Standing up for Social Security: Protecting Social Security and Medicare was a major theme at the 45th PCPA convention. ILWU pensioners have been active in the fight to protect these important retirement programs so workers will be able to retire with dignity.

Fight to protect Social Security, Medicare at the forefront of pensioners’ 45th PCPA Convention

The ILWU’s Pacific Coast Pensioners have been organizing to fight the attempts to cut Social Security and Medicare benefits for many years. They have been sounding the alarm, organizing demonstrations, and lobbying politicians in Washington to preserve the right of working men and women to retire with dignity after a lifetime of labor.

Protecting these important retirement benefits for all workers was a major theme at the 45th Pacific Coast Pensioners Association (PCPA) Convention that was held in San Pedro, CA on September 10-12. The threats to Social Security and Medicare are real, regardless of the outcome of the November elections. These programs will be particularly vulnerable during the “lame duck” session of Congress—the period between the November election and the time the successors take office in the New Year. This is because of the compromise deficit reduction agreement reached in 2011 that will take effect next year. In addition to eliminating the Bush-era tax cuts on the wealthy, the budget agreement would also trigger deep, automatic spending cuts in 2013 to over 1,000 essential Federal programs unless a new compromise can be reached.

Both parties targeting retirement benefits

This year’s featured speaker was Dean Baker, an economist, author and co-founder of the progressive Center for Economic and Policy Research. Baker talked about the very real threats posed to Social Security and Medicare regardless of who is elected in November.

The Republicans want to replace Medicare with a voucher program.

They’ll give you a check every year to buy whatever health care you want. That will not be enough to buy what we know today as Medicare,” Baker said, and seniors would have to make up the difference out of their pockets or see a reduction in benefits. He cited the past failures to introduce “free market” mechanisms into the Medicare program, most recently in the “Medicare+Choice” program in the 1990s, saying it failed because it was too expensive. “The administrative costs [in the private insurance market] are 15-20% of what is paid out in benefits each year. For Medicare it is 1.5 to 2%. How many times are we going to keep doing the experiment? It doesn’t work.”

Even if President Obama wins re-election, Medicare and Social Security are at risk, Baker said. He cited Obama’s willingness to put Social Security and Medicare cuts on the table.

continued on page 2
ILWU Int’t President serves one day in jail for EGT-related protest

ILWU International President Robert McEllrath was convicted Friday, October 28, of a misdemeanor offense in Longview, WA for “obstructing a train.” He was sentenced to one day in jail and a $500 fine.

“Fighting for good jobs in America shouldn’t be a crime,” said McEllrath immediately following his arrest. Before sentencing, McEllrath told the court he had “no regrets about leading men and women against corporate greed and helping them fight to protect middle class jobs in America.”

The three-day jury trial in Cowlitz County Court centered on a peaceful protest that took place in Longview Washington on September 7, 2011, when union members and support- ers gathered to protest a train carrying grain destined for the EGT grain terminal at the Port of Longview because EGT was refusing to honor ILWU jurisdiction. Several months after the protest, the company agreed to settle the dispute and signed a con- tract with the ILWU in early February.

Fight to protect Social Security, Medicare at the forefront of pensioners’ 45th PCPA Convention

Continued from page 1

the table in 2011 in the attempt to reach a “grand bargain” with Republic- cans to reduce the deficit. Baker said the most likely way that politi- cians in Washington will cut Social Security benefits will be by chang- ing the cost of living adjustment for- mula.

“The formula they want to use,” Baker said, “would cut benefits by .3% for seniors per year. That doesn’t sound like a lot of money but after 20 years it’s a 6% reduction. That’s a lot of money to seniors who are just scraping by. Lawmakers won’t talk about cutting—instead they will say they are tweaking the cost of living adjustment. When they say that—they are talking about cutting. That’s real money out of people’s pockets.”

He also noted that the cost of liv- ing for seniors increased at a greater rate than the rest of the population because they spend a greater por- tion of their budget on health care which has a very high rate of infla- tion. They would face cuts to their income, while their cost of living continues to increase.

Protecting Social Security and Medicare was also addressed by Gary Pasmore of the California Con- gress of Seniors and Tom Rankin of the California Alliance for Retired Americans—activist groups that have been at the forefront of the political battle to protect retirement benefits of retired Americans.

Mike Marino, President of the Vancouver Pensioners, gave a report on Canada’s health care system. He noted that virtually everyone in Can- ada is covered by that nation’s Medi- care program, yet patient costs are far below what they are in the U.S. He warned that the same forces attempt- ing to privatize Medicare in the U.S. are also at work in Canada, but said Canadians will furiously fight any attempts at privatization.

New PCPA Local chartered

PCPA President Rich Austin presented a charter to the newest pensioner club the Local 46 Gold Coast Pensioners club in Port Hue- neme, CA. Rudy Mendez and Steve Garcia accepted the charter on behalf of the new chapter.

Active members and ILWU officials have long supported the work of the PCPA. This year was no excep- tion. International President Bob McEllrath, Vice-President Ray Famillathe, Vice-President Wesley Furtado, Secretary-Treasurer Willie Adams, Coast Committeeen Ray Ortiz, and Local Presidents Joe Cor- tez (13), Mike Podue (63), Danny Miranda (94), Jeff Smith (8), Pete McElrath (92) also attended the convention.

Vice President Ray Famillathe and Secretary Treasurer Willie Adams addressed the convention on the first day. Famillathe recognized the important contributions that pensioners play in ILWU organizing efforts and contract fights. He said the impact of the pensioner’s activism was an important part in getting Rite Aid to agree to a contract with the 500 members of Local 26 working at the Lancaster, CA distribution warehouse.

Secretary-Treasurer Adams outlined many of the political challenges facing the ILWU in the November elections including the anti-union, Proposition 32 in California and the fact that so many politicians on both sides of the aisle lack the courage and backbone to stand up for work- ers. “Nobody is going to fight for us but us,” Adams said. “We have to be prepared to fight for ourselves and we can’t depend on one man or one woman in elected office to make a difference for us.”

Former ILWU President Dave Arian, who currently serves on the Los Angeles Port Commission, spoke about the future of automation. Local 13 member and Long Beach Port Commissioner Rich Dresner spoke about the plans for future growth and infrastructure modernization in the Port of Long Beach.

Other speakers included Con- nor Casey, labor archivist for the University of Washington’s Harry Bridges Center for Labor Studies, CA State Senator Alan Lowenthal, who is a candidate for California’s 47th Congressional District and California Assembly member Bonnie Lowen- thal. John Castanho, ILWU Benefits Specialist and the local area benefits specialist also spoke.

Jesse and Lois Stranahan Award

Each Convention gives the Jesse and Lois Stranahan Award to an outstanding labor person. This year two awards were presented. One was presented to Lou Lovern of the Southern California Pensioners Group, and the other was presented posthumously to Al Perisho, also from the Southern California Pen- sioners who recently passed.

The convention was a great suc- cess this year and the work is already underway for next year’s convention that will be held in Portland, OR from September 16 – 18.
IN MEMORIAM

Al Perisho: Southern California ILWU & Pensioner Leader

Members of ILWU Local 63 and pensioners lost a longtime leader on August 29 when Al Perisho passed at the age of 81 surrounded by his family at his Los Alamitos home.

Al Perisho was born on September 9, 1931, in Long Beach, California. He graduated from Banning High School in 1949 and became an Eagle Scout before shipping out with the Marines to serve in Korea. He returned to Long Beach and was working at an Army dock in 1953 when he met Myrtle Van Meter, the love of his life with whom he spent the next 59 years. Co-workers at the dock office took up a collection to help the new couple and the $15 they raised was enough for a Las Vegas wedding and honeymoon.

Perisho’s longshore career began in 1954 and continued for the next four decades. He quickly won local leadership elections and was recognized by Harry Bridges as a young man with talent.

Harry would stay with us at our home when he came down here, and he was an American Airlines pilot in his union. He is in the National Longshoremen’s Memorial Hall in Wilmington on September 20th to celebrate Al’s life and his many contributions to the union. Local 13’s Victor Hudak presided at the affair, welcoming the family and friends who gathered, then turned to ILWU International Secretary-Treasurer Willie Adams who provided the eulogy along with condolences and regret from the International officers – and encouragement for everyone present to celebrate Perisho’s life and follow his example of leadership. Adams smiled as he told a story about first meeting Perisho twenty years ago on a trip with ILWU members to Cuba. “Several years later,” explained Adams, “I could not get this man out of my mind. I told him to talk me out of running for International office, but I decided to go ahead, and we both maintained our respect and friendship. He loved the ILWU and was passionate about the Southern California pensioners,” said Adams.

Testimonials followed from long-time friend Manny Ortega, poet and co-worker Jerry Brady, Southern California Pensioner President Penne Laverty, Auxiliary #8 President Ida Taylor, Local 63 President Mike Podue, and former Local 94 President George Gilbert. Teamster official Patrick Kelly offered his respects, noting that Perisho always made an effort to work with other unions, despite occasional conflicts between the ILWU, Teamsters and other unions. The memorial service closed with a poignant slide show that revealed how much time and effort Perisho devoted to raising his family, fishing and backpacking in the High Sierras, and donating his "extra" time to the Red Cross and other worthy causes – in addition to his devotion to the ILWU. His many community contributions earned him "Man of the Year" awards from the City of Los Alamitos, the Los Angeles/Long Beach Harbor and the Southern California Pensioners Group.

Perisho is survived by his wife Myrt; daughter Cheri Phillips, sons Terry and Jack Perisho, grandchildren Shaun, Christy, Jake and his brother Tom Harvey.

John Waddell, former Puget Sound & Washington Area Welfare Director

In 1981 he was appointed to serve as the Puget Sound and Washington Area Welfare Director, a post he held for 16 years. John was credited by many as being instrumental in helping to secure maintenance of benefits for the ILWU’s health and welfare plan.

"John was a good union man. He was a guy you definitely wanted to have during negotiations," said Ron Costa from Local 63.

"It’s because of people like John who have fought for our maintenance of benefits for our health and welfare plan that we have what we have today," said International President Bob McEllrath.

"John trained many of us in the benefits area," said Tony Sogliuzzo, former Southern California Area Welfare Director. "I’ll always cherish his passion for the most needy of our union family—the retired, the widowed, the disabled and all others who cannot help themselves."
Northern California District Council Election Recommendations

PRESIDENT: BARACK OBAMA
VICE PRESIDENT: JOE BIDEN

UNITED STATES SENATE:
Diane Feinstein

U.S. CONGRESS:
District 1: Jim Reed
District 2: Jared Huffman
District 3: John Garamendi
District 4: Jack Uppal
District 5: Mike Thompson
District 6: Doris Matsui
District 7: Ami Bera
District 8: Paul Cook
District 9: Jerry McNerney
District 10: Jose Hernandez
District 11: George Miller
District 12: Nancy Pelosi
District 13: Barbara Lee
District 14: Jackie Speier
District 15: Pete Stark
District 16: Jim Costa
District 17: Mike Honda
District 18: Anna Eshoo
District 19: Zoe Lofgren
District 20: Sam Farr
District 21: John Hernandez
District 22: Otto Lee

CALIFORNIA STATE ASSEMBLY:
District 2: Wes Chesbro
District 3: Charles Rouse
District 4: Mariko Yamada
District 5: Roger Dickinson
District 6: Ken Cooley
District 7: Richard Pan
District 8: Michael Allen
District 11: Jim Frazier
District 13: Susan Bonilla
District 15: Nancy Skinner
District 16: Joan Buchanan
District 17: Tom Ammiano
District 18: Rob Bonta / Abel Guilen
District 19: Phil Ting
District 20: Bill Quirk
District 21: Adam Gray
District 22: Kevin Mullin
District 24: Rich Gordon
District 25: Bob Wieckowski
District 27: Nora Campos
District 28: Paul Fong
District 29: Mark Stone
District 30: Luis Alejo

CA STATE BALLOT MEASURES
Prop 30: Governors tax measure  YES
Prop 31: Two year budget  NO
Prop 32: Special exemption Tax  NO
Prop 33: Auto insurance  NO
Prop 34: Death penalty  YES
Prop 35: Human trafficking  YES
Prop 36: Three strikes Law  YES
Prop 37: Genetically Engineered food  YES
Prop 38: Molly Munger Tax Measure  NO
Prop 39: Taxing multistate Businesses  YES
Prop 40: Redistricting State Senate  YES

CITY OF SAN FRANCISCO
Board of Supervisors, District : Eric Mar Measure A (Save City College parcel tax) YES

CITY OF OAKLAND
City Attorney: Jan Brunner
City Council, District 3: Derrick Muhammad
City Council, District 7 Sheryl Walton
Oakland City Council, at-large, Rebecca Kaplan

SAN MATEO COUNTY HARBOR DISTRICT
Neil Merrilees

SONOMA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
District 1: Susan Gorin

CONTAM COUNTY SUPERVISORS
District 1: Susan Gorin

SACRAMENTO SMUD
Board Michael Picker Karen Bernal

Prop 32 NO on CA
ILWU & Puget Sound District Council Final Election Endorsements

**UNITED STATES SENATE:**
- Maria Cantwell

**US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:**
- Districts
  - 1st: Suzan DelBene
  - 2nd: Rick Larsen
  - 6th: Derek Kilmer
  - 7th: Jim McDermott
  - 9th: Adam Smith
  - 10th: Denny Heck

The following state candidates have not been endorsed by the PSDC unless otherwise noted below, but have been endorsed by one or more ILWU Locals in the state:

**STATE:**
- Governor: Jay Inslee
- Insurance Commissioner: Mike Kreidler
- Auditor: Troy Kelley
- Supreme Ct #9: Sheryl Gordon McCloud

**STATE LEGISLATURE:**

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**BAllOT MEASURES:**
- Referendum 74: YES
- I-1185: NO
- I-1191: NO

See page 8 for Oregon endorsements
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Totals do not always add up because the local designation on some ballots was removed.
## COAST COMMITTEE

### INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD

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Key dates: October 16th – Register to vote deadline -Oregon October 19th–23rd – Ballots Mailed to Oregon Residents November 6th –ELECTION DAY!

OREGON AREA DISTRICT COUNCIL POLITICAL ENDORSEMENTS:

CANDIDATES FOR STATE SENATE

District 5: Arnie Roblan
District 14: Sen. Mark Haas
District 17: Elizabeth Steiner Haward
District 21: Diane Rosenbaum
District 22: Chip Shields
District 23: Jackie Dingfelder
District 25: Laurie Monnes-Anderson

CANDIDATES FOR STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

District 5: Rep. Peter Buckley
District 8: Rep. Paul Holvey
District 9: Caddy McKeown
District 11: Rep. Phil Barnhart
District 12: Rep. John Lively
District 14: Val Hoyle
District 16: Rep. Sara Gelsert
District 19: Claudia Kyle
District 21: Rep. Brian Clem
District 26: Wynne Wakkila
District 27: Rep. Tobias Read
District 28: Rep. John Lively
District 29: Ben Unger
District 31: Brad Witt
District 30: Rep. David Edwards

CANDIDATES FOR DISTRICT COUNCIL POLITICAL ENDORSEMENTS:

District 5: Arnie Roblan
District 14: Sen. Mark Haas
District 17: Elizabeth Steiner Haward
District 21: Diane Rosenbaum
District 22: Chip Shields
District 23: Jackie Dingfelder
District 25: Laurie Monnes-Anderson

POSITIONS ON BALLOT INITIATIVES:

SUPPORt: Measure 85 – Ballot Measure 85 will reform the corporate kicker by putting money into Oregon K-12 classrooms, rather than back into the pockets of large, out-of-state corporations. We need to protect children from further cuts to schools and protect seniors from further cuts to in-home care.

OPPOSE: Measure 82 – Ballot Measure 82 would authorize the establishment of private owned casinos in Oregon. Measure 83 – Ballot Measure 83 would authorize the establishment of casinos in Multnomah County. Measure 84 – It is a massive tax break that only benefits millionaires. Eliminating Oregon’s Estate Tax would cost our schools, senior care, public safety, and other priority services more than $200 million every budget.