora los miembros están trabajando duro para enderezar las cosas. El trabajo duro que están haciendo – claramente demostrado en esta convención – es una señal positiva que los mejores días del Local 56 están por delante.

Familathe presentó a dirigentes de ILWU en la convención, incluso el presidente del Local 13, Chris Viramontes, el del Local 63, Mike Podue, del Local 94, Danny Miranda, del Local 26, Luisa Grata, y a Alan Coté, Presidente del Sindicato de Barqueros de Aguas Internas (IBU), que asistió a la convención junto con el director regional de dicho sindicato, John Scow. Familathe también presentó al antiguo presidente del Local 13 y antiguo presidente del Sindicato Internacional, Dave Arian, que ahora tiene el puesto de Comisionado Portuario de Los Ángeles.

Viramontes felicitó a los “escaleros” por su trabajo y por organizar a los empleados de las compañías de servicios medioambientales.

“No podemos darnos el lujo de permitir que otros negocios no sindicalizados trabajen en nuestros puertos,” dijo Viramontes. “Es incorrecto no sólo porque estos trabajadores medioambientales son explotados por compañías no sindicalizadas, sino también está mal porque no queremos que los empleadores sujetos al PMA piensen que ILWU va a tolerar que negocios no sindicalizados trabajen a la par con nosotros.”

Al igual que Viramontes, los líderes de ILWU llamaron a la solidaridad – y todos firmaron la manta de apoyo para hacer patente su solidaridad. Otros sindicatos firmaron promesas de apoyo, incluso el Local 848 de la Sección de Teamsters del Puerto, el Local 11 de Trabajadores de Hoteles y Restaurantes, el AFL-CIO, el Local 675 de Trabajadores del Acero. Los simpatizantes ofrecieron también su apoyo, incluso Cathy Jurado de la Liga de Ciudadanos Latinoamericanos (LULAC), el Grupo de Pensionados del Sur de California y Maureen Montoya, activista de los Auxiliares #8 de ILWU.

Líderes políticos hicieron acto de presencia para mostrar su apoyo y firmar la manta de solidaridad con la promesa de ayudar a los trabajadores del Local 56. La asambleísta estatal, Bonnie Lowenthal, consejales de la Ciudad de Long Beach Steve Neal y Patrick O’Donnell, y el senador estatal Rod Wright fueron presentados por Cathy Familathe, Presidenta del Consejo de Distrito del Sur de California de ILWU. Otros funcionarios fueron representados en el evento por sus delegados, incluso la Congresista Janice Hahn y el Consejal de la Ciudad de Los Ángeles, Joe Buscaino, junto con Lorena Cervantes de la Junta de Fideicomisarios del Colegio de Compton.

Sin embargo, la atención no se centró en los políticos sino en los trabajadores de base, quienes expusieron con sus propias palabras sus esperanzas e inquietudes. Para la mayoría de ellos era la primera vez que hablaba ante una concurrencia tan numerosa – y en español, su idioma natal. Una interprete profesional proporcionó audifonos inalámbricos para todos, con lo cual los anglo e hispanoparlantes pudieron expresarse y hacerse escuchar sin problemas.

La afiliada Maria Lapov explicó cómo las familias del Local 56 necesitan beneficios de salud para sus famil-

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LETTERS TO THE DISPATCHER

Dear Editor,

I want to thank all Local 13 members for supporting our "Making Strides Against Breast Cancer 5k Walk" on Sunday, June 9 at the Cason Community Center. Local 13 donated \$500 to support us again this year. Individual ILWU members and their families also contributed time and money that allowed 500 walkers to raise \$38,000 to benefit the American Cancer Society. This year we raised \$10,000 more than last year. ILWU walkers included Local 13 casual Jesse Lumada, Rosemary Reserva who is the daughter of retired Local 13 member Prieto Fernandez, and Cindy Aceves who is the wife of Local 13 member Richard Aceves. Individual financial contributions came from ILWU members, including Richard Aceves, Brad Oishi and Manuel Jimenez. If you or anyone you know has been diagnosed with breast cancer, please contact the American Cancer Society at 1-800-227-2345 to speak with someone who can answer your questions 24 hours a day.

Rose Garcia

Co-Chair of Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Carson



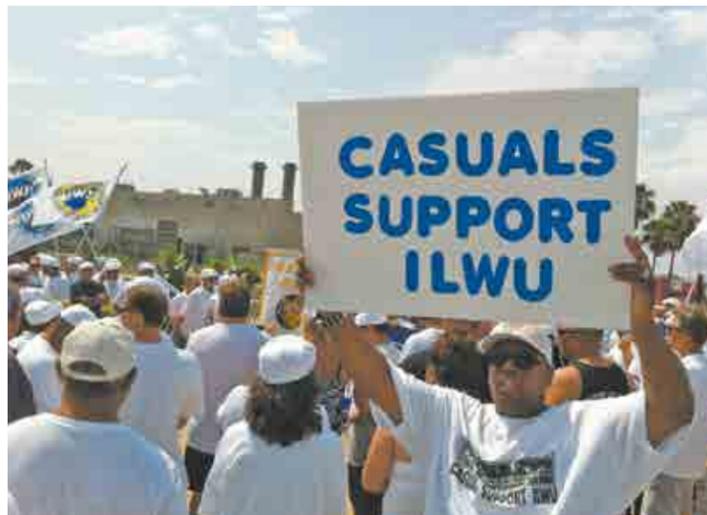
Volunteers: Local 13 member Christian Garcia and his wife Rose joined other ILWU and community donors to help raise \$38,000 for the fight against breast cancer in Carson, CA on June 9.

over \$1600 to Mark Passaro's family. Many helped with this effort but special thanks go out to Jesse Ungie Lopez, Eleanor Arendain, C-Dog, Selina Abito, Mo Mo Mendoza, and Kat Mavar Willett.

Right now, it's important for us to show the employers that all of us are united on the waterfront.

We started our effort to involve casuals with a small group who decided to launch a grassroots organizing campaign to rally our co-workers. Our first meeting involved just 5 casuals; the 2nd meeting had 15; the third meeting had 30 and our last meeting had over 60. Word quickly spread from that meeting about the T-shirts we produced that said: "An injury to one is an injury to all - casuals support the ILWU." After more organizing work, we were finally able to involve over 250 casuals who joined the Bloody Thursday march on July 5. One pensioner who attended told us that he felt this effort was historic because it was the first time he had never seen so much support from casuals at an ILWU event during the past 30 years. He told us that he was proud of the work we were doing to involve casuals - and we felt honored to receive such praise from an ILWU pensioner. I can attest that Friday July, 5 2013 was my proudest day in my 9 years as a casual worker. It was great to feel the solidarity between ILWU members and casuals. We wanted to show our support and we were received by members who treated us with great respect and appreciation. God Bless the ILWU, Local 13, and casuals.

Larry Loy Jr. - Proud 4th generation longshore worker and casual.
Long Beach, CA



Dear Editor,

On Friday July 5, 2013, over 250 Longshore casual workers from the Los Angeles-Long Beach area came together to show our support for the ILWU and Local 13. We wanted to show all union members that casuals understand the "big picture" and support the ILWU because one day we will have member benefits and it will be our responsibility to protect, defend and extend the ILWU contract.

We also marched to honor the memory of our fallen brother, Mark Passaro, who was killed on July 2nd at work. Contributions from many casuals who bought t-shirts and put money in our donation box made it possible for us to contribute

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

ILWU PACIFIC COAST PENSIONERS ASSOCIATION 46TH Annual Convention September 15, 16, 17, & 18, 2013 Portland, OR

For Room Reservations call: 503-460-3000 Ask for code PCP

For information about registering for the Convention contact your local PCPA Pensioner Club or write to the Columbia Rivers Pensioners Assn. 2435 N W Front Avenue, Portland, OR 97209, Attn: Barbara Lewis

As you know, our medical expenses are not being paid in a timely manner. Learn more about that problem and what we can do to resolve it. In 2014 Longshore Bargaining will begin.

Let's show the world that the PCPA is fully engaged and prepared to assist our active and retired Brothers and Sisters during negotiations.

Our International Officers and Officers from several Locals will also be with us. Dean Baker will again address our Convention and will bring us up to date on the ongoing threats to Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid. This year we will be also be doing video interviews of pensioners and their spouses, and we'll have a program on labor history too.

Our Conventions are not all work. We'll have plenty of fun and camaraderie with friends old and new.

Remember those dates!
September 15, 16, 17, 18. See you there!

Las secciones de trabajadores portuarios, de almacenes y marítimos apoyan a "escaleros" del Local 56 de ILWU

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ias, una prioridad que los afiliados tendrán muy en cuenta en noviembre de este año cuando se vence su contrato.

Armando Trujillo habló de los salarios relativamente bajos que los miembros del Local 56 ahora reciben por el trabajo difícil y a veces peligroso que hacen. El dijo que mejorar los salarios también será una prioridad.

Margarito Suarez recordó a los delegados e invitados que los afiliados no tienen actualmente pensiones ni seguro médico, pero están comprometidos a luchar por estas metas en noviembre.

Sergio Naboia dio un discurso elocuente acerca del buen trabajo que hacen los miembros del Local 56 para proteger el medioambiente - y que se requiere que las compañías protejan más a los trabajadores de las condiciones peligrosas.

Jesse Lopez advirtió a los delegados e invitados de la amenaza que representan las compañías de servicios medioambientales no sindicalizadas - y la necesidad de proteger la jurisdicción de ILWU en este ramo.

Después de escuchar estas presentaciones, los trabajadores unánimemente adoptaron estas metas como su plataforma para lograr mejores contratos colectivos cuando su actual contrato se vence el 4 de noviembre.

"Estamos tratando de reconstruir nuestro sindicato desde los cimientos y de responsabilizar más a las compañías para que mejoren las condiciones de trabajo y tengamos un mejor futuro," dijo el agente y despachante del Local 56, Rubén Hurtado. "Esta convención representa un gran avance para nosotros y todo el apoyo del Local 13 y el resto de los compañeros de ILWU está haciendo una gran diferencia para nosotros."

Antes de levantar la sesión y disfrutar de la carne asada que se preparó para los delegados e invitados, el presidente Ilugardo Mendoza recordó a todos que se avecina una gran lucha, puesto que se lanzará una campaña para conseguir un nuevo contrato. Es posible que sea necesario hacer huelga el 4 de noviembre para conseguir mejoras contractuales básicas que muchos agremiados toman por dado, tales como salarios dignos, beneficios médicos para las familias y pensiones.

"Muchos somos inmigrantes que hemos luchado duro por salir adelante. Estamos muy contentos de formar parte de la familia de ILWU porque es un sindicato que no tiene miedo de apoyar a los miembros y luchar. La mejor manera de ganar es cuando todos cooperamos y nos ayudamos."

LABOR DAY
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 2ND, 2013
 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM
 Longshoremen's Hall • 301 Beach Street

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Standing for their fallen brother: Longshore workers at the Port of Oakland stood down for 24 hours following the May 17 death of Local 34 member Manuel "Manny" Stimson who was killed when his truck plunged off the TraPac dock at the Port of Oakland. ILWU elected leaders addressed the media, including Local 10 President Mike Villeggiante, and (behind, L-R) Local 34 President Sean Farley, Local 91 President Fred Gilliam, Local 10 Business Agents Ed Henderson and Frank Gaskin. Oakland Police Spokeswoman Johnna Watson is seen on far right. Stimson, age 78 with 50 years of experience on the docks, died despite rescue attempts.



Los Angeles/Long Beach Harbor Labor Coalition Invites All Working People to the 34th Annual Harbor Labor Day March, Rally & BBQ
LABOR DAY, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2013

The parade will begin at 10 a.m. at Broad and E Streets in Wilmington and will march along Avalon Boulevard. There will be a picnic and program starting at 12 p.m. at historical Banning Park. The program will include free food, soft drinks, music, informational booths and presenters from many unions.



TRANSITIONS

NEW PENSIONERS:

Local 4: Greg M. Martin; **Local 8:** Terrandy E. Hudson; Lawrence D. Burns; Grant C. Troyer; Ronald D. Hongell; **Local 10:** Henry W. Bernard; Victor Rivera; Robert Scott; **Local 13:** Robert Adams; Gerald R. Apodaca, Jr.; Grant E. Anderson; Dana L. Keith; Susan K. Jordan; Philip Douglas; Ted D. Martizia; Guadalupe Villanueva; Gary G. Osborne; David B. Garcia; Walter Umana; Peter Kobzoff; Uisik Cho; Joe W. Cubit; Robert Dragovic; John A. Trani; Cy W. Thaxton; Irene M. Gaston; **Local 19:** Larry R. Tiffany; Aasim Z. Bashiruddin; William H. Carney; **Local 21:** Billy L. Brister; Randy L. Wheeler; Kelly O. Grumbois; **Local 23:** Tom F. Harman; William R. Staab; Edward A. Schweitzer; **Local 24:** Robert J. Fisher; **Local 26:** Doris Randall; **Local 34:** Bernard A. Castro;

Gregory H. Sloan; **Local 40:** Kristina A. Weedman; Terrence W. Axt; **Local 46:** Mike A. Hernandez; **Local 52:** James A. Schwarz; John E. Tyseling; **Local 63:** Douglas H. Edlund; Anthony T. Jazin; Mary L. Alvarez; Riste V. Tuupo; Eloise I. Donnelly; Ellen F. Crew; Robert G. Wilderman; **Local 75:** Otis L. Kemp; **Local 91:** Alfredo Gonzalez, Jr.; **Local 92:** Lanell O. Johnson Jr; **Local 94:** Thomas J. Hebert; Larry R. Botsford; Gregory A. Campbell; David F. Contreras; Frank A. Mannino; Joe C. Jones;

DECEASED PENSIONERS:

Local 10: Bishop Cohen (Mary Ella); Damon P. Craig; Louis Gums (Thelma); Alonzo Shaw; John S. Salzillo; Richard L. Thayer Jr; Donald R. Gill (Laura); Ba'a George Logo (Jeanine); **Local 13:** Edward Machado Jr.;

Sam J. Kostich; Mike C. Contreras (Irma); Leonard E. Townsell (Brenda); William E. Moore; Hector L. Diaz; Margaret T. Bobadilla; Jose Jesus R. Molina; Luis A. Sulsona (Leonora); Lorelii Hall; Donald E. Mesloh (Lettie); **Local 19:** Charles L. Steward (Jeanette); James L. Couture; Terrance W. O'Neil; **Local 21:** David K. Haluapo; **Local 23:** Thomas M. Moore; Curtis L. Winnie; **Local 24:** Vernon J. Goodin (Barbara); **Local 32:** James R. Jeschke; **Local 34:** Harmohinder S. Kapoor; Joseph R. Lloret (Paulette); Elmer Rush; **Local 40:** Gordon Lind; **Local 50:** Robert J. Phillips (Ardelle); **Local 52:** Robert Moran (Debra McDermott); **Local 63:** Freeman L. Dailey; Joseph De Nichols; Robert M. Campbell; Pete D. Giacomini; Dara T. Morovich; **Local 91:** John A. Dentoni (Pamela); **Local 94:** Richard Dukie (Gail); Ronald L. Glusac (Vjera); Kenneth L. Rowell;

Local 98: Charles E. Townsend; Calvin R. Winstead

DECEASED SURVIVORS:

Local 4: Irene Bridger; **Local 8:** Marguerite E. Pottage; Mary F. Mc Cartney; **Local 10:** Viola B. Major; Nadia Dardini; Frances Gill; Yvonne Williams; Vera A. Clanton; Jewel Bell; Mary Morales; Betty J. Mc Cormick; **Local 12:** Margie L. Mainie; **Local 13:** Alice F. Parra; Marie Avila; Cashmere Boskovich; Consuelo Lopez; Susie Sanchez; Peggy Chandler; Naomi Smith; Mary Evans; **Local 19:** La Vanna Cornish; **Local 21:** Mabel V. Boerner; Lucille M. Jones; **Local 26:** Ophelia L. Watson; **Local 29:** Marisol Vazquez; **Local 34:** Marion Schoendaler; Florence Camara; **Local 94:** Marie R. Johnson; Flora D. Tousseau; Dorothy Flint; **Local 98:** Irene Barnett; Marjorie E. Rood;

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