



THE DISPATCHER

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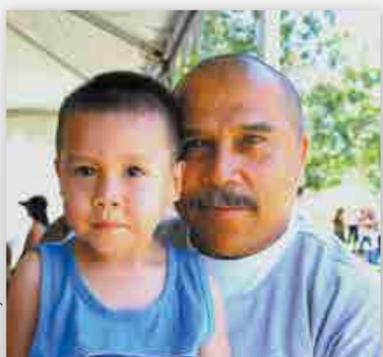


Photo by Michelle Meese

ILWU members commemorate Bloody Thursday [page 4](#)



Caucus reconvenes: The Longshore Caucus reconvened on July 21 and 22 in San Francisco. In the top left photo are Coast Committeemen Leal Sundet (left) and Ray Ortiz, Jr. In the top right-hand photo Local 23 delegate Conrad Spell (left) presents International President Bob McEllrath with a plaque made by his uncle, Ron Rendina. In the bottom left, Local 19 delegate Rich Austin, Jr. addresses the caucus; and in the bottom right Local 13 delegates (from left to right are Alonzo Bonilla, Mike Piazza and Ray Benavente.

Longshore Caucus reconvenes to consider contract negotiations

ILWU Longshore Caucus delegates reconvened in San Francisco on July 21 and 22 to review the status of ongoing Longshore contract negotiations.

Caucus Chair Joe Cortez quickly brought the session to order, then turned over the podium to International President Bob McEllrath who asked delegates to dedicate their meeting in memory of former Local 13 member and Caucus delegate Alberto Bonilla, who died unexpectedly on May 17 at the age of 43. His son, Albert Bonilla, Jr., attended the Caucus and was recognized by delegates with a warm and sustained standing ovation.

Other dedications for fallen members included Armando Castro and Dwayne Washington from Local 10 in the Bay Area; former Local 12

President Wally Robbins of Coos Bay, Oregon; Night Business Agent and Executive Committee member John “Johnny Canuck” Collins from Local 502 of Surrey, British Columbia, Canada; Gerald Pirtilla of Local 52 in Seattle and Jeffrey Jewell of Local 24 in Aberdeen.

The 88 Caucus delegates were joined by dozens of fraternal representatives from Hawaii, Alaska and Canada who came to express their solidarity, along with many Pensioners who attended from the Bay Area and beyond.

McEllrath recognized International Vice President-Hawaii, Wesley Furtado who attended with Hawaii Longshore Division Negotiating Chairman Elgin Calles, Co-Chairman Dustin Dawson, Spokesman William Haole and Business Agent Dennis Morton. Chairman Elgin Calles provided a brief overview of the Hawaii

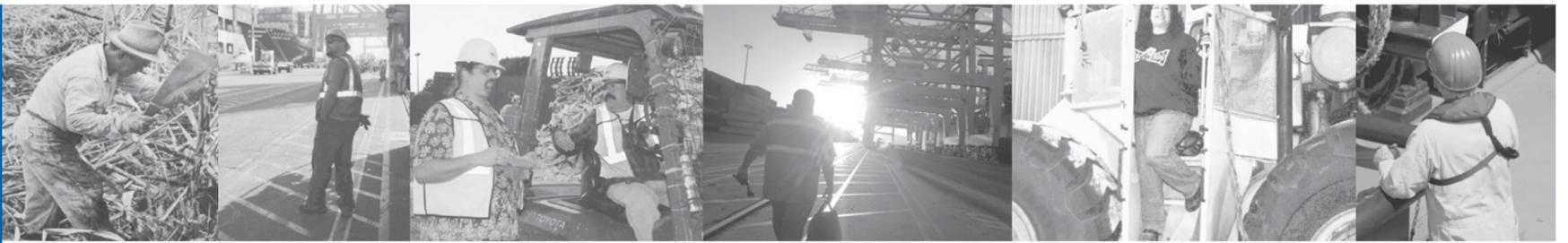
Longshore Division’s contract negotiation effort, noting that they have been in talks with their employers for about two months.

Also recognized was ILWU Canada President Mark Gordienko who attended the Caucus with Business Agent Reno Voci. “I’ve made it clear to our employers that we won’t be touching any U.S.-bound cargo if there’s trouble,” said Gordienko. He also described how ILWU Canada members have been conducting outreach efforts to educate crewmembers on grain ships involved in the lock-out by Mitsui-United and Columbia-Marubeni Grain companies. “When those ships come north, we’re talking with crewmembers and educating them about the ILWU struggle.”

Delegates thanked outgoing Puget Sound and Washington Area Benefits Director Nick Buckles, who

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LETTERS TO THE DISPATCHER

Dear Editor,

I wanted to note the passing of my father, John Carr, an ILWU longshore pensioner who had been a member of Locals 10, 13 and 94. He worked on the docks in Oakland and Los Angeles and I am sure some of your readers will remember him. He passed away on July 7.

John Carr was born to Mr. Johnny Carr & Mrs. Katie Mae Carr in Baton Rouge, Louisiana December 23, 1934. In the early 1950's, the family moved to San Francisco, California. Mr. Carr Sr. obtained employment at Hunters Point Shipyard.

Johnny, now known to his friends as John, attended Commerce High School, and after graduating, enlisted in the United States Air Force. Soon after leaving the military, he obtained the position of shipping clerk for the company of Ed Newman & Son, where he was a valued and respected employee of the organization. He was also an employee of several renowned companies in San Francisco, including Weinstein's Department Store, and Gayle Winter's, a manufacturer of premium mattresses, before becoming a member of his beloved and esteemed Brotherhood of ILWU, Local 10 in San Francisco. After working in the Bay area for 21 years, he moved to the Port of Los Angeles and joined Local 13 in 1986. He worked as a member of Local 13 for two years until moving to Local 94 where he was a member for 25 years until retiring in 2011.

He is survived by his three daughters, Sherrie Carr Martin, Victoria, Australia, Sheila Carr Therol, Antioch, CA, and Pamela Carr Benschop, Iowa City, IA, his nine Grandchildren, six Great-Grandchildren, three brothers, James, LeRoy and Jessie, and 3rd wife, Stephanie Trinay Carr of Carson, CA.

All who knew John will truly miss him.

Sincerely,

Shelia Carr-Therol
Antioch, CA



John Carr

Dear Editor,

Attached is a poem for readers of *The Dispatcher*.

The piece was inspired by a conversation I had many years ago with my stepdad, James Long who is a long-time member of the ILWU. He was a member of Local 10 from 1989-2000 and Local 63 from 2002-present. He told me about a dispute in 1987 that involved members of the Inlandboatmen's Union and ILWU against Crowley Maritime. One incident we discussed took place in Redwood City where non-union crane operators fled the port after being confronted by a mass of pro-union protestors.

I am a graduate of San Francisco State University's MFA program. I am also a multi-generational machinist, working with my dad in the small shop that my great-grandfather built in 1935. My poetry has recently appeared, or is forthcoming, in publications including *The North American Review*, *The Fourth River*, *The Midwest Quarterly*, as well as Ted Kooser's *American Life in Poetry* (Sponsored by The Poetry Foundation and The Library of Congress).

I feel blessed to have grown up in an ILWU family. Not only did it provide us with a good job, but it taught me about working class issues, and showed me what the spirited bond, of union brothers and sisters, could accomplish.

Sincerely,

Ivan Hobson
Concord, CA

Local 10

For James Long

It is not a shore, scattered
with seashells or swimmers,
but steel cranes and containerships,

workers in overalls and hardhats
hustling what comes in
and lashing what goes out.

It is an American tide, a rhythm
of union brothers and sisters
constant as trade winds.

Whose Waterfront? Our Waterfront!
That was dad's call, to the scabs
caught in the swell.

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

47TH ANNUAL PENSIONERS CONVENTION

The 47th Annual Convention of the Pacific Coast Pensioners Association will convene at 9:00 AM on Monday, September 15, and adjourn at about Noon on September 17, 2014.

**Place: Holiday Inn – Vancouver Centre
711 West Broadway
Vancouver, British Columbia**

Contact your local Pensioners Club to get a registration form and lodging information.

- Labor leaders and lawmakers from Canada will address the Convention
- ILWU Officers, the Coast Committee, and Local Officers will be join us.
- Help welcome our guests from Australia, Colombia, and perhaps other nations.
- You will hear a report on 2014 U.S. Longshore Division Negotiations.
- Information about health care and pensions will be provided.

The Vancouver Host Committee has scheduled a number of fun and exciting activities and side trips. A Banquet will be held Tuesday night. Join the fun. Enjoy a fine meal. Dance your socks off. Meet and greet old friends and new.

For more information contact your local Pensioners Club.

See you there!

In unity, Rich Austin – President

DISPATCHER

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ILWU 18
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Tentative Agreement for Northwest Grain

A tentative agreement for a new contract covering grain terminals in the Pacific Northwest was reached on August 11, by a negotiating committee representing five ILWU local unions: Local 4 in Vancouver, Local 8 in Portland, Local 19 in Seattle, and Local 21 in Longview and Local 92 in Portland. The membership of each local will review the tentative agreement and vote according to their internal rules, with results to be announced August 25. Terms of the agreement will not be made public until members have a chance to review and vote on the tentative agreement which covers Mitsui-United Grain (UGC) in Vancouver, Marubeni-Columbia Grain in Portland, and Louis Dreyfus in Portland and Seattle. Reduced picket lines will remain at Mitsui-UGC and at Marubeni-Columbia Grain while members vote on the agreement.

Local 4 longshoreman helps save life of Vancouver police officer

A Vancouver, WA police officer is alive today thanks to the medical training and quick-thinking of ILWU Local 4 longshoreman James Bridger Jr. On June 30th Bridger was leaving his neighborhood when he saw Earlene Anderson holding a police officer in her arms as he slumped to the ground. Bridger knew something was wrong and immediately stopped to help.

Officer Dustin Goudschaal had been shot several times while making a traffic stop. Anderson was driving in the opposite direction when the shooting occurred. She ran over to help after the suspect driving a black truck sped

off just before Bridger came on the scene. Goudschaal had been struck several times in his bullet proof vest and once in the neck which was bleeding profusely. He was unable to speak because of his wounds.

After helping apply pressure to the bandage, he reached across Goudschaal's chest, grabbed his radio, and yelled: "Code 33!" He said that an officer was shot and that they needed help immediately.

Bridger had worked as reserve officer with the Battle Ground Police Department and as a volunteer with Fire District 3. "Even though its been a few years, my training just sort of kicked in," said Bridger.

Goudschaal thanked Bridger when he visited him in the hospital the next

day. "He told me, 'It's because of you that I'm here,'" Bridger said.

A few months earlier, Bridger's relationship with the Vancouver police was not as friendly. Bridger had been arrested for "malicious mischief" after he was struck by a van while walking the picket line outside of the United Grain terminal. The van driver was not arrested.

Both Bridger and Anderson were honored by the Vancouver City Council on July 7 for their role in helping to save the life of Officer Goudschaal. Vancouver police officers lined the walls of the council chambers during the meeting.

Goudschaal was still recovering from the shooting and was unable to attend. A friend read a statement from Goudschaal and his wife Kate,



Local 4 longshoreman, James Bridger, Jr.

"I choose to believe, that for whatever reason, those two good Samaritans were meant to be there in that moment to help Dustin, and for this, we are eternally grateful."

"I was just in the right place at the right time," Bridger said. "This was just one union brother helping another union brother. That's the way I see it."

ILWU recyclers win big raises in Oakland's new waste franchise deal; Waste Management workers will continue organizing for raises



Recycler unity & action: ILWU members employed by two firms that process Oakland's residential, commercial and construction recycling held a joint strike last July to protest low pay and dangerous working conditions. Over two hundred workers and supporters brought their picket lines to city hall, then spoke at a City Council meeting. The action was one of many during an 18-month campaign that encouraged city officials to raise pay and improve benefits for recyclers covered by the City's new franchise agreement.

An 18-month campaign by Bay Area recycling workers to improve pay and benefits hit a new milestone on July 30 when the Oakland City Council voted unanimously to raise recycler wages in the city's new 10-year residential waste and recycling service franchise agreements.

"This victory means that ILWU recycling workers have successfully implemented their higher wage and benefit standards at two of the largest

city franchises in Alameda County," said ILWU Vice President Ray Familathe. "This is an impressive demonstration of the recyclers' persistence and courage."

Recyclers organize

Recyclers launched their campaign on February 2, 2013, when hundreds gathered for a historic "Convention of Recycling Workers," at the Local 6 union hall in Oakland. Workers employed by four different recycling firms in Alameda County attended the event. They were joined by religious, labor, immigrant rights, environmental and political allies

who all pledged to support the effort for better wages and improved safety through the "Campaign for Sustainable Recycling." At the Convention, workers voted to adopt a new wage standard that would raise hourly pay to \$20 - almost double what many recycling workers were being paid - and include affordable family health benefits.

Action at Waste Management

Recycling workers employed by Waste Management in Oakland and San Leandro led the way early in the campaign by demanding raises, even before last February's Convention of Recycling Workers. Rank-and-file union leaders met on weekends in the Local 6 union hall to make plans for involving co-workers in the campaign to win a raise. They circulated petitions and held meetings with management. When the company refused to support a request for real raises, workers protested in front of the company's headquarters in Oakland. Then the company retaliated against immigrant workers, so an "unfair labor practices" strike was organized on March 15. The protest shut down the company's East Bay operation beginning at 2am. Teamster and Machinist Union officials agreed to support the strike for several hours. Within months, the company agreed to settle separate ILWU contracts covering ILWU workers at the landfill and clerical/customer service units - but not recyclers.

Victory in Fremont

The first success in adopting the new wage standard was achieved last December by 65 recycling workers employed by the BLT recycling company in Fremont. Like the Waste Management workers, recyclers in Fremont also organized actions on the job to demand raises. They circulated petitions and presented them to management as a group to demonstrate unity. When the company agreed to work together with the union, they jointly approached Fremont City Council members about passing a modest residential rate increase of just one penny per day from each ratepayer so recyclers could earn a living wage of \$20.94 by 2019. The Council adopted the small rate increase and the company agreed to begin paying the scheduled pay raises.

Management sparks big strike

Unlike the experience with BLT in Fremont, officials at Waste Management and California Waste Solutions continued opposing real raises for recycling workers during 2013. Both companies offered recyclers only meager raises and refused to cooperate with workers by approaching the City Council about including the new wage standard in the city's pending franchise agreement. Frustrations reached a boiling point on July 30 when workers from both companies united in a joint strike action. Two hundred recycling workers converged on the Oakland City Hall

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Bloody Thursday honored on West Coast

Along the West Coast, hundreds of ILWU members joined with their families and community members on July 5th to mark the 80th anniversary of “Bloody Thursday” where they remembered the martyrs of the 1934 West Coast Waterfront strike and celebrated the hard-won gains on the waterfront. The struggle and sacrifices made eight decades ago by West Coast longshore workers gave birth to today’s ILWU and radically improved wages and working conditions for dock workers.

History of Bloody Thursday

The 1934 strike began on May 9th, as West Coast longshoremen walked-off their jobs and tried to shut 2,000 miles of coastline in order to win better wages, shorter work days, a uniform “coastwise” contract covering all ports, and replacement of the abusive “shape up” system with a union-run hiring hall.

Sailors and other maritime unions joined the strike several days later. Violent confrontations soon occurred between union longshoremen, police and private security forces at ports up and down the West Coast.

The “first blood” was spilled on midnight of May 15, 1934 at Berth 145 in Wilmington, California, where an encampment and stockade was established by employers to house strike-breakers and security forces who used guns, tear gas and clubs against union members. When it was over, Richard “Dickie” Parker died of gunshot wounds and five others were seriously wounded, including John Knudsen who died weeks later. In Seattle, Longshore worker Shelvy Daffron was killed on June 30, 1934, followed by the death of Olaf Helland from the Sailors Union of the Pacific who was slain at Seattle’s Smith Cove on July 20.

“Bloody Thursday” marks the police killing of San Francisco strikers Howard Sperry and Nick Bordoise who were shot along with dozens of others on July 5th, 1934. The killings and massive public support for strikers were catalyzed in a silent funeral procession that honored the fallen martyrs and sparked a city-wide general strike. The resulting crisis forced employers to meet most of the strikers’ demands, and pressured the government to legalize the collective bargaining process through the National Labor Relations Act that was signed by President Roosevelt on July 5, 1935 in Tacoma, Washington.

Today, Bloody Thursday remains a time when West Coast docks are closed and ILWU members gather to honor the sacrifices made by all workers who gave their lives in Wilmington, Seattle, San Francisco, and Hong Kong during the 1934 waterfront strike.

Southern California

The 2014 Southern California Bloody Thursday celebration began at 10 am with a memorial service at Roosevelt Memorial Park in Gardena, where martyrs Dickie Parker and John Knudsen are buried. Over 300 people attended this year’s memorial service including ILWU International Vice President Ray Familathe and Local 13 President Bobby Olvera Jr.

“Eighty years ago, Dickie Parker and John Knudsen lost their lives fighting for the same things we are struggling for today. We are trying to get a contract so we can take care of our families,” said Familathe. “Our master contract is open and the elected negotiating committee is working to bring home a good contract for you to look at.”

Local 13 President Bobby Olvera Jr., said it was a day to remember all of the ILWU brothers and sisters who have died on the waterfront “Everybody that’s here today—we’ve worked alongside someone who is no longer here. In addition to celebrating the camarade-



Honoring Frank Cresci: The San Francisco Board of Supervisors awarded Bay Area Longshoremen’s Memorial Association (BALMA) President Frank Cresci with a certificate of honor. The certificate was presented to Frank by Christopher Christensen (right) at the Bloody Thursday memorial event at the Local 10 Hall.

rie and the solidarity in the park today, let’s also take a moment to remember those who are no longer here.”

After the memorial service, a funeral-style motorcade that included classic cars and motorcycles, made its way to Peck Park in San Pedro where thousands of ILWU members, pensioners, casuals, friends and family gathered to celebrate the day. Several Harbor-area elected officials attended the Bloody Thursday Picnic including Congresswoman Janice Hahn, State Controller John Chiang, and Los Angeles City Councilmember Joe Buscaino. Congresswoman Hahn presented Local 13 President Olvera, Jr., with an American flag that was flown over the Capital.

San Francisco

Bay Area residents awoke this year on the morning of July 5th to find a front-page story about Bloody Thursday in their San Francisco Chronicle newspaper, written by veteran journalist, Bay Area history buff and union supporter Carl Nolte. He explained how much the waterfront has changed

since July 5, 1934, when the then rabidly anti-union Chronicle described the scene as “the darkest day in San Francisco since the 1906 earthquake.” Nolte quoted historian Kevin Starr to set the scene: “There were tanks patrolling the Embarcadero and machine gun nests. It had the look of a European-style revolution.”

Eighty years later, the morning ceremony at Local 10 was calm, respectful and carefully organized by the Bay Area Longshoremen’s Memorial Association (BALMA). Master of Ceremonies and Bay Area Pensioner President George Cobbs asked Scott Barton to play taps on his trumpet, and the Drill Team displayed their colors in front of two coffins covered by wreaths of flowers that honored strikers Howard Sperry and Nick Bordoise. Young Aaliyah Washington-Purry sang the National Anthem, followed by a vocal contribution from Paul “from da Hall” Williams.

Cobbs made an effort to welcome many special guests who attended, including families of Longshore workers from Seattle, Tacoma and Los Angeles.

A touching moment came when BALMA President Frank Cresci, who has been courageously recovering from a stroke, was honored by the City and County of San Francisco for his many years of service to the community and labor movement. A Certificate of Honor was presented by BALMA Treasurer Christopher Christensen, and Cresci responded by thanking the audience and offering his own challenge, saying “Let’s stay ILWU strong!”

Brief commentaries and historical insights were provided by a team of speakers that included Local 10 President Melvin Mackay, ILWU Pensioner Gene Vrana and historian Harvey Schwartz, Local 10 Secretary-Treasurer Farless Dailey, BALMA Trustee Mike Villeggiante, Local 34 President Sean Farley, Local 91 Vice President Stan Hlynsky, Pensioners Cleophus Williams, Joe Lucas, Lawrence Thibeaux, George Romero and Ralph Rooker. Following the ceremony there was entertainment for children by



Remembering Parker and Knudsen: Southern California ILWU members and pensioners gathered at Roosevelt Memorial Park in Gardena to remember Dickie Parker and John Knudsen, the first workers to be killed in the 1934 West Coast Strike. In the top left photo, Pensioner Jerry Brady reads his moving poem about the ‘34 strike near the gravesite of Parker. Approximately 300 people attended the service including Local 13 President Bobby Olvera Jr. (top row, center photo). ILWU International Vice President Ray Familathe (Top right photo on the left) who is standing with ILWU Pensioner Pete Fuller, former President of Local 54 for 23 years. The Local 13 motorcycle club came out in force (bottom left photo). Local 13 member Angel Blanco (bottom right) help to coordinate the memorial service.

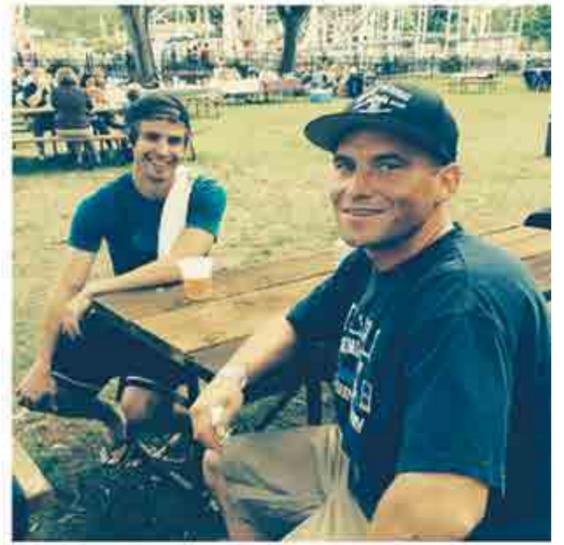
clowns, face-painters, balloon art and caricature artists. Lunch was provided for everyone attending, followed by live music and dancing that lasted until late afternoon.

Seattle

Seattle's annual Bloody Thursday picnic was held in Vasa Park and was sponsored by Locals 19, 52, 98, Pensioners and the Credit Union. There were plenty of games and activities. Everyone shared in the impressive BBQ feast. The event was coordinated by Local 19 member Robert Richmire and a team of volunteers.

Portland

Portland families marked the event as they have for many years – by placing a wreath of flowers to honor the 1934 martyrs into the Willamette River, where currents eventually carry the flowers into the Pacific. Members from Local 8, 40 and 91 participated. The picnic that followed in Oaks Park included an impressive BBQ lunch. Live music and games for the kids topped-off a great day in the park.



Portland-area ILWU members, pensioners and their families gathered at Oaks Amusement Park to celebrate Bloody Thursday.

Photos by Ashley Hill



Congresswoman Janice Hahn with ILWU Pensioner Lou Loveridge at the Local 13 picnic in San Pedro.

Photo by Michelle Meese



Marking 80 years since Bloody Thursday: Bay Area Pensioner President George Cobbs (top left photo) served as the events Master of Ceremonies other speakers included Pensioners Cleophus Williams (bottom left).

Longshore Caucus reconvenes to consider contract negotiations

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who is retiring at the end of July. His replacement, Andrea Stevenson, was recently appointed by the Plan Trustees. The former Local 52 President and 3rd generation longshore worker from Seattle thanked Nick Buckles, saying she had “big shoes to fill.”

McEllrath outlined the status of the negotiations, emphasizing the Committee's efforts to maintain good health and pension benefits. He said the ILWU has consistently worked to see that the health plans operate properly, and has long urged employers to come forward with any evidence of waste or abuse so it can be addressed without harming beneficiaries. McEllrath noted a July 16 announcement by federal prosecutors that three individuals associated with a private surgical center in Southern California have been charged with defrauding several insurance plans, including the ILWU/PMA Coastwise Indemnity Plan. McEllrath minced no words, saying:

“I’m glad to see that the government’s doing their job. Crooks who break the law and take advantage of our health care plans belong in jail.”

Local 13 President Bobby Olvera, Jr. was equally passionate about protecting the health plan from fraud. “I was born into this plan and our families depend on it. Anyone who defrauds us is harming our families – and all the members who came before us who sacrificed so we can enjoy these benefits today. The people who perpetrate fraud against our plan deserve no mercy as far as I’m concerned.”

The Caucus did not set a time to reconvene, but President McEllrath said delegates should be ready to meet quickly at a future date that will be dictated by the progress – or lack of progress – at negotiations.

“We’ve got a plan to get things done that meets the goals adopted by the Caucus, but I can’t tell you how soon we will finish. Just keep pumpin’ and don’t listen to any rumors,” he said.

Former Local 12 President Wally Robbins passes away

On July 16th the ILWU lost Local 12 longshore pensioner Wallace “Wally” Robbins. Wally was a strong believer in the uniqueness of the union’s rank-and-file organization and spent his life dedicated to the ILWU.

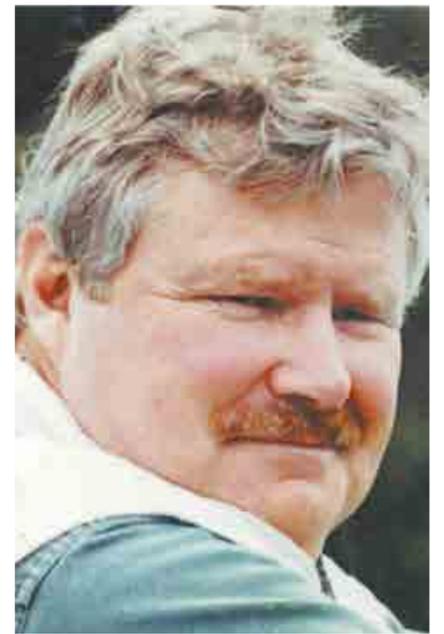
He served as a Labor Relations Committee (LRC) member, Longshore Caucus Delegate, and for over a decade, served as ILWU Local 12 President. He negotiated contracts for Local 12 affiliates and regularly attended local Port Commission meetings giving workers a strong-voice in the Coos Bay-North Bend, Oregon area.

Wally was a dedicated union-member who was eager to contribute to the ILWU. Over time, he became a well-known, experienced negotiator on the Coast Longshore Division Safety Committee during contract talks. Because of his experience and understanding of parliamentary procedure, Wally was elected to serve as a Caucus Chairman four times throughout the years. He possessed the ability to understand complex union issues, the patience to listen to opposing views and the courage to take a stand. Wally’s sense of humor and his commitment to the principles of the ILWU garnered him lifelong respect and friendships coastwise. He retired

in 2007 with over 40 years of service as a registered longshoreman.

Wally lived the majority of his life on the Oregon south coast and enjoyed outdoor life—rafting, camping, fishing and hunting with his family and friends. He was an avid sports fan and followed the progress of local high school and state college teams.

Wally is survived by his wife Laura Robbins, (Local 12 member); brother Dorman “Doc” Robbins (Local 12, Ret.) and his wife Joy; children Danny Robbins (Local 12 casual) and Holly Stout; step-children James Orr (Local 12 casual), Kacey Brown, Shawnee Brown, and Kyle Fredrickson; and nine grandchildren.



Former Local 12 President Wally Robbins

The recent July 2014 ILWU Coast Longshore Division Caucus was dedicated in memory of Wally Robbins in recognition of the years he proudly and loyally served his union.

ILWU recyclers win big raises in Oakland’s new waste franchise deal; Waste Management workers will continue organizing for raises

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where their noisy picket lines and rally received major media attention – and plenty of notice from elected officials. Groups of workers met during the day with City Council members and state legislators. They gathered in the late afternoon for a rally on the City Hall steps, then went inside to speak at the City Council meeting. Dozens of workers spoke at the rally and meeting, explaining why their families needed the raises to survive, and urged the Council to include a recycling wage standard in the new franchise agreement.

Community support

The efforts by workers in Fremont and Oakland were supported by allies in the Campaign for Sustainable Recycling (CSR) who attended Council meetings, sent letters of support, and joined workers to meet with individual Council members. Organizations participating in the CSR include the Sierra Club San Francisco Bay Chapter, Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives, Worksafe, Faith Alliance for a Moral Economy, East Bay Alliance for a Sustainable Economy, Movement Generation Justice & Ecology Project, Center for Environmental Health, Northern California Recycling Association, California Immigrants Policy Center, Mujeres Unidas & Activas, Clean Energy Alliance, Communities for a Better Environment, and SEIU 1021.

Disappointment with WM

After 18 months of worker and community action, the Oakland City Council voted unanimously on July 30, 2014 to include the new recycler wage standard in their franchise agreement. This marked an important victory - but it also disappointed 130 recycling workers employed by Waste Management (WM) because that firm’s bid to continue providing those ser-

vices for another 10 years was unanimously rejected by the City Council. Waste Management has been collecting all of Oakland’s residential waste and processing half the City’s recycling for decades, but that work will now end on July 1, 2015 when California Waste Solutions assumes all those responsibilities.

Without the new Oakland franchise agreement and revenue stream it provides for worker wage increases, Waste Management is less likely to provide recyclers the same pay raises that are now part of Oakland’s new franchise agreement with California Waste Solutions (CWS).

Surprising shake-up

The City Council’s vote surprised observers who thought Waste Management was likely to continue sharing the franchise agreement with CWS, a much smaller, locally-owned competitor who employs unionized mechanics and drivers.

Labor relations factor

But the bid submitted by Waste Management was more expensive for ratepayers than the one submitted by CWS. And CWS included some extra services in their bid which appealed to Council members. Officials at both Waste Management and California Waste Solutions initially resisted supporting the pay raises sought by recycling workers that became part of the new franchise agreement. A few days before the final City Council hearing on July 30, California Waste Solutions signed a new contract with Local 6 members that guaranteed a schedule of pay raises and family health benefits with no monthly premium cost share. On the day of the City Council decision, Waste Management officials met with the Local 6 Negotiating Committee and made significant movement, but failed to reach agreement. As *The Dispatcher* was going to press, a

follow-up meeting had been scheduled for August 12.

ILWU leaders and staff refused to take sides or play favorites with either company during the franchise selection process, because ILWU members were employed by both firms.

Rubbed the wrong way

At the City Council meeting on July 30, it was clear that Waste Management had rubbed City Council members the wrong way. During the meeting, one Council member recalled how the company had angered many by locking-out Teamster and Machinist union members during a month-long contract dispute in 2007 that brought the city’s garbage collection to a halt and triggered a public health crisis. During that dispute, ILWU recycling workers courageously honored the Teamster and Machinist union picket lines, despite threats and retaliation from Waste Management. The company’s decision to outsource dozens of Oakland-based customer service jobs done by ILWU members after the lock-out was cited as a sore point by several City Council members. City Council members also complained that top Waste Management officials showed a lack of “flexibility” and were “unwilling to compromise.” When the meeting was over and the vote was taken, not a single member of the City Council supported Waste Management.

Some layoffs possible

When Waste Management’s franchise agreement with Oakland expires next July, there will be some layoffs at Waste Management, but it is not clear how many. The city’s new franchise agreement includes a provision - supported by the union - allowing workers to transfer from Waste Management to new positions at California Waste Solutions. There may be waiting lists for some jobs.

Another route to raises

Fortunately, Waste Management has franchise agreements with other cities besides Oakland that provide the company with a steady revenue stream and secure employment for recycling workers, even after the July 2015 franchise agreement expires with Oakland. The other franchise agreements are with the cities of Emeryville, Albany, and Hayward plus the Castro Valley and Ora Loma Sanitation Districts. Elected officials in those cities can authorize tiny rate increases that will provide enough revenue for Waste Management to pay better wages and good benefits for recycling workers.

“We’ve learned from the Oakland experience and can apply those lessons as we approach other cities for their support to help us - and it will only cost those residents a few pennies a month to provide us with living wages and decent benefits,” said Waste Management recycling worker Xiomara Martinez.

Extending a hand

Local 6 will continue extending a hand to Waste Management officials in an effort to achieve the same labor-management cooperation that helped recycling workers in Fremont.

“We’re hoping that officials from the company and other unions will work with us this time, because all of us should be working together to solve this problem,” said recycling worker Mirella Jauregui.

Recicladores afiliados al ILWU logran aumentos salariales importantes con las nuevas franquicias para recolección de basura de la ciudad de Oakland; los trabajadores de Waste Management sigue organizándose para conseguir aumentos

El 30 de julio se alcanzó un nuevo hito en la campaña de los trabajadores del reciclaje en la zona de la Bahía cuando después de 18 meses de lucha el Consejo Municipal de Oakland votó unánimemente para aumentar los salarios de esos trabajadores en las nuevas franquicias concedidas por 10 años para la recolección y reciclaje de basura residencial.

“Esta victoria significa que los trabajadores del reciclaje de ILWU han conseguido subir el nivel de salarios y beneficios, aprovechando la concesión de dos de las franquicias más grandes en el Condado de Alameda,” dijo Ray Familathe, Vice Presidente de ILWU. “Esta es una muestra impresionante de la persistencia y coraje de los trabajadores del reciclaje.”

Se organizan los trabajadores del reciclaje

Los recicladores lanzaron su campaña el 2 de febrero de 2013 cuando cientos de ellos se reunieron para una histórica “Convención de Trabajadores del Reciclaje,” en el salón de reuniones del Local 6 en Oakland. Los trabajadores de cuatro diferentes compañías de reciclaje del condado de Alameda asistieron al evento. Se unieron a ellos aliados religiosos, laborales, de derechos de inmigrantes, medioambientales y políticos que prometieron apoyar la lucha por mejorar los salarios y las condiciones de seguridad en el trabajo mediante la “Campaña de Reciclaje Sostenible.” En la Convención los trabajadores votaron para adoptar una nueva norma salarial que aumentaría la tarifa por hora a \$20 – casi al doble de lo que muchos trabajadores del reciclaje reciben – además de beneficios de asistencia médica familiar a costo razonable.

Acción en Waste Management

Los trabajadores de reciclaje que trabajan para Waste Management en Oakland y San Leandro encabezaron los esfuerzos desde el principio de la campaña, exigiendo aumentos salaria-

les, incluso antes de la Convención de Trabajadores del Reciclaje realizada el pasado febrero. Los líderes sindicales de base se reunieron en los fines de semana en el salón de reuniones del Local 6 para planear la participación de sus compañeros de trabajo en la campaña por los aumentos salariales. Circularon peticiones y tuvieron reuniones con la Compañía. Cuando ésta se negó a apoyar la solicitud de aumentos sustanciales, los trabajadores hicieron una protesta ante la sede de la Compañía en Oakland. Luego la Compañía tomó represalias contra los trabajadores inmigrantes, así que estalló la huelga por las prácticas laborales ilícitas el 15 de marzo. La protesta paralizó la operación de la Compañía en la zona oriental de la Bahía empezando a las 2 a.m. Los dirigentes de los sindicatos de choferes y maquinistas acordaron apoyar la huelga por varias horas. Después de unos cuantos meses, la Compañía llegó a resolver los contratos colectivos para los empleados de basureros, oficinistas y los que prestan servicio al cliente, – todos menos los trabajadores de reciclaje.

Victoria en Fremont

Los 65 trabajadores del reciclaje de la empresa BLT en Fremont tuvieron éxito al ser los primeros en establecer un nuevo nivel salarial. Al igual que los trabajadores de Waste Management, los trabajadores del reciclaje en Fremont también organizaron acciones en el trabajo para exigir los aumentos. Circularon peticiones y se las presentaron a los administradores en grupo para demostrar su unidad. Cuando la Compañía acordó colaborar con el Sindicato, los dos hablaron con los miembros del Consejo Municipal de Fremont sobre la aprobación de un alza moderada en la tarifa de solo un centavo por día a cada usuario residencial para que los recicladores pudieran ganar un salario de \$20.94 para el año 2019. El Consejo adoptó el aumento mínimo en las tarifas y la Compañía se comprometió a empezar a pagar los aumentos salariales programados.

La administración provoca una gran huelga

A diferencia de lo sucedido con BLT en Fremont, los funcionarios de Waste Management y California Waste Solutions continuaron oponiéndose a los aumentos efectivos para los trabajadores del reciclaje durante el año 2013. De hecho, ambas compañías ofrecieron a los trabajadores de reciclaje sólo aumentos escasos y se negaron a cooperar con ellos para pedir al Consejo Municipal que la nueva norma salarial formara parte de los nuevos convenios de franquicias que estaban pendientes. Las frustraciones llegaron a su máximo punto el 30 de julio cuando los trabajadores de ambas compañías se unieron para realizar una huelga. Doseientos trabajadores del reciclaje se juntaron ante la Alcaldía de Oakland, recibiendo bastante atención de los medios de comunicación por sus líneas de piqueteo y manifestaciones ruidosas, además de bastante atención de los funcionarios electos. Los grupos de trabajadores se reunieron durante el día con miembros del Consejo Municipal y con legisladores estatales. Se reunieron a media tarde para una manifestación en los escalones de la Alcaldía, luego entraron para dirigirse al Consejo. Decenas de trabajadores hablaron en la manifestación y reunión, explicando por qué sus familias necesitaban el aumento salarial para sobrevivir, y urgieron al Consejo a que incluyera la norma salarial para trabajadores de reciclaje en los nuevos contratos de franquicia.

Apoyo de la comunidad

Los esfuerzos de los trabajadores en Fremont y Oakland fueron apoyados por los aliados de la Campaña de Reciclaje Sostenible (CSR), los cuales asistieron a las reuniones del Consejo, enviaron cartas de apoyo y acompañaron a los trabajadores en las juntas con los miembros del Consejo en lo individual. Las organizaciones que participaron en el CSR incluyen la Sección de la Bahía de San Francisco del Sierra

Club, Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives, Worksafe, Faith Alliance for a Moral Economy, East Bay Alliance for a Sustainable Economy, Movement Generation Justice & Ecology Project, Center for Environmental Health, Northern California Recycling Association, California Immigrants Policy Center, Mujeres Unidas & Activas, Clean Energy Alliance, Communities for a Better Environment, y SEIU 1021.

Decepción con WM

Después de 18 meses de acciones por los trabajadores y la comunidad, el Consejo Municipal de Oakland votó unánimemente el 30 de julio de 2014 para incluir la nueva norma salarial para trabajadores del reciclaje en sus contratos de franquicia. Esto marcó una victoria importante – pero también quedaron decepcionados los 130 trabajadores de reciclaje empleados por Waste Management (WM) debido a que la propuesta de esa empresa para seguir proporcionando los servicios por otros 10 años fue rechazada unánimemente por el Consejo Municipal. Waste Management ha recolectado toda la basura residencial de Oakland y procesado la mitad de los materiales reciclables de la Ciudad por décadas, pero ese trabajo terminará el 1 de julio de 2015 cuando California Waste Solutions asuma todas esas responsabilidades.

Sin la renovación de la franquicia de Oakland y sin el flujo de ingresos que esa provee para los aumentos salariales de los empleados, es menos probable que Waste Management les dé a los trabajadores de reciclaje los mismos aumentos que ahora son parte del nuevo contrato de franquicia de la ciudad de Oakland con California Waste Solutions (CWS).

Cambio radical inesperado

El voto del Consejo Municipal sorprendió a los observadores que pensaban que sería probable que Waste Management continuara compartiendo el contrato de franquicia con CWS, que es

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ILWU Locals 13, 63, 94 and the ILWU Credit Union High School Scholarship Program

This year marks the 12th year that ILWU Locals 13, 63, 94 and the ILWU Credit Union have provided a scholarship program to local high schools. This program awards up to three students from each participating high school with \$600 scholarships to help them with their books, tuition, and other expenses.

Each scholarship recipient wrote an essay about Harry Bridges, a founder of the ILWU, in which they recognized his integrity and the value of his struggle to help the working class. These students are real heroes who have shown they can persevere and continue with their studies. The Scholarship Committee would like to thank all the edu-

cators, ILWU members and staff whose efforts make this program a success.

The ILWU is proud to support deserving young people in our community.

On behalf of Local 13 President Bobby Olvera Jr., Local 63 President Joe Gasperov, Local 94 President Danny Miranda, ILWU Pensioner President Greg Mitre, ILWU Credit Union President Ralph Ruiz Jr. & ILWU Scholarship Committee Members, we congratulate the following recipients of the 2014 ILWU Scholarship Program:

Bishop Montgomery High School

Alexander Salcedo, Alexandra Zamora, Larissa Aldana

Cabrillo High School

Yadira Gatica, Justice Johnson, Paris McNeil

Carson High School

Angelo DeGuzman, Adonis Rodriguez, Stephanie Vargas

Lakewood High School

Christopher Kiklowicz, Jonathan Verdugo, Brianna Ward

Long Beach Polytechnic

Eduardo Reyes, Valerie Arredondo, Jesse Perkins IV

Mary Star Of The Sea High School

Sharon Bellamo, Bryan Flores, Jillian Scognamillo

Mayfair High School

Feliz Arteaga, Faith Yap, Joe Rajan

Nathaniel Narbonne High School

Arin Robinson, Sami Islam, Adriana Chavez-Ontiveros

Palos Verdes High School

Kathryn Babich, Annelise Kostrencich, Emma Stapleton

Peninsula High School

Dustin Kee, John Duston, Heather Rapoza

Phineas Banning High School

Alejandro Duarte, Ashley Chavez, Eric Urrutia

Port Of Los Angeles High School

Myra Munoz, William Pekins, Aleesa Atchley

San Pedro High School

Jesse Jacobs, Lucy Lopez, Evan Butler

St. Anthony High School

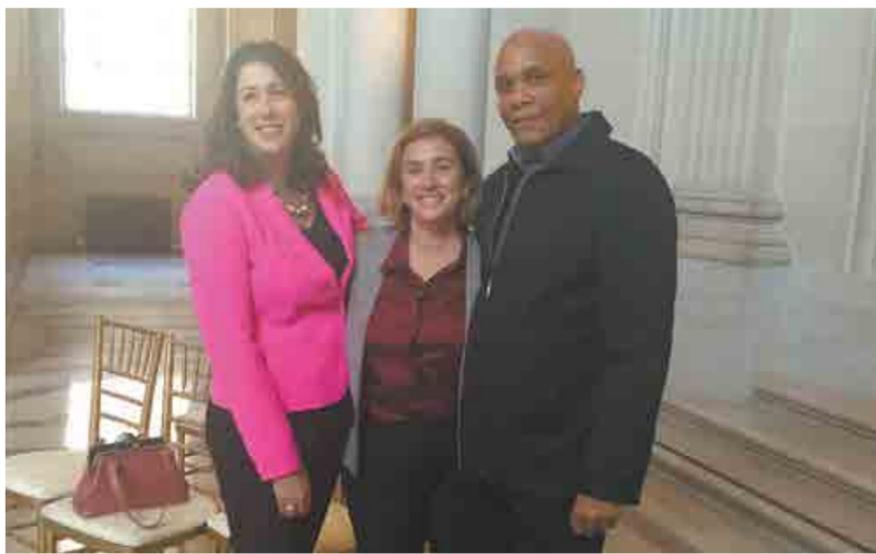
Kim Juarez, Sarah Nelms

Torrance High School

Cameron Ito, Maryah Ramos, Timothy Harvey

Woodrow Wilson High School

Victoria Grajeda, Miajah Hill, Monique Muy



Re-appointed: ILWU Secretary Willie Adams was reappointed as a Port Commissioner by San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee. Adams, who also serves as the Port Commission's Vice President, was sworn in by the mayor in a ceremony at City Hall on July 30th. The Port Commission, oversees 7½ miles of bayside property and is among the city's most important commissions. It has handled approvals for such projects as America's Cup regatta facilities and the cruise ship terminal at Pier 27 named in honor of former ILWU President Jimmy Herman. With Adams are Port Commission President Leslie Katz (center) and Christine Pelosi, political strategist and daughter of House Minority Leader, Nancy Pelosi.



Excellent student: Brooke Ponce De Leon is one of 25 high-performing students who received a Local 13 Family Scholarship this summer. She's planning to study accounting at Long Beach State University this fall. The awards were distributed at the August 7th membership meeting. Pictured (L-R): Local 13 Scholarship Committee Chair David Serrato, Coast Longshore Negotiating Committee member and proud father Frank Ponce De Leon, Local 13 President Bobby Olvera, Jr., Local 13 Vice President Mondo Porras and Local 13 Labor Relations Committee Representative Harry Dong.

NEW PENSIONERS:

Local 8: Jeffrey J. Burbach; Scott B. Stark; Allen S. Mc Namee; Fred M. Hansen; **Local 10:** Gerald R. Apodaca; Frank J. Perez; Thomas Prosch; **Local 13:** James L. Harris; Toyota Joe; Arthur P. Mariscal; Nicholas B. Lomeli; John L. McCoy; Levetta R. Bolton; Ronald D. Jerrells; Martin E. Nuno; Robert C. Gonzales; William J. Weatherford; David H. Beeman; Dale E. Douvia; Gilbert Guerra Jr; Lionel Nolasco; Robert C. Bowles; Marvin W. Kvapil; Rosemari L. Anderson; Frank H. Winn; Paul X. Dever; David H. Greer; Dale C. Nieto; Charles Ballantyne; Robert V. Montelongo; John J. Sibley; Darryll P. Lyons; George R. Leonard; Diana R. Hay; **Local 19:** Richard W. Sullivan; Johnny R. King; **Local 21:** Johnny H. Beam; **Local 23:** Robert H. Rowan; Allen A. Andersen; Ronald G. Keller; Warren E. Hanson; **Local 24:** Jeffrey D. Jewell; **Local 32:** Nicholas L. Buckles; Norman L. Kreger; William J. Borsheim; **Local 34:** Eliseo Hernandez; Kenneth S. King; Glen A. Ramiskey; **Local 40:** Richard J. Liston; **Local 52:** John J. Fern; **Local 63:** Gabriel Alvarado Jr; Rita M. Boxwell; Robert Jimenez; Ray A. Maynez; Lynn Hay; Patricia K. Mano; Mario M. Cruz; Alice F. Burse; Maria J. Munoz; Reginald W. Roland; **Local 75:** Aubrey L. Hunter; **Local 92:** James L. Burton; James F. Lowe; **Local 94:** Robert J. Garcia; Martin Garcia; Wayne A. Haslam;

DECEASED PENSIONERS:
Local 8: Loren J. Allen; Harold L. Jones; William W. Leistiko; Keith L. Preskey; Warren D. Houghton; Richard Beauvais; Anthony A. Angelo; **Local 10:** Ferdinando Fontana; David S. Rocha; Eddie Lankford; Melvin E. Thompson; **Local 12:** Alfred J. Morgan; **Local 13:** Salvador Herrera; James Bryer; Ismael T. Magana (Carmen); Frank Aguirre Jr.; Johnny

G. Caldera (Mary); Vincent C. Iacono (Betty); Tony B. Urrea; Edward D. O'Donnell; Michael J. Cooper (Shelly); Gilbert Guerra Jr; Albert E. Tossas; **Local 19:** Harry Sumner (Joycelyn); Frances D. Greene; Robert Swanson (Patricia); Samuel K. Kapahua; Aasim Z. Bashiruddin; **Local 21:** Henry Dunivan; Robert C. Usher; Fred A. Gloor; Leonard A. Higgins; **Local 23:** John J. Farley; William M. Brinkman (Berendina); Everett M. Scotton (Charnell); Robert W. Baier; **Local 34:** Benjamin Rodrigues; **Local 40:** James L. Blankenbaker; Donald J. Poorman; Kendrick P. Parham; William J. Gordon, Jr.; **Local 46:** Antonio H. Gil; **Local 52:** Omer L. Bakken; Thorleif Michalsen (Sharon); **Local 54:** Tony Rocha; Robert M. Marchettoni (Mary); **Local 63:** Claude A. La Febre (Anna); **Local 94:** Newton J. Rowell; John N. Carr (Stephanie); Donald D. White; Vince Sunjka;

DECEASED SURVIVORS:

Local 8: Marjorie French; Jean E. Wilson; Marjorie Briggs; **Local 10:** Catherine Colquitt; Rita M. Farr; Marti L. Sorrentino; Elizabeth M. Ng; **Local 12:** Clarice Edwards; **Local 13:** Doreen Brooks; Beulah Collins; Marie Lane; Engracia Padilla; Mary V. Mulligan; Jeanette E. Hofeling; Ellie J. Larkins; Melba Haley; Sandra L. Zemanek; **Local 19:** Antoinette McFarlane; Emma Domingcil; Bertha C. Freeburn; Rose Gabuat; Delmetta M. Hatch; **Local 21:** Vermona P. Rasmussen; **Local 23:** Hildur Swanson; Hannelore Cox; **Local 34:** Sonoe Terada; **Local 40:** Norma D. Heurung; Mollie Holcomb; **Local 46:** Ruth A. Garcia; **Local 47:** Barbara J. Howdeshell; **Local 50:** Rose M. Troup; **Local 54:** Gracia Belasco; **Local 92:** Arita R. Coulombe; **Local 94:** Evelyn K. Bell; **Local 98:** Barbara R. Kyzar; Waleda J. Sherard;

Recicladores afiliados al ILWU logran aumentos salariales importantes con las nuevas franquicias para recolección de basura de la ciudad de Oakland; los trabajadores de Waste Management sigue organizándose para conseguir aumentos

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un competidor mucho más pequeño de propietarios locales que emplea mecánicos y choferes sindicalizados.

Relaciones obrero-patronales como factor

Pero la propuesta de Waste Management implicaba un mayor costo para los usuarios del servicio que el presentado por CWS. Además, CWS ofreció unos servicios adicionales en su propuesta que respondieron a las expectativas de los consejales. Los oficiales tanto de Waste Management como California Waste Solutions al principio no querían apoyar los aumentos salariales que pedían los trabajadores del reciclaje, pero estos después se convirtieron en parte del contrato de franquicia. Unos cuantos días antes de la última audiencia del Consejo celebrada el 30 de julio, California Waste Solutions firmó un nuevo contrato colectivo con los afiliados del Local 6 que garantizaba una serie de aumentos salariales y seguro médico con cobertura para familiares sin que los empleados pagaran parte del costo. El día de la decisión del Consejo Municipal, los oficiales de Waste Management se reunieron con el Comité de Negociaciones del Local 6 y lograron avances importantes, pero no

llegaron a resolver el contrato. Hasta la fecha de publicación de *The Dispatcher* se había concertado otra reunión para el 12 de agosto.

Los dirigentes y personal de ILWU se negaron a ponerse de lado de ninguna de las empresas mientras se decidía a cual de ellas se les daría la concesión para la recolección de basura, ya que los afiliados de ILWU trabajan en ambas.

Cayeron mal

En la reunión del Consejo Municipal del 30 de julio no cabía duda de que Waste Management había enfadado a los miembros del Consejo. Uno de los miembros recordó cómo la Compañía había enfurecido a muchos al hacer un cierre patronal contra los afiliados de los sindicatos de choferes y maquinistas durante un disputa sobre su contrato que duró un mes en 2007 y que resultó en la paralización de la recolección de basura en las ciudad, provocando una crisis de salud pública. Durante esa disputa, los trabajadores de reciclaje de ILWU respetaron valerosamente las líneas de piqueteo de esos sindicatos, a pesar de amenazas y represalias de Waste Management. Fue traído a colación por varios consejales aquella decisión de la Compañía después del cierre patronal de subcontratar dece-

nas de puestos de trabajo de empleados en Oakland que prestaban atención al cliente y eran afiliados de ILWU. Para final de la reunión, después de la toma del voto, ningún miembro del Consejo apoyaba a Waste Management.

Probabilidad de algunas cesantías

Cuando se venza el próximo julio el contrato de franquicia entre Waste Management y la ciudad de Oakland para la recolección de basura, serán cesados algunos empleados de Waste Management, pero no se sabe exactamente cuántos. La nueva concesión de la Ciudad incluye una disposición que fue propugnada por el Sindicato que permite que los trabajadores se trasladen de Waste Management a nuevos puestos de trabajo en California Waste Solutions. Es posible que haya una lista de espera para algunos puestos.

Otras maneras de conseguir aumentos

Waste Management por suerte tiene acuerdos de franquicia con otras ciudades aparte de Oakland que le permiten tener un flujo de ingresos ininterrumpido y empleo seguro para los trabajadores del reciclaje, aún después de vencerse el que se tiene con Oakland en julio de 2015. Tiene contratos con

las ciudades de Emeryville, Albany y Hayward, además de los Departamentos de Sanidad de Castro Valley y Ora Loma. Los funcionarios electos de esas ciudades pueden decretar aumentos muy leves en las tarifas de los usuarios que producirán suficientes ingresos a Waste Management para que pague mejores salarios y beneficios a los trabajadores del reciclaje.

“Hemos aprendido de nuestras experiencias en Oakland y podemos aplicar las lecciones cuando empecemos a pedir el apoyo de los funcionarios de esas ciudades – sabemos que con el pago de unos cuantos centavos más por mes por los usuarios nos pueden dar salarios y beneficios dignos,” dijo Xiomara Martinez, líder de trabajadores de WM.

Seguimos tendiéndoles la mano

El Local 6 continúa tendiendo su mano a Waste Management con tal de lograr la misma cooperación obrero-patronal que dio buenos resultados para los trabajadores del reciclaje en Fremont.

“Esperamos que los funcionario de la Compañía y los otros sindicatos trabajen con nosotros esta vez, porque todos debemos trabajar juntos para resolver este problema,” dijo Mirella Jauregui.