



THE DISPATCHER

www.ilwu.org

VOL 69, NO 3 • MARCH 2011

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Thousands rally in solidarity with Wisconsin workers across the US. [page 6](#)



Photo by Caroline O'Connor

Ten ILWU members joined a delegation of 161 workers from Southern California to stand in solidarity with Wisconsin workers whose collective bargaining rights are under assault. ILWU Local 13 Vice President Bobby Olvera Jr. said in an interview on Democracy Now, "What Wisconsin is faced with right now is a class struggle. It's an attack on the ability for families to have a guarantee of health benefits and a secure job and to be able to sit at a table and collectively bargain with their employers."

ILWU joins the battle in Wisconsin for workers' rights

ILWU members from Locals 13, 63, 26 and 94 joined a delegation of 161 workers from Southern California who traveled to Madison, Wisconsin in late February to stand in solidarity with tens of thousands of students, parents, teachers, nurses and other community members fighting to protect union rights for workers. Those rights are currently under attack by Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker who is pushing legislation that would strip public employees of the right to bargain for anything other than wages.

Workers have been demonstrating around the clock at the state capitol building in Madison since February 14th, three days after Walker

introduced anti-union legislation that he called a "budget repair bill." The demonstrations started with just over 1,000 university students but quickly grew into tens of thousands within days. The peak, so far, of the demonstrations occurred on February 26th when an estimated 100,000 supporters rallied at the capitol building, the largest demonstration in Wisconsin since the Vietnam War.

"I don't even have words for the experience," said ILWU Local 94 member Franchesta Grove, one of ten ILWU members from Southern California who made the trek to Madison. "To see so many people from all walks of life coming together in solidarity was inspiring. I saw a 91 year-old woman in a wheel chair sitting in the snow. She was holding a sign that said, 'I'm 91 years-old, old enough to vote, young enough to kick your ass.' She wasn't fighting for herself. She was fighting for future generations."

ILWU Local 13 Vice President, Bobby Olvera, Jr., spoke to thousands of demonstrators inside the Wisconsin capitol building after the Los Angeles delegation marched into the rotunda. He thanked the crowd for their strength and solidarity for standing up for the rights of workers. "What this governor doesn't realize, is that he has woken the sleeping giant. He has brought labor and students together. This is the beginning of a second labor revolution," Olvera said. He shared a similar message with over 1 million viewers and listeners when he was interviewed by Amy Goodman on the "Democracy Now" program.

Peter Peyton, President of ILWU Local 63, says he has been through many social and labor struggles, but described his experience in Madison as "one of the greatest events of all time." He added, "Those young students understood the importance

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As I write this column, working families and union members across North America – including many ILWU members – are coming under attack.

Wisconsin is ground zero

Most eyes are now focused on Wisconsin where the anti-union Governor, Scott Walker, has made his state a battleground in the new war on workers. The Governor is trying to justify his demand to destroy unions by pointing to the state budget deficit. But the real cause of budget deficits is the recession brought on by the greed and deregulation of Wall Street. Another reason for budget deficits is that anti-union politicians have been cutting taxes for 30 years. Those tax cuts mainly benefit corporations and the super-rich, which ends up making the rich a lot richer while bankrupting our government in the process. The expensive wars in Iraq and Afghanistan don't help.

Working class families have been losing ground for 30 years – suffering a decline in real wages that makes the tax base of our communities much weaker. Combine that with the handful at the top who are taking a lot more – while paying less taxes – and you begin to see why we've racked-up these huge budget deficits. Finally, remember that two years of recession have hammered tax revenues and pension fund investments. Once again, the blame lies with the big banks and their political friends in Washington who allowed Wall Street to run wild at taxpayer expense. We are now paying the price with record numbers of bankruptcies, foreclosures, repossessions, and double-digit unemployment.

Budget deficits are being used as an excuse to attack unions. But the worst is yet to come, because now the same politicians who allowed and bailed out Wall Street are using the crisis they created to come after unions. With only 7% of the working class in a private-sector union today, wealthy donors and their anti-union politicians and figure it's time to go after the relatively larger and stronger public unions.

The battle in Wisconsin and other states may come down to a simple question: who will win the loyalty of working class and middle income voters? Will we be able to win over workers – many who once belonged to unions – but have since seen their pay, benefits, and job security go down? Or will right-wing politicians succeed in pinning the blame for deficits on union members and convince working class voters that unions are the problem? The loyalty of the working class is now up for grabs with the outcome hard to predict. Governor Walker has reason to be confident after just winning an election with support from working class voters – and he's got a majority of like-minded, anti-union legislators in the State House, which means he's holding some pretty strong cards.

But union members are fighting back. One hundred thousand supporters came to Madison on February 26th, and support rallies were held in more than a dozen cities on the same day. The stakes in this fight couldn't be higher, as it may determine whether the labor movement continues to shrink or survives long enough to organize

and grow in the future. There's some reason to be hopeful, because it appears that Governor Walker has failed to convince a majority of working families to support his agenda of destroying public sector unions. A poll of registered voters in Wisconsin conducted February 16-20 showed that a healthy 62% saw public workers in a favorable light, with only 11% expressing negative views. Three out of four voters polled say they oppose taking away collective bargaining rights from public employees – and almost half of Republican voters agreed. That's the good news.

The not so good news is that voters tend to be less sympathetic towards "unions" than the plight of individual "workers." Voters also say they're inclined to support pension cuts for public workers. The real test will be what happens over time – as both sides in this class war make their moves to win public support. The standoff will probably turn on whether voters are more likely to blame workers or the Governor as the protests continue.

And while we're focused – as we should be – on Wisconsin, it has to be said that union members are facing trouble in all 50 states as well as in Congress. There are 21 other states besides Wisconsin where anti-union Governors and state legislatures hold power. Plans are already rolling in Ohio, Indiana and New Jersey to follow Governor Walker's attack in Wisconsin. Right now, they're watching and waiting to see what happens. The outcome in Wisconsin will either make them more bold or more cautious.

Things in Congress aren't any better, with an anti-union majority controlling the U.S. House of Representatives that's attacking anything that could possibly help workers and unions such as OSHA protections and NLRB funding. The Obama Administration has been a mixed bag for workers. We got a health care bill that was mostly disappointing. It will stop insurance companies from cancelling coverage if you've been sick, but seems to be a better deal overall for the insurance industry than it is for the average citizen. And for ILWU longshore workers, there's the added rub of a special tax on "better than average" health care plans like ours. And if that's not enough, Obama appointed a commission that recommended cuts to Medicare and Social Security – including a plan to raise the Social Security retirement age to 69!

Remembering PATCO and learning from the past

We can't afford to have another situation like the PATCO strike (Professional Air Traffic Controllers Organization) that we had in 1981 when President Reagan replaced striking air controllers with non-union scabs. That incident made it more acceptable for companies to replace strikers with scabs, encouraging employers to hire scabs – while increasing the fear among workers that they could be easily replaced in a strike. If Wisconsin isn't going to mark another decline in the state of America's labor unions, we'll need to change some of ways that unions do things. With that in mind, what are some of the lessons we can learn so far from the Wisconsin experience?

1. We have to fight back. Nobody in the ILWU or any other union can afford to

sit around and watch this attack unfold. If all of us don't try to help in some way, we'll have only ourselves to blame when we're in the crosshairs and nobody is left to help us. With the help of Coast Committeeman Ray Ortiz, Jr., and organizing assistance from the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, ILWU members from Locals 13, 63 and 94 joined other union members who filled an airliner and flew out to Wisconsin in late February. Members in other locals have been attending solidarity rallies in Sacramento, Olympia, San Francisco, Honolulu, and other cities. We need to keep up the solidarity and pressure.

2. We have to win public support. We need to be smart about the way that we fight back, and that means winning support from the 90% of working class families who no longer have a union. We can't win by making this a fight about our unions, our pensions, our pay, and our health benefits. This needs to be a much broader fight that's about defending the working class, good jobs, and middle-income America – not just unions.

3. We have to talk more about taxing the rich and making them pay their fair share. Anti-union politicians have been preaching the gospel of tax-cutting for 30 years. They've been able to trick plenty of working class families into thinking a few dollars saved on their taxes is the only way to make up for falling wages and lower living standards – while most of the tax benefits benefit the wealthiest Americans and big corporations. Oregon voters recently approved a tax increase for upper income residents – maybe we could encourage others to do the same.

4. Rallies and protests are good, but they aren't enough. Holding a rally is usually the first thing we think of. It's good to feel pumped-up for a few hours or even a few days, but they're soon over and then people ask: "now what do we do?" If the answer is, "hold more rallies," then maybe we need to think harder, because our goal has to be about winning public support, and if rallies don't help us accomplish that goal, maybe we need to be doing other things such as a general strike across the United States with support from all unions and labor.

5. Abraham Lincoln said our government should be "of the people, by the people, for the people," but most of us today feel screwed by the people we elect. While the two political parties are different in some ways, we can't count on politicians to automatically stand up for workers or unions just because of their party label. Many of us elected Democrats, thinking they would look out for the working class at the federal, state, and local level, but too many have stabbed us in the back and joined the anti-union crowd. This means we have to be pickier when it comes to deciding who gets our support. We also need to be more aggressive about holding politicians accountable, instead of just trusting them to protect us. And finally, let's remember that most politicians don't lead, they go where the breeze is blowing. And these days, the anti-union winds are blowing pretty strong. So if we want more politicians to stand with us, then we'll need to rally a lot more troops to our side, speak up more loudly, and take nothing for granted.

6. We've got to get ahead of the curve and stop playing defense. The problem in



Wisconsin and other states shouldn't have surprised us. The gap in pay and benefits between union jobs and non-union-work has been growing for decades all over America – making all unions vulnerable to right-wing politicians that can exploit the fears of most workers who are falling behind. If unions don't get more proactive by responding to the needs and frustrations of most workers who aren't in a union – then our enemies will be more than happy to fill that vacuum with hate and manipulate workers against us. That's why organizing to help workers join our union is so critical, and why we need to be fighting for the entire working class – not just those of us who are lucky enough to be part of a union. This is one of the Ten Guiding Principles of the ILWU.

7. ILWU members are facing challenges closer to home that also need our solidarity and support:

- Canadian Longshore Division members have been trying to bargain their contract for more than a year. Maritime employers in British Columbia are demanding pension take-aways and cut-backs in working conditions.
- Here in the States, workers with Local 63 OCU, the Office Clerical Unit in Los Angeles, have been negotiating with PMA employers for over 10 months.
- Rite Aid workers in Lancaster, CA have been trying to negotiate their first contract for more than two years.
- Workers at several Georgia Pacific warehouses in Portland who are represented by the Inlandboatmen's Union (IBU) have been negotiating for more than a year with an employer who's opposed to decent pensions and health care.
- Hundreds of Washington State Ferry Workers, also represented by the IBU, have been told by Governor Gregoire to either make contract concessions or risk legislation similar to what Governor Walker is proposing for workers in Wisconsin.
- ILWU members at Locals 6 and 17 are facing challenges from employers who want to walk away from their pension fund obligations. Companies across America are trying to dump their "defined benefit" pensions and replace them with inferior "defined contribution" savings plans like "401-K's" that don't provide decent benefits.

With so many North American workers under attack, we can't afford to risk losing any of these fights.

An injury to one is an injury to all.

DISPATCHER

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The *Dispatcher* (ISSN 0012-3765) is published monthly except for a combined April/May issue, for \$5.00 a year and \$10.00 a year for non-members by the ILWU, 1188 Franklin St., San Francisco, CA 94109. Periodical postage paid at San Francisco, CA. The *Dispatcher* welcomes letters, photos and other submissions to the above address © ILWU, 2011. Postmaster: Send address changes to The *Dispatcher*, 1188 Franklin St., San Francisco, CA 94109-6800.



ILWU joins the battle in Wisconsin for workers' rights

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of collective bargaining rights and how vital they are to the preservation of the middle class.”

Our 'Tahrir Square'

Because the Wisconsin protests and occupation of the capitol building came on the heels of the dramatic protests in Tahrir Square in Cairo, Egypt that led to the overthrow of Hosni Mubarak, comparisons between the two movements were unavoidable. More than one protest sign in Madison labeled Walker as the “Mubarak of the Middle East.”

The Madison protests received tremendous international support and solidarity, including support from the Egyptian protest movement. Supporters from all over the world, including Cairo, sent thousands of solidarity orders for pizza to Ian's Pizza in Madison that delivered the pies to protesting families at the capitol building. The restaurant was so swamped with orders that the company devoted its entire business to feeding the protesters.

“The energy that was generated from the 'Cairo pizzas' was incredible,” said Peter Peyton. “Egyptians recognized that they were standing up for democracy in their country and that's what the people were doing in Wisconsin too. This is the starting point for a much needed discussion about democracy in the United States.”

Egyptian labor unions also sent formal expressions of support to the workers in Wisconsin. In a video statement, Kamal Abbas, General Coordinator of the Centre for Trade Unions and Workers Services, told the Wisconsin protesters, “We stand with you as you stood with us.” He says “no one believed that the revolution against the Mubarak regime would succeed, yet they were able to bring the dictator down within 18 days.” He encourages demonstrators to stay strong, saying, “Don't give up on your rights. Victory always belongs to the people who stand firm and demand their just rights.”

Walker's phony budget crisis

The assault of worker's rights is being framed by Walker as a necessary austerity measure to deal with the budget crisis. The facts don't support this view. According to the website, *Talking Point's Memo*, the “state's fiscal bureau – the Wisconsin equivalent of the Congressional Budget Office – concluded that Wisconsin isn't even in need of austerity measures, and could conclude the fiscal year with a surplus. In fact, they say that the current budget

shortfall is a direct result of tax-cutting policies that Walker enacted during his first days in office.”

The *Capitol Times* in Wisconsin ran a recent editorial that criticized the Governor's effort to undermine long-established collective bargaining rights for public servants in order to “pay for schemes that redirect state tax dollars to wealthy individuals and corporate interests that have been sources of campaign funding for Walker's fellow Republicans and special-interest campaigns on their behalf.”

Gov. Walker's anti-union bill was passed by the Wisconsin State Assembly, but still must pass the State Senate, where Republicans hold a 19-14 advantage over Democrats. While Republicans hold a majority and enough votes to pass the bill, Democratic state senators have refused to attend the legislative session since Thursday, February 17th, which denies the Senate a quorum and prevents the chamber from voting on the bill. This legislative procedure is similar to a filibuster in the US Senate that Republicans used frequently to block important votes and appointments.

The attack on worker rights could spread quickly

Anti-union legislation like Wisconsin's is ready to go in Tennessee and Ohio where anti-worker Governor's hold power together with anti-union majorities in the state legislatures. Politicians in many states will be watching the outcome of the Wisconsin struggle to decide if they will join the attack or back-off – at least for now. If public workers lose their union rights in Wisconsin, the rights of millions more union members will be at risk.

Koch brothers at it again

Walker's gubernatorial campaign received the maximum \$15,000 contribution from Koch Industries, one of America's largest privately-owned energy and manufacturing conglomerates. The company is owned by billionaire brothers Charles and David Koch, longtime funders of extreme right-wing causes who recently bankrolled the Tea Party “movement.” The Koch brothers support politicians who oppose efforts to make corporations and wealthy individuals pay their fair share of taxes, and they fund public relations campaigns that deny the existence of global warming. They also own Georgia Pacific, a paper and timber company with warehouses in Portland, OR that employ members of



ILWU members march with the Local 13 banner in Madison, WI.

the Inlandboatmen's Union (IBU) who have been trying to negotiate a fair contract for more than a year. In late February, Gov. Walker was humiliated by a prank caller who impersonated one of the Koch brothers, enticing the Governor to reveal a scheme to plant “troublemakers” into the state capitol protests. When the tape went public, police and fire officials slammed the Governor for considering a scheme that could instigate violence and dangerously disrupt the peaceful protest.

Corruption scheme included in Wisconsin's anti-union legislation

Besides stripping public employees of their union rights, Gov. Walker's bill would also allow the State of Wisconsin to sell or lease publicly-owned utilities to private companies without competitive bidding or public approval. The dangerous language in the law states:

Notwithstanding ss. 13.48 (14) (am) and 16.705 (1), the department may sell any state-owned heating, cooling, and power plant or may contract with a private entity for the operation of any such plant, with or without solicitation of bids, for any amount that the department determines to be in the best interest of the state. Notwithstanding ss. 196.49 and 196.80, no approval or certification of the public service commission is necessary for a public utility to purchase, or contract for the operation of, such a plant, and any such purchase is considered to be in the public interest and to comply with the criteria for certification of a project under s. 196.49 (3) (b).

This provision has been used by corrupt governments around the world, including Mexico and Russia, to sell-off valuable public assets at fire-sale prices that benefit wealthy investors like the Koch brothers.

Public opinion is shifting to workers

As the *Dispatcher* goes to press, the latest polls show that public opinion is beginning to favor workers, while Walker and the Republicans appear to be losing public support in their bid to attack unions and workers.

Polls in late February by the Pew Research Center show more people viewing unions favorably (45% Favorable / 42% Unfavorable) and a majority think unions have a positive effect on “working conditions for all Americans” by a 3:1 margin (51% Positive / 17% Negative). The Pew poll also found that public sector union workers are viewed as favorably as private sector union members.

Other polls show surprising public support for collective bargaining rights of public workers in Wisconsin. Two recent polls (USA Today and New York Times/CBS) both found 60% oppose plans to weaken collective bargaining rights for unions. The NYT/CBS poll also found a majority oppose cutting the pay and benefits of state workers in order to reduce budget deficits (37% Favor / 56% Oppose). And perhaps most importantly, more Americans say they are siding with public employee unions (42%) than Governor Walker (31%).

“They're standing in the snow fighting for our rights.”

“ILWU members need to be in this for the long haul,” said Local 94's Franchesta Grove. “Each member needs to understand that it is very important that we support our brothers and sisters in Madison. If we don't, we are going to feel the effects of whatever this governor does. It's easier for us to go to the battle then wait for the battle to come to us. When our unions ask us to step up to help these workers we need to do so graciously. Those men and women are standing out in the snow fighting for our rights.”



The ILWU banner was proudly on display in the capitol rotunda.

HOW WE CAN HELP

- ✓ **The ILWU International is creating a special solidarity fund** to help support families in Wisconsin and other states who are facing hardships because of the anti-union attacks. Your local will receive information shortly with details about how to participate in this effort.
- ✓ **ILWU locals can send a volunteer to join “solidarity teams” that visit workers in Wisconsin.** These efforts should be coordinated with your state and local AFL-CIO councils.
- ✓ **ILWU members can join local solidarity and support actions in your community** that are being coordinated by local and state AFL-CIO councils.

ILWU locals and affiliates are receiving information and instructions from the International Union with more details and information. Contact your local union for details.

Local 13 mentor program provides industry guidance to children of deceased members

Learning to navigate the longshore hiring hall and finding your way around the massive Southern California harbor area is a challenging task for anyone just entering the industry. It's especially difficult for someone entering the industry under the child of the deceased (COD) program. This program provides an entryway for sons and daughters of deceased longshore workers into the industry as Class B longshoremen.

These young men and women, often in the earliest years of adulthood, with little or no knowledge of what it is like to work on the waterfront, have found it difficult to succeed in the industry. Without the adequate guidance and support needed to learn the dispatch process, record keeping and the geographical knowledge of the harbor, many CODs were falling through the cracks with an unacceptably high rate of quitting or being deregistered. Unlike casuals who are registered as a group and can lean on one another when they get lost or experience difficulties on the job, CODs are often isolated and may not have an adequate support structure when they need help.

In order to address these issues, ILWU Local 13 recently began mentor program for CODs. This program will pair up the COD with an experienced longshoreman who will work with them for at least 60 days to mentor them about the industry, their job and their responsibilities as union longshore workers. This is the first program of its kind on the West Coast.

"In some of the smaller ports, the membership is small enough where

they can take care of one another," explained Bobby Olvera, Jr. Vice President of ILWU Local 13. "In Southern California, we've got 10,000 casuals and 7,000 members and it's very easy for people to fall through the cracks and get lost. There so many people at the halls, so many windows, it can be overwhelming to an 18-year old or someone in their 20s."

Local 13 member Bob Dillon, knows firsthand what it is like to fall through the cracks. He first entered the industry at the age of 18 in 1969. Without the necessary support and mentoring, Dillon did not last long. Many years later he successfully re-entered the industry but says that he never would have left had a program like this been in place in 1969.

"There's just so much that CODs have to deal with. Let's not forget the emotional dimension, Dillon said. "You have a situation where someone has lost a parent and is then entering an industry where everybody knew that parent. My dad died when I was 12 but when I entered the industry, I still hadn't fully processed his death. When I started to work where he worked, all of it came flooding back. You don't know if you want to be in that environment where everything is reminding you about your father."

"The program will benefit the COD, the industry and the union," Olvera said. The goal of the program is to ensure that upon completion, the COD will be comfortable with calculating their hours, checking-in getting their jobs, know where they will be working and know what to expect on the job.

"These mentors may not become best friends for life with their CODs but what they are doing is setting up that person for life. They are setting



In the front row are (L-R) Anthony Di Carlo, Gerardo Luis Yanez, Justin Miller and Jose Escobar. Di Carlo and Miller were the first to complete the mentor program thanks to help of their mentors, Yanez and Escobar. Behind them stand other mentors in the program, along with ILWU Local 13 Vice President, Bobby Olvera, Jr.

them up to succeed in this industry," Olvera said.

The program recently graduated its first two participants, Justin Miller and Anthony DiCarlo. Miller and DiCarlo both said they are now comfortable at the hiring hall, navigating around the harbor area, and both feel comfortable approaching other dockworkers if they have any questions or need assistance.

What motivates the mentors to participate in the program? For some it's a commitment to their union, others know firsthand what it is like to enter the industry without any support, but they all share a sense of obligation to assist the son or daughter of their fallen brother or sister.

"Our union is a family," said Gerardo Luis Yanez, who mentored Anthony DiCarlo. "This is a brotherhood and a sisterhood. We are not just a bunch of individuals—if we all had that individualist attitude, the union would be in trouble."

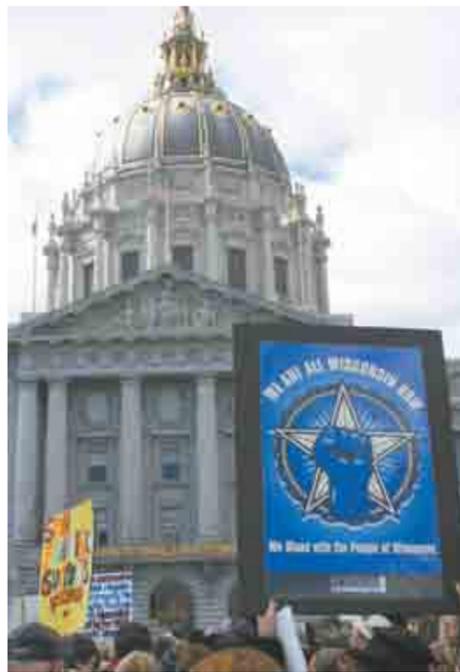
"This is a beautiful industry that we have and the ILWU is wonderful

family," added Robert Rojas another mentor for the program. "They've lost a loved one. They need us to support them. They need pillars in their lives. This is what a strong family does."

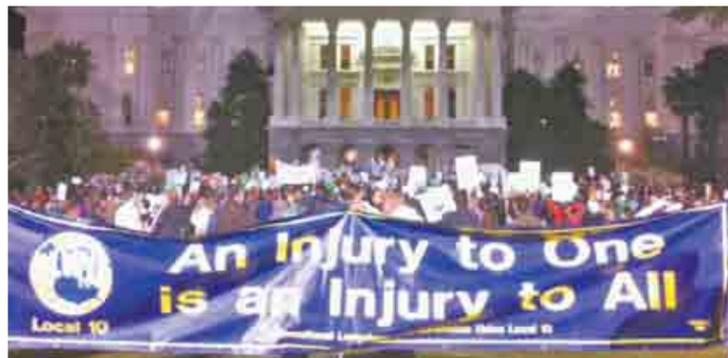
"I became I mentor because I have no family in this industry. I know how hard it is and how cutthroat it can be when you get out on that floor and try and get a job. I know what it's like and these guys are coming in without knowing anyone and I just wanted to help them," said Jose Escobar who was the mentor to Justin Miller.

"A loss of a member not only affects the immediate family but also affects the ILWU family," added Jerry Avila, Health Benefits Officer for Southern California. "Meeting with the surviving family brings up many important questions, in particular the Child of Deceased program and its process. The creation of the mentor program will ensure the Child of Deceased performs all longshore work safely, with knowledge of the industry and will be able to look forward to retirement."

ILWU members join Wisconsin solidarity rallies on West Coast



The attacks on Wisconsin workers is seen as an assault on the rights of everyone who works for a living.



The ILWU Local 10 banner in front of the Capitol Building in Sacramento, CA.



ILWU pensioner Don Watson at the San Francisco rally.



Nearly 3,000 people turned out in Olympia, Washington to stand in support of collective bargaining rights.

From Washington DC to Hawaii, union and non-union workers demonstrated in solidarity with Wisconsin public employees whose collective bargaining rights are under assault. Some demonstrations coincided with the massive 100,000-strong march that took place in Madison, WI on February 26th. While other rallies took place in the preceding days. ILWU members participated in demonstrations in Sacramento, San Francisco, Oakland, Los Angeles, Honolulu, and Olympia, WA. Several thousand people turned out for the Sacramento rally on February 22 including a strong showing from Northern California ILWU members. Over 1,000 people turned out to the February 26th solidarity rally in San Francisco.

Joe Ibarra, former ILWU International Secretary Treasurer, passes away

Former ILWU International Secretary Treasurer and Local 26 President, Joe Ibarra, passed away on February 11th. He was 69 years old. Joe's life was celebrated at a memorial service on March 4th in San Pedro, CA by family, friends, and his union brothers and sisters. Joe was remembered for a lifetime of outstanding service to workers and for his dedication to social and economic justice for all people.

Joe was born on January 23, 1942 in Agua Caliente, Mexico. He immigrated to San Pedro with his family at a young age. He enrolled at Barton Hill grammar school in San Pedro at the age of 6 and at that time he could not yet speak English. He would go on to graduate from high school and attend classes at Harbor College.

Brother Ibarra began his nearly 40-year career representing ILWU members in 1964 when he was elected to the Local 26 Max Factor negotiating committee. This was the first of many negotiating committees on which he would eventually serve. While serv-

ing on the Watchmen's negotiating committee in 1966, Joe would help establish the first pension plan in that industry.

The membership of Local 26 recognized Joe's commitment and leadership qualities in 1965 when he was elected as a delegate to the International Convention. In 1969, he was elected Local 26 President and then in 1975, Joe was elected to the International Executive Board (IEB) along with Rudy Rubio. They were the first two Mexican-Americans to serve on the IEB. Joe continued to serve on the IEB until 1982 when he was appointed Southern California Regional Director, a position he held until 1994 when he was elected International Secretary-Treasurer.

Joe was committed to organizing new workers into the ILWU. He ventured into the Imperial Valley where he organized cotton compress workers such as those at CalCot. Joe also organized workers at Great Lakes Carbon Corp., Kerr Steamships and several off-dock container stuffing operations.

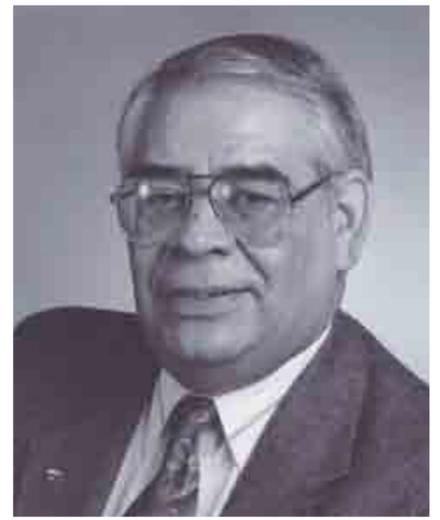
Joe was instrumental in organizing office clerical workers into the OCU unit of Local 63. In the 70s, and early

80s Joe had the difficult responsibility of negotiating severance packages for many Local 26 members whose employers either closed up their union shops or moved to the "right to work for less" states.

Joe understood the importance of solidarity. He worked closely with Local 6, which had many employers in common with Local 26. Joe served as the ILWU representative at many Teamster meetings and conferences and he worked closely with the International Federation of Chemical, Energy, Mine, and General Workers Union (ICEM).

He was also politically active in his community. Joe worked with the Watts Community Labor Action Council and he was appointed to the Board of Social Service Commissioners by Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley. Later, Mayor Bradley would appoint him to the Police Commission.

As International Secretary Treasurer, Joe put a lot of energy into the International's education program. He believed strongly that ILWU members needed education about the history, traditions and policies of the ILWU. To address this, he helped



Joe Ibarra passed away February 11th, 2011 after a lifetime of service to working men and women.

initiate the highly regarded Leadership, Educations and Development Institute (LEAD).

Joe was also committed to organizing and as Secretary Treasurer; he helped refocus international resources on organizing. He closely watched over the finances of the International union and upon his retirement in 2003, the ILWU was left in the best financial shape in over a decade.

Joe is survived by his wife Elsa, sons Gary and David, daughters, Monica and Angel, nine brothers and sisters, 10 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.



Joe Ibarra (center) being sworn in as Local 26 President by Jack Hall, ILWU International Vice President.



Joe Ibarra thanked the membership of Local 6 for their support during the 1968 Thrifty strike.

TRANSITIONS

NEW PENSIONERS:

Local 10: Robert B. Franklin, Sr;
Local 13: Robert Padilla; Robert J. Martizia; James R. Sheedy; Edward Ramirez; **Local 23:** William C. Faker; Mel W. Epstein; **Local 29:** Vernon Rodriguez; **Local 47:** George R. Catron; **Local 63:** Robert R. Mendoza; Frank A. Scognamiglio; **Local 94:** George D. Kuvakas; Frank J. Guerra; **Local 98:** Alan C. Eriksen

DECEASED PENSIONERS:

Local 8: Victor C. Milo (Virginia); Donald Maronay; Dale E. Borchers;
Local 10: Louis Mendoza; Tommie L. Sharp; Ernesto Guerrero; Alfred Geron;

Manuel Correll; Harold Chilton; Michael C. Gruner; Walter Reid; **Local 13:** Leo J. Winter; Rawlan L. Nelson; Adolph E. Perez; Ernest L. Chavez; Robert L. Gjetley; Luis P. Mora (Marcela); **Local 19:** Donald Geyman; **Local 23:** Morris A. Snyder; Francis D. Reopelle; **Local 34:** David E. Robinson (Arva); James N. Thornton; **Local 40:** Calvin Millerl; **Local 63:** Joseph A. Cavazos; Warren F. Duke (Barbra); Roy H. Michael (Loraine); Matthew O. Sias; Richard F. Weeks (Barbara); Charles R. Mc Lachlan (Sue); **Local 75:** Paul Lee (Julie); **Local 98:** Dennis E. Mc Cauley (Diane)

DECEASED SURVIVORS:

Local 8: Alice Bucher; **Local 10:** Dorothy Mestrovich; Beatrice Orchid; Beatrice Huff; Elaine W. Barclay; Mildred M. Nakasone; **Local 12:** Mildred R. Lewis; **Local 13:** Annie L. Perry; Sarah E. Herr; Betty S. Thompson; Ernest L. Chavez; **Local 19:** Josephine E. Paolino; Ruth E. Niemi; Virginia Brown; **Local 23:** Lois H. Rees; Marie F. Corey; Magdalena T. Tuller; Gladys L. Sando; **Local 34:** Marie Mc Gree; **Local 40:** Eleanor K. Pitzer; **Local 46:** Margarita Meza; **Local 51:** Kathryn E. Slow; **Local 91:** Peggy J. Teller

Members of Local 30 in Boron who retired in 2010 following the victory against Rio Tinto's lockout:

Randy Granath
Souchin Ku
Michael Wilson
Teddy Bynum
Stanley Chavez
Julius Deveau
Steven Grant
Robert Groves
David Morrow
James Outlaw, Jr.
Earl Sadler
Don Spears
Hal Fairchild
Clarence Kersey
Pamela Love
Michael Mendonca
Manuel Omo
Sheila Riddle
Zenaida Romero
Jerry Vasquez
Lydia Abdelkedous
James Barnes
Delynn Davies
Dale Malone
Danny Meek
Mitchel Nakaahiki
Joe Peralta
Larry Pierce
Milo Powell
Terry Robertson
Larry Roberts
William Tierney
Edna Vallega
Donald Wojceki
James Higgins (ret. 1/1/11)

Scholarship available for the children of Local 10 members

Trustees of the Smolin-Melin Scholarship Fund are prepared to accept applications for scholarships for the academic year 2011-2012. Now is the time to indicate your interest. June 1, 2011 is the application deadline.

Victor Smolin and Carlton Melin were long time members of Local 10. They left a sum of money to establish the scholarship fund. They specified that scholarships were to be available to children of Class A Local 10 members to further their "collegiate" education. Trustees of the Fund interpret "members" to mean active members in good standing at the time of disbursement of scholarship funds, deceased members and retired members. The Trustees interpret "collegiate" to apply only to full-time study (at least 12 units per semester or quarter) at either a four-year college or an academic junior college.

The Trustees have agreed that (1) no applicant will be awarded more than four scholarships, (2) a fifth scholarship would be considered after careful review of the applicant's record and if circumstances warrant and (3) in no event would an applicant be considered for a sixth scholarship.

Based always on available assets, the Fund historically has awarded scholarships in a range from \$1000 to \$2500 for full-time students at four-year colleges or universities, and from \$750 to \$1750 for full-time students at two-year colleges.

Trustees are Beth Ross, counsel for ILWU Local 10, David Erkkila, a retired member of Local 10 and a friend of Victor Smolin, and Eugene Vrana, Director of Educational Services and Librarian for ILWU.

If you have a son or daughter who is applying to enter college next fall, or is already a college student who is planning to continue, and the above requirements are met, you might want to apply for one of these scholarships.

To request an application, simply call Maria Ascarrunz at (415) 771-6400. She will then send you the application form with the necessary explanatory materials.

Workers and allies tell rite aid: don't break our hearts!

Hundreds of students, pensioners, workers and allies visited dozens of Rite Aid stores around Valentine's Day to talk with store managers about the problems many Rite Aid workers are having with the company.

Rite Aid is trying to impose significant health insurance increases on workers at stores in Ohio and New Jersey and at the company's giant distribution center in Lancaster, CA. This cost-shifting will make it impossible for many workers to afford coverage for their families.

There were Rite Aid store actions in eight states – CA, CO, MA, NJ, NY, OR, PA and WA – and Washington, DC.

Eleven United Students Against Sweatshops (USAS) affiliates participated in store visits, as did five Jobs with Justice (JwJ) coalitions.

At each store visited, activists delivered letters of support for Rite Aid workers to store managers. Store managers were asked to con-

tact Rite Aid CEO John Standley and let him know about the community's concerns. Demonstrators also talked to Rite Aid customers, many of whom expressed sympathy with Rite Aid workers.

Seattle, WA

In Seattle, WA, 18 people turned out from ILWU Local 19, SEIU 1199NW, Laborers, United Students Against Sweatshops, Jobs With Justice and others for a spirited rally in front of Rite Aid. Demonstrators chanted loudly, leafleted pedestrians and customers, and sported signs with messages including "respect our communities," and "Rite Aid Don't Break Our Hearts."

A delegation of ten people, including ILWU Local 19 President Cam Williams with representatives from all the participating unions and organizations entered the store. They met with the store manager, who said that he had already called corporate headquarters when the action started outside to alert them as to what was happening. President Williams explained they were there to demand



NYC: Student activists in NYC are taking a stand with Rite Aid workers across the United States.

affordable healthcare for working families for Rite Aid workers across the country, and presented the letter to the manager, who committed to send it to corporate headquarters.

Bellingham, WA

Rich Austin, President of the Pacific Coast Pensioners helped to coordinate the action in Bellingham, WA. Twenty-three people attended the action representing ILWU pensioners from Locals 7 and 32, retirees from AFSCME, members from Teamsters Local 231, Operating Engineers, Amalgamated Transit Union, Jobs With Justice, United for National Health Care, and students from Western Washington Univer-

sity. Store personnel smiled at people they knew from the delegation who entered, and management took the letter and committed to pass it on to Rite Aid's corporate headquarters.

Portland, OR

ILWU Local 40 Secretary-Treasurer Dane Jones worked with Jobs With Justice organizer Huy Ong to coordinate the Rite Aid action in Portland, OR. Dane, Huy and another JwJ member entered the store to talk with management, pointing out that ILWU members spend tens of thousands of dollars at local Rite Aid stores.

The continued efforts to spread the word about Rite Aid's health care rip-off are bearing fruit. Soon after the Valentine's store visits began, Rite Aid contacted the ILWU to discuss health insurance issues. Bargaining with Rite Aid was suspended in late January, having reached something of a stalemate over employees' health insurance costs. On February 4, workers at the distribution center voted overwhelmingly to reject the company's outrageous cost-shifting proposal.

Support for Rite Aid workers won't let up until they get the respect, wages and benefits they deserve! The next national day of action will be April Fool's Day



LA: A delegation of community members present a letter with Rite Aid workers' concerns to a store manager in Los Angeles, CA



Boston: Students in Boston, MA flex their muscles for workers' power.

Locked Out screens in San Pedro

Locked Out 2010, the documentary of the David vs. Goliath struggle between ILWU Local 30 members and mining giant Rio Tinto screened at the Warner Grand Theatre in San Pedro on February 16th. The free screening included a Q&A with filmmaker Joan Sekler. Local 30 members Terri Judd and Mike Mendonca made the three-hour drive from Boron to attend the screening and to answer audience questions. Following the Q&A, ILWU President Bob McEllrath spoke about the struggle from the union's perspective.

Following the film, presentations were made on two issues of importance to the future of the shipping industry and longshore workers in Southern California—the widening of the Pan-

ama Canal and the automation technologies being developed.

ILWU Vice President Ray Familathe spoke on the topic of port automation and showed several short film clips of automation technologies currently being used by some ports in Europe as well as other technologies currently in development.

Economist Paul Bingham spoke about the potential impacts the 2014 widening of the Panama Canal might have on the Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles. He talked about the steps that could be taken to ensure that Southern California ports don't lose their competitive advantage to other ports.

Local 30 members Terri Judd and Mike Mendonca, both of whom are featured in the Locked Out 2010 film, answer questions about the lockout and what conditions are currently like at the mine in Boron, CA.



Coast Committeeman Ray Ortiz, Jr., with Local 26 member Silvia Estrada. Estrada works at the Rite Aid warehouse in Lancaster, CA and thanked the harbor-area ILWU members for their continued support of Rite Aid workers.



LETTERS TO THE DISPATCHER

Dear Editor,

When he was running for office, President Obama said that he'd be willing to put on a comfortable pair of shoes and walk a picket line if working families needed his help. I think it's pretty clear that we need his help now with all the anti-union attacks in Wisconsin and around the country.

All of us should send President Obama an old pair of shoes to remind him of his promise. If a pile of shoes showed up at the White House, it would help make the point that promises need to be kept – especially when it involves something as important as standing with working men and women and their unions.

I noticed that people in Egypt took their shoes off to show their disgust when President Mubarak refused to resign. The situation is different here, but the same rule applies. Politicians who don't keep their promises don't deserve our respect.

Larry Metzger (retired) Local 30
Corvallis, OR



Larry and Pat Metzger are willing to donate a pair of shoes to President Obama to help him keep his campaign promise.

Dear Editor,

Far too often the media and politicians resort to sensationalism and simplicity at the expense of accuracy in reporting. Simplicity and generalizing emphasizes conflict over consensus and focuses on blame rather than understanding. Sensationalism is the practice of deliberate bias, excessive exaggeration or even blatant lying.

There is a financial crisis. There is not enough revenue to fund state or federal budgets. There are few choices to deal with revenue shortfall. Raising additional money from the super-rich is one choice. Cutting funding for services is another. A third option is to reduce expenditures by cutting compensation of public sector employees. (The latter two choices are unacceptable to the working class because they would inflict harm on the most vulnerable people and on fellow workers.)

Increasing revenue is off the table because the rich will not stand for it. Tax breaks for the wealthiest 2% were even extended last year!

With so many workers unemployed or seeing declining wages and benefits, it is easy for politicians and corporate bosses to stir up

resentment against the pension and health care benefits of public sector workers. But we all know that public workers are not the only workers being targeted.

During the debate preceding the bailout of the "Big Three" auto makers, politicians laid the blame for the declining US auto industry on the United Auto Workers. People were told that funding the union's health care and pensions was bankrupting the companies. Not a word was said about the generous dividend checks that shareholders routinely received. Had those dividend checks been reduced slightly over the years, and the difference used to properly fund the benefit trusts, the Big Three would not have been in dire straits. Anti-worker politicians won the day. UAW members were forced to reduce their wages and benefits before Congress would give the Big Three a nickel.

And the bailout of the financial markets? The rich got protected while people just like us lost jobs, suffered home foreclosures, were robbed of their pensions and health care. Where was Congress? Why were predatory lending practices allowed to exist? Why are health insurers permitted to gouge us? Why weren't corporations required to adequately fund retirement programs?

We've seen it time and again. Corporations expend billions of dollars to buy favorable legislation. Workers' organizations cannot match such corporate largesse. Workers lose while the wealthy grow wealthier.

Congress, after all, has oversight responsibilities. Why didn't lawmakers do their jobs? Is it because of the way campaigns are financed? Is it because they spend two-thirds of the year collecting corporate donations for their next elections, and the remaining one-third passing laws that benefit those donors? And why are we allowing them to blame us and our fellow workers for their political machinations?

Some Democratic lawmakers want it both ways. Out on the campaign trail candidates rail against the concentration of wealth that favors a very few, but once elected, they seem to forget those words.

Republicans, on the other hand, are more direct. They utilize divisive talking points to keep working families divided.

Would you rather be slimed by someone wearing a smile or a sneer? Working class people are under attack, and both parties are aiding and abetting the onslaught.

Speak out against injustice! Call or write members of Congress. Call or write state legislators. Demand that they cease their attacks on America's working class.

Our Sixth Guiding Principle states: "The days are long gone when a union can consider dealing with single employers. The powerful financial interests of the country are bound together in every conceivable

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



Building unity to win a fair contract at super-profitable Rio Tinto: Members of ILWU Local 20 who work at Rio Tinto's waterfront facility in Wilmington, CA are gearing-up to win a contract that expires on June 17. A total of 58 members run the dockside operation that stores, processes and loads borates for shipment around the world that are used in a host of products including big-screen TV's. The versatile mineral originates 100 miles away in Boron, CA where it is mined and processed by members of Local 30. Rio Tinto tried to justify their lockout last year against 460 families in Boron by claiming – falsely – that the company was economically squeezed, while simultaneously reporting \$7 billion in profit. Now Rio Tinto is reporting even larger numbers – a staggering \$14.3 billion in profit – amounting to a 200% increase over last year's take. Local 20 President Gary Harvey and Vice President Jim Wight recently attended a meeting with other harbor-area ILWU locals to help Rite Aid workers in Lancaster win a first contract. "We know that solidarity and action is the only strategy for winning a good contract," says Harvey, "and we plan to make use of both."

Penne Lavery elected president of The Southern California Pensioners



The Southern California Pensioners are proud to announce that Penne Lavery was elected as their new president. The Southern California Pensioners have been extremely active in supporting several ongoing struggles including those of the Tesoro and Rite Aid workers.

CORRECTIONS AND OMISSIONS

On page 4 of the February issue, Mike Diller was incorrectly identified as the President of Local 20 in Wilmington, CA. Gary Harvey is the President of Local 20; Mike Diller serves as Secretary-Treasurer. We regret the error.

LETTERS TO THE DISPATCHER

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type of united organization to promote their own welfare and to resist the demands of labor. Labor can no more win with the ancient weapons of taking on a single employer in industry any more than it can hope to win through the worn-out dream of withholding its skill until an employer sues for peace. The employers of this country are part of a well-organized, carefully coordinated, effective fighting machine. *They can be met only on equal terms, which requires industry-wide bargaining and the most extensive economic strength of organized labor.*"

Rich Austin – Retired
ILWU Local 32

Dear Editor,

What a delight to find your piece about the Islais Creek Copra Crane restoration project on the front page of the February 2011 issue with photos of Bill, Don and Harvey. Only labor historian Archie Green is missing, a Copra Crane advocate up until his recent death. Archie taught me that no group of individuals is more resolute than the veterans of labor struggles when they believe in a cause.

It's been nearly 20 years since Dr. Green took me to talk to the monthly meeting of ILWU pensioners about my plan for saving Islais Creek Channel. At the meeting, I was hesitant and the old guys were mystified at first, but also welcoming, gracious, and courteous. That was the beginning of great friendships, my own education into labor history, and a partnership with the Friends of Islais Creek in a long effort which they steadfastly continue.

I returned to my roots in Southern California five years ago after losing my seafaring husband, Jack, to cancer. It was Jack, a third-generation San Francisco native who got us started. In 1984 he was looking down from our hilltop house in the Bayview neighborhood when he pontificated – like ship captains do – that someone should save that old waterfront. Architect Robin Chiang helped me start, Archie Green found us, and the next thing we knew by accident we had created a world-class skate board destination.

I hope that Ward, Watson and Schwartz will persevere. The old crane needs a huge amount of restoration work to survive as a symbol of those whose labor built the historic Port of San Francisco. Economic support for this project has been one step forward and two back, due to the recent recession. When I was actively taking our story to civic groups, I would show slides of the Copra Crane and compare it with the big red modern sculpture by artist Mark di Suvero that was installed some years ago on the waterfront near the ballpark. They are roughly the same size and shape. One cost \$500,000 and just sits there for no particular reason. The Copra Crane is free, could go back to work tomorrow, and is the last piece of machinery that was hand operated by San Francisco Longshoremen. Which one is real public art worthy of preservation? All the best to you and the guys, with affection,

Julia Viera
Coronado, CA

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