Hundreds rally to support Rite Aid workers and union rights

ILWU members joined with hundreds of union and community activists who delivered a special Valentine’s Day message to Rite Aid executives and other union-busters on Friday, February 13th at 14 Rite Aid retail stores in four states – including the company’s corporate headquarters in Camp Hill, Pennsylvania.

Signs and banners at each store urged Congress to pass the Employee Free Choice Act (a proposed law that would make it easier for workers to join unions) – and urged Rite Aid executives to “stop union busting, and start negotiating,” a reference to the continuing attack on 500 workers at the company’s giant southwest distribution center in Lancaster, CA. Workers voted to join the ILWU last March and have endured years of anti-union threats and harassment by Rite Aid management.

An important show of solidarity came from the United Food and Commercial Workers union (UFCW), which represents thousands of employees at Rite Aid retail stores around the country.

“The UFCW represents more than 11,000 retail drug store workers in Southern California, including many employees who work at Rite Aid stores,” said Ricardo Icaza, President of Local 770 in a letter sent last month to Rite Aid workers at the Lancaster distribution center. “We support your decision to join the union, we are backing your efforts to secure a first contract, and we condemn the company’s union-busting tactics.” UFCW Local 770 Secretary Treasurer Rod Diamond also signed the solidarity letter, noting that “Rite Aid recently hired Oliver Bell and his team of professional union-busters, confirming that Rite Aid is continuing their anti-union agenda against you and your union. Thousands of your co-workers at Rite Aid are learning about your efforts and support your fight for justice.”

Besides attacking workers at their Lancaster distribution center, Rite Aid officials have opened dozens of non-union stores around the country – including many in the Pacific Northwest – in an effort to weaken the clout of union workers.

Each of the February 13th events took place in front of a Rite Aid store, but no customers were turned away. Instead, Rite Aid shoppers were encouraged to shop after receiving an educational flyer that explained how union and community groups are committed to securing good jobs and protecting workers from companies that bust unions and refuse to respect worker rights.

continued on page 3

Photo: Hidden Hearts (Rite Aid/ILWU)
LETTERS TO THE DISPATCHER

Dear Editor,

I am writing in response to the January 2009 President’s Message. It is important that the President took a stand on the issue of doubling. He points out that the unity of the brothers and sisters before us is the reason the ILWU remains fundamentally strong. However, up to now, the subject of doubling has been left entirely to the Locals. It is clear that the practice of doubling is in direct conflict with the concept of “one person, one job.” I give my full support to “Big Bob” for opposing doubling and encourage my fellow union members to do the right thing, especially during these hard times. It is in our unselfish actions that “an injury to one is an injury to all” becomes more than a slogan.

In Solidarity,
Kevin Gibbons, Local 34, formerly Local 10
San Francisco, CA

Dear Editor,

The February Dispatcher did a good job explaining how we helped crewmembers on the Japan Tuna last year when their ship docked in Hawaii (“ILWU solidarity scores victory for mariners in Hawaii”). I’d just like to add a few points. The training that was provided to ILU members and Local 142 longshore workers Brad Scott, Dennis Morton, and Sean Dacuycuy by ITF West Coast Coordinator Jeff Engels was invaluable, and I would encourage all ILWU longshore and IUB locals to take advantage of the same training. We were able to help the Filipino and Chinese crewmembers because of the ILWU’s power and unity on the waterfront. Using our power to help other workers organize is one of the most important things that we can do to help non-union workers on the islands, on the mainland, and around the world.

Wesley Furtado, Local 142, ILWU International Vice President for Hawaii
Honolulu, HI

Dear Editor,

Brother Harvey Schwartz, the coordinator of the ILWU Oral history Project, always does really great work, but his article in the January 2009 Dispatcher on the lengthy and extraordinary union life of Ray Panter (“Desert Activist and Local 30 President”) was absolutely outstanding. My deepest thanks to Ray, Harvey, and the Dispatcher. Best and fraternal regards to all.

Herb Mills, Former Business Agent and Secretary-Treasurer, Local 10
Berkeley, CA

Dear Editor,

My name is Antoine Robinson. My dad has been a union member for 40 years and worked so hard. It has been a pleasure for me to write this letter. You guys have made a difference in the world. You guys are like a second family to me. I would like to follow in my dad’s footsteps and become a hard-working union man like him.

P.S. – Could you please print my letter in the Dispatcher so my dad can read it. Thank you.

Antoine Robinson (11 years old)
Oakland, CA

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

ILWU Canada contract settlement

Members of ILWU Canada Local 514 reached a tentative agreement with employers in late February on a new contract that would cover 450 foremen, ship planners, and dispatchers through March 31, 2010. Ratification ballots were due to be counted in early March as the Dispatcher was going to press. Local 514 President Frank Scigliano thanked “all our brothers and sisters, officers, and special committees up and down the West Coast for their support during negotiations.” He added, “I would personally like to thank Brother Bob McElrath for the phone calls of support. When you are into it, knee deep, it puts things back into perspective when you receive calls of support, and enables you to charge forward and resume the fight.” (L-R: Executive member Jack Hembroff, Vice President Ron Roberts, Secretary-Treasurer Frank Morena)

MINING & MARITIME STRATEGY MEETING

Seventeen delegates representing unions from the US, South Africa, Australia, and New Zealand, met February 24-25 at the ILWU International offices in San Francisco. Delegates made plans for a 2011 conference in Durban, South Africa, and exchanged information about organizing campaigns, job actions, and employer tactics in the mining and maritime industries. Common problems with shared employers have helped to forge deeper ties between the participating labor organizations in recent years. International Secretary-Treasurer Willie Adams and ILWU’s Coordinator of International Relations, Ray Familathe, represented the ILWU at the two day meeting.

DISPATCHER

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The Valentine’s Day action was kicked-off 10 days earlier by 500 community and labor activists who marched 10 miles through the streets of Los Angeles, calling on Rite Aid to respect workers’ rights and for Congress to pass the Employee Free Choice Act. The February 5th event, which included community and religious groups, was organized by the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor which represents 350 unions and 800,000 workers.

“More than 20 of us from the ILWU joined Rite Aid workers from Lancaster to march the entire 10 miles – and the last 6 miles were in the middle of the worst rainstorm in years,” said Local 13 member Mark Jurisic who marched the entire distance with his co-workers. “We were soaked to the bone, but it was an honor to support the Rite Aid workers.” Jurisic credits Local 13 member James Monti for organizing the ILWU’s delegation of marchers who didn’t fold during the downpour. During the march, hundreds convened in front of a Rite Aid store where union leaders and workers pledged to support the employees in Lancaster. United Food and Commercial Workers Union Local 770 Secretary-Treasurer Rod Diamond pledged his local’s solidarity. Rite Aid employee Sylvia Estrada, who works at the Lancaster warehouse, thanked the UFCW and others for their support after she finished a series of interviews with television and radio reporters.

Ten days later, the rain and even snow in some locations, didn’t dampen the spirits for hundreds who attended 14 rallies at Rite Aid stores, including seven in California: San Diego, Palmdale, San Pedro, Stockton, San Mateo, Oakland, and West Sacramento. In Oregon, the rally was held in Beaverton near Portland. Washington State rallies included Seattle, Tacoma, Olympia, Kelso, and Longview. The rally in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania was supported by a broad cross-section of union and senior groups, including the United Food and Commercial Workers Union Local 1776 and the Pennsylvania AFL-CIO.

The special guest in Pennsylvania was Rite Aid worker Sylvia Estrada, who travelled across the country from California to attend the rally in Harrisburg. Besides speaking at the rally, Estrada was constantly being interviewed by TV, radio, and newspaper reporters.

“Rite Aid should be respecting us and working with us to solve problems together instead of trying to bust our union,” said Estrada.

Following the rally in Harrisburg, PA, the television cameras followed Estrada and a group of supporters who travelled to Rite Aid’s corporate headquarters in nearby Camp Hill, PA, where they presented a special valentine to CEO Mary Sammons, that said: “We hope you’ll find it in your heart to stop union-busting, start negotiating, and respect the rights of workers to join a union. It’s time to stop attacking employees and start solving problems together with our union.”

Soaked but stoked: Heavy rain soaked ILWU members in LA, part of 500 who marched 10 miles to support Rite Aid workers on Feb. 5th (above). The next week, hundreds of supporters delivered “valentines” urging the company to respect Rite Aid workers (other photos).
Local 29 members in San Diego won an important fight last November to protect good waterfront jobs by educating voters who decisively rejected Measure B, a scheme by developers to build a “Disneyland on the docks.” Despite the victory, the ILWU and other coalition partners are concerned that developers could make another run at their Port’s valuable waterfront land, so Local 29 President Brian Whaites says the ILWU and other coalition partners are working with local elected officials to pass legislation that would permanently protect San Diego’s waterfront – and good-paying union jobs – from greedy developers. Represen- tatives of President Brian Whaites and Local 29 attended Local 29’s February membership meeting to share information about the Employee Free Choice Act. Members heard that U.S. Senator Diane Feinstein is “on the fence” and can’t decide whether to stand with workers and unions – or go along with business lobbyists who want her to kill or weaken the bill. Members were encouraged to send Senator Feinstein a letter urging her to support the Employee Free Choice Act.

Local 13 members at the ports of LA and Long Beach generated one of the largest groups of marchers who pounded the pavement on February 5th in the pouring rain to support waterfront workers for the Employee Free Choice Act. At activist James ‘Jimmy’ Moni first talked to AFL-CIO organizers about the event, there was no hard turnout number from the ILWU. Moni committed to turning out twenty members for the march, and says those numbers held firm despite predictions for heavy rain in the days preceding the event. Local 13 members came to the Rite Aid support rally in San Pedro on February 13th, joining a crowd of other union and community supporters to protest union-busting and support the Employee Free Choice Act. Activist Luke Hollingsworth has spearheaded Local 13’s effort to gather handwritten letters to U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein, encouraging her to support the Employee Free Choice Act. He’s already collected more than one hundred letters. Hollingsworth has plans to gather many more in the coming weeks. Membership turnout at Local 13’s stop-work and Executive Board meetings has increased significantly in recent months, said Local 13 President Mark Jurisick. “Members are coming to get more information about the pros and cons of different ports. The ILWU and other coalition partners are working with local elected officials to pass legislation that would protect San Diego’s waterfront and good-paying union jobs.”

Local 5 members in Portland, OR, have been strongly backing the Employee Free Choice Act actions on February 13 and hosted one of their own in Olympia, Washington. Eleven members and leaders of Local 5 gathered on the Oregon coast in February to plan the future of Local 5, map out goals, and look for ways to increase member- ship and levels of participation beyond their traditional base in Powell’s Book. Longshore Local 8 in Portland is active in the planning process that will determine whether West Hayden Island will be used for future industrial purposes that could benefit area maritime and warehouse work- ers. The Port of Portland wants the city to annex 826 acres of open space on the islands undeveloped side, just seven miles from downtown Portland in the Columbia River, and reserve some of it for industrial marine use. The Board says it prefers a balance that makes “good use of both en- vironmental and economic possibilities.” Several members rallied at Rite Aid locations on February 13th in Oregon and Southwest Washington to protest union-busting and push Congress to pass the Employee Free Choice Act. Local 8 honored the Celtic punk band “Dropkick Murphys” for writing “Boys on the Docks” and “Workers Song.”

Local 21 in Longview, WA showed up in force at the Rite Aid support rally calling their hometown and at nearby Kelso. More than 50 people attended the event, including dozens of active longshoremen, retirees, auxiliary members, plus supporters from the Longview Teachers Association. President Dan Collman told the Longview Daily News that Congress should pass the Employee Free Choice Act because “it gives workers the right to decide for themselves if they want a union or not.” Longshore Local 23 in Tacoma made it through 2008 with lower tonnage de- clines than other West Coast ports, but cargo volumes sank nearly 16 percent in January, the lowest total since 2002. Workers from the Port of Tacoma, including ILWU locals 42 and 44, announced it will make a monthly call at Tacoma as part of its Asia-North America- Europe trade route … The Container Freight Station (CFS) is looking to expand on the Port-run Terminal 7 where there’s a 2,700-foot berth, 100,000-square-foot facility and dead rail. Longshore work- ers experienced in unloading freight are part of the reason customers use the CFS. Insititutonal Secretary-Treasurer Willie Adams, who organized the Call to Con- science: Labor and Black History Celebra- tion, was a guest speaker at the February 26th Black History Program held in the Port’s administrative building. The event also featured dance performances, a spoken word presentation and soul food lunch.

Local 28 in Portland is negotiating first contracts for guards at the ports of Ta- coma and Longview. Several longshoremen and officers supported Rite Aid actions in Oregon and Washington on February 13th. Local 32 in Everett had a brush with “the world’s worst snow” on February 8th when a ship that had called in Egypt, Greece and Pakistan came in with a letter plate – but was infested with a destructive beetle that rapidly causes, quickly early as this year. Timber companies and other regional employers would be able to ship products by rail for far less than it costs to truck them.
How are women doing in today's ILWU?

“I'm the chief steward at a warehouse where I'm the only woman working with eight men. They come to me for advice and suggestions, and I usually have the contract with me so I know what the rules are. When something comes up, there were layoffs, which are supposed to happen according to seniority, but the company doesn't want to follow that rule. When something like that happens, all of us have to speak up, so I remind everyone that I can't be the only one to talk because the companies don't always deal with these problems in the right way, so we have to help them learn how to handle it better. I was recently elected by my co-workers – both men and women – to be their union steward. I want to be a voice for equal pay and equal work, and provide more opportunities for women.”

Stacy Silva, Local 17
Sacramento, CA

“Being a woman in ILWU Local 63 OC has been great. I’ve been a part of the union for 21 years now and have witnessed the union’s success in integrating women into the industry. Our local encourages women to be active and involved in our union, so we’ve had women serving on the executive board, as shop stewards, and as local president. I’m proud to be a member.”

Maria Porras, Local 63 OC
Rancho Palos Verdes, CA

Unions have been around for a long time and they provide a way for workers to join together and make things better. I see my job as helping others learn about their rights on the job. I feel honored to do this work, and look forward to participating in the bargaining process.”

MEMBERS SPEAK OUT

“Told reporters, ‘It’s unbelievable that work has dropped off so much. It sure is nice to have these kinds of vehicles come around and give us work for hundreds of people around the area.’ Though Burton was jovial throughout the interview, news anchors finished the spot with the comment, ‘He’s in charge – don’t forget it.’ The Morning Lisa is about nine stories tall, longer than two football fields, and can carry more than 8,000 cars. From Portland, the ship headed to Tacoma to drop off autos made by Kia.

Local 50 longshore retiree Bill Huningsger serves on Port of Astoria Commission and cast the only vote against paying $574,000 in state and federal fines generated by former port director Peter Gearin, who violated the Clean Water Act back in 2005. Gearin allowed potentially comminuted material to spill into the Columbia River. The port fines were part of an agreement that included Gearin’s guilty plea. In January 2008, Hunsinger and another port commissioner learned the port had already spent more than $164,000 in legal fees defending Gearin, plus several hundred thousand dollars in other fees and fines related to his actions. Hunsinger told the Associated Press last month that the problems amounted to an absolute tragedy. Gearin was terminated in 2007 and will be sentenced on May 8. He faces up to three years in prison and fines ranging up to $50,000 per day.

Alaska Longshore Division workers reached a tentative agreement in February for their “All Alaska Longshore Agreement.” Talks started in July with mechanics, warehouse, and watchmen, followed by longshore negotiations a few weeks later. “We were able to incorporate the mechanics, warehouse workers, and watchmen into the master longshore agreement,” said Alaska Longshore Division President Chuck Wendt about the tentative agreement that would cover 170 workers for four-years, expiring on June 30, 2012. The proposal was out for ratification in early March, with the votes counted to be 30 days later. “The negotiating committee did an excellent job and worked together very well,” said Wendt. The committee included elected officers and regional committee members from around the state, plus reps for mechanics, watchmen, and warehouse workers.

Local 92 walking boss Jim Burton thanked fellow union members working around the area. Though Burton was jovial and having a good time, he always has the safety of his crew in mind. “The negotiating committee did an excellent job and worked together very well,” he said. Burton was quick to credit fellow workers unloading 1,200 Hyundais from a ship. Burton was quick to credit fellow workers unloading 1,200 Hyundais from a ship. Burton was quick to credit fellow workers unloading 1,200 Hyundais from a ship. Burton was quick to credit fellow workers unloading 1,200 Hyundais from a ship. Burton was quick to credit fellow workers unloading 1,200 Hyundais from a ship. Burton was quick to credit fellow workers unloading 1,200 Hyundais from a ship.

Local 19 has always been good about having more women in the union, and the locals have a really good track record. They have had women as stewards, and even as port directors. They have also done a good job of integrating women into the bargaining process.”

Adriana Delgado, Local 6
San Francisco, CA

“I joined the ILWU nine years ago when my father died. Back then, I was often the only woman in a gang, now it’s common to have a couple of us working together. More women are jumping into ‘strads’ but we still don’t have a woman up in a crane yet. I’m the next in line for crane training, but I don’t think there will be a woman up in a crane yet. I am the next in line for crane training, but I don’t think there will be a woman up in a crane yet.”

Local 19 has always been good about having more women in the union, and even though it’s a recent change as more women go from B to A status, we’re seeing more women elected to the E-Board. I don’t know if it’s because there aren’t enough women with seniority or because it’s hard to break through, but there are no women yet on dispatch or the Labor Relations Committee. I’ve run for office and have always been the runner-up, and I once went to the Caucus as an alternate. Overall, I really love this union because we always take care of families. The guys at Local 19 helped me when I came in, and I don’t know if I could have survived without them.”

Dana Jo Montez, Local 19
Seattle, WA

MEMBERS SPEAK OUT

“I’m new to the union, but I decided to get more involved because of my own experience with discrimination and sexual harassment. Companies don’t always deal with these problems the right way, so we have to help them learn how to handle it better. I was recently elected by my co-workers – both men and women – to be their union steward. I want to be a voice for equal pay and equal work, and provide more opportunities for women.”

Stacy Silva, Local 17
Sacramento, CA

“Being a woman in ILWU Local 63 OC has been great. I’ve been a part of the union for 21 years now and have witnessed the union’s success in integrating women into the industry. Our local encourages women to be active and involved in our union, so we’ve had women serving on the executive board, as shop stewards, and as local president. I’m proud to be a member.”

Maria Porras, Local 63 OC
Rancho Palos Verdes, CA

Memories of the past:

Rancho Palos Verdes, CA
Maria Porras, Local 63 OC

“I joined the ILWU nine years ago when my father died. Back then, I was often the only woman in a gang, now it’s common to have a couple of us working together. More women are jumping into ‘strads,’ but we still don’t have a woman up in a crane yet. I’m the next in line for crane training, and my co-workers tell me, ‘you can do it!’

“I was recently elected by my co-workers – both men and women – to be their union steward. I want to be a voice for equal pay and equal work, and provide more opportunities for women.”

Dana Jo Montez, Local 19
Seattle, WA

“I’m the chief steward at a warehouse where I’m the only woman working with eight men. They come to me for advice and suggestions, and I usually have the contract with me so I know what the rules are. When something comes up, recently, there were layoffs, which are supposed to happen according to seniority, but the company doesn’t want to follow that rule. When something like that happens, all of us have to speak up, so I remind everyone that I can’t be the only one to talk because the union doesn’t work on just one month. I try to help them see that it takes all of us and the union to get things done.

I think it’s really important to pass the Employee Free Choice Act, because so many workers are afraid to speak up today. My company would like to get rid of our union if they could, but we won’t let that happen because I can’t stand to see people mistreated.”

Adriana Delgado, Local 6
San Francisco, CA

“I joined the ILWU nine years ago when my father died. Back then, I was often the only woman in a gang, now it’s common to have a couple of us working together. More women are jumping into ‘strads,’ but we still don’t have a woman up in a crane yet. I’m the next in line for crane training, and my co-workers tell me, ‘you can do it!’

“I was recently elected by my co-workers – both men and women – to be their union steward. I want to be a voice for equal pay and equal work, and provide more opportunities for women.”

Dana Jo Montez, Local 19
Seattle, WA
Longshore workers learn new skills at GAP training

As a member of the ILWU Coast Education Committee, I attended the Grievance & Arbitration Procedures Workshop (GAP) on February 8-12 in San Diego, California. There were approximately 55 attendees from locals up and down the coast, including Alaska and Hawai’i, with more than 40 participants who had less than two years’ experience representing ILWU members in the grievance process.

This was an ideal group of new union members who were hungry for knowledge about how to spend their time and resources. In his opening remarks, ILWU International President Bob McEllrath emphasized that attending this workshop – and implementing it – would make us better union members who were hungry for knowledge about the grievance process.

Rich Austin Jr of Local 19 tied Remar’s legal foundation to Section 37 of the longshore contract, showing how we all benefit greatly from the protections outlined in Section 17.11 which establishes the joint Labor Relations Committees at the port, area and coast levels.

The Clerks Technology Roundtable, led by Joe Gasperov of Local 63 and Local 52’s Glen Anderson, described how very difficult it was to determine when the company was violating the contract when the violations don’t happen where you work in front of your eyes, but on a computer in another facility or even on the far side of the earth. Despite these problems, it was clear that the clerks knew how to fight smart and were up to the challenge.

The question, “What tools are there to help me defend my union sisters and brothers?” was thoroughly answered in presentations that explained how to research a case, beginning with the basics of “Preliminary Investigation” that was presented by Gene Vrana, ILWU Education Director. We learned how to navigate the exhaustive “Coast Database” from ILWU Research Director Russ Bargmann, and received an orientation about how to use the multi-volume “Ferguson Index” from Leal Sundet, ILWU Coast Committeeman. Local 23 member Rick Castaneda offered us clear and concise advice about how to prepare for the Labor Relations Committee, urging us to “be prepared, because the livelihood of your union sister or brother depends on it.”

The history of the ILWU’s approach to work stoppages was discussed by former International President and recent Local 13 retiree Dave Aran, current practice of work stoppages was reviewed by Committeeeman Leal Sundet.

Health and safety grievance procedures were cleverly illustrated in a surprise theatrical skit that showed how a true-to-life safety dispute was fought and won by Coast Safety Chair Tim Podue of Local 13, Local 54 President Mark Cuevas, Local 91 President Fred Gilliam, and Mike Villeggiante of Local 10.

Coast Arbitrator John Kagel discussed the “Role of the Arbitrator” and explained how to prepare a case for arbitration. His talk was followed by a dynamic question and answer period. Those who had a bone to pick or an issue to clarify were grateful for the opportunity.

Putting into practice on Wednesday, what had been learned in the previous days’ presentations, GAP participants were divided by a coin-toss into union and employer groups to prepare and present an LRC case. They were given a grievance scenario presented by the Education Committee members who acted out the parts of foreman, company superintendent, crane operator who was fired, a hold-man, and a supercargo – all of whom testified about what happened when a $7 million dollar yacht was damaged while being loaded.

For the next 20 hours, everyone used the contract, Ferguson Index, safety book, four computers per team with access to the Coast Data Base, and an experienced facilitator who assisted with the preparation and presentation of the case. Groups developed and defended their positions using facts presented in the scenario, testimony obtained from the “witnesses,” and resources learned earlier in the training.

The next morning was the moment of truth when the mock Labor Relations Committee convened. Was the crane operator given a seven-day job? Was the superintendent given a desk job and then terminated? Who won, who lost, and who compromised? I won’t tell – to find out, you’ll have to come to the next presentation by your ILWU Education Committee. What I can tell you is that this workshop made the participants walk taller, made the union stronger – and made a pensioner like me feel that my ILWU was in good hands.

- Lewis Wright, Local 63 retired

Planning for GAP was carried out by the Coast Education Committee and ILWU staff under the supervision of the Coast Committee, who also served as instructors and facilitators throughout the week at the Hyatt Mission Bay in San Diego, California. (L-R: standing: Rich Austin, Jr., Local 19; Fred Gilliam, Local 91; Lewis Wright, Pacific Coast Pensioners Asn., Local 13 retired; Richard Castaneda, Local 23; Brad Clark, Local 4; Marc Cuevas, Local 54; Mike Villeggiante, Local 10; Bruce Holte, Local 8; Bob McEllrath, Int’l. President; David Aran, Local 13 retired; seated: William Adams, Intl. Secretary-Treasurer; Gene Vrana, ILWU Education Director; Patricia Aguirre, Local 63 and chair of the Education Committee; Leal Sundet, Coast Committeeman. Not shown: Russ Bargmann, Research Director; Diana Gomez, Coast Committee Administrator; Frank Wilde, ILWU clerical staff).

Understanding special procedures for handling safety issues on the job was dramatically illustrated by role players from the Education Committee and the Coast Safety Committee. (L-R Marc Cuevas, Local 54; Fred Gilliam, Local 91; Tim Podue Local 13; Mike Villeggiante, Local 10).

Clerks and longshore members team up to learn how to navigate the arbitrations and meeting minutes stored in the Longshore Division’s Coast Labor Relations Database. (L-R Brett Frost, Local 29; Marty Ding, Local 13; Michael Carey, Local 23; John Zumaya, Local 29; Casey Broker, Local 4).

Education Committee member Marc Cuevas (standing) helps a group grapple with a research exercise.

- (L-R: Brett Frost, Local 29; John Miken, Local 8; Anthony Flores, Local 54; Karen Leyba, Local 29; Clint Korman, Alaska Longshore Division).
Historians meeting in Seattle will consider ILWU history

When the organization representing 10,000 U.S. historians meets in Seattle on March 26-28, they’ll have a chance to learn more about the waterfront, the ILWU, and the labor movement.

The ILWUs “Legacy of 1934” exhibit will be displayed in the registration area where thousands are expected to gather for the Organization of American Historians (OAH) conference at the Seattle Convention Center.

While the OAH convention is normally for members only, ILWU members and the public are welcome to attend a special performance of Ian Ruskin’s one-man play about Harry Bridges and the ILWU: “From Wharf Rats to Lord of the Docks” on Friday, March 27th at 3:35 pm in the Seattle Convention Center, Room 2AB, with a free reception around 5:30 pm that follows the play. The public is also welcome to attend a lunch-time talk on Saturday, March 28th about civil rights struggles in Seattle by historian Jim Gregory, holder of the Harry Bridges Chair in Labor Studies at the University of Washington. The play, reception, and lecture are all co-sponsored by the Labor and Working Class History Association, the Harry Bridges Center for Labor History at the University of Washington, and the Pacific Northwest Labor History Association.

MAY IS MEDICAL, DENTAL CHOICE MONTH

Active and retired longshore families in the ports where members choose medical or dental plans during the Open Enrollment period May 1 to May 31, 2009. The change will be effective July 1, 2009. In addition to the May Open Enrollment period, members can change their health/dental coverage once at any time during the Plan Year (July 1–June 30).

The July 1, 2008 Memorandum of Understanding between the ILWU and PMA provides that new registrants in the ports where members have a choice of medical plans shall be assigned Kaiser HMO Plan or Group Health Cooperative HMO Plan for the first 24 months of registration. After 24 months, those registrants who have qualified for continued eligibility under the Mid-Year/Annual Review hours requirement will have a choice of medical plans. New registrants in San Francisco, Sacramento, Stockton, Los Angeles, Portland/Vancouver and Washington will have a choice of dental plans on the first of the month following registration, and may change dental plans during the Open Enrollment period and one additional time during the Plan Year.

MEDICAL CHOICE: The medical plan choices are Kaiser Foundation Health Plan or the ILWU-PMA Coastwide Indemnity Plan for Southern California Locals 13, 26, 29, 63 and 94; Northern California Locals 10, 18, 34 (San Francisco), 34 (Stockton), 54, 75 and 91; and Oregon-Columbia River Locals 4, 8, 40, and 92. In the Washington State area, the medical plan choices for Locals 19, 23, 32, 47, 52 and 98 are Group Health Cooperative or the ILWU-PMA Coastwide Indemnity Plan.

DENTAL PLANS: For Los Angeles Locals the dental plan choices are Delta Dental or Harbor Dental Associates. For San Francisco Locals the dental plan choices are Delta Dental, Dental Health Services, or Gentle Dental San Francisco. For Sacramento and Stockton Locals the dental plan choices are Delta Dental or Dental Health Services. For Portland/Vancouver Locals the dental plan choices are Blue Cross of Oregon Dentacare, Oregon Kaiser Dental Plan or Oregon/Washington Dental Service. For Washington Locals the dental plan choices are Washington Dental Service or Dental Health Services.

Information on the medical and dental plans, and forms to change plans, can be obtained at the Locals and the ILWU-PMA Benefit Plans office.

All enrollment cards must be completed and submitted to the Benefit Plans office by May 31st for the enrollment change to be effective July 1st.

TRANSITIONS

Recent Retirees:
Local 10: Albert D. Chavez; Local 13: Gilbert Cisneros; John A. Valdez; Albert V. Gallardo; George R. Bradshaw; Donald P. Carter; Local 19: Robert M. Taylor; Local 23: Ricky D. Welfringer; Local 32: Mark J. Sullivan; Local 34: James J. Menamin; Local 54: Ronald J. Purcell; Local 63: Fred L. Marcus; Raymond L. Maese; Wilbert L. Seals; Dennis M. Harrigan; Theresa P. Garrity; Local 91: Ignacio Curiel; Dominic F. Villeggiante; Local 94: Conrad J. Guzman; Daniel V. Castaldi; Elbert A. Kelley; Hector M. Chavez; John J. Radine

Deceased:
Local 4: Larry K. Warner; Local 8: Danny E. Loke, Sr.; Local 9: Frank A. Crespin; Andrew P. Yasko; James Ogle; John J. Maniscalco; John H. Ferreira; Local 12: John C. Liggett; Local 13: Sam Bevinetto; Ben J. Ornelas; Edward Sandoval; Arthur Gonzalez; Robert Saldana; Local 19: Lee E. Anderson; Byron W. Morrison; Linville Hudson; Elmer M. Budrick; Local 26: Ernest Batterto

Deceased Survivors:
Local 8: June M. Viland; Local 10: Corene Holbrook; Beulah M. Ames; Juanita Wilson; Local 13: Marcella A. Shellen; Shirley Tulip; Aurora B. Jimenez; Local 13: Deeds Dickenson; Frans Sunjka; Ola Springfiead; Local 19: Besse Lewis; Lorraine L. Anderson; Leslie Gray; Local 52: Clara Goldstone; Local 91: Bertha L. Sandor; Local 94: Josephine G. Salas

New Survivors:
Local 10: Besse Ogle (James); Reavern Young (William); Local 12: Barbara Liggett (John); Local 13: Maria E. Alvarado (Rudy); Odella Sandoval (Edward); Sylvia Guerrero (John); Virginia Saldana (Robert); Lupe M. Soto (William Soto, Jr.); Local 19: Carrie M. Boyland (Weldon); Beulah Budrick (Elmer); Vincen Hibberts; Linda J. Kesler (Randall); Local 21: Ruth Mode (Richard); Local 52: Adele A. Calkins (John); Local 54: Hilda Garcia (Frank); Local 63: Joan Binavietto (Frank); Local 92: Eleanor L. Ruddiman (Edward); Local 94: Carrie M. Williams (James).
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Harry Bridges: The Rise and Fall of Radical Labor in the United States. By Charles Larrowe. A limited number of copies of this out-of-print and useful biography are now available through the book sale by special arrangement with Bolerium Books in San Francisco, which specializes in rare publications and documents about radical and labor history. $10.00.

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